SOMALIA: ICRC HOSPITAL COMPLETED DESPITE ESCALATING HOSTILITIES

The ICRC has succeeded in setting up a hospital in a disused prison in the northern sector of Mogadishu in spite of the extreme violence of the clashes that broke out in November between troops of General Farah Aidid and supporters of the interim President, Mr. Ali Mahdi Mohammed. "We are sending a four-member surgical team back into the area within the next few days," said Béatrice Mégevand of the Somalia desk at the ICRC's Geneva headquarters. In the city's southern sector, however, the security situation has deteriorated and the Medina and Benadir hospitals have both come under heavy artillery attack."

The ICRC is finding it increasingly difficult to get medical assistance into the southern sector, where the airport was closed on 3 January and the port area has become too dangerous to use. A ship carrying food and medical equipment for the new hospital will be unloaded this week in Warsheikh, a small port north of the capital. A second ship is due to arrive shortly in Merka, south of Mogadishu, to supply the tens of thousands of displaced people who have taken refuge in the area.

CAMBODIA
ICRC discusses prisoner release with Prince Sihanouk
On 5 January ICRC representatives met Prince Sihanouk, Chairman of the Cambodian National Supreme Council, together with ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, to discuss the release of prisoners, as outlined in the Paris peace treaty.

The ICRC had refused to attend a ceremony scheduled for 3 January at which 400 prisoners were to have been released. "We were informed at the last minute, and our delegates were unable to fulfil their protection mandate in accordance with Article 21 of the peace treaty, which provides for the registration of prisoners during interviews without witnesses," said Urs Boegli, the ICRC Deputy Delegate General for Asia.

YUGOSLAVIA
Osijek hospital declared neutral
The hospital in the Slavonian town of Osijek became a neutral zone at midnight on Friday 3 January. The decision was taken on 27 December at a meeting held under ICRC auspices in Pécs (Hungary) between representatives of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Secretariat for Defence (see ICRC press release No. 53 of 31 December 1991).

Three ICRC delegates are maintaining a constant presence at the hospital, whose status is now clearly indicated by a dozen Red Cross flags. The limits of the hospital's grounds are also plainly marked. This is the second time that such a step has been taken in Yugoslavia. On 6 December last the Medarevo hospital in Dubrovnik was declared a neutral zone.
RUSSIA
First ICRC mission to northern Caucasus
During the first-ever ICRC mission to the northern Caucasus region, from 9 to 19 December two delegates visited the Kabardino-Balkar, North Ossetian and Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republics in the Russian Federation. "Everywhere we went, we were able to have top-level discussions about problems of international humanitarian law," said François Zen Ruffinen on his return.
In North Ossetia the two delegates were given an official list of 85,000 displaced persons from South Ossetia and in Georgia and visited about a thousand of them in reception centres in the North Ossetian capital.
Another two-member ICRC team carried out an initial fact-finding mission to Georgia from 13 to 20 December.

SIERRA LEONE
Medical assistance near Liberian border
An ICRC team launched a programme of emergency medical assistance on 1 January in the Zimi region of south-eastern Sierra Leone, near the Liberian border. "About 20,000 civilians who have fled the fighting in Liberia are massed in the border area, and our team is the only one working there," said Darcy Christen, recently back from the field. "The delegates have opened an office in Kenema, the main town, and are now going to set up a system of mobile clinics together with the Sierra Leone Red Cross. They will also check on the displaced people’s food needs."
IRAQ: NEW FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS IN NORTH-EAST
The ICRC will start distributing food rations (flour, rice, cooking oil, lentils and tea) on 18 January to 100,000 Kurds near Penjwin in the north-eastern Iraqi governorate of Sulaimaniya, as part of the overall relief effort being shared by the institution and the UN agencies. Between May and September 1991, the ICRC carried out three food distributions in the area, each covering 250,000 people. It now has three sub-delegations in northern Iraq (Dahuk, Shaklawa and Penjwin), and an office in Sulaimaniya.
In mid-December, the ICRC began delivering surgical materials and medicines furnished by the German and Swiss Red Cross Societies to all Iraqi hospitals providing surgical care. Fifteen ambulances were also supplied to the Iraqi Red Crescent by the ICRC and the German, Danish and Netherlands National Societies.
Meanwhile, ICRC sanitary engineers are providing technical assistance and spare parts for Iraq's 12 main water-treatment plants.

SOMALIA
Over 22,000 family messages handled in 1991
The ICRC's Tracing Agency handled some 22,000 messages last year, sent by Somalis displaced within the country or by their families. The conflict raging in Somalia has brought about the collapse of telephone and postal services and the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent have been working to maintain family contacts.
"Somalia now rivals Liberia as our biggest operation in Africa", says Christine Béguelin of the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency in Geneva. "At our Mogadishu office we have set up a poste restante service to facilitate the exchange of news between displaced people and their relatives".
The Tracing Agency has an office in Djibouti and two others in camps for Somali refugees in Kenya, apart from the ten inside Somalia itself. Their work is coordinated from Nairobi.

CAMBODIA
First ICRC visits to Phnom Penh prisons
For the first time since the start of the Cambodian conflict the ICRC has been able to visit, in accordance with its customary working procedures, persons detained in Phnom Penh. On 14 January, delegates saw 108 detainees in T3 prison and 182 in Prey Sar prison, all eligible for release under Article 21 of the agreement signed in Paris by the four parties to the Cambodian conflict on 23 October last. The 290 detainees were released under ICRC auspices the day after the visit, in the presence of Prince Sihanouk, Chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council.
The ICRC has been trying for over 12 years to gain access to persons detained in connection with the conflict. In August last year, the Supreme National Council promised to cooperate with the ICRC and since then Prince Sihanouk has on several occasions expressed his support for the institution's protection work under the Paris agreement.
SOUTHERN LEBANON
Help for an isolated village
On 7 January, the ICRC distributed family parcels and blankets to the inhabitants of Rchaf, a small village on the edge of the Israeli-controlled "security zone". The distribution followed a visit several days earlier by an ICRC delegate to assess the situation in the village after one of its access routes had been cut. Rchaf was also visited on 10 and 11 January by a mobile clinic from UNIFIL, the United Nations peace-keeping force in Lebanon.

ALBANIA
Prisoners receive 3,000 blankets
The ICRC delivered 3,000 blankets to the Albanian Red Cross in Tirana on 12 January. The blankets, donated by the Swiss Red Cross, will be distributed within the next few days to Albanian detainees who are suffering from the cold in the country's unheated prisons. The operation was launched as a matter of urgency following a survey of prisons conducted in late December by the ICRC delegate based in Tirana.

RWANDA-BURUNDI
Rwandese repatriated from Bujumbura
Sixty-two of the 228 Rwandese who had sought refuge on 16 December last at the Rwandese embassy in the Burundi capital Bujumbura were repatriated on 14 January. It was agreed that the ICRC would check their identity on the convoy's departure and again at its destination, to ensure that all had arrived safely. The group had been transferred from the embassy to the Bujumbura police academy on 23 December for identity checks and interrogation by the authorities. Throughout their detention the Rwandese were seen daily by ICRC delegates, who continue to make regular visits to the remaining group while their cases are being processed.

ICRC
Staff numbers steadily rising
ICRC staff steadily increased in 1991, with a monthly average of over 6,300 employees. This figure includes 725 expatriates in the field, backed by more than 4,700 local employees. In addition, there was an average of 190 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society staff working for the ICRC each month. A total of 663 people at Geneva headquarters provided direct support for the ICRC's protection and assistance activities throughout the world.

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SOMALIA: 1,700 TONNES OF RELIEF UNLOADED NEAR MOGADISHU

An ICRC ship arrived in Merca, 100 km south of Mogadishu, and another in Adale, 120 km north of the Somali capital, on 18 January. Unloading began the same day and is proceeding rapidly. "The ICRC has brought in 1,700 tonnes of relief and medical supplies", said Béatrice Mégevand, the official responsible for the Somalia operation at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. "The task of transporting and distributing the food will be carried out entirely by local staff."

The ICRC currently has seven staff members in the northern sector of Mogadishu and six in the city's southern sector. The Key Saney hospital, which the ICRC recently set up in a disused prison north of the capital, has now received its medical equipment from Adale. Two nurses from the Netherlands Red Cross surgical team are already at the hospital and will shortly be joined by a surgeon and anaesthetist who left Geneva on 21 January.

The ICRC has five expatriate staff in "Somaliland," where 30,000 displaced people have massed in the Burao area after fleeing the fighting in mid-January. The ICRC has taken a number of wounded to the surgical hospital in Berbera and is closely monitoring the situation of the whole group, who are suffering particular hardship because of wintry conditions on the region's high plateaux.

YUGOSLAVIA
Two Meetings Held Under ICRC Auspices

The Joint Commission for the tracing of missing persons and mortal remains will hold its third meeting on 24 January in Pécs, Hungary, under ICRC auspices. The Commission, which is made up of representatives of the Yugoslav federal authorities, the Republics of Croatia and Serbia and the federal army, adopted a form that will be used to process tracing requests in respect of missing persons. "The ICRC is acting as a neutral intermediary", said Raymonde Dufey, who is in charge of the matter at the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency in Geneva. "We serve as a link between the different parties to the conflict in order to find out what has happened to missing persons and standardize the way information is processed."

The Commission is being preceded on 22 and 23 January by a meeting of representatives from the Yugoslav and Hungarian Red Cross Societies and the Red Cross in the various Republics concerned.

ICRC - GENEVA
1991: Record Year for the ICRC

On 22 January, ICRC President Corneliom Sommaruga held his annual conference for the international press in Geneva. "1991 was a record year for the ICRC", said Mr. Sommaruga. Delegates visited over 150,000 people detained in some 1,900 places of detention throughout the world. The ICRC distributed 88,000 tonnes of relief in 39 countries and arranged for the exchange of 230,769 family messages between people separated by conflict. The institution spent 700 million Swiss francs, a 58% increase over last year.

Mr. Sommaruga warned against any politicization of humanitarian work. He deplored the postponement of the 26th International Conference and expressed the hope that dialogue between the ICRC and the States party to the Geneva Conventions would resume as soon as possible.
CAMBODIA
New Prison Visits
Delegates visited 19 persons detained at Kompong Speu prison on 18 January. The detainees were released the same day under ICRC auspices and in the presence of Prince Sihanouk, Chairman of the Supreme National Council.
On 14 January, the ICRC received permission for the first time to visit persons held in Phnom Penh in connection with the Cambodian conflict. Delegates went to two prisons in the capital - T3 and Prey Sar - where they saw 290 detainees eligible for release under Article 21 of the agreement signed in Paris by the four parties to the conflict last October. Several days later, an ICRC team went back to Prey Sar to conduct a complete visit of the premises and interview detainees about whom no decision had yet been taken.

PERU
War Surgery Training In Ayacucho
An ICRC doctor specializing in war surgery is in Ayacucho to train local surgeons in special techniques for treating gunshot and blast wounds. A 30-bed unit has been set up in the local hospital for victims of the conflict and about 100 operations are performed there every month. "Ayacucho is particularly hard hit by the violence, yet the region has no doctors with special training in war surgery", explained Dr. Jean-Claude Mulli, medical coordinator at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. "There was no one to deal with emergency operations, so the ICRC approached the Ministry of Health and offered to train Peruvian doctors in war surgery techniques."
The ICRC, which has five expatriate staff in Ayacucho, also pays for treatment given to conflict victims, numbering almost 500 a year.
CAMBODIA: FIRST CROSSLINE OPERATION

An ICRC convoy left Phnom Penh on 24 January carrying 57 people who had recently been released from prison under the Paris agreement and had asked to be returned to the zone held by FUNCINPEC, one of the Cambodian factions. After a 20-hour journey completed without incident the released prisoners arrived in O Smach, near the Thai border in north-western Cambodia. This was the first time since the beginning of the Cambodian conflict that a humanitarian organization had been able to travel by road from a government zone to one held by the opposition, with the agreement of all the parties concerned.

To date the ICRC has registered 518 detainees eligible for release in five different prisons, and 453 of them have already been freed.

Also in Cambodia, the head of the ICRC delegation accompanied Prince Sihanouk, Chairman of the Supreme National Council, on a visit he made on 26 January to a centre that fits war amputees with artificial limbs. The centre, in Battambang, the country's second-largest city, was opened last September following an agreement between the Cambodian Ministry for Social Affairs and War Invalids and the ICRC. Since then over 200 victims of the recent conflict have been fitted with prostheses.

SOMALIA

Food Distributed to 100,000 People

Almost 700 tonnes of food were distributed to 100,000 people near Merca, south of Mogadishu, after an ICRC ship arrived there on 18 January last. Unloading of another ICRC ship that arrived the same day in Adale, north of the capital, is continuing despite adverse weather conditions.

The Somali Red Crescent, the Norwegian Red Cross and the ICRC have set up medical facilities in 17 camps around Mogadishu providing shelter for about 120,000 displaced people.

Meanwhile, the Key Saney hospital, recently installed by the ICRC north of Mogadishu, has now become operational with the arrival on 26 January of a surgeon and an anaesthetist who joined the other members of the Netherlands Red Cross surgical team already there. In the city’s northern sector, makeshift dispensaries took in some 500 wounded people in the space of a week, and Somali doctors performed over 180 operations.

GEORGIA

ICRC in South Ossetia

A team of three ICRC delegates including a doctor went to Tskhinvali, the main town in the troubled region of South Ossetia, on 22 January.

"People here are having great difficulty finding supplies", said Roland Hammer, head of the ICRC's mission to Georgia. "The situation is aggravated by fuel and electricity shortages and by the region's isolation".

The ICRC has sent an initial emergency shipment of antibiotics and anaesthetics to Georgia after assessing the situation in a number of hospitals.

In the Georgian capital Tbilisi, delegates visited 32 persons being held in a temporary detention centre run by the Ministry of the Interior.

The ICRC mission arrived in Georgia by road from Turkey. It was received in Tbilisi by political and military officials, including the Prime Minister.
HONDURAS
First Seminar for Central American Security Forces
A seminar on international humanitarian law for Central American security forces was held from 20 to 24 January in Tegucigalpa. The seminar, organized jointly by the ICRC and the Honduran armed forces, brought together representatives of the Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Honduran and Nicaraguan armed forces and the Costa Rican and Panamanian police - the first time that they had all been in direct contact with each other.
The meeting, which until recently would have been impossible, aroused great interest among the 32 participants, who expressed the hope that other regional seminars would soon be organized under ICRC auspices.

UN - GENEVA
Forty-eighth Session of the Commission on Human Rights
The ICRC is attending the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights as an observer. The session, being held in Geneva from 27 January to 6 March, is to deal with a number of matters of particular concern to the ICRC, such as detention problems, torture and forced disappearances.
YUGOSLAVIA: VISITS TO DETAINNEES CONTINUE

The ICRC has visited over 5,700 detainees in the country’s six republics since May 1991. "Our delegates are in the prisons every day", says Vincent Lusser, a member of the Yugoslavia task force at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. "In January alone we carried out over 20 visits in as many places of detention."

Delegates have also conducted medical surveys and distributed family parcels and blankets on seven islands in the Adriatic which have been cut off by the fighting.

The ICRC is continuing its diplomatic efforts to find a solution to the humanitarian problems arising from the conflict. The parties concerned met for the third time at the ICRC’s invitation in Geneva on 31 January. Plenipotentiary representatives of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Army reviewed the situation of displaced people, the work done to trace missing persons and the conditions of detention of prisoners. They also discussed violations of international humanitarian law and additional monitoring mechanisms. (See Communication to the Press No. 92/3.)

The ICRC has about 60 delegates working in the conflict zones in Yugoslavia, in its largest operation in Europe since the Cyprus crisis 17 years ago.

CAMBODIA
First Joint ICRC Mission to North-West
Two ICRC teams, one based in Cambodia and the other on the Thai border, are conducting a joint survey in areas held by FUNCINPEC and the KPLNF, the two non-communist Cambodian factions, from 3 to 9 February. This is the first time that the ICRC has able to assess humanitarian aspects of the situation in these areas of north-western Cambodia.

The delegates will meet local leaders to discuss the release of any prisoners of war and civilian internees they are holding, as provided for in the Paris agreement signed on 23 October 1991.

The ICRC has asked the Democratic Kampuchea faction for permission to conduct a similar survey in the areas under its control in the very near future.

STRASBOURG
ICRC President at the Council of Europe

ICRC President Cornéliu Sommaruga was in Strasbourg on 4 February at the invitation of the Council of Europe’s Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography, which is currently preparing a report on ICRC activities for submission to the Parliamentary Assembly.

"It was extremely constructive to meet parliamentary representatives from 26 States party to the Geneva Conventions, all taking a special interest in current humanitarian issues", said President Sommaruga.

The ICRC President also had talks with Mrs. Catherine Lalumière, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, and Mr. René Felber, current Chairman of the Council’s Committee of Ministers.

Mrs. Lalumière accepted an invitation to pay an official visit to ICRC Headquarters in Geneva.
UNITED KINGDOM
New Round of Prison Visits in Northern Ireland
Three delegates and an ICRC doctor will be in Northern Ireland from 3 February to 3 March to make another complete series of visits to five places of detention. The team will visit the Belfast (Crumlin Road), Maghaberry, Magilligan and Maze prisons and the Hydebank Wood Young Offenders' Centre.
The ICRC has been visiting places of detention in Northern Ireland at regular intervals since October 1971. The last complete visit was in March 1988, when delegates saw 1,806 detainees.

LATVIA
Accession to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols
On 24 December 1991 the Republic of Latvia deposited its instrument of accession to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols I and II with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern. The instrument was not accompanied by any reservations or declarations. With Latvia's accession, which will take effect on 24 June 1992, there are now 168 States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, 108 to Protocol I and 98 to Protocol II.

SIERRA LEONE
Food Aid for 6,000 on Liberian Border
The ICRC started distributing food on 31 January to about 6,000 displaced people in the Zimmi area, in southern Sierra Leone near the Liberian border. These are only some of the many people who have fled the fighting in Liberia.
"The ICRC is the only humanitarian organization authorized to move about in the conflict zone", explains Aldo Benini of the Africa desk at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. "Our delegates have been monitoring the situation since December and have noted a steady deterioration in the group's nutritional status."
As well as distributing the food rations, supplied by the World Food Programme (WFP), the ICRC provides the displaced people with a measure of protection by its mere presence. The ICRC has four expatriates in Sierra Leone, including a nurse who is running a mobile clinic in the same border area.
SOMALIA: ICRC NOW USING FIVE SHIPS

Five ICRC ships are now being used to take emergency food aid to Somalia. Some 2,500 tonnes of food are already being unloaded from one that docked in Kismayo on 10 February. Two others are due to arrive in the ports of Obbia and El Dere, north of the capital Mogadishu, in the next few days. A further two ships are now being loaded in Mombasa, Kenya, before setting out early next week for the Merca and Brava, south of Mogadishu (see map). In all, some 6,000 tonnes of food will be brought in and distributed in the areas most severely affected by the conflict.

Mr. Jean de Courten, ICRC Director of Operations, was in Somalia from 8 to 10 February accompanied by Mr. Jean-Daniel Tauxe, the institution's Delegate General for Africa, to assess the situation and set the ICRC's operational priorities accordingly.

The ICRC is continuing daily flights to Somalia with medical supplies for the facilities it has set up on both sides of the line dividing Mogadishu. The Keysaney hospital north of the capital is now fully operational. A surgical team seconded to the ICRC by the Netherlands Red Cross is working at the hospital, which is run by the Somali Red Crescent.
NORTHERN IRAQ
Third Series of Visits to Iraqi Soldiers Held by Kurdistan Front
In January the ICRC completed its third series of visits to some 200 soldiers and 100 officers of the Iraqi army being held by the Kurdistan Front in the governorate of Sulaimaniyah.
The ICRC first gained access to members of the government forces held in the region last July, when delegates visited 1,500 Iraqis. In a second series of visits from September to December they saw 5,000 more.
Acting as a neutral intermediary between the Iraqi government and the Kurdistan Front, the ICRC has on several occasions returned combatants to their own sides.

CAMBODIA
National Red Cross Moving Towards Unification
The Red Cross of the four Cambodian factions met in Phnom Penh on 9 February under the chairmanship of Prince Sihanouk. The meeting was attended by representatives of the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
The participants agreed on the urgent need for the Red Cross to unite in taking action for the benefit of all Cambodians throughout the country.
It was decided to set up a federative committee of Khmer Red Cross organizations. The committee will be chaired by Prince Sihanouk and will work towards the formation of a single National Society.

YEMEN
Series of Visits to Detainees Completed
The ICRC carried out a third round of visits to places of detention in the Republic of Yemen from 1 to 10 February. This was the last stage in a series of visits that began on 9 November last and covered 5,800 detainees in 14 places of detention throughout the country. In some places delegates distributed medical and other aid in cooperation with the Yemeni Red Crescent.
This was the ICRC’s first annual programme of visits since the country was reunified in May 1990.

USA
ICRC Receives Documents on Concentration Camp Victims
In Washington on 10 February, the American Red Cross handed over to the ICRC’s Central Tracing Agency documents concerning some 100,000 people who disappeared in Nazi concentration camps. "These documents were confiscated by American forces", said Mrs. Elizabeth Dole, President of the American Red Cross. "They were snatched from fires and from pits where they were thrown hurriedly by the retreating Third Reich."
The documents will be sent to the International Tracing Service in Arolsen, Germany. The ITS has over 46 million documents concerning 14 million people and has dealt with thousands of cases every year since the end of the Second World War.
SOMALIA: GLOBAL APPROACH ONLY MEANS OF AVERTING FAMINE

The entire population of Somalia is threatened with starvation, and only a global approach can prevent a disaster on an unprecedented scale. "Emergency food aid must be provided not only in the capital Mogadishu but also in the rest of the country", says Jean-Daniel Tauxe, ICRC Delegate General for Africa. "The ICRC and the NGOs on the spot can no longer meet the need for food. The United Nations and its specialized agencies must intervene massively if a general famine is to be prevented."

The ICRC estimates that some 35,000 tonnes of food are needed per month throughout Somalia, including the north-west, for the approximately 4.5 million Somalis whose lives are at risk. The ICRC's initial plans are to deliver 6,000 tonnes of food every month by sea; distributions of the first 2,500 tonnes, which were unloaded in Kismayo, started on 15 February. Three other ships chartered by the ICRC are waiting off the Somali coast and will unload further supplies as soon as the weather improves.

On 13 February, the surgical team from the Netherlands Red Cross had to leave the Keysaney hospital, north of the capital, for security reasons. The 44 patients remaining in the hospital were taken to private homes being used as dispensaries to treat the approximately 4,000 war casualties in northern Mogadishu.

IRAN-IRAQ
Commission Meets in Geneva
The "Joint Technical Commission" composed of ICRC, Iranian and Iraqi representatives met in Geneva from 12-14 February in an attempt to make new progress with regard to the fate of the remaining prisoners of war, the missing and the dead in the conflict between Iraq and Iran.

The meeting was held under ICRC auspices and opened by President Cornélio Sommaruga. The parties reached agreement on a plan of action under which they are shortly to resume repatriations of any prisoners of war they still hold.

The Commission will meet again in March 1992, as soon as the repatriations have indeed resumed. About 78,000 prisoners have been repatriated under ICRC auspices since August 1990.

RWANDA-BURUNDI
More Rwandese Repatriated
A third group of 38 Rwandese of the 228 who had taken refuge in December at the Rwandese embassy in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, was repatriated on 8 February. The ICRC was present when the group left the national police academy, where they had been taken on 23 December, and made sure that they returned safely to their country by checking each person's identity as they crossed the border. In all, 221 Rwandese have now been repatriated under identical conditions since 14 January. The seven remaining Rwandese have been transferred from the national police academy to a prison in the capital and continue to be visited regularly by the ICRC while their cases are being processed.
ALBANIA
ICRC Exhibition Opens in Tirana
An ICRC exhibition, "Humanity in the Midst of War", opened on 20 February at the International Cultural Centre in the Albanian capital Tirana. The exhibition, first held to mark the ICRC's 125th anniversary and already shown in almost all central and eastern European countries, is designed to heighten awareness of the principles of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC is also organizing a seminar, to take place on 24 and 25 February, to familiarize some 60 high-ranking Albanian army officers with the principles of IHL, the rules for behaviour in combat, and the ICRC's role in conflicts.

Last but not least, on 12 February the ICRC head of delegation in Tirana and the Deputy Delegate General for Europe, conducting a survey in Albania, distributed 1,000 blankets to about 300 detainees at the main prison in Tirana, which has no heating.

JORDAN
Two Seminars on the Law of War
In early February the ICRC organized two seminars on the law of war in Amman, the Jordanian capital, for two groups of army instructors.

A new programme of instruction on the law of war, set up by the authorities together with the ICRC, is soon to follow. This programme, the only one of its kind in the region to date, is the outcome of the ICRC's long-standing constructive dialogue with the Hashemite Kingdom and is destined for officers in Jordanian military academies.
TRANSCAUCASIA: ICRC MISSIONS TO ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

Three ICRC delegates were in the Azerbaijani capital Baku from 16 to 25 February for talks with government authorities and representatives of the local Red Crescent on a humanitarian aid programme the ICRC would like to implement in Karabakh. "Since the beginning of the year a growing number of people have fallen victim to clashes between Azeris and Armenians in the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh", said Thierry Germond, the ICRC's Delegate General for Europe. "The situation is clearly deteriorating". The Azerbaijani authorities have agreed in principle to an ICRC operation throughout the Karabakh region to bring help to victims on both sides.

The ICRC team received from the authorities an initial list of persons detained in connection with the conflict and went to two hospitals in Baku to visit casualties.

Previously, in January, delegates travelled to Armenia, where many people fleeing Azerbaijan have taken refuge. "The bitter cold in the region is making life very difficult for these refugees", Thierry Germond pointed out, "and conditions with regard to food supplies and medical care are likely to get worse". The Armenian authorities also expressed support for ICRC plans to conduct activities in their country.

ANGOLA

First Phase of Release Process Completed

By 14 February, 3,983 prisoners captured in the course of the recent conflict in Angola had been released: 3,043 by UNITA and 940 by the Luanda government. This marks the end of the first phase of a process that started on 13 July last, when the ICRC began visiting prisoners under the peace agreement signed in Portugal by the Angolan government and UNITA. Every prisoner released had been interviewed in private by ICRC delegates.

The second phase has already started, with the ICRC submitting to the parties a list of persons presumed detained and to whom it has not yet had access. At this stage delegates will also tour government prisons to check who is being held there. By the end of January, visits had already been made to the prisons in seven of Angola's 18 provinces to ensure that they no longer contained anyone eligible for release under the peace agreement.

SOUTHERN LEBANON

Assistance Following Israeli Incursion

In the wake of the Israeli army's incursion into the area north of the "security zone" on 20 February, ICRC delegates immediately brought assistance (blankets and family parcels) to 34 families who had fled the fighting and sought refuge in public buildings in Tyre. On the basis of a survey carried out in villages directly affected by the clashes, further aid will be provided for returning families whose homes have been damaged.

Delegates also made regular visits to dispensaries and hospitals in the region to monitor the medical situation. In the space of one week, ICRC mobile clinics went to five villages on both sides of the front. The ICRC's delegation based in Beirut counts eight expatriates, who are working throughout Lebanon.
SOUTH AFRICA
Aid to Victims of Disturbances in Natal
ICRC delegates and South African Red Cross staff have come to the aid of victims of the fighting in Natal province, where there has been a new outbreak of violence over the past two months. Since the beginning of the year, clashes between supporters of the African National Congress and the Zulu Inkatha movement have resulted in over 200 deaths in and around the cities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Hundreds of houses have been burnt down and several thousand people displaced. The ICRC is supplying the latter with food, blankets and cooking utensils.
Over the last six months, food and other aid has been distributed to 12,000 displaced people and families whose breadwinners have been killed or seriously injured.
In the neighbouring Kwazulu "homeland", delegates are continuing visits to persons detained in police stations, to whom they have access without prior notification under an agreement reached between the ICRC and the Kwazulu authorities in August 1991.

IRAQ
ICRC Still Active in Iraq One Year After Gulf War
A year after the Gulf war the ICRC still has over 50 expatriate staff working in all regions of Iraq. In the north, 700 operations have already been carried out in the hospital opened by the ICRC on 8 October in Naopares, on the Iran/Iraq border, and in mid-February delegates distributed 20,000 litres of heating fuel to three hospitals and 25 dispensaries in the region.
Six convoys, each carrying between 170 and 230 tonnes of food, have reached the Penjwin area since January and the supplies have been distributed to Kurdish families suffering hardship because of the conflict.
In southern Iraq, several teams comprising a total of 11 Iraqi employees supervised by an ICRC sanitary engineer are providing technical and material assistance to put water treatment and supply plants back into operation.
A third distribution of medical supplies for hospitals with surgical units began throughout the country in mid-February.

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SOMALIA: ICRC EXTENDS ASSISTANCE OPERATION

The ICRC opened an office in Belet Huen, north-west of Mogadishu, early this month, to handle relief supplies to be flown in from Kenya for people in central Somalia, who cannot be reached from the coast. "We plan to use two Hercules aircraft to transport about 70 tonnes of food a day to displaced people in the area", said Béatrice Mégevand of the Somalia desk at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

At the end of February ICRC delegates finished distributing 200 tonnes of food brought in by road from Kenya to some 45,000 people in the south-west of the country. Another convoy from Kenya is expected to reach Gedo in western Somalia within the next few days. This will be the first consignment of ICRC aid to reach the area's population, now swelled by several thousand displaced people.

Since the beginning of February five ICRC ships have arrived at various points along the coast north and south of the capital with 7,000 tonnes of emergency food aid. The ICRC is also continuing to cross the front line dividing Mogadishu to take medical supplies to dispensaries in the city's northern sector. Somali surgeons have resumed work at the Keysaney hospital, which had to be evacuated on 13 February, and ICRC staff joined them on 2 March.

AFGHANISTAN
First ICRC Visits to Temporary Detention Centre in Kabul
The ICRC completed its first visit in mid-February to the SEDARAT temporary detention centre in Kabul, where it saw 36 detainees.

The visit took place after the Ministry of State Security gave the ICRC access, at the end of last year, to prisoners it was holding. The Ministry of Internal Affairs had granted a similar authorization in 1987. In January delegates saw detainees in Blocks I and II of Pul-i-Charkhi prison in the capital, and last month they visited people detained under the responsibility of both Ministries in Farah, a town in western Afghanistan.

CAUCASIA
Three ICRC Missions in the Region
In the first week of March the ICRC sent four delegates on separate missions to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. They are to set up operational structures in the region, which is affected by the conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia.

One and a half tonnes of emergency medical aid, intended to cover any needs arising from the conflict in South Ossetia, have been flown from Geneva to the Georgian capital Tbilisi, and another consignment of medical supplies, sent by the Canadian Red Cross for the victims of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, is expected to arrive shortly in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.
GENEVA - UN
First Humanitarian Coordination Meeting
The first humanitarian coordination meeting, bringing together the major UN specialized agencies, the ICRC and the International Organization for Migration, was held on 26 February at the UN in Geneva. The ICRC, invited as an observer, reaffirmed its readiness to cooperate fully in the effort to improve coordination within the limits of its mandate. "Better coordination within the UN system will leave the ICRC free to concentrate on its own specific tasks, that is, providing protection and assistance for conflict victims, especially in emergency situations", said Jean de Courten, ICRC Director of Operations.

DJIBOUTI
Headquarters Agreement Concluded
An agreement on the opening of an ICRC delegation in Djibouti was signed on 1 March by the Foreign Ministry and the ICRC, which will now be able to extend its humanitarian activities in the country.
Since the beginning of the year the ICRC has been engaged in protection work for persons detained in connection with the conflict between the FRUD (Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy) and the Djibouti government. The ICRC is also arranging for the exchange of messages between members of families separated by the events and following up tracing requests.
In January the government authorized delegates to travel to Tadjoura, in the conflict zone. During their mission they delivered medical supplies to the town's dispensary.

YUGOSLAVIA
ICRC Traces 2,800 Missing Persons
In response to tracing requests filed by their families, the ICRC has found 2,800 people reported missing in Yugoslavia. Most of them were being detained and were identified by ICRC delegates registering prisoners during visits to places of detention. Over 5,000 messages have been forwarded to detainees' families.
This is part of the work of the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency (CTA), which has been active in Yugoslavia since August 1991. To date, the CTA has arranged for the exchange of 25,000 messages between members of families split up by the conflict.
The ICRC currently has 55 expatriate staff in Yugoslavia, seven of whom are engaged in tracing activities in cooperation with the Red Cross of Yugoslavia and the Red Cross in the various republics.

PERU
ICRC Active in Emergency Zones in 1991
The ICRC provided medical and relief assistance last year in zones affected by violence in Peru. It covered the cost of hospital treatment for 524 casualties, and distributed medicines and medical supplies to 244 hospitals and dispensaries around the country. The ICRC also conducted a cholera control campaign and took part in a yellow fever immunization programme.
Clothes, seed and building materials were distributed to orphans, widows, displaced people and other victims of the events, and the ICRC regularly supplied food to ten school canteens providing meals for 1,840 children daily.

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KARABAKH: First ICRC Base Set Up
The ICRC now has an operations base in Agdam, about 30 km from Stepanakert, the main town of Nagorno-Karabakh. It was set up by seven ICRC delegates, including a doctor and two nurses, who arrived on 9 March with a tonne of emergency medical supplies for the victims of the conflict in the region.
"The delegates have started a survey of the most pressing needs, and some medical supplies have already been distributed", reports Pierre Gauthier, information delegate, from Baku. "Our primary concerns are treatment for the wounded, the plight of displaced persons fleeing the fighting, and evacuation of the dead."
The ICRC has 13 delegates in Azerbaijan - six in Baku and seven in Agdam. Three other delegates based in Yerevan, Armenia, are keeping the Armenian authorities informed of the ICRC's work so as to facilitate its access to all of Nagorno-Karabakh. The ICRC plans to send more delegates to Yerevan shortly.

GEORGIA
Medical Assistance in South Ossetia
Three ICRC delegates delivered urgently needed medical supplies on 5 March to the hospital in Tskhinvali, the main town in South Ossetia, and had top-level talks with the local Ossetian authorities. This was the second ICRC mission this year to the mountainous Caucasus region, where tension remains high between the Ossetian and Georgian communities.
The ICRC team also crossed the front lines to assess needs in three Georgian villages and the hospital in Kurta, which serves several other small Georgian enclaves in South Ossetia.
The ICRC opened an office in the Georgian capital Tbilisi on 1 March. It is planning other missions in the area in response to requests from both communities to trace missing persons.

MOZAMBIQUE
Emergency Food Aid in Gaza Province
The ICRC resumed its emergency food aid on 5 March to the southern province of Gaza, where the population is suffering from the combined effects of drought and conflict. Delegates have already started distributing 10 tonnes of food to a thousand people in Dindiza, where RENAMO is present. "An ICRC survey there has revealed an 80% rate of moderate to serious malnutrition", said Véronique Beetschen, ICRC desk officer in Geneva. The delegates have also delivered medical supplies to the health post in Dindiza.
In the government zone, an ICRC doctor and nurse arrived in Massangena, in southern Gaza, on 2 March to renovate and equip the dispensary, help train local medical staff and make sure this remote town receives an adequate supply of medicines.
BURUNDI
ICRC Visits People Held After Attempted Coup
On 10 March two ICRC delegates visited people detained in connection with the attempted coup of 3 March. The visits are part of ongoing ICRC activities in the country, which include training first-aid teams in cooperation with the Burundi Red Cross. The ICRC is continuing to visit seven Rwandese detained in Bujumbura after they took refuge in the Rwandese embassy last December with 221 of their compatriots.

UNITED KINGDOM
Prison Visits Completed in Northern Ireland
An ICRC team made up of three delegates and a doctor completed a month-long series of visits to five detention centres in Northern Ireland on 3 March. The delegates saw about 1,900 inmates at the Belfast, Maghaberry, Magilligan and Maze prisons and at the Hydebank Wood Young Offenders' Centre.
The ICRC first visited detention centres in Northern Ireland in October 1971. The last complete series of visits, during which the delegates saw over 1,800 prisoners, took place in March 1988.

CAMBODIA
91 Detainees Released Under ICRC Auspices
The authorities in Phnom Penh released 91 detainees in the presence of ICRC delegates on 7 March. All had first been registered by the ICRC. The releases (53 from Prey Sar prison, 28 from T3, six from Kompong Som, three from Sey Rieng and one from Prey Veng) took place under the Paris agreement. This brings to 569 the number of detainees freed under ICRC auspices to date.
One of the Cambodian factions, FUNCIPPEC, has asked the ICRC to transport about 50 former detainees to areas under its control. The ICRC was the first humanitarian organization to receive permission from all the parties, on 24 February, to return prisoners to their places of origin by travelling overland from a government zone to an area controlled by the opposition.
TRANSCAUCASIA: ICRC REACHES STEPANAKERT, VISITS BAKU PRISONERS

An ICRC team has arrived in Stepanakert, the main town of Nagorno-Karabakh, to establish a base to help victims of the conflict, while other delegates began visits this week to prisoners in Baku.

Two ICRC delegates in two vehicles crossed the combat lines from the Azerbaijani town of Agdam to Stepanakert on 18 March. The mission, whose goal is to set up a fixed presence in the disputed enclave, was made possible thanks to the agreement of the authorities in Baku, Yerevan and Stepanakert.

Meanwhile, three ICRC delegates were able to visit 48 people detained in a prison run by the Azerbaijani Interior Ministry on 15 March. "We distributed toilet articles to the prisoners and forms on which they can write messages they want us to forward to their families", said Thomas Rudin, press attaché for Europe.

The ICRC is currently negotiating access to those held by all parties to the conflict.

The ICRC has 14 delegates in Azerbaijan and six in Armenia. Since early March, three plane loads of medical and relief supplies, vehicles and additional staff have been sent to Baku and Yerevan from Geneva.

The Committee of Senior Officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) on 14 March adopted a resolution endorsing the ICRC’s activities in Karabakh. The ICRC attended the meeting in Helsinki at the invitation of the Czechoslovak chairman.

MOLDOVA

ICRC Sees Detainees in Tiraspol

Last week three ICRC delegates went to Tiraspol, in the Transnistria region, where they saw a number of policemen held by the secessionist forces. "Our team could not talk to the detainees in private", said ICRC desk officer Patrick Berner, "but it made some recommendations on humanitarian grounds concerning their conditions of detention".

The ICRC delegates had arrived in Kishinev, the capital of the Republic of Moldova, on 10 March. They had talks at the highest level with the Moldovan authorities and leaders of the local Red Cross. "These initial contacts were very promising", added Patrick Berner, "and gave us an opportunity to explain the work of the ICRC and the basic rules of international humanitarian law."

RWANDA

Help for Victims of Unrest

Following last week’s disturbances, the ICRC has provided 13.5 tonnes of relief for 12,000 displaced people in Rwanda’s southern region of Bugesera. The supplies, which included food, cooking utensils and blankets, were delivered by the ICRC to Nyamata, Rilima and Ngenda, and were distributed by local parish workers and members of the Rwandese Red Cross. The ICRC is carrying out regular surveys to monitor developments in the region.

In Nyamata, ICRC delegates have registered a number of people arrested in connection with the disturbances, and a similar visit is currently under way in Rilima.

In the north of the country, the ICRC is continuing to provide assistance for 80,000 displaced people near the Ugandan border.
SOMALIA
Severe Malnutrition in Camps for Displaced People
A survey by an ICRC nutritionist in three camps for displaced people near Merca and Coriolay, south of Mogadishu, shows alarming levels of malnutrition, especially among young children. About 59% of children under five are suffering from severe malnutrition, and in one camp the rate of severe malnutrition is as high as 70%. Similar surveys are currently under way in other camps around the capital.
The ICRC is continuing to bring in emergency food aid by sea for tens of thousands of displaced people in the coastal areas. One of the five ships being used is landing its 600 tonnes of supplies at various points along the coast between Kismayo and Ras Kamboni, on the Kenyan border, and another is unloading 950 tonnes at Adale, north of Mogadishu. The remaining three, with a total of 4,300 tonnes of food, are due to arrive in Adale, Obbia and Garad.
Since the beginning of February the ICRC has delivered 7,000 tonnes of food to Somalia, and is still the only organization conducting food relief operations in the country.

ALBANIA
Visit to Political Detainees in Tirana
Two ICRC delegates, a doctor and an interpreter visited six political detainees in Tirana’s central prison on 14 March. This was the ICRC’s first visit to members of the former regime, imprisoned by the new government.
On 15 March the delegates travelled to Pogradec, south-east of Tirana, to assess the situation following the recent riots there.
The ICRC opened a delegation in Tirana last year to handle numerous tracing requests and Red Cross messages following the sudden departure of thousands of Albanians to Italy.

IRAQ
Visits to Servicemen Held by Kurdish Combatants
Following recent clashes in northern Iraq, ICRC delegates visited five detention centres on 3 and 13 March, registering respectively 29 and 24 Iraqi servicemen held by Kurdish combatants.
Ten of the detainees were released and, in accordance with their wishes, were handed over to the Iraqi authorities under ICRC auspices.
KARABAKH: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND PRISON VISIT

Two ICRC aircraft delivered 45 tonnes of relief supplies to Baku at the beginning of the week for the tens of thousands of displaced people in Azerbaijan. Eight thousand blankets, 3,000 kitchen sets and 500 family parcels will be sent on to Agdam in the coming days. The ICRC has also begun distributing emergency medical aid to nine hospitals and dispensaries near the border with Nagorno-Karabakh. Food and blankets have been provided for people taking refuge in Agdam, where the ICRC set up an operational base on 9 March, and body bags and protective clothing have been given to people in charge of burying the dead.

Last weekend the ICRC carried out an evaluation of needs among the displaced around Barda and Yevlakh, north of Adgam.

Inside the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, the two ICRC delegates based in the main town, Stepanakert, visited 37 Azeri prisoners and collected messages to be forwarded to their families.

The ICRC has 17 delegates in Azerbaijan and eight in Armenia.

ALGERIA

ICRC Resumes Visits to Detention Camps

The ICRC has resumed its visits to people detained in connection with the events of June 1991 and January this year. The visits had begun last November but were suspended during the first round of voting in mid-December. Three delegates and a doctor went to Ouargla detention camp, south-east of Algiers, on 21 March. Under an agreement reached with the Algerian authorities, ICRC delegates were granted access to all people detained throughout the country and can interview each detainee without witnesses.

ICRC teams are currently visiting detention camps in the south of the country.

CAUCASIA

ICRC Sets Up Base in North Ossetia

Two ICRC delegates arrived in Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia) on 24 March to establish a base in the town and deliver 1.5 tonnes of medical supplies to the area’s hospitals.

The ICRC is also active in South Ossetia (Georgia). In early March three delegates took medical supplies to the hospital in Tskhinvali and assessed needs in three Georgian villages and the hospital in Kurta, which serves several other small Georgian enclaves.
MALI
Casualties Evacuated
Twenty-four people wounded in an attack in northern Mali last week were taken by the ICRC to hospitals in Diré and Goundam, and ten more serious cases were flown to Bamako for treatment.
ICRC delegates recently visited nine army officers held in Bamako following the attempted coup of July 1991. They also distributed food aid in early March to some 1,600 people east of Lake Faguibine, in the centre of the country.
The ICRC has five expatriate staff and about fifty local employees in Mali. Its work consists mainly in providing protection for the civilian population affected by insecurity in the country.

BURUNDI
Visits to People Held in Failed Coup
ICRC delegates have visited 171 servicemen and four civilians arrested following the attempted coup d'état of 3 March and held in several detention centres in the country.
The ICRC also registered a number of Rwandese nationals who are being held in Burundi prisons, and notified the Rwandese embassy in Bujumbura of their whereabouts.

SOMALIA
ICRC Airlift Under Way
An ICRC airlift between Mombasa, Kenya, and Belet Huen, north-east of Mogadishu, came into operation on 23 March. Using two transport aircraft, each making two round trips a day, the ICRC will be bringing 2,000 tonnes of food per month to the population in the Belet Huen region.
ICRC delegates have also set up two new logistic bases, in Mandera and El Wak on the Kenyan side of the border, to back up activities for displaced people in central and southern Somalia.
ICRC relief operations are also continuing overland and by sea from Kenya. This week road convoys from Mombasa arrived in southern Somalia with over 1,000 tonnes of food. A further 5,000 tonnes are being unloaded in the ports of Garad, Obbia, Warsheikh and Adale, bringing to over 15,000 tonnes the total amount of emergency aid taken in by six ICRC ships since January.
KARABAKH: ICRC MEDICAL AID TO NEW AREA
ICRC delegates based in Baku went to the Fizuli area of Karabakh for the first time on 26 March, to assess medical facilities and the situation of tens of thousands of displaced people in the region. They provided several hospitals with medical supplies.
On 27 March an ICRC doctor left Agdam and crossed the front line to Stepanakert, the main town of Nagorno-Karabakh. He examined Azeri prisoners there and made a survey of local medical facilities. "The medical and public health situation is critical", says Roland Sidler, an ICRC delegate just back from Stepanakert. "Hygiene conditions have deteriorated sharply following the destruction of the past few weeks, and are aggravated by the lack of running water and electricity."
On 30 March, two delegates based in Stepanakert met colleagues from the Agdam sub-delegation at the front line to hand over the body of an Azeri victim for return to his family. This was the first such ICRC operation in the area. The Agdam team arrived with messages collected from Armenian prisoners visited by the ICRC in Baku on 15 March. The Stepanakert team is now looking for the detainees’ families to give them the messages.

AFGHANISTAN
ICRC Gains Access to Ghazni
An ICRC delegate and a nurse crossed the front line and reached the town of Ghazni, 160 km south of Kabul, for the first time on 29 March. They visited three detention centres and interviewed the prisoners there without witnesses. The team also carried out a survey of the town’s medical facilities and distributed medical supplies to hospitals.
"We have been trying to gain access to Ghazni for three years", said Yves Giovannoni, ICRC desk officer for Afghanistan. "This is a significant development at a time of political upheaval in the country."
The ICRC team also assessed the living conditions of Ghazni’s thousands of inhabitants, who have been cut off from the outside world for several years.

RWANDA
Thousands of Displaced People Receive Emergency Aid
The ICRC has given emergency assistance to 10,000 displaced people who fled last week’s attacks in the Muvumba area (northern Rwanda) and assembled in Ngarama, 30 km to the south. ICRC delegates working in cooperation with the Rwandese Red Cross distributed plastic sheeting to provide makeshift shelters during the rainy season and took urgently required medical supplies to Ngarama hospital.
On 28 March, the ICRC repatriated 14 Ugandan detainees recently released by the Rwandese authorities. They were taken to the northern border post of Cyanika and handed over to ICRC delegates based in Uganda, who arranged for their return home.
YUGOSLAVIA
Prisoners Released as Dialogue Continues
On 27 March, 421 prisoners were released under ICRC auspices in Nemetin and Sarvaš, near Osijek in Slavonia. The Croatians freed 41 and the federal army 380. Since the beginning of the conflict the ICRC has acted as an intermediary in the release of over 2,400 prisoners. The ICRC is continuing to support the work of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia and the Red Cross in the various republics affected by the fighting. Representatives of these organizations met under ICRC chairmanship in Pécs, Hungary, on 1 April. The Joint Commission for tracing missing persons and identifying mortal remains is meeting, also in Pécs, on 2 and 3 April. Preparations were made at a meeting of plenipotentiary representatives of the parties to the conflict, organized by the ICRC in Geneva on 27 March.
In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the ICRC is preparing to distribute surgical supplies to hospitals following the recent clashes. Delegates have already delivered 400 units of blood to the hospital in Mostar. ICRC presence in this area has been stepped up, with offices in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Bihać and Herceg Novi.

MOZAMBIQUE
Portuguese Priest Released
A Portuguese priest held for four weeks by Renamo (Mozambique National Resistance) was handed over to ICRC delegates in the northern province of Niassa on 30 March and flown to the provincial capital, Lichinga. Father Coelho had fallen into Renamo hands during an ambush on 1 March. Having been informed by Renamo of his capture, the ICRC was able to forward a message he wished to send to the Vatican and to his religious order in the Mozambican capital, Maputo.
ETHIOPIA: FIRST VISITS TO DETAINEES SINCE 1974
The ICRC was allowed in early February to visit Ethiopian detention centres for the first time since 1974. ICRC delegates went to eight centres in and around Addis Ababa and in two provinces, where they spoke without witnesses with some 2,000 people held in custody following the change of government in May 1991. The visits are continuing. The ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross also began on 2 April to repatriate 6,000 disabled former servicemen who were demobilized after the fall of the Mengistu regime. Several hundred amputees will stay on in Addis Ababa until they are fitted with prostheses by one of the ICRC-backed orthopaedic centres. Their return home will mark the end of the repatriation of 250,000 ex-servicemen, which began in June last year when the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross undertook to provide emergency medical and food assistance and transport for the many thousands who were trekking homewards.

KARABAKH
Assistance for 1,000 Displaced People
In the past few days the ICRC has distributed family parcels, kitchen sets and blankets to 1,000 needy people in Barda, a town in Karabakh (Azerbaijan). Meanwhile delegates continue to visit hospitals and first-aid posts in the combat zone to assess their requirements and provide them with emergency supplies. The delegation in Agdam, also in Karabakh, has begun distributing family messages from Azeri detainees held in Stepanakert, the principal town in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. During the distribution, the delegation received over 130 tracing requests. At the same time the delegates based in Stepanakert are distributing family messages from the Armenian detainees visited by the ICRC in mid-March in Baku. Messages received from detainees whose families live in Armenia are being handed over to the delegation in Yerevan for forwarding.

GEORGIA
ICRC Finances Georgia Red Cross programme
The ICRC began financing a Georgia Red Cross home care programme in early April. The programme aims to cut back on hospitalizations by providing elderly disabled people with the necessary care in their own homes. It has a staff of 231 doctors and nurses, including ten who are currently working in and around Tskhinvali, the main town in South Ossetia. Of the 8,000 people registered to date as being eligible for home assistance, some 4,000 are being cared for by the Georgia Red Cross and the others by the government. "We took emergency measures to prevent this vital community service from being phased out for lack of funding," said Roland Hammer, ICRC desk officer for Georgia. "The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which has the resources needed to assist the Red Cross organizations of the republics of the former Soviet Union, will take over from us as soon as possible."
SOUTH AFRICA
First Visits to Detainees in Ciskei
Detainees held in two police stations in Ciskei were visited by ICRC delegates for the first time on 24 and 25 March under an agreement giving the ICRC access to all police stations in the homeland. The ICRC has been visiting detainees in Bophuthatswana and KwaZulu since September 1991. An agreement on access to prisons and police stations is currently being negotiated with the South African government.

CAMBODIA
Nationwide Blood Donation Campaign
A special Blood Donation Day was held on 26 March by the ICRC, the National Blood Transfusion Centre and the Federative Committee of Khmer Red Cross organizations in Cambodia. In response to an appeal for donors by Prince Sihanouk, civilians and soldiers, members of the various factions and foreign diplomats serving in Cambodia gathered at the Transfusion Centre to give their blood. The ICRC has been supporting the Centre since 1990 to help Cambodia gradually to dispense with imported blood products.

SRI LANKA
Crossline Medical Evacuation Under ICRC Protection
For the first time since the road was reopened between Jaffna and the port town of Kankesanturai, in northern Sri Lanka, it was used in late March for the transfer, under ICRC protection, of two patients needing treatment in Colombo. The ICRC had already been allowed to cross the front lines on 4 March with the consent of the two parties. Three convoys have since carried over 200 tonnes of relief, mostly food, a week to Jaffna in addition to the 8,000 tonnes delivered monthly to the port of Point Pedro, about thirty kilometres east of Kankesanturai.
The ICRC has 60 expatriate staff in Sri Lanka, mainly visiting detainees and tracing missing people. It has been working there since October 1989.
PERU: VISITS TO SECURITY DETAINES CONTINUE

The ICRC continued to visit security detainees in the provinces and in the capital, Lima, where a number of political figures were arrested following the dissolution of the National Congress on 5 April. Delegates went several times to the Miguel Castro Castro prison and to the DIRCOTE (anti-terrorist unit) interrogation centre.

The ICRC has been visiting security detainees held in prisons run by the Ministry of Justice since 1982. In September 1991 it gained access to people held in police interrogation centres and in military bases.

NAMIBIA
ICRC Extends Tracing Activities

At a press conference held in Windhoek on 6 April the ICRC announced that relatives of missing persons could now file their tracing requests at its delegation in Namibia. Several enquiries have already been received.

Two years ago the ICRC received a mandate from the new Namibian parliament to seek persons reported missing or possibly in detention outside the country. To avoid raising false hopes, the ICRC at first decided to process only current cases. By the end of February this year 22 cases had been resolved with the help of a government liaison officer, prompting the ICRC to take this latest step.

The Botswana and Angolan governments and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have already assured the ICRC of their cooperation.

IRAN-IRAQ
Tripartite Commission Meets Again at ICRC Headquarters

The Joint Technical Commission, comprising representatives of Iran, Iraq and the ICRC, is holding its fourth meeting at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. The discussions began on 15 April and are focusing on problems still pending after the Iran-Iraq conflict, in particular prisoners of war, the missing and the dead.

At the Commission's previous session in Geneva from 12 to 14 February the parties signed a plan of action providing for the repatriation, under ICRC auspices, of all prisoners of war, and then of mortal remains. A procedure for dealing with the missing was also set up. A simultaneous repatriation operation scheduled for 14 March failed to take place, bringing the whole process to a halt. To date, 82,000 prisoners of war have been returned under ICRC auspices, 78,000 of them since August 1990. Each one of them had first been interviewed by ICRC delegates to confirm that they wished to go home.
SOMALIA
One-fifth of ICRC Field Budget for Somalia
Activities in Somalia account for 20% of the 1992 ICRC field budget of over 500 million Swiss francs.
The Somalia operation covers 4.5 million people affected by the civil war and threatened with starvation. Activities have intensified since late January and now involve 50 expatriates and hundreds of local employees, helped by Somali Red Crescent staff.
The ICRC has already sent in 20,000 tonnes of food since the beginning of the year. It hopes that with increased UN participation it will be able to bring in the 35,000 tonnes required to cover the population's most pressing needs.

SOUTH AFRICA
Wounded Evacuated and Assistance Distributed
The ICRC and the South African Red Cross Society evacuated people wounded in clashes in Alexandra Township, north of Johannesburg, earlier this month. They then distributed relief supplies, mainly blankets and family parcels, to about a thousand displaced people in Alexandra.
The ICRC and the SARCS also worked together in Natal Province to bring help to over a thousand victims of the violence - mainly people who had been displaced or whose homes had been burnt down - within the space of one week.

HAITI
Visits to Detainees and Medical Assistance
An ICRC delegate and a nurse went to six places of detention in Haiti from 18 March to 1 April. They talked in private with 19 people detained following the coup d'état of September 1991. The ICRC had already visited 17 of the detainees, arrested after their occupation of the Canadian embassy in Port-au-Prince, on 12 February.
After a survey of needs, the delegates distributed basic medicines for detainees held at Cap Haitien, Petit-Goave, Jérémie, Hinche and Jacmel and surgical materials for hospitals in the capital. On her return from Haiti, ICRC nurse Liselotte Bosma declared: "There's not a roll of gauze to be found, not even at the main hospital in Port-au-Prince".

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AFGHANISTAN: ICRC NURSE KILLED DURING MEDICAL EVACUATION
Mr. Jan Karlsson, 39, an Icelandic Red Cross nurse working for the ICRC in Afghanistan, was killed on 22 April in Maydan Shar, 30 km south of Kabul. The attack occurred while an ICRC doctor and a delegate, who were accompanied by Mr. Karlsson, were about to drive two wounded Afghans to the surgical hospital in Kabul. The two patients had been brought by ambulance from the first-aid post in Sheikhabad, 30 km further south. A man in the crowd that had gathered around the ICRC vehicles fired on Mr. Karlsson, who was killed instantly. The other two ICRC staff members were unharmed.
In the present climate of political and military upheaval in Afghanistan, the ICRC is stepping up security measures and maintaining regular contact with all the parties to the conflict. From now on the ICRC will concentrate on its medical activities in the surgical hospital in Kabul, which has admitted over 400 wounded this month.

MALI
Food Distributed to 9,000 People
Two ICRC delegates and a nurse, helped by local employees, distributed food rations and gave medical care as needed to 9,000 people in Bintagoungou last week. Most of them had fled the unrest east of Lake Faguibine; they had already received ICRC assistance at the beginning of the year in Farach, a town about 200 km from Timbuktu.
The previous week the Mali government and rebel groups had agreed to allow the ICRC to be present as a neutral intermediary when prisoners were released prior to the signing of the 19 April peace agreement. The ICRC arranged for the prisoners to return to their homes.
The government and the ICRC signed an agreement in Bamako on 13 April to facilitate the ICRC’s work in the country.

IRAQ
ICRC Visits Two Iranian Pilots
On 19 April ICRC delegates visited two Iranian pilots captured after their plane had been shot down on 5 April during a raid on an Iranian opposition camp 100 km north of Baghdad.
The delegates registered the pilots, who have prisoner-of-war status, and gave them message forms so that they could write to their families in Iran.
At a meeting held on 16 April at the ICRC in Geneva, the Iranian and Iraqi authorities agreed that the repatriation of prisoners from the 1980-88 war would resume before 1 May.
KARABAKH
ICRC Opens Route from Agdam to Shusha
An ICRC convoy carrying emergency medical supplies from Agdam (Azerbaijan) crossed two front lines in Karabakh on 16 and 17 April. The vehicles went first to Stepanakert, the main town in Nagorno-Karabakh, which is mainly populated by Armenians, before proceeding to the Azeri town of Shusha. The supplies, which are intended for the wounded on both sides, were distributed to hospitals in the two towns.

IRAQ - TURKEY
Turkish Servicemen Released under ICRC auspices
Six Turkish servicemen, who had been captured by armed men in Turkey and taken to northern Iraq, were handed over to their country's authorities by ICRC delegates in Habour on the Turkish-Iraqi border on 20 April.

MYANMAR
Medical Assistance for Karen Refugees
The ICRC delegation in Bangkok provided the Karen refugee committee with medical supplies in early April for distribution to Karen dispensaries. The supplies are intended to meet the considerable needs created on the Thai-Myanmar border in recent months by the influx of people fleeing the fighting between the Myanmar armed forces and the Karen resistance movement.

SEVILLE: EXPO '92
Red Cross and Red Crescent Pavilion Opens
The pavilion of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was inaugurated on 20 April by Spanish Red Cross President Carmen Mestre. Its ultra-modern architecture, which features sloping walls, symbolizes a world destabilized by war and natural disasters. State-of-the-art audiovisual presentations show visitors what the Movement is doing for victims of conflicts and disasters all over the world. Hundreds of young Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers from many countries will take visitors around and act out the Movement's activities in song and dance. The volunteers will also be taking part in the events to be held on 8 May throughout Expo '92 to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.
AFGHANISTAN: ICRC IN KABUL AS FIGHTING RAGES
The ICRC surgical hospital in Kabul has had to cope with an unprecedented influx of casualties during the fierce fighting that followed the fall of President Najibullah’s government. While work at most other hospitals has come to a halt in the past few days, the four surgical teams at the ICRC hospital have operated non-stop, treating up to 100 patients in 48 hours in extremely difficult conditions and relying on the hospital’s own generators after a general power cut left the city without electricity. The delegates continue to evacuate casualties whenever security conditions allow. The ICRC has also resumed flights to Kabul after a four-day interruption, and five additional medical staff arrived from Peshawar on 29 April.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC Humanitarian Activities Stepped Up
The ICRC has launched a support programme for Bosnia-Herzegovina’s 19 main hospitals, where surgical supplies are dwindling fast as war casualties stream in. In Derventa, in the north-east, an ICRC team evacuated 62 vulnerable people, mostly children or disabled, out of the combat zone on 23 April, as well as a number of medical personnel.
ICRC assistance for the displaced persons in the republic will be stepped up in early May with monthly distributions of about 30,000 family parcels sufficient for 150,000 people each month.
The 12 delegates currently posted in Bosnia-Herzegovina are also continuing to visit detainees and to trace people reported missing in connection with the Yugoslav conflict.

CAMBODIA
 Mines Continue to Mutilate
Between January and March the ICRC admitted a total of 262 people with mine-blast injuries to its hospitals in Khao-I-Dang, Mongkol Borei, Pursat and Kampot. There has been no significant change in the number of accidents since the government and factions signed the Paris accord in October 1991. Hundreds of thousands of mines still lie scattered in the region near the Thai border. Since the tension abated, civilians have become less hesitant about entering areas unfamiliar to them and the risks of stepping on a mine are high. The ICRC’s orthopaedic centre in Battambang, in the north-west of the country, fitted 434 patients with artificial limbs in the first three months of the year.
LIBERIA
2,500 Displaced People Assisted
In the past three weeks the ICRC and the Liberian Red Cross have distributed food aid to some 2,500 displaced people now in Kakata, 50 km north of Monrovia, after gunmen forced them to leave their villages in Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties in north-west Liberia and abandon all their belongings. There are still about 15,000 displaced people within the combat zone, to which the ICRC has no access. Only a relatively small number have managed to cross the Saint Paul River and are continuing to arrive in Kakata and Bong Mines, while several thousand others have reportedly found refuge in Lofa county.

SOMALIA
First Visit to Detainees
On 27 April the ICRC made its first visit, in Mogadishu, to 340 people captured in the recent clashes between General Aaid's troops and those of former President Siyad Barre and held by the United Somali Congress (Aaid faction). The delegates registered the detainees and plan to see them again in the next few days to have interviews in private with them and give them blankets and soap.

GENEVA
International War Surgery Seminar
The third annual ICRC war surgery seminar was held in Geneva from 24-26 April. It was attended by about 60 surgeons from 20 countries. "Our main goal was to make the participants aware of the very specific context in which the ICRC works", said Dr. Robin Gray of the ICRC Medical Division. "We also wanted to improve their knowledge of the special skills needed to treat war wounds. Only rarely would they have the opportunity to acquire such skills in their normal work." Most of the surgeons attending had been sent by their respective National Societies, and some had already taken part in ICRC field activities. Over 40,000 operations were performed last year at ICRC surgical hospitals throughout the world.

Meeting of Experts on Environmental Protection in Armed Conflicts
About thirty international experts met at the ICRC’s invitation in Geneva from 27 to 29 April to discuss the legal rules on environmental protection during armed conflicts and their possible shortcomings. The meeting, a first for the ICRC, was characterized by a very constructive exchange of views between participants from varying backgrounds, all of whom stressed that it was more important to implement existing rules than create new ones. The meeting’s conclusions will serve as a basis for the ICRC’s report to the next United Nations General Assembly in September.
SOMALIA: MASSIVE FOOD AID FOR MOGADISHU
The ICRC launched a large-scale food aid operation in late April for the inhabitants of Mogadishu, where the food situation has steadily worsened since clashes broke out in November 1991 between the forces of General Aidid and troops loyal to interim President Ali Mahdi. ICRC ships loaded with 10,000 tonnes of food have left Mombasa, Kenya, bound for Somalia. About 2,500 tonnes have already been off-loaded in Keysaney, north of Mogadishu, and over 3,000 tonnes have been distributed in Gezira, to the south. Another boat is due to dock shortly in Merca. The food supplies consist of rice, oil and lentils and are intended mainly for hospitals treating the wounded and sick, camps for the displaced and the 120 community kitchens set up by the Somali Red Crescent and the Mogadishu Women's Committee. In Mandera, north-eastern Kenya, where about 14,000 people have sought refuge from the fighting between troops of former President Siad Barre and those of General Aidid, the ICRC has provided medical assistance to local health facilities. It is also preparing to bring in more than 100 tonnes of food by truck.

AFGHANISTAN
Over 50 Wounded Treated Each Day
The ICRC hospital in Kabul has been admitting over 50 wounded every day in the past week. To increase the hospital's 250-bed capacity, the ICRC has opened a ward at its orthopaedic centre for about 30 patients. The ICRC's surgical teams, helped by extra medical staff from Pakistan, have provided emergency treatment to almost 500 victims of the fighting in the space of four weeks. An ICRC convoy arrived in Kabul from Peshawar, Pakistan, in early May with 14 tonnes of surgical materials. Two more convoys are due to leave Peshawar with 25 tonnes of additional supplies in the next few days.

Following particularly violent clashes that claimed many civilian victims in the Afghan capital, the ICRC launched an appeal on 5 May to all the parties involved, calling on them to protect civilians and spare the lives of combatants who surrendered.

SIERRA LEONE
Assistance for Hospitals in Freetown
Following the overthrow of President Momoh last week, the ICRC is helping the Sierra Leone Red Cross cope with over 100 casualties admitted to two Freetown hospitals. Surgical teams were escorted to Connaught hospital under ICRC protection and delegates organized the repair of sanitary facilities and electrical systems. An ICRC nurse helped the hospital make preparations to treat the growing number of wounded being brought in by local Red Cross workers. The ICRC also provided hospital staff with medical supplies as needed.
BURUNDI
New Round of Visits
ICRC delegates recently began another round of visits to people detained in connection with the attempted coup d'etat of 3 March and the disturbances of November 1991, seeing detainees in Bujumbura central prison between 27 and 30 April. This second series of visits had been preceded in March by 27 visits to 12 places of detention, during which the delegates distributed soap and cleaning products.

PERU
War Surgery Seminar in Lima
In mid-April the ICRC held a seminar on war surgery for 250 surgeons, including army personnel. Between December 1991 and March 1992 an ICRC surgeon went to Ayacucho several times to train local trauma specialists in the specific techniques of treating gunshot and blast wounds.

WORLD RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT DAY
Tomorrow, 8 May, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement celebrates World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. Numerous events will be organized worldwide to mark the birthdate of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross.

ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga and other senior officials of the Movement will attend the official ceremony held at the Movement's pavilion at Expo '92 in Seville. As part of the day's events, young volunteers from all over the world will illustrate the Movement's activities for the victims of conflicts and natural disasters.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC ACTIVITY STEPPED UP

As the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina reaches new levels of intensity, the ICRC's 20 delegates and 30 local staff, based in Sarajevo, Trebinje, Mostar, Bihać, Banja Luka and Tuzla, are continuing their work throughout the territory.

Two ICRC trucks left Belgrade on 12 and 13 May for Trebinje in southern Bosnia-Herzegovina, carrying 1,250 family parcels and four tonnes of food and other relief supplies for people displaced or cut off by the fighting in and around Mostar.

Over 800 Red Cross messages collected from civilians in the capital, Sarajevo, have been taken by ICRC delegates to Belgrade, where they will be forwarded to their addressees without delay.

Under its programme to provide support for 19 hospitals in Bosnia-Herzegovina, on 10 May the ICRC delivered emergency medical supplies to the hospitals in Tuzla and Doboj, which are treating people wounded in the fighting.

The same day, delegates supervised the release of 36 prisoners in Bihać, in the northwest. Since mid-April the ICRC has visited over 600 people held in connection with the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

IRAN-IRAQ

Group of POWs Repatriated
A repatriation operation was carried out under ICRC supervision on 10 May at the Mundhariyeh/Khosravie border post. It involved seven Iranian and 15 Iraqi POWs from the Iran-Iraq conflict, and 55 Iraqi servicemen held by the Iranian authorities since the Gulf war. During the same operation, the mortal remains of three Iranian and three Iraqi soldiers were exchanged.

At a meeting held in Geneva under ICRC auspices on 15 and 16 April, Iran and Iraq had agreed to resume the repatriation of prisoners from the 1980-88 war.

To date, over 82,000 POWs have been repatriated under ICRC auspices. Each one had previously confirmed to ICRC delegates that he wished to return home.

PERU

Visits to Detainees Following Prison Riot
On 11 May an ICRC delegate and a doctor visited 16 security detainees belonging to the "Shining Path" movement, who are being treated at the police hospital in Lima following last week's clashes at the Miguel Castro Castro prison. Twenty-five security detainees transferred to Chorrillos prison on 6 May had been visited the next day.

Talks are continuing with the Peruvian authorities to enable the ICRC to continue its visits and to have access to detainees still held at Miguel Castro Castro. Until the disturbances, the ICRC had been visiting over 500 political detainees at the prison every week.
AFGHANISTAN

Hospitals Receive 14 Tonnes of Medical Supplies
The ICRC has sent 14 tonnes of emergency medical supplies from Pakistan to Kabul for its surgical hospital and other hospital facilities in the Afghan capital.
Four tonnes were flown in from Islamabad on board an aircraft made available by the United Nations after the ICRC’s plane was damaged during the shelling of Kabul airport on 30 April. The remaining 10 tonnes arrived in Kabul by the Jalalabad road on 9 May on two trucks hired by the ICRC in Peshawar. Another convoy will be leaving Peshawar for Kabul shortly. When the fighting died down earlier this week, the number of casualties admitted to the ICRC hospital dropped to around 10 per day. About 260 patients are being treated at present, some of them at the ICRC orthopaedic centre situated near the hospital.
The ICRC has 45 expatriate staff in Kabul. A fifth surgical team is expected at the end of the week to back up the four teams already working at the hospital.

KARABAKH

ICRC Aid for Displaced in South
Several ICRC delegates based in Agdam have started distributing aid to thousands of displaced people who fled the fighting and are now massed around Lachin and Fizuli, in southern Karabakh. On 10 May, two other ICRC delegates arrived in Shusha from Stepanakert, the main town of Nagorno-Karabakh, to assess the situation following the violent clashes of the past few days. The ICRC recently provided emergency medical supplies to the main hospital in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, which is treating casualties evacuated from the southern towns of Shusha, Lachin, Fizuli, Geranboi, Kubatly and Zangelan. The ICRC has been in Karabakh since early March and now has 10 delegates on the spot.

JORDAN

Exhibition Opens in Amman
ICRC exhibition "Humanity in the Midst of War" was inaugurated in Amman on 9 May in the presence of Crown Prince Hassan Ibn Talal. The purpose of the exhibition, initially mounted to mark the 125th anniversary of the original Geneva Convention of 1864, is to raise awareness of the principles of international humanitarian law. It has already been shown in most countries of Central and Eastern Europe and, after Jordan, will go to Egypt in early October and then to countries of the Maghreb.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC DELEGATE KILLED

Frédéric Maurice, a 39-year-old delegate from Geneva, was killed this week while on mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina during an attack on an ICRC convoy. Despite this tragic event, the ICRC has decided to maintain its presence in the region for the time being.

Mr. Maurice and two other ICRC staff members were injured when the convoy, which was carrying emergency medical supplies for the civilian hospital in Sarajevo, suddenly came under fire while entering the Bosnian capital. He died at that same hospital the next day, on 19 May. The other two staff members are recovering from their injuries and will shortly be repatriated. The exact circumstances of the attack are still unclear.

The delegates in Sarajevo have been recalled to Belgrade for consultations with the delegation there. However, the ICRC is remaining in five towns in Bosnia-Herzegovina - in Mostar, Bihac, Banja Luka, Tuzla and Trebinje.

A meeting of plenipotentiary representatives of all parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina is scheduled for later this week in Geneva to define safety guarantees indispensable for the humanitarian work of the ICRC and ensure that it has free access to all victims of the conflict. Once the ICRC has all necessary parameters in its possession, it will decide on the future course of its activities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

AFGHANISTAN
ICRC Convoy Brings Medical Supplies to Kabul, Jalalabad and Sarobi

An ICRC convoy from Peshawar (Pakistan) carrying 8.8 tonnes of medical supplies arrived in Kabul on Wednesday after delivering part of its consignment to hospitals in Jalalabad and Sarobi. The remaining supplies are destined for the ICRC surgical hospital and other medical facilities in the Afghan capital. The ICRC is often the only source for them to meet their needs.

Despite the cease-fire that came into effect on 6 May, the ICRC hospital is still receiving about 20 war casualties each day, although practically all beds are now occupied. Those admitted last week included 19 casualties evacuated by the ICRC after initial treatment at the Mir Bachakot first-aid post.

GEORGIA
Medical Assistance for South Ossetia Hospitals after Violence Flares

After the recent outbreak of fighting in South Ossetia, a team of ICRC delegates took in medical assistance for hospitals in Gori, to which casualties from small Georgian enclaves in South Ossetia are being evacuated for treatment, and in Tskhinvali, the Ossetian capital. One week before, during their fifth mission in South Ossetia, the delegates had managed for the first time to reach the Georgian and Ossetian villages east of Tskhinvali.

The same ICRC delegates had already carried out a survey of needs in the west of the country and supplied medical assistance to four hospitals there tending war casualties.
NAMIBIA
Sharp Increase in Tracing Requests
Tracing requests for persons reported missing during the country's struggle for independence have recently increased considerably in Namibia, particularly in Ovamboland, its northernmost region. This increase follows an announcement made by the ICRC on 6 April and widely broadcast in the country's various languages that it was willing to accept more tracing requests. Over 1,300 new cases have been registered to date. At total of 650 tracing requests have been passed on to SWAPO, which has meanwhile replied to 75 of them.

MALI
Food Aid for Conflict-Stricken Sahara Villages
Emergency food aid consisting of millet and rice has been distributed by ICRC delegates to some 400 people in the Arouane region, 400 km from Timbuktu, where an ICRC survey of needs is currently under way. The survey began in the Saharan village of Arouane itself, where a tonne of food was subsequently flown in by the ICRC and distributed by delegates to about 100 people. Soon after, the team of delegates, including a nurse, observed an acute shortage of food in the village of Bou Djebeha and around the neighbouring wells. Alerted by radio, the ICRC delegation in Timbuktu prepared an emergency consignment of food, which was promptly collected by the team and distributed on 12, 13 and 14 May to the 300 people in need.

NETHERLANDS
A New Red Cross for a New Europe
An international congress on the subject "A new Europe needs a new Red Cross" opened in the Netherlands capital The Hague on Monday 18 May. Some 200 representatives of 48 European National Societies are taking part in the congress, which has been organized by the Netherlands Red Cross together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The ICRC is attending the congress as an observer. According to the organizers, it is the first time ever that the sister societies of the former Soviet republics are present at such a conference, which is due to end on Friday 22 May.
The main subjects to be discussed are Red Cross assistance to those republics, help for refugees and asylum-seekers, blood donation programmes to achieve self-sufficiency throughout Europe, and the question of cross-border financial aid in the event of disaster.
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

TRANSCAUCASIA: FIRST MISSION TO NAKHICHEVAN

Three ICRC delegates based in Baku arrived in the Azerbaijani-administered autonomous republic of Nakhichevan on 24 May to assess the needs of the victims of the fighting in the north. It was the first ICRC mission to the republic, which is bordered by Iran, Turkey and Armenia. According to the delegates, about 30,000 people (10% of the population) have fled the area around Sadarak, while many wounded are being treated under difficult conditions in the republic's hospitals. The ICRC has already made plans to provide urgently required material and medical assistance.

On the southern rim of Nagorno-Karabakh, where tens of thousands of Azerbaijanis have been massed since the fall of Shusha and Lachin, the ICRC has given the Azerbaijani committee for refugees relief supplies for around 2,000 particularly vulnerable people who have taken refuge in public buildings and makeshift shelters.

SOMALIA

ICRC Ship Enters Mogadishu Harbour

An ICRC ship entered Mogadishu harbour on Friday 22 May for the first time since November 1991. Forced by artillery fire to turn back on Friday morning, the ship was able to dock in the afternoon after protracted negotiations with the parties concerned. The 5,500 tonnes of food it was carrying, mainly rice and lentils, were off-loaded over the weekend and distributed via district relief committees to the 70 community kitchens run by the Somali Red Crescent in the capital.

LEBANON

Medical Assistance

The ICRC has provided medical supplies, mainly dressing kits and blood bags, to hospitals and dispensaries treating people wounded during the military operations in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa valley. ICRC delegates and local staff continued to pay regular visits to villages in areas affected by the operations, so as to assess the consequences on the local population. The ICRC has seven delegates in Lebanon at present. Its delegation is in Beirut, with offices in Sidon, Tyre, Jezzine and Zahle (Bekaa).
**MOZAMBIQUE**

Hospital Reopens with ICRC Help

The Chicumbane hospital west of Xai-Xai, Gaza province, which was seriously damaged by fire following an armed attack last January, reopened on 20 May. Three wards were unusable after the attack, and work at the hospital had to be scaled down to one-fifth of its normal capacity. Following assessment of the damage the ICRC helped in the reconstruction by providing the building foreman with local employees and vehicles.

**DJIBOUTI**

First Visits to Detainees Held by Opposition

Last week an ICRC team including a doctor visited 66 members of the Djibouti armed forces held by the armed opposition movement FRUD in the northern town of Assa Gueyla. This is the first time that such a visit has been carried out. The delegates also spoke in private with 30 members of the opposition in four places of detention in the capital.

**ITALY**

Exhibition in Genoa

The ICRC has mounted a stand on the theme "Humanity in the midst of war: international humanitarian law and naval warfare" at the international exhibition in Genoa marking the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's first voyage to America. The aim is to introduce visitors to the Second Geneva Convention, which protects the victims of war at sea and is largely unknown to the general public. At the inauguration of the stand on 26 May, ICRC President CornelioSommaruga gave a press conference for about 20 journalists during which he stressed the importance of compliance with the fundamental principles of humanitarian law, especially at a time when the ICRC is having considerable difficulty in ensuring respect for the red cross emblem and the safety of its delegates in several areas of conflict around the world.
AFGHANISTAN: ICRC RETURNS TO MAZAR-I-SHARIF AND HERAT
The ICRC resumed its activities in Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat last week. Serious security incidents had forced it to leave northern and western Afghanistan almost a year ago. The ICRC will begin by renovating the orthopaedic workshop it set up in Mazar-i-Sharif in April 1991. It also plans to finish building another workshop in Herat. At the two centres, the many victims of mine explosions will be fitted with artificial limbs and receive physiotherapy. Violence flared anew in Kabul earlier this week, and the surgical teams at the ICRC hospital have had to handle some 50 new admissions daily since Tuesday. Despite heavy fighting in its immediate vicinity, the hospital is one of the few medical facilities that has continued to function in the Afghan capital.

MOZAMBIQUE
Vaccination Campaign
The first phase of a large-scale vaccination campaign was completed in Mozambique at the end of May. Several thousand children and pregnant women were immunized against six major childhood diseases in various regions of Sofala province. This is the first time that an ICRC team has been able to carry out an operation of this type in an area not under government control. The logistic difficulties were considerable: the vaccines had to be protected from light and heat, and the delegates often had to travel on foot or by bicycle to reach people living in very remote spots. The campaign comprises three more phases and is due to continue until September.

IRAQ
Medical Supplies Distributed
The ICRC has begun a round of Iraqi hospitals with surgical units to provide them with medical materials - mainly syringes, gloves, sutures, intravenous tubing and antibiotics. Some 80 hospitals throughout the country will be receiving these supplies, provided by the British and Swiss Red Cross Societies. The hospital run by the ICRC in Naopares, on the border between Iraq and Iran, has been working at full capacity for several weeks. Its 50 beds are all occupied and 60 to 70 operations - many of them on patients wounded by mines - are performed every week.
EARTH SUMMIT IN RIO
Environment and Humanitarian Law
International humanitarian law provides for protection of the environment. That is the message the ICRC will be conveying to the participants in the Earth Summit, to be held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June. Rules of law on the environment already exist, but their significance has not always been properly grasped.
The word environment does not appear in the four 1949 Geneva Conventions on the law of war. However, Article 55 of the Additional Protocol on protection of the victims of international armed conflict reads: "Care shall be taken in warfare to protect the natural environment against widespread, long-term and severe damage." The importance of this provision has become clear in several recent conflicts, in particular the Gulf war.
The United Nations has asked the ICRC for a detailed report on its activities relating to environmental protection in time of war. About 30 scientists, military specialists and government representatives met in Geneva in late April to discuss the matter, at the invitation of ICRC President Cornélio Sommaruga. The conclusions will be sent to the UN in the autumn.

SOMALIA
More Community Kitchens
The ICRC is currently extending its network of community kitchens, in which hot meals are prepared daily for Somalis threatened with starvation. About 190 such kitchens have been set up in the northern and southern sectors of Mogadishu and in camps for displaced people in Merca, south of the capital, and Belet Weyne, to the west. Almost 300,000 people are now covered by the programme, which is being run jointly with the Somali Red Crescent. Since January the ICRC has brought over 45,000 tonnes of food to Somalia and is planning to bring in 60,000 more during the next three months. It is hoping that increased cooperation with the United Nations will make it possible to meet the population’s most urgent needs.
AFGHANISTAN: INTENSE ACTIVITY AGAIN AT KABUL HOSPITAL

Surgical teams at the ICRC hospital in Kabul were still working under heavy pressure last week, when renewed fighting broke out between rival factions. On Friday, 5 June, the hospital had a record 330 patients. The tension then abated, and by 8 June the number of patients was down to 256.
The ICRC Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific and the desk officer for the Indian subcontinent are in Kabul for an on-the-spot review with the delegation of problems pertaining to security and respect for the emblem.

GEORGIA/SOUTH OSSETIA: Emergency aid for hospitals at front
An ICRC team based in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, distributed urgently needed medical aid to the hospitals in Gori, Tkhiavi and Tskhinvali on 9 and 10 June. All three hospitals are situated in South Ossetia and are treating people wounded in the renewed fighting between Georgians and southern Ossetians.

NAKHICHEVAN
Humanitarian Convoys Arriving Soon
Two ICRC relief convoys are due to arrive this week in Nakhichevan, the autonomous republic administered by Azerbaijan. Delegates estimate that about 30,000 people (10% of the population) have fled the Sadarak area in the north following fighting between Armenian and Azeri forces.
Emergency aid will initially be provided to 5,000 people living in very precarious conditions. A further 1.2 tonnes of urgently required medical supplies will be flown in from Azerbaijan.
The ICRC negotiated two truces in late May, during which the bodies of 17 fighters were evacuated.

YUGOSLAV CONFLICT
ICRC Remains Active
The ICRC continues to work in what was formerly Yugoslavia, with the exception of Bosnia-Herzegovina, from which it has temporarily withdrawn for security reasons. The delegates’ main tasks are to trace missing persons, visit prisoners, distribute relief supplies and spread knowledge of the basic principles of international humanitarian law.
On 3 June the ICRC helped with the repatriation of ten Yugoslav Federal Army soldiers of Croatian origin to Nemetin, and three days later it took part in an exchange of twenty prisoners in Zitnik. Delegates have also contacted the authorities in several villages in northern Krajina and checked on the general situation in the area, where between 25,000 and 30,000 people have sought refuge. Plans have been made to distribute 5,000 family parcels in the coming weeks (500 parcels have already been distributed in Krnjak). Hospitals in Kosovo have received urgently required medical supplies.
CENTRAL ASIA
ICRC Mission to Five Republics
Three ICRC delegates recently completed a round of visits to five Central Asian republics to take up contact with the authorities and the leaders of the respective National Societies. They first went to Tajikistan, the scene of recent disturbances, then to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The main purpose of their visit was to discuss questions of international humanitarian law and the procedure for recognition of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Everywhere they went, the officials they met were keen to cooperate and expressed their desire to develop closer relations with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

NICARAGUA
Work Continues at Managua Orthopaedic Centre
The ICRC is to continue running the Managua orthopaedic centre, which has been working since 1984, for another year. Since the 1990 elections relative peace has prevailed in Managua and the situation there no longer comes within the ICRC's mandate. However, there are still 2,000 people in need of prostheses, and maintenance services have to be provided for those of another 2,000 people already fitted with them. The Nicaraguan Minister of Health has intimated that the government wishes the ICRC to remain in charge of the orthopaedic centre.

NIGERIA
Preparing for Emergency Action
During the recent riots in several Nigerian towns, the ICRC stepped in to help Nigerian Red Cross staff respond to the emergency situation. An ICRC nurse and a delegate went to Kaduna, in the north, where inter-ethnic strife has resulted in numerous casualties and forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes. Medical care was given to the wounded, and the ICRC team carried out a survey of needs of the displaced people in the area. The ICRC recently set up an extensive support programme to help the National Society increase its capacity for emergency action. Further training is being given to first-aid teams and a telecommunications network installed to link up five towns, which will also serve as logistic bases for the storage of emergency relief supplies.
SOMALIA: 50,000 TONNES OF FOOD SINCE JANUARY

The ICRC has transported 50,000 tonnes of food (rations comprising rice, lentils and oil) to Somalia since the beginning of the year. Most of the food arrives by ship and is unloaded at two ports and eight other points along the coast. The rest is brought in by a regular airlift between Mombasa, Kenya, and Afgoi, Baidoa and Belet Huen in Somalia, or on relief convoys organized in Mombasa for the Kenyan-Somali border area. Part of the food is distributed to 250 community kitchens throughout Somalia which provide hot meals for 375,000 victims of the conflict between rival Somali factions.

NAKHICHEVAN
Medical Supplies Distributed
An ICRC team delivered 1.5 tonnes of medical supplies last week to two hospitals in the Azerbaijan-administered autonomous republic of Nakhichevan and to two health posts near the front line separating Armenian and Azeri forces in the Sadarak area. The assistance is intended primarily for treating the wounded. Four delegates are now assessing the needs of people displaced by the fighting, most of them inhabitants of Sadarak.

SIERRA LEONE
Visits to Detainees
Sierra Leone's new Head of State, Captain Strasser, has authorized the ICRC to visit all persons arrested in connection with the recent coup d'état and with the conflict in the eastern part of the country. During discussions with government officials, the ICRC Deputy Delegate General for Africa and the regional delegate based in Abidjan emphasized key aspects of the ICRC's procedure in conducting such visits, in particular interviews without witnesses and confidential reports submitted only to the detaining authorities.
CAMBODIAN CONFLICT
Tracing Successes
"I had news of you through the provincial Red Cross when I went back to Battambang. For ten years I thought I was the only one of the family who had survived, but now there are two of us! (Your sister)"
Almost every day messages of this kind arrive at the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) office in Bangkok or in Phnom Penh, thanks to the CTA's efforts to find people who went missing during one of the various conflicts that have ravaged Cambodia in the past twenty years. There are an estimated one million Cambodians living outside their country, 350,000 of them in camps in Thailand.
The Cambodian Red Cross/CTA tracing programme started in 1989 and initially registered about 50 tracing requests each month. That figure now tops 200. The CTA estimates that in three years its efforts have enabled 10,000 people to find relatives of whom they had no news, in some cases for many years.

EARTH SUMMIT IN RIO
The ICRC and Environmental Protection
Mrs. Francesca Pometta, a member of the International Committee and head of the ICRC delegation to the Earth Summit in Rio, drew the attention of the participants to the fact that international humanitarian law already contains rules that protect the environment in time of armed conflict. The ICRC's main concern is to ensure that the existing rules are widely known and more fully complied with. It will also continue its work with panels of experts to determine whether new provisions should be developed in this respect.
MOZAMBIQUE: DROUGHT OF THE CENTURY

"Mozambique is going through the worst drought this century." These are the grim words of Markus Dolder, deputy head of the ICRC Relief Division, who is just back from Maputo.

"We were shocked by the situation in some parts of the country where the population is subsisting on berries and roots because the entire food crop was lost." The worst effects of the drought are felt in southern Mozambique, while in the north it is the conflict that has caused severe food shortages in certain areas. In agreement with other humanitarian organizations in the country, the ICRC has drawn up a plan of action for the coming nine months. It provides for emergency assistance to about 200,000 people in six areas suffering from the combined effects of drought and conflict. Implementation of the plan will depend on whether the roads are open for humanitarian convoys. "If they are not," Dolder concludes, "the entire operation is pointless". One road was recently opened for an ICRC convoy in the Chihedeia area, where delegates were able to distribute aid to 15,000 people.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

ICRC Returns

ICRC delegates are back in five towns in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Banja Luka, Bihac, Bijeljina, Grude and Trebinje), the first stage in a gradual redeployment throughout the republic. Relief operations will resume as soon as the liaison officers in charge of security in their respective zones have been contacted. The ICRC will focus on providing medical and food aid to the victims of the conflict, while continuing to work as a neutral intermediary in behalf of detainees and the civilian population and stepping up its efforts to help find people reported missing. A major television and press campaign has been launched in the republic to inform both civilians and combatants of the ICRC's role and impartial work and to promote greater respect for the staff and emblem of the Red Cross.

MOLDOVA

ICRC Emergency Mission

An ICRC doctor and three delegates, accompanied by an interpreter, left for Moldova on 25 June to assess the needs of the people affected by the recent fierce fighting between Moldovan and separatist forces around Bendery, the only Russian-speaking town on the west bank of the River Dniestr. The team will first contact the authorities in the Moldovan capital Kishinev before going on to Bendery and to other conflict areas in Trans-Dniestria (east bank). The ICRC has dispatched three missions to Moldova since March in response to the worsening situation in the republic.
AZERBAIJAN
Assistance for 2,000 Displaced People
In the past few days an ICRC team has distributed food, blankets and other emergency relief to over 2,000 displaced people who have sought refuge in the Gazakh region of north-west Azerbaijan following an upsurge in the fighting between Azeri and Armenian forces. Relief supplies were also distributed to several hundred displaced people in the Geranboy district, north of Nagorno-Karabakh.

SOUTH AFRICA
Boipatong Events Prompt ICRC Action
The ICRC stepped in immediately, together with the South African Red Cross Society, to help families affected by last week's tragic events in Boipatong township (Vaal triangle). It also backed National Society first-aiders during the resulting strife between inhabitants and security forces, providing medical and other relief supplies for the victims. In the Johannesburg area, the ICRC and teams of South African first-aiders are standing by to act in the event of an emergency.
In cooperation with the National Society, the ICRC has been assisting victims of the violence in South Africa for many years, especially in Southern Transvaal and Natal.

IRAQ
Prison Visits
ICRC delegates gained access for the first time on 21 June to a prison controlled by a Kurdish party in Sulayimaniyah, in Iraqi Kurdistan. They saw 24 prisoners, six of them security detainees. In Ramadi, west of Baghdad, a visit was made last week to 64 Iranian detainees, including the two pilots shot down on 5 April during a raid on an Iranian opposition base inside Iraq. During both visits the delegates were able to speak with the detainees in private.

PERU
Prison Visits Resume
ICRC visits to detainees in Lima's Miguel Castro Castro prison resumed last week. Three delegates and a doctor saw 221 security detainees belonging to the "Shining Path" movement. The ICRC had been denied access to the prison since the clashes between inmates and security forces in early May. Approaches were made immediately to the country's highest authorities, and ICRC Delegate General for Latin America Jean-Marc Bornet was received in Lima by President Fujimori. The ICRC has also been authorized to visit 80 detainees recently transferred from Miguel Castro Castro to Puno, in southern Peru.
SOMALIA: THE ISMAIL UNLOADS IN MOGADISHU

The Ismail, the largest ship used for ICRC operations in Somalia, has been authorized to unload its cargo of 5,000 tonnes of food in Mogadishu. This food is intended for the 150 community kitchens in the southern part of the capital and the nearby area. Some 370 kitchens throughout the country provide one hot meal per day for about 500,000 people, and two meals in places such as Baidoa where the population is suffering particular hardship. The community kitchen programme is run in close cooperation with the local branches of the Somali Red Crescent and in some places with women’s committees. The ICRC mobile surgical team is now in Garoe and Bosaso, in north-eastern Somalia, following an outbreak of fighting which resulted in many casualties. Sixty people have received hospital treatment in Bosaso and almost 100 in Garoe, where the ICRC recently provided the hospital with 580 kg of emergency supplies. Besides treating the wounded, the medical team is giving further training to local staff.

MOLDOVA
First Visit to Detainees
An ICRC team including a doctor has visited several people arrested recently in connection with the clashes between Moldovan troops and Russian-speaking separatists in the Dniestr region. This was the first time the ICRC had access, in accordance with its standard procedure, to people held in Moldova. The detainees, who are being held in two hospitals and a civilian prison in Kishinev, the Moldovan capital, wrote Red Cross messages for their families in Trans-Dniestria. The messages will be delivered shortly when the delegates go to Tiraspol, the main town of the separatist region. The ICRC team will then assess the situation in the areas affected by the recent upsurge of violence.

AZERBAIJAN
Tents for the Homeless
ICRC delegates based in Stepanakert, the main town of Nagorno-Karabakh, have set up about 100 tents in the Drmbon and Kussapat area in the north of the enclave, where some 3,000 displaced people have sought refuge from the fighting around Martakert. The tents are intended mainly for the homeless who are sheltering in the nearby forests. Twenty-five other tents have been installed in Hatherk, in the north-west, and a further 125 have been given to the local committee for displaced people in Stepanakert. An ICRC convoy is expected to arrive in Stepanakert in the coming days with blankets, cooking utensils and family parcels containing food and soap for the many civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh who have fled their villages because of the fighting between Azeri and Armenian troops.
RWANDA
Assistance for the Displaced
The number of displaced people in northern Rwanda is rising sharply as fighting continues between the armed forces and Popular Front rebels, and reached almost 250,000 at the end of June. The ICRC and the National Society are regularly monitoring the situation and providing food supplied by the World Food Programme. The amounts distributed represent a monthly total of 2,100 tonnes of cereals, 840 tonnes of beans, 210 tonnes of cooking oil and 42 tonnes of salt. The ICRC is also visiting detainees arrested in connection with the disturbances and forwarding Red Cross messages.

MALI
Evacuation of Wounded
About 20 people wounded last Saturday in clashes between the Songhai and Tamashek (Tuareg) communities in Gao (northern Mali) have been taken to the local hospital by the ICRC at the request of the cease-fire commission.
An ICRC nurse and a delegate have distributed three tonnes of millet and 600 litres of cooking oil to some 300 families who sought refuge in the village of Kel-u-Suk, about seven kilometers from Gao, plus temporary shelters and blankets provided in cooperation with the Gao section of the Mali Red Cross.

YUGOSLAV CONFLICT
Food and Medical Supplies for Croatia
An ICRC convoy from Zagreb, the Croatian capital, reached the northern Krajina area on 30 June carrying 4,400 family food parcels for groups of displaced or isolated people near the towns of Slunj and Glina. Last weekend the ICRC provided two tonnes of medical supplies for the main hospital in Knin, in southern Croatia, where many of the wounded are being treated.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT CONFERENCE
Not before 1995
At its meeting of 25 June, the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent reaffirmed its commitment to preparing the next International Conference but considered that it could not be convened before 1995. The Commission set up a working group chaired by Botho Prince of Sayn-Witgenstein-Hohenstein, President of the German Red Cross, to examine all relevant issues regarding the Conference. The group also includes a representative from the ICRC and another from the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies. It will submit its conclusions to the next session of the Standing Commission, which in turn will report to the 1993 Council of Delegates.
The International Conference was due to meet in Budapest last November but had to be postponed because of political differences regarding Palestinian participation.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC CONVOYS RETURN TO CONFLICT ZONES

Two convoys of the International Committee of the Red Cross left Zagreb on 7 and 8 July with food and medical supplies for the Banja Luka and Bihac areas, to which nearly 170,000 people have fled from the fighting. These first convoys mark the effective resumption of ICRC activities in the conflict zones of Bosnia-Herzegovina and follow the surveys conducted from 24 June to 1 July by five ICRC teams in the Trebinje, Mostar, Bihac, Banja Luka and Bijeljina areas.

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

AFGHANISTAN
Kabul Hospital: Casualties Flood In
Renewed violence between rival factions last Saturday led to an exceptionally heavy influx of casualties at the ICRC hospital in Kabul. Within a single day it admitted 134 new patients, bringing the total number far beyond its maximum capacity of 300 beds. On Sunday evening, there were 280 people still in the hospital, which was able to continue its work as fighting raged in other parts of the city. It has already admitted more than 1,600 casualties since the change of government on 25 April last. There is also an ICRC team in Jalalabad, east of Kabul, to check on the ability of local medical facilities to cope with a constant flow of wounded. If necessary, the ICRC is ready to set up a medical aid programme and train local surgeons in war surgery techniques.

ETHIOPIA
Repatriation of Ex-Servicemen Completed
The last 6,000 ex-servicemen demobilized after the fall of the previous regime have now been repatriated from Addis Ababa to their homes. This last group were all disabled. A number of them had stayed on in the Ethiopian capital until they could be fitted with artificial limbs in the ICRC-backed orthopaedic centres there. Their return marks the end of the vast operation to repatriate 250,000 ex-servicemen from the Mengistu army. Most of them were repatriated during the first six months of the operation, which began in June 1991. The ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross provided emergency food and medical assistance for these former soldiers gathered in camps in the north, before arranging for their transport to the south of the country. More than 40,000 tonnes of food, blankets and other relief supplies were distributed to them in the course of the operation.
NORTH OSSETIA/GEORGIA
Medical Aid
In the past few days ICRC delegates have distributed almost two tonnes of urgently needed medical supplies to three hospitals in Vladikavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia (south of the Russian Federation) and to three provincial hospitals. These hospitals are treating the many casualties evacuated from South Ossetia following clashes between Georgian forces and Ossetian separatists. The ICRC has also provided emergency medical aid to the dispensary in Banati, in the Georgian zone east of the Southern Ossetian town of Tskhinvali.

BURUNDI
Training Course for Relief Workers
An ICRC nurse recently went to Burundi to supervise a training course for relief workers there and to help set up a plan of action in the event of emergencies. The course was organized jointly by the expanding National Red Cross Society and ICRC delegates on the spot. The programme consists mainly of first-aid courses, an introduction to relief work techniques and instruction in the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law. A similar course was held at the end of March.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
ICRC President Urges for Greater Respect
ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga has proposed that a new kind of conferences of States party to the Geneva Conventions be held to demand stringent respect for the existing rules of international humanitarian law. Speaking in Strasbourg at the inaugural meeting of the 23rd study session of the International Institute of Human Rights, he stressed that "when a State violates the pledge it has given on acceding to the Geneva Conventions, all other States share the responsibility for such violation if they fail to take action to put an end to it". Mr. Sommaruga considers that States - even beyond their own borders - must be willing to bring pressure to bear on other governments to ensure that the Conventions are respected.
Relief Supplies Arrive
Detainees Visited

ICRC relief supplies are starting to arrive in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina now that delegates have resumed activities there. Family parcels have been distributed to some 30,000 displaced people in the Bihac and Velika Kladusa region. Thirteen tonnes of other food aid and 4.5 tonnes of emergency medical supplies have also been provided. Banja Luka and the surrounding area have received family parcels and 4.5 tonnes of medical materials. 1.5 tonnes of medical supplies have been handed over to Trebinje hospital. ICRC delegates have visited 2,353 people arrested in connection with the conflict in the Banja Luka area and another 500 detainees near Bileca. Extensive efforts to find missing persons are being made via the ICRC’s Central Tracing Agency.

ICRC Evacuates UN Observer
Injured by Mine

An ICRC team this week evacuated a UN military observer injured in an explosion late last Sunday afternoon from Bosnia-Herzegovina to Croatia. Major John Brayant, commanding officer of the UN military observers in Velika Kladusa, north of Bihac, was on reconnaissance with two other UN officers thirty kilometres south-east of Kladusa when his car struck a landmine. Alerted that same evening, the ICRC team based in Kladusa immediately organized a humanitarian convoy of two ICRC Landcruisers and an ambulance from the town’s hospital to take Major Brayant across “North Krajina” to Karlovac hospital, in Croatia, where he was operated for severe leg and foot injuries. His two colleagues were unhurt.
MOZAMBIQUE
New Plan of Action
The ICRC has revised its plan of action to help the Mozambican population, hard-hit by the combined effects of an unprecedented drought and the conflict between the government and the opposition movement RENAMO. Under the new plan, an estimated total of 30,000 tonnes of emergency food aid will be provided between July 1992 and March 1993 for over 200,000 people on the verge of starvation in the Gaza, Sofala and Nampula provinces. The plan can succeed only if all parties to the conflict agree to open the roads, which are the only effective means of getting large-scale humanitarian aid through to many isolated areas of Mozambique.

IRAQI KURDISTAN
Evacuation of Two Injured UN Soldiers
On 9 July an ICRC nurse and delegate evacuated two members of the United Nations contingent deployed in Iraqi Kurdistan, who had been injured in an attack during the night of 8 to 9 July. The ICRC team immediately drove them from Arbil to Baghdad for treatment. The ICRC has continued providing medical supplies to all Iraqi hospitals with surgical units. It has also begun to distribute some 500 medical manuals in English to eight medical schools and several hospitals in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan. The manuals were donated by a German publishing house.

SOS'92
Tenth Course on Health in Relief Operations
SOS'92, organized by the ICRC, the Geneva University Faculty of Medicine and the World Health Organization, was held from 22 June to 10 July in Geneva. This three-week course, which has been a great success since it was set up under the name HELP in 1986, prepares health professionals from around the world for work in emergency situations. "Our aim is to familiarize participants with the techniques most often used and to develop a common approach making for better coordination of relief activities in the field", said Dr. Pierre Perrin of the ICRC's Medical Division. SOS'92 was attended by 25 participants from 17 countries. The next courses are scheduled to take place in Belgium, the Philippines and Costa Rica.
MOZAMBIQUE: EMERGENCY AID FOR LIUPO AND ALUA
During a visit to ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 17 July, Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) leader Afonso Dhlakama gave the go-ahead for urgently required relief supplies to be brought in by road to about 25,000 people near starving in the Liupo and Alua regions and cut off by the fighting. The only access to those northern Mozambican towns is via RENAMO-controlled areas.

The green light came after the Rome negotiations in which the Mozambican government and RENAMO signed a declaration undertaking to authorize humanitarian relief consignments by any means of transport to the areas hardest hit by the conflict and a period of unprecedented drought. The assistance will be provided under United Nations and ICRC auspices; the two organizations are to work on a complementary basis. A committee will be set up in Maputo to monitor compliance with the principles set forth in the declaration.

Under the ICRC’s emergency plan for the next nine months, 30,000 tonnes of food are to be distributed to more than 200,000 people living in the areas most severely affected by the conflict.

The ICRC is already operational in Mozambique, caring mainly for the victims of armed attacks. It is currently conducting a vaccination campaign in RENAMO-controlled areas, besides forwarding thousands of family messages between Mozambican refugees abroad and their relatives in Mozambique.

AFGHANISTAN

Record Admissions at ICRC Hospital
The ICRC hospital in Kabul last weekend admitted 147 people wounded in the latest outbreak of fighting between rival factions in the Afghan capital. The number of patients, most of them civilians, totalled 400 on Monday morning, an all-time record for the 300-bed hospital.

The ICRC immediately provided emergency medical supplies to other hospitals in Kabul that were also overwhelmed by the exceptional number of casualties.

In a press release on Monday the ICRC appealed to all the parties involved to spare the civilian population and respect the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem and personnel.

Sharp Increase in Mine-Blast Injuries
Since the change of government in Kabul on 25 April, more and more Afghan refugees are returning to their country. According to UNHCR, a daily average of 7,000 are arriving from Pakistan and another 2,000 from Iran, bringing the number of people having returned to Afghanistan since the beginning of the year to 600,000. The ICRC hospital in the Afghan capital has observed a sharp increase in the number of people injured by mines. It treated 182 mine-blast casualties in May, compared to an average of 60 during the same month in the past two years. The two ICRC hospitals in Pakistan, in Peshawar and Quetta, report similar increases.
**MOLDOVA**

**Detainees Visited in Kishinev and Kaushany**

In the past few days the ICRC has visited 12 people held by the Moldovan forces in Kishinev, the capital. Two of the detainees had been registered by the ICRC during a previous visit in late June, when delegates first had access to people held in connection with conflict. On 20 July the ICRC delegate based in Kishinev also visited another eight people held by the Moldovan forces in the town of Kaushany, about 40 kilometres from the capital. All the detainees visited were interviewed in private.

The ICRC sent a team to Moldova at the end of June, when renewed fighting broke out between Moldovan forces and Russian-speaking separatists in the Dniestr region of eastern Moldova.

**SAUDI ARABIA**

**Visits to Iraqi Refugees**

ICRC delegates have just conducted visits to two camps for Iraqi refugees. They saw some 10,000 people at Artawiyah, 250 kilometres north-west of Riyadh, and went for the first time to the new camp of Rafha, on the Iraqi-Saudi border, to which the approximately 20,000 residents of the former Rafha camp have been transferred in recent weeks. The delegates went to check on the conditions of internment of all the refugees, who are protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention. They also collected and distributed family messages.

**DISSEMINATION**

**A First in Iraqi Kurdistan**

The first-ever series of dissemination courses on international humanitarian law is now well under way in Iraqi Kurdistan's Sulaymaniah province. With the authorities' consent, the courses were launched in mid-June by ICRC delegates based in Iraq.

Using brochures translated into Sorani (the language of the Iraqi Kurds) and case studies taken from the ICRC magazine *Dissemination*, 250 Kurdish combatants, divided into six groups, are learning more about the institution's work and various aspects of international humanitarian law. The courses consist of three-hour sessions over a period of two weeks.

A dissemination campaign in schools and universities is scheduled to take place in the coming months.
SOMALIA: FOOD FOR WESTERN AREAS

ICRC convoys have taken hundreds of tonnes of food to western Somalia in recent weeks. About 900 tonnes of dry rations have been distributed in the Bur Hakaba, Wanle Weyne and Baidoa districts, where large numbers of people displaced by the fighting between rival factions have taken refuge. All the hospitals in the capital, Mogadishu, have also been given provisions for one month. All these supplies were shipped to Somalia on board the Ismail, which docked in the port of Mogadishu in early July. This was the first time since October 1991 that the port could be used to bring in food intended for areas outside the city.

Distributions have also resumed in Kismayo, where every day 270 tonnes of food are unloaded from a ship and taken directly to nearby villages, thus making warehousing unnecessary.

The ICRC is also continuing its protection activities, including visits to people arrested in connection with the conflict and held in the southern sector of Mogadishu or in north-eastern Somalia.

MEETING ON AID FOR VICTIMS OF CONFLICT IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

ICRC President’s Statement

At the international meeting on aid to refugees from the former Yugoslav republics convened in Geneva on 29 July by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga denounced what he called "a deliberate plan based on the exclusion of other groups". He referred in particular to the terrible ravages of "ethnic cleansing", in whose name whole populations were being terrorized, minorities intimidated and harassed, civilians interned on a massive scale, hostages taken, and torture, deportation and summary executions were rife. He added: "Such methods, which we thought had been consigned to museums showing the horrors of the Second World War, have become almost common practice in the war-torn territory of what was Yugoslavia".

President Sommaruga went on to appeal to the States to use every means at their disposal to seek a political settlement to the conflict.

The ICRC pledged to pursue its emergency operations for all victims of the tragedy and to spare no effort in promoting dialogue on humanitarian issues among the parties concerned.

Also in Geneva, the Yugoslav and Croatian authorities signed an agreement under ICRC auspices whereby all prisoners still held in connection with the Croatian conflict are to be released and repatriated by 7 August.
LIBERIA

Aid for Refugees from Sierra Leone
A delegate and a sanitary engineer from the ICRC, accompanied by Liberian Red Cross staff, recently went to the Vahun area in Lofa County, near the border with Sierra Leone. This was the first time in several months that security conditions allowed access to this region of north-west Liberia, where some 75,000 people have sought refuge from the unrest in Sierra Leone. The team found that both the refugees and the local population were in great need of food and medical aid. The ICRC's breakthrough enabled several other agencies to bring in food and medical supplies.

Since lack of drinking water is also a serious problem, the ICRC intends to send three technical teams to repair wells along the border. An ICRC delegate will be based in this part of Liberia to help protect civilians in conflict zones and to explain the work of the Red Cross.

TRANSKEI

ICRC Visits Police Stations
The ICRC has begun visits to police stations in Transkei. Its delegates are allowed to hold private interviews with all detainees, including those arrested under public security legislation. Delegates also have access to prisons in this South African "homeland" and talk, also in private, to sentenced prisoners and detainees awaiting trial.

Similar visits are currently taking place in prisons and police stations in Kwazulu, Bophuthatswana and Ciskei.

ISRAEL

First Family Visits for Foreign Detainees
Last week, for the first time in many years, the ICRC was able to organize family visits for eight foreign detainees serving long prison sentences in Israel. The families, who live in Jordan, Iraq and Syria, have no other relatives in the occupied territories or in Israel and were therefore unable to obtain entry permits without help from the ICRC.

AZERBAIJAN

ICRC Supervises Release of 19 Civilians Held by Azeris
On 29 July the ICRC supervised the release of 19 civilians of Armenian origin who had been taken hostage in Shaumyan on 13 June. During interviews with ICRC delegates, they all confirmed that they wished to go to Armenia.

An ICRC team accompanied them from Baku to Yerevan, via Tbilisi in Georgia. This release carried out under ICRC auspices was the result of an agreement reached between the Azeri and Armenian authorities.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC APPEAL FOR ACCESS TO ALL DETENTION CAMPS

The ICRC is seeking access to all detention camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Since ICRC activities in the republic resumed on 7 July delegates have seen over 4,000 prisoners held by all parties to the conflict, but many places of detention still remain closed to the institution. The ICRC intends to visit them with the primary aim of protecting the people interned.

SOMALIA

Successful Crossline Operation
The Plaushevskiy recently docked in the port of Mogadishu with 8,000 tonnes of food intended for community kitchens in the capital and for surrounding areas. On 31 July, 50 trucks from the northern sector of Mogadishu crossed the demarcation lines into the southern sector and later returned with 500 tonnes of food. In a similar operation two days later, a further 500 tonnes were taken to the northern part of the city.

The ICRC sent almost 22,000 tonnes of food into Somalia during July.

Mobile Surgical Team
The ICRC’s mobile surgical team is becoming a familiar sight in Somalia. The team, comprising a surgeon and two nurses specializing in anaesthetics and postoperative care, treats the wounded and gives training to Somali medical personnel. It carries out temporary missions as needed in various parts of the country.

The team recently returned from Bosaso and Garoe, where in the space of two weeks operations were performed on 109 war casualties with the help of a Somali doctor and a nurse. The ICRC surgeon is currently in Baidoa treating many people with bullet wounds following clashes in the Gedo region.
ISRAEL
Norwegian RC takes over family visits programme
Over 70% of the prisoners from the occupied territories detained by the Israeli authorities are held in places of detention in Israel. Because most of their relatives live in the occupied territories the ICRC has been organizing family visits for them. Each month the ICRC transports an average of 35,000 visitors to the different places of detention, where approximately 12,500 prisoners are held.
On 5 August the ICRC concluded an agreement for the handover of the family visits programme to the Norwegian Red Cross. As of September this programme will be directed by a co-ordinator from the Norwegian Red Cross. This is the first time such a programme is handled by a foreign National Society.

KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA
Courses on International Humanitarian Law
Members of the Kuwaiti armed forces have for the first time been attending a course on the main principles of international humanitarian law. At the four-day course, held in Kuwait City at the end of July, 28 senior army, navy and air force officers learned more about the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.
Also for the first time, an introductory four-day seminar on the same subject was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for 10 navy, air force and air defence instructors.
AFGHANISTAN: ICRC HOSPITAL HIT BY ROCKETS

Violent fighting between rival factions, including indiscriminate artillery fire, has been raging in the past few days in Kabul. On Saturday, a rocket struck the ICRC hospital's sterilization unit. On Sunday, two rockets hit the orthopaedic centre and the ensuing blaze destroyed the entire stock of medicines destined not only for the ICRC hospital itself but also for other hospitals in the capital. Fortunately, no one was injured in these two attacks.

The delegates had to take cover in the air raid shelters and most of the local personnel were cut off from the hospital by the fighting. Despite these difficult conditions work at the hospital went on, and over 300 casualties were admitted within three days. More than half of them were civilians, and more than half of these civilians were children. By midday on Monday there were 350 patients at the hospital, well above its maximum capacity of 300 beds. Two surgical units were able to resume their work on Monday afternoon.

The ICRC once again calls upon all parties to the conflict to respect its premises and the Red Cross emblem. Meanwhile its delegates are endeavouring to arrange a ceasefire so that casualties can be evacuated and medical supplies brought in to Kabul.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Relief Supplies for Bijeljina
In the past two weeks, three ICRC convoys from Belgrade have taken 60 tonnes of food and medical relief supplies to the town of Bijeljina, in the north-east of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is a first move towards a return of ICRC delegates to the east of the country. A total of 850 tonnes of food, made up principally of family parcels, and 50 tonnes of surgical and other medical supplies have been distributed to 150,000 people throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina since ICRC activities were resumed on 7 July. During the same period, ICRC delegates have had access to more than 8,000 people held in 13 places of detention and are currently doing their utmost to obtain permission to visit other places of detention without delay. There are now more than 100 delegates in former Yugoslavia.

MALI
Food Aid in the North-West of the Country
With the conflict between the government forces and Tuareg fighters and the resultant security problems, ICRC activity in the north-west of Mali remains intense. In the past few weeks food aid has been given to more than 12,000 people (of all ethnic groups) in and around Goudam and Léré.

The ICRC is also reactivating remote health centres in the region west of Timbuctu, and is sending in medical supplies and transporting medical personnel.

Delegates also recently visited three Malian detainees in the hands of a Tuareg movement and 13 people arrested in connection with the events in the north and held at the civilian prison in Gao. All these detainees were allowed to write messages to their families.
MOLDOVA
Distribution of Family Parcels
Last week ICRC delegates gave family parcels to the people hardest hit by the recent fighting between the Moldovan forces and the Russian-speaking separatists in the Dniestr region. A total of 2,400 parcels were distributed in Bendery, a Russian-speaking town in Moldova, and 1,300 in Dubassary (Trans-Dniestria) and two neighbouring villages. This emergency aid was given to particularly vulnerable people who had already returned home. There are plans to distribute another 800 family parcels via the Red Cross in Moldova and Ukraine for displaced persons who have not yet returned to their home area.

VENEZUELA
Visit to Persons Arrested
After Attempted Coup
Two ICRC delegates, one of them a doctor, recently visited 50 military personnel and three civilians arrested after the attempted coup of 4 February last. They are held in three prisons and at the military hospital in Caracas. The delegates were able to speak to them in private, in accordance with the ICRC's customary criteria for this kind of visit.
AFGHANISTAN: ICRC CONVOY ARRIVES IN KABUL
Kabul is still under heavy artillery fire and many civilians in particular are being killed and injured. The population is fleeing the city, heading for the Pakistan border and the north of Afghanistan.
Despite extremely hazardous conditions the ICRC, with the consent of all parties, has managed to organize a humanitarian convoy carrying ten tonnes of medical supplies. The convoy, from Peshawar in Pakistan, arrived on 14 August in Kabul, where the emergency aid has been distributed to seven hospitals.
The ICRC surgical hospital in the Afghan capital is continuing to admit numerous war casualties, often far in excess of its 300-bed maximum capacity. In the past two weeks more than 600 patients have received medical treatment there, and doctors have carried out more than 650 operations.

SOMALIA
Ship-to-shore helicopter operations begin
Thanks to ICRC helicopters, relief consignments for Somalia are now being offloaded from three ships anchored off the port of Obbia, in the north of the country. The food and medical supplies are being flown ashore and then distributed to victims of the drought and fighting between rival factions.
An airlift has also been set up by France between Djibouti and Baidoa, in southwestern Somalia. Two hundred tonnes of food will be flown in over a ten-day period and handed to local ICRC staff, who will distribute it to the population via the region’s community kitchens.
With a total of 80,000 tonnes of food aid supplied to Somalia since the beginning of the year, this is the ICRC's biggest-ever relief operation.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Emergency aid in Manjaca
ICRC delegates have visited the Manjaca detention centre near Banja Luka for the fourth time. They distributed 6,000 blankets, soap and cleaning products and two and a half tonnes of additional food aid to some 3,700 detainees, and noted that water supplies had improved. More than 11,000 people in 15 places of detention have already been visited throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.

CROATIA
Simultaneous release of prisoners
A group of 1,131 prisoners held in connection with the conflict between Croatia and Yugoslavia were released by the two parties in Nemetin on 14 August, under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This simultaneous release took place in accordance with the terms of the agreement signed in Budapest on 7 August by Mr Franjo Gregurić, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, and Mr Milan Panić, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in the presence of ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga.
POLAND
Visit by ICRC President
ICRC President Comelio Sommaruga made a three-day visit to Poland this week at the invitation of President Lech Walesa, with whom he had talks. Mr Sommaruga also held discussions with Polish Prime Minister Anna Suchocka, who told him that her country was willing to receive children orphaned by the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
Mr Sommaruga also had talks with former Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, now assigned by the United Nations to inquire into human rights violations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

SOUTH OSSETIA
Distribution of family parcels
ICRC delegates based in Tbilisi (Georgia) distributed family parcels in South Ossetia this week to some 5,000 people - refugees who had returned from North Ossetia, displaced persons and families who were particularly affected during the fighting between Georgian forces and Ossetian separatists. A total of 800 parcels were distributed in Tskhinvali, the Ossetian capital, and 350 in Kurta in a Georgian enclave.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH
Medical aid
After last week’s shelling of Stepanakert, the main town of Nagorno-Karabakh, ICRC delegates supplied the town’s hospital with medicine and medical equipment and provided the homeless with tents. Medical assistance was also provided for the field hospital at Cheldran in the north of Nagorno-Karabakh after clashes between Armenian and Azeri forces.
CONFERENC ENC ON EX-YUGOSLAVIA: FRESH APPEAL BY ICRC PRESIDENT TO RESPECT INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

At the international conference on former Yugoslavia now taking place in London, ICRC President Cornelia Sommaruga again urgently appealed to all the parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina to comply with the rules of international humanitarian law. He declared: "Immediate measures must be taken to guarantee respect for the civilian population throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina. Forced transfers, harassment, arrests and killings must cease at once."

Mr. Sommaruga also called for the release of detainees, mainly civilians, who are being held for the most part in northern and eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina. He stressed: "The whole civilian population must enjoy all the security guarantees necessary to live in peace and dignity, whether in Bosnia-Herzegovina or elsewhere."

The ICRC president called on the international community to assume its responsibilities and to take practical steps at once to restore respect for international humanitarian law.

SOMALIA
Helping by all possible means
The ICRC is using all possible means to get food to the starving in Somalia. About 20,000 tonnes of food are brought into the country each month by truck, aeroplane, helicopter and ship. At Merca, because of shallow water and the waves caused by monsoon winds, barges connected to plastic cables bring the supplies in from a distance of about 500 metres offshore.

ICRC programmes in Somalia are not limited to food aid and medical assistance. A sanitary engineer has been sent to Baidoa to improve the water supply system, several hundred tonnes of seeds have been distributed throughout the country, and veterinarians have vaccinated about three million head of cattle.

RWANDA
Food for 350,000 displaced people
The number of people displaced in Rwanda following clashes between the armed forces and the Patriotic Front has risen from 90,000 to 350,000 in the past three months. In spite of the cease-fire agreement which came into effect on 31 July, many people have still not been able to return to their places of origin, especially in the north. The ICRC has mounted a large-scale logistic operation to bring them food. It is in charge of identifying the beneficiaries, providing vehicles, supervising the work of 63 Rwandese Red Cross volunteers and arranging for the transport of the supplies, most of which are donated by the World Food Programme and other institutions like the European Community, from three logistic bases to 20 distribution points.
UGANDA
Assistance for released prisoners
The Ugandan government has released nearly 1,200 prisoners under an amnesty. The ICRC, which had visited all the prisoners concerned, has given them blankets, clothing, soap, hoes and the money to get home. The ICRC is also providing supplementary food to over 230 detainees in Soroti prison on a temporary basis.

ABKHAZIA
Four hospitals receive medical supplies
An ICRC team arrived Saturday in Sukhumi, the capital of the autonomous republic of Abkhazia in western Georgia (Caucasus), to assess needs following fighting between Georgian and Abkhazian forces which left many dead or wounded. The delegates distributed emergency medical supplies to four hospitals and visited 38 prisoners captured by the Georgian forces.
SOMALIA: ICRC STEPS UP AIR OPERATIONS

A massive airlift of relief supplies began last Friday using aircraft provided by the Government of the United States. Four planes are carrying out several flights a day from Mombasa (Kenya) to Belet Huen. Other destinations are being considered. The airlift is being carried out according to the ICRC’s usual methods of operating: Red Cross markings on the planes, special Red Cross call signs for each aircraft, notifications to all parties and no arms on board.

A similar aircraft, put at the ICRC’s disposal by the Belgian Government, continues to perform daily flights to various destinations. Further negotiations are under way to add a Canadian and an Italian plane.

The French airlift from Djibouti to Baidoa has been completed. In the course of the ten-day operation 200 tonnes of food were brought in to be distributed by the ICRC.

SOMALIA
Serious security incident in Kismayo
On 19 August a truck bearing the ICRC and Red Crescent emblems and carrying 45 Somalis under the protection of the ICRC was hijacked by armed men as it reached the airport in Kismayo. ICRC delegates had organized the transfer of these people to their home region of Garoe with the full agreement of all parties concerned. When the truck was later returned to the delegation 11 of the passengers were missing. The 11 men included two ICRC local employees, three Somali Red Crescent workers and six of their relatives.

The ICRC, deeply shocked and angered by this flagrant violation of Red Cross and Red Crescent principles and non-respect of persons under its protection, demanded an immediate investigation by the authorities into the whereabouts of the missing people. As yet there has been no official confirmation of the fate of these men, but unconfirmed reports claim they have been killed. The Somali National Alliance (SNA) leadership issued a press statement on 22 August in which it expressed abhorrence at the incident and announced the creation of a commission of enquiry, the results of which the ICRC is eagerly awaiting.

AFGHANISTAN
ICRC expands assistance to Kabul hospitals
Following the upsurge in fighting in Kabul, the ICRC stepped up its assistance to local hospitals. So far three ICRC convoys have reached the capital with 30 tonnes of medical supplies, which were immediately distributed. All hospitals in Kabul to a greater or lesser degree are suffering from an extreme lack of medicines and medical material.

Due to the worsening security situation in Kabul and the extremely difficult working conditions, the ICRC felt compelled to hand over its own hospital to the local medical authorities. An agreement to this effect has been signed with the Ministry of Public Health. The ICRC is maintaining its delegation in Kabul and will continue to provide medical material to its former hospital as well as other major hospitals in the capital. Since its opening in October 1988, the ICRC hospital handled some 12,500 admissions, performed nearly
31,000 surgical operations and treated over 32,000 people at its out-patient department. The ICRC is maintaining its orthopaedic programme in Mazar-i-Sharif and continue construction on the orthopaedic centre in Herat.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Distribution of food and medical supplies
ICRC delegates distributed more than 145 tonnes of relief supplies (food, family parcels and hygiene products) in the Bihac, Banja Luka and Zenica areas last week. They also distributed 22 tonnes of medicines and medical supplies to hospitals in Bosanska Gradiška, Prijedor, Banja Luka, Doboj, Sanski Most, Konjic and Zenica. The delegates continued their visits to places of detention and collected and delivered many family messages.

ISRAEL/SYRIA
Golan Druze cross cease-fire line under ICRC auspices
A group of over 200 Druze clerics on pilgrimage crossed into Syria this week, the largest such crossing since Israel occupied the Golan Heights in 1967. Under its mandate relating to the conflict between Israel and Syria, the ICRC had received a list of the people concerned from the Israeli authorities for forwarding to the Syrian authorities. The latter approved the list and the group crossed the cease-fire line under ICRC auspices on 1 September. The pilgrims' return will also be coordinated by the ICRC.

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
National Society recognized
At its meeting of 27 August 1992, the ICRC Assembly announced the official recognition of the Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society (West Indies). This recognition, which took effect on the same day, brings to 152 the number of National Societies which are members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
SOUTH AFRICA/CISKEI: ICRC EVACUATES THE WOUNDED

The ICRC and the local Red Cross immediately went into action to help the victims of Monday's shooting, when soldiers opened fire on demonstrators in Bisho, Ciskei. Thousands of people had marched the six kilometres from King William's Town and were trying to enter Bisho stadium for a protest meeting.

ICRC delegates had set up three first-aid posts staffed by Red Cross volunteers along the demonstrators' route. The first was in King William's Town, the second 1.5 km from the Ciskei border, and the third in the stadium itself.

In spite of the overwhelming number of casualties and the panic among the crowd, the first-aiders treated over 115 people, 25 of whom were seriously wounded. Forty-four people were taken by ambulance to hospital in King William's Town.

MOZAMBIQUE
Emergency food aid for Magunde
ICRC delegates started distributing 270 tonnes of food last week to 15,000 people living in Magunde, in central Mozambique, where the nutritional situation is critical. The food was flown in from Beira. Food aid was also provided recently to 13,000 people in the Alua and Liupo areas of northern Mozambique.

Backed by the international community, the ICRC is continuing to urge the government and RENAMO to open certain roads across the country, in accordance with the undertakings given by both parties during the Rome negotiations in mid-July. Road convoys are the most efficient means of bringing aid to the people of Mozambique, who are suffering severe hardship because of the combined effects of conflict and drought.

SOMALIA
ICRC employees wounded by mine blast
Two ICRC delegates and a local employee were injured when a mine exploded in Gelib, north of Kismayo in southern Somalia. The team was in the area to supervise the community kitchen programme and assess the possibility of bringing in food by air. It was while they were examining the landing strip that their vehicle hit a mine.

The two delegates, Adrian Marti and Véronique Hulmann, were slightly injured and were flown to Mombasa, Kenya. The driver, Farah Youssouf Hassan, 33, was more seriously wounded. He was taken to the ICRC war surgery hospital in Lokichokio, also in Kenya.
FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
Families reunited
Delegates are devoting much of their time to a little-known aspect of the ICRC’s work: bringing together the members of separated families throughout the former Yugoslavia. On 4 September, two children from Vukovar were reunited at the Zagreb delegation with their father, a former combatant who had been released from captivity on 14 August in Nemetin (Croatia) under ICRC auspices. The children had not seen him for nine months, but they had remained in contact via Red Cross messages. On 6 September, nine people living in the Banja Luka area were also reunited with their families, thanks to the efforts of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency.
Every day the ICRC delegation in Zagreb receives over 250 family messages for forwarding.

AFGHANISTAN
ICRC resumes flights to Kabul
The first humanitarian flight in a month arrived in Kabul on 4 September, when an ICRC aircraft landed with 650 kilos of medicines. Forty tonnes of medical supplies had already been shipped by the ICRC overland from Peshawar (Pakistan). Afghan airspace had been closed following the upsurge in fighting between rival factions.

MYANMAR
Accession to Geneva Conventions
The government of Myanmar (formerly Burma) deposited its instrument of accession to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions with the Swiss authorities on 25 August 1992. The instrument was unaccompanied by any reservations or declarations. Myanmar’s accession will take effect on 25 February 1993, bringing to 171 the number of States party to the Geneva Conventions.
SOMALIA: ICRC SHIP DOCKS IN MOGADISHU

An ICRC ship, the "Osman Kurt", with 6,500 tonnes of rice, beans and cooking oil on board, docked on Sunday in the port of Mogadishu. It was the first ship to enter the harbour since its recent closure for two weeks.

The ICRC and the WFP (UN World Food Programme) announced that their coordinated relief operation was to continue for four months to help the starving and war-weary Somali population. The two organizations plan to bring in 52,150 tonnes of food every month, i.e. 19,150 tonnes supplied by the ICRC and 33,000 by the WFP. The ICRC has dispatched more than 100,000 tonnes of food to Somalia since the beginning of the year.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Aid for vulnerable groups
On 9 September an ICRC team delivered 17 tonnes of relief supplies to a psychiatric institution in Modriča, where over 200 patients are living in appalling conditions.

The next day 20 tonnes of relief supplies comprising flour, sugar, cooking oil and hygiene products were taken to the psychiatric centre in Sokolac, home to more than 300 patients. This is the second time in two months that the Sokolac centre has received such assistance.

Four tonnes of medical supplies were also distributed to hospitals in Sokolac, Bijeljina and Brčko.

Three delegates, including a doctor and a specialist in food relief, went by road from Zenica to Tuzla on 7 and 8 September.

This mission, the first to Tuzla since the ICRC resumed its activities in Bosnia-Herzegovina in early July, gave the delegates the opportunity to talk with the local authorities and assess the medical and food situation in the town, which has been cut off from the rest of the world for several months.

AFGHANISTAN

Assistance for displaced families
ICRC delegates distributed hygiene products last week to 126 families (600 people) who had fled the recent fighting in Kabul and taken refuge in the former prison of Pul-i-Charki.

The delegates also delivered medical supplies to various medical centres in the region.

A fifth humanitarian convoy carrying 17 tonnes of medicines has arrived in Kabul from Peshawar in Pakistan. The medicines have been distributed to hospitals in the capital.

ICRC teams based in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif and Peshawar continued their surveys in other parts of the country to assess the needs of large groups of displaced people.
ALBANIA
Distribution of family parcels
ICRC delegates started distributing 2,500 family parcels in several districts of Albania on 9 September. The aid is intended for 800 families of former internal exiles who have moved from their assigned villages to urban areas where their living conditions are often deplorable, and for 1,700 families still living in the villages in conditions of extreme poverty.

ABKHAZIA
Evaluation missions
Two ICRC delegates travelled on 12 September from Sukhumi to Gudauta, a town under Abkhazian control, for the first time since fighting broke out between Georgian and Abkhazian forces. They carried out a survey of humanitarian needs and had talks with local authorities. The mission was conducted with the agreement of all the parties concerned. Another ICRC team is currently in Sukhumi, a Georgian-controlled area.

ETHIOPIA
Visits to detainees
Six ICRC delegates, including two doctors, have visited 3,340 people arrested by the Ethiopian authorities in connection with the conflict between the provisional government and opposition groups, especially the Oromo liberation movement. The visits took place from 26 August to 10 September in the eastern town of Hurso, near Dire Dawa. The delegates talked freely with the detainees, in accordance with the ICRC’s standard procedure, and gave them blankets and hygiene products. The ICRC has been visiting people arrested following the May 1991 change of government or for security reasons since last February.
AFGHANISTAN: ICRC OFFICE OPENED IN JALALABAD

The ICRC has opened an office in Jalalabad following several preliminary surveys carried out on the spot by its delegates. So far a delegate, a medical administrator and a sanitation engineer have arrived there to set up a programme to upgrade the surgical and organizational capacity of the town’s main civilian hospital. An expatriate surgical team is due to arrive in the course of October to begin the training of local medical staff in war-surgery techniques. In addition to ensuring the good functioning of the hospital, the ICRC will supply it and other health facilities in the town with emergency medical supplies. Hospitals in Jalalabad have seen a significant rise in the numbers of wounded reaching them from Kabul and elsewhere. In particular there has been a greater incidence of mine injuries as the population becomes more mobile and refugees begin to return to their homes in the provinces.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Medical and relief supplies distributed
The ICRC is pursuing its programme to assist 35 hospitals throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina. Last week delegates delivered 12 tonnes of medical materials to Banja Luka hospital and over 18 tonnes to the hospital in Bihac. Since early July, the ICRC has distributed more than 100 tonnes of medical supplies. The delegates have also provided food, blankets, hygiene articles and other basic necessities to more than 200,000 displaced people. In all, 2,830 tonnes of relief supplies have been distributed to date. The ICRC is continuing to visit places of detention and to provide food aid for the detainees whenever necessary.

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
Parents and baby reunited
A six-month-old baby rejoined her parents in Zagreb last Friday, thanks to the efforts of ICRC delegates. The baby was born in Mostar in March with a heart problem, and had to be taken immediately to hospital in Belgrade. Because of the conflict her parents had never been able to visit her and did not have the papers needed to bring her home. This case illustrates one aspect of the delegates’ everyday work in the field. In Belgrade, for example, the ICRC Tracing Agency receives over 200 people and 150 telephone calls daily. Most of the enquiries concern family messages to and from Sarajevo and requests to trace missing people.
FAR EAST
ICRC President visits two Koreas and China
ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga has just returned from a two-week visit to South Korea, China and North Korea. The purpose of his mission was to strengthen ties with the three countries' authorities and National Red Cross Societies.
In Seoul, Mr. Sommaruga received an honorary doctorate in law from the National University. In his words of thanks he mentioned the many violations of international humanitarian law in the world today and again called on all the States party to the Geneva Conventions to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law everywhere.

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MOZAMBIQUE: ROADS TO BE OPENED FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

The Mozambican government and RENAMO leaders have agreed to open a number of roads across the country so that emergency relief supplies can be delivered to people hardest hit by conflict and drought. The assistance operation is being carried out under the auspices of the ICRC and the UN, in cooperation with the committee for humanitarian assistance set up in Maputo.

On Monday the first ICRC convoy reached Massangena, an enclave under government control in a RENAMO-held area, carrying several tonnes of maize, cooking oil and seed intended for 20,000 people. In order to reach Massangena the convoy had to take the Beira corridor into Zimbabwe before returning to Mozambican territory. A further 250 tonnes of relief should reach the area in the next few days.

The ICRC is airlifting supplies to Canxixe and Magunde pending the opening of roads in those areas. Road transport is the most efficient way of dispatching large amounts of aid, and the ICRC's emergency plan for Mozambique provides for the distribution of 30,000 tonnes of food to 200,000 people over the next few months.

SOMALIA

Wide range of medical activities
Every month the ICRC delivers 24 tonnes of medical and surgical supplies to the many hospitals, dispensaries and health posts throughout Somalia, which are managed by Somali Red Crescent staff helped by ICRC delegates.

At the Keysaney hospital in the northern part of the capital, Mogadishu, an average of 130 new patients per week are treated by nine Somali surgeons, backed by an ICRC surgical team.

A three-person mobile team goes to areas of heavy fighting and performs operations on the spot, giving local doctors an opportunity to learn war surgery techniques.

The ICRC is still supplying food for the 600 community kitchens which are currently providing a million people with one or two hot meals every day.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Supplies distributed
Relief supplies are continuing to arrive throughout Bosnia-Hercegovina. Last week, for example, ICRC delegates distributed 20 tonnes of flour in Bijeljina and 15 in Zvornik. The hospital in Zvornik, which admits large numbers of war casualties, received 1.2 tonnes of medical supplies and a further 19 tonnes were delivered to the Bihac and Cazin areas. Thanks to the distribution of 2,000 family parcels, 10,000 people received emergency aid.

In Belgrade, about 300 people come to the ICRC office every day to send messages to their families in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Many of them have had no news for months. Delegates were recently able to deliver family messages to places that were hitherto inaccessible, such as Sarajevo, Bijeljina, Brčko and Tuzla. The ICRC's Central Tracing Agency is also working to trace and reunite the members of families split up by the conflict.
ETHIOPIA
Orthopaedic centre opens in Mekele
The ICRC has opened an orthopaedic centre in Mekele, the capital of Tigray, under an agreement reached with the Ethiopian authorities and the National Red Cross Society in February 1992. The centre began work at the beginning of September and last week four amputees were fitted with the first artificial limbs. The prostheses and spare parts are produced locally by Ethiopian technicians supervised by an ICRC team. The ICRC provides financial and technical support not only to the Mekele centre but also to the orthopaedic workshops in Debre Zeit, Addis Ababa and Harar.

PANAMA
Visits to security detainees
An ICRC doctor and a delegate visited 44 security detainees in two prisons and three hospitals in Panama between 8 and 10 September. In accordance with the ICRC’s customary procedure, all the detainees were interviewed without witnesses.
ICRC President Cornelia Sommaruga has once again denounced "particularly grave breaches of international humanitarian law, such as inadmissible attacks against civilians, the wounded, prisoners and medical establishments, and complete disregard for the Red Cross emblem".

Mr. Sommaruga was speaking at a press conference in Geneva on 3 October, organized jointly with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. Sadako Ogata.

Mr. Sommaruga stated: "Today the ICRC has come to the conclusion that the results of all its efforts are insignificant compared with the magnitude of the tragedy. In the face of widespread violations of international humanitarian law, and to avoid the unthinkable, the ICRC has the moral duty to do all in its power to save thousands of civilians, even if that implies temporarily moving vulnerable groups out of their regions of origin." Mr Sommaruga added that the ICRC condemned any policy of "ethnic cleansing" as an intolerable practice.

Mrs. Ogata, for her part, pointed out that the UNHCR estimated at 200,000 the number of people who might be forced to leave their homes in the coming weeks because of the policy of "ethnic cleansing". A further 400,000 could die if they had to face the winter without food, shelter or a place of refuge.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Release of all prisoners agreed

All parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina have agreed to carry out the unilateral and unconditional release, before the end of October, of all civilian and military prisoners who have not committed grave breaches of international humanitarian law. The agreement was reached by the plenipotentiaries representing the belligerents at negotiations held at ICRC headquarters on 30 September and 1 October.

Each prisoner will be free to state whether he wishes to be released on the spot, transferred elsewhere or remain in captivity. Each release operation will be carried out under ICRC auspices. The parties are to give the ICRC detailed lists of all places of detention and all prisoners by 15 October at the latest.

A first group of 1,560 people were evacuated last week from Tmopolje camp and taken to Karlovac, in Croatia.

SOUTH AFRICA
ICRC to visit police stations

The ICRC has been authorized to visit all South African police stations, in which many detainees have died in recent years.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday in Johannesburg, Jean-Daniel Tauxe, ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, announced that the authorization had been given by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr. Hernus Kriel. Mr. Tauxe emphasized that this was "an important development, because we now have access to all prisoners in South Africa".

The visits will start as soon as possible, with particularly close attention to detainees in areas of violence. In accordance with the ICRC's customary practice, the prisoners' conditions of detention and treatment will be described in confidential reports submitted to the South African authorities.
**TAJIKISTAN**

**ICRC survey**

An ICRC delegate and doctor have just completed a survey in Tajikistan, the scene of recent hostilities. They found that the republic's hospitals are well-equipped to treat the wounded and do not need emergency supplies for the time being.

On the other hand, fighting in the south, in particular around Kurgan Tyube, has forced tens of thousands of people to flee to the north or towards Kulyab. In the capital Dushanbe there are now at least 10,000 displaced people who have found shelter with friends or relatives, or have been housed in schools, kindergartens and student hostels. As winter draws near, these people are in dire need of food, clothing, shoes and soap, all of which are hard to obtain locally. The ICRC is examining the possibility of setting up an assistance programme in Tajikistan.

**ABKHAZIA**

**ICRC in Sukhumi**

ICRC delegates have visited over 50 detainees in two prisons, in an area controlled by the Georgian forces, notably in Dranda and in the Abkhazian capital, Sukhumi. Medical supplies have been distributed to four hospitals in Sukhumi as well as to hospitals and other medical facilities in the Abkhazian-controlled Gudauta area. Delegates have also organized the repatriation of families unable to return to their homes because of the fighting.

**IRAQ**

**Medical aid programme ends**

On 30 September the ICRC handed the 40-bed Naopares hospital over to the Health Department of Sulaymaniyah province, together with sufficient stocks for the next six months. In addition, 41 tonnes of medicines and other medical supplies, as well as X-ray apparatus, are being distributed in the provinces of Sulaymaniyah, Arbil and Dohuk in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent. Over 100 tonnes of surgical supplies, including X-ray films, were given to the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

The ICRC has thereby brought to an end its emergency medical assistance programme in Iraq. It will nevertheless remain in contact with the authorities and is continuing to monitor the situation in the north.

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SOMALIA: ICRC STATEMENT AT UN MEETING

On 12 October Mr Jean de Courten, ICRC Director of Operations, made a statement in Geneva to the UN Meeting on the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia. The aim of this conference was to raise funds for the UN 100-day plan and to encourage a more sustained and long-term effort from the international community.

Mr de Courten stated: "The institution has thrown all its weight into its Somalia operation - two-thirds of its budget (more than 250 million Swiss francs) and an unprecedented effort in every sphere of its activities - and has now reached the extreme limit of what it can do."

The Director of Operations concluded that Somalia's future lay in the restoration of its political, administrative and economic structures. This would depend on a return to peace, a priority objective for the international community.

SOMALIA
ICRC sets up new health unit in Baidoa

The ICRC brought further medical and nutritional assistance to war-torn Baidoa in southern Somalia with the opening on 5 October of a fully equipped health unit.

People suffering from malnutrition, acute dehydration, diarrhoea and skin diseases receive basic health care, essential drugs and two full meals a day.

The ICRC currently serves two daily meals of rice, beans and oil to 100,000 famine victims in 22 community kitchens scattered around Baidoa. The surrounding region is covered by an additional 48 kitchens.

ZAIRE
Assistance to displaced people

A recent ICRC mission to the Shaba region of Zaire witnessed intercommunal clashes between inhabitants of Shaban origin and the Kasaian minority. Owing to pillaging and the destruction of homes, large groups have sought refuge near the main railway stations.

Last month the ICRC distributed food to displaced people in Fungurume, Likasi and Lubudi. A total of 1,500 people received supplementary food rations of approximately 1,580 kg of corn and beans. In addition, 17 sets of dressings and medicines have been handed over to local health centres.

AFGHANISTAN
ICRC supplies Herat Hospital

Following an outbreak of fighting between rival factions in the provincial town of Herat, around 200 wounded, mostly civilians but also combatants from both sides, have been treated at the town's main hospital. As flights to the town were not possible, the ICRC flew 1.2 tonnes of medicines into Qala-i-Naw, 230 km from Herat itself. The supplies were then taken by road to Herat and handed over to the hospital.

On 11 October the ICRC was able to resume flights to Herat as the situation had become more settled. Work on the orthopaedic centre was also able to continue and should be finished soon.

An ICRC survey carried out in nearby Badghis province shows that there are approximately 85,000 displaced people in the area.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Medical programme covers 35 hospitals

In March 1992 an ICRC survey confirmed that the majority of hospitals in Bosnia-Herzegovina were limited to emergency surgery owing to lack of medicines and surgical supplies. Since then the ICRC programme has evolved from helping 19 to 35 hospitals, mostly in Bosnia-Herzegovina but also in Serbia near the Bosnian border. Between April and September approximately 128 tonnes of medical supplies were distributed.

The ICRC is providing medical and food supplies to psychiatric institutions and homes for the mentally handicapped and the elderly. Medical assistance has also been given to detainees in the Trnopolje and Manjaca camps.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC promotes family ties

Since the ICRC resumed working in Bosnia-Herzegovina in July, the Tracing Agency has handled 58,366 family messages, of which 43,981 have been delivered to people separated from their families. The displacement of so many thousands of people, together with the transfer of detainees to transit centres outside the conflict zones, has led to a sharp increase in the need for tracing services.

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
New Acting Secretary General

Mr George Weber, Secretary General of the Canadian Red Cross, was appointed Acting Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at the Executive Council’s 30th session in Swaziland on 5 October. Mr Weber will take up his post on 1 January 1993.

The Federation, which provides and coordinates relief action in the event of natural disasters or epidemics and helps refugees and displaced people in non-conflict areas, is the largest humanitarian relief organization in the world.
MOZAMBIQUE: ROADS LIFELINE FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS

On 19 October the ICRC Head of Delegation in Mozambique, Felice Dindo, met the RENAMO (Mozambican National Resistance Movement) President Afonso Dhlakama in Maringue in the Sofala province. Mr Dhlakama, accompanied by his closest advisers, confirmed the opening of all roads in Mozambique to humanitarian convoys. The points under discussion included the practical details concerning the demining and rehabilitation of roads in particularly isolated areas which until now had only been accessible by air.

Since the end of September the ICRC has been able to step up its large-scale relief programme by using road and air transport. More than 40,000 people have received food and material assistance in Canxixe, Chihedeia, Buzi, Massangena and Alua in the provinces of Sofala, Gaza and Nampula.

The ICRC plans to intensify its humanitarian operation and accelerate its food distribution in the coming weeks to reach more than 200,000 beneficiaries. Humanitarian agencies must increase food deliveries rapidly in order to save lives and to stabilize the general situation in the country.

South of the Zambesi river 80% of the crops have been destroyed, leaving some two million people at risk, and a total of half a million tonnes of food is still needed to ensure their survival.

EX-YUGOSLAVIA

The race against the clock

On 16 October the ICRC made a further appeal to donors for its operations in former Yugoslavia. The ICRC needs CHF 54 million for its winter programme covering the period from October 1992 to February 1993. The demand for humanitarian assistance will increase sharply in the near future owing to deteriorating weather conditions.

Although the distribution of relief supplies will be rendered even more difficult by snow and ice, the ICRC intends to provide assistance to 500,000 people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, concentrating its efforts on the most vulnerable, i.e. the displaced and isolated, those in institutions such as hospitals and orphanages, children, mothers with infants, and the aged. 420,000 family parcels and 10,000 tonnes of food rations should be distributed to those most in need.

In addition to food stuffs, hygiene articles, warm clothing and about one million blankets and 10,000 small heaters, the ICRC intends to provide fuel for transport and heating to selected groups. Since the resumption of its activities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the ICRC has opened five offices in Banja Luka, Bihac, Zenica, Mostar and Trebinje. Surveys were carried out in all areas accessible to ICRC delegates who assisted 300,000 displaced people and visited more than 12,000 detainees.

The ICRC is making a concerted effort to gain access to all victims of this conflict, in particular those in Sarajevo, Gorazde and the eastern part of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
RWANDA

350,000 displaced people

Between April and July renewed offensives forced hundreds of thousands to flee from their homes in northern Rwanda. Approximately 350,000 displaced people - 5% of the country's population - from Mutara and Butaro, two of Rwanda's most agriculturally productive regions, are unable to return to their homes to tend their crops. They are currently living in makeshift camps.

The ICRC plans to continue food and non-food distributions to these 350,000 displaced people and intends to set up a rehabilitation programme in order to facilitate the return of displaced families and to support agricultural production. Although the planting season begins in February, the seeds and tools must be purchased in the last three months of 1992. To this end, the ICRC appealed for an additional sum of more than CHF 14 million to enable the ICRC to provide operational support to the Rwandan Red Cross.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

ICRC escorts 1,500 Bosnian Croats to central Bosnia

ICRC delegates escorted 1,500 Bosnian Croats from Serb-controlled northern Bosnia across the front lines separating Serb and Croat forces to central Bosnia.

The evacuation, which began on 17 October, took the inhabitants of three Croat villages near Kotor Varos, a town 50 km south-east of Banja Luka, to the town of Travnik in Croat- and Muslim-held territory.

The journey was an arduous one: several buses broke down, trees blocked the muddy roads, and the evacuees were forced to spend a night on a mountain pass. Several security incidents were reported during this trip. The next day, as the villagers were crossing the 500 metres of no-man's-land on foot to reach the Croat side, ICRC delegates witnessed the unacceptable behaviour of the militia who harassed and robbed several people. Delegates were obliged to enter no-man's-land to give assistance to a woman who had just given birth.

ICRC delegate Beat Schweizer, who led the 30-bus convoy, said that the ICRC had acted in response to urgent pleas from Croat commanders and the villagers - several hundred militiamen and their families - who were prepared to surrender on condition that the ICRC would be present and escort them to a safe area. The local Serb authorities were not opposed to the operation.

Zaire

Mission to 19 camps

Between 2 September and 6 October an ICRC tracing delegate from Kinshasa, accompanied by a driver and field officer, visited 19 refugee camps. There are an estimated 100,000 Sudanese refugees in Haut Zaire.

A hundred messages have been distributed and more than 800 collected. Of the 150 tracing requests 20 could be solved during this mission, carried out with ICRC local staff and operational support from the Kampala delegation.
LIBERIA: ICRC CALLS ON ALL PARTIES TO RESPECT INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The ICRC is alarmed by the escalation of the fighting in Liberia and by its humanitarian consequences, particularly for the civilian population.

On 25 October the ICRC called on all parties concerned to respect the basic principles of international humanitarian law. It enjoined them not to direct any attack against the civilian population; not to attack, destroy, remove or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of civilians; to spare the lives of those who surrender and to treat all captured combatants humanely.

In addition, the ICRC urged all parties to respect the Red Cross emblem and to allow Red Cross and medical personnel freedom of movement so that assistance can be given where and when it is needed.

The ICRC considers it essential that all political and military forces formally express their firm support for impartial humanitarian activities under the protection of the Red Cross emblem and in favour of all victims.

The four ICRC delegates in Gbarnega, the sole representatives of any humanitarian agency in rural Liberia, come to the assistance of victims of the conflict. ICRC delegates in Monrovia strive to gain access to prisoners of war and support the Liberian Red Cross Society’s ambulance and first-aid services.

SOUTH AFRICA
First ICRC visit to police station
ICRC delegates carried out their first unannounced visit to detainees held at Vereeniging police station, in the Vaal, on 22 October.
Visits will be made on a continuous basis anywhere in the country. In line with its mandate, the ICRC will pay particular attention to areas of unrest and will concentrate on security detainees.

SRI LANKA
ICRC gives assistance to massacre victims
On 15 October more than 140 people were killed and a hundred wounded as a result of a massacre in Palliyagodella, in the north of Polonnaruwa district. The victims belonged to three Muslim villages and a village with inhabitants of Muslim and Sinhalese origin.

Three-quarters of the houses had been burnt and more than 380 families found themselves without shelter. The ICRC is currently financing the distribution of shelters which is being carried out by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS).

The ICRC’s main activity in Sri Lanka concerns visits to security detainees throughout the country. Delegates have regular access to some 5,000 detainees in 400 places of detention. Between 17 and 23 October 742 detainees were visited in 109 places of detention.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Distributions continue in previously inaccessible regions
The ICRC in Trebinje is continuing its
distributions in previously inaccessible parts of Eastern Herzegovina. ICRC delegates recently reached Borci, an isolated Serbian village 15 km south-east of Konjic, for the first time since the conflict began. There they delivered 60 tonnes of food relief and blankets for the 2,200 refugees. This assistance should cover their basic needs for up to four months.

The region of Foca received 130 tonnes of relief assistance including family parcels, flour, oil and plastic sheeting.

The ICRC in Belgrade provided clothing to 200 residents at the psychiatric hospital in Modrica.

EGYPT
ICRC at Arab League seminar in Cairo

Under the auspices of the Arab League a seminar was held in Cairo from 19 to 21 October. The ICRC was invited to present four lectures on international humanitarian law (IHL), the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions and the practical problems relating to IHL encountered by the ICRC during its operational activities. Invitations were sent out to all the Arab states affiliated to the League. The Arab League guaranteed the organization of the seminar.

ICRC Vice-President Claudio Caratsch participated in the inaugural meeting and was able to hold discussions with the Secretary General, who expressed his encouragement in the search for contacts and exchanges with the ICRC.

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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: FURTHER RELEASES OF DETAINEES

In accordance with the agreement of 1 October signed in Geneva under the auspices of the ICRC, the Croat forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina announced their intention to release Serb detainees on 30 October. The ICRC estimated that around 680 detainees were being held in Tomislavgrad, Livno, Mostar, Rastani and Rodoc.

The ICRC oversaw the release and transfer of 285 detainees from Rodoc, 41 from Livno and 38 from Tomislavgrad. The ex-detainees were offered the choice of accompanying the ICRC or going their own way. Whereas 86 ex-detainees chose to remain in the Mostar area, 278 found themselves on board the ICRC's "Lastovo 1" on 31 October, en route for Zelenika via Ploce. The ICRC is pursuing negotiations with the local authorities for the release of the remaining 319 detainees who could not be transferred due to various complications.

Owing to the lack of response from the international community to the ICRC appeal for temporary asylum it was not possible to carry out the planned release of 5,000 detainees on 3 November. The ICRC was only able to supervise the release and transfer of 87 detainees, of which 61 were Muslims held by Serb forces in Kamenica. They were transferred to the transit centre in Karlovac in the Republic of Croatia. Another group of 25 Serb detainees held by Muslim forces in Bihac and Cazin was transferred to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. One ex-detainee decided to stay in the Bihac area.

These two operations are a further step towards the global and unconditional release of all prisoners detained in relation with the Bosnian conflict.

SOMALIA
ICRC begins air lift to Bardera

Since 12 October, when fighting ravaged the town of Bardera, humanitarian agencies present have been pulling out. The ICRC responded, as soon as the situation allowed, by sending a nurse to carry out a survey on 24 October. He found some 11,000 displaced people living in a camp rife with dysentery and meningitis. It is estimated that there is an average of 100 deaths a day in the camp. The ICRC nurse reported: "We saw many families boiling dry goat skin and trying to eat that. Most of the camp huts contained several marasmic people just lying and waiting either for help or death."

There are now four ICRC delegates in Bardera. On 4 November the ICRC began a daily air lift of 18 tonnes of food supplies to serve the 4 communal kitchens in the camp. The ICRC is distributing oral rehydration salts, plastic sheets and blankets to people in the town.

Some 16,000 people in Bardera and the surrounding area depend on the ICRC's emergency supplies for their survival.

MALAWI
First ICRC prison visit for over 20 years

The Malawi Government has invited the ICRC to have access to all detainees held in Malawi's prisons and police stations. This invitation also covers detainees held for security reasons.

Since 4 August six delegates including a medical doctor have visited the eight largest prisons in Malawi, situated in the
south of the country between Blantyre and Lilongwe.

These visits were carried out according to standard ICRC practice, including the right to speak to detainees in private, to register their names and to have access to all facilities used in connection with detention.

An ICRC team based in Malawi will carry out repeated visits at regular intervals to those detainees already seen and will also cover the other detention centres in the country.

The purpose of these visits is to assess the material conditions of detention and the detainees’ treatment and state of health. A confidential report has already been given to the relevant authorities, making recommendations for improvements.

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

**ICRC Meeting for the Ambassadors of the Permanent Missions**

At a meeting held in Geneva on 30 October ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga called on all Ambassadors of States represented in Geneva to provide temporary asylum to 5,000 detainees and their families.

Mr Sommaruga also stressed the need to find areas where vulnerable groups of civilians could be protected. The 4,000 civilians gathered in the most dire circumstances at the Tnopolje camp would be the first to be transferred to a protection zone.

Direct and urgent involvement by the international community is needed in order to establish zones within Bosnia-Herzegovina where tens of thousands of endangered civilians can live away from the conflict. These zones should be under the protection of troop such as UNPROFOR.

The ICRC is both ready and willing to offer its services to help with the setting up and running of such protection zones. In accordance with the ICRC mandate, assistance will be given in the form of tracing, relief and medical supplies.

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

**ICRC steps up emergency assistance**

On 31 October 33 ICRC trucks, loaded with emergency supplies, arrived in Zenica in central Bosnia. The supplies were for the thousands of civilians who had fled the fierce fighting around Jajce. ICRC delegates also delivered sufficient surgical and medical material to Zenica hospital so that staff could treat up to several hundred war-wounded.

Civilians are continuing to arrive in Zenica and the ICRC is providing urgently needed assistance.

**AFGHANISTAN**

**ICRC prepares for a harsh winter**

Some 100,000 people have fled the fighting in Faryab for Herat and Badghis. The majority were able to take their animals, clothes, tents and food. However, the ICRC is currently building up emergency stocks in Herat and Mazar for a total of 600 families. These stocks include blankets, mattresses, children’s clothes and patous, a traditional Afghan winter garment. These supplies will be distributed if urgent needs arise during the bitterly cold months ahead.
MOZAMBIQUE: GOVERNMENT AND RENAMO CLEAR THE WAY FOR ICRC

Since the opening of the roads at the end of September the ICRC has brought relief supplies to over 150,000 people living in isolated areas affected by the drought and conflict. The influx of refugees into Zimbabwe has dropped dramatically since the ICRC emergency programme has been under way.

The Mozambican Government and RENAMO forces coordinated their efforts to demine a road in the north of Manica province in order to allow the first ICRC relief convoy access to a region where 70,000 people are desperately awaiting ICRC relief supplies. On 2 and 3 November the conflicting parties cleared sectors of the road around Macossa, thereby allowing the ICRC to distribute some 50 tonnes of food. Another ICRC convoy went from Beira to Goonda on 4 and 5 November in order to distribute 100 tonnes of food to 6,000 beneficiaries in the southern part of Sofala.

As part of its seed programme the ICRC flew in around 10 tonnes of seed to Canxixe on 9 November. The aim of the programme is to distribute more than 1,300 tonnes of seed to 270,000 beneficiaries in regions isolated by the conflict. Alex Braunwalder, delegate for Mozambique at ICRC headquarters, emphasized: "The seed programme should make it possible for a basic agricultural economy to be re-established. If the rains fall as hoped in November and December the programme should enable these beneficiaries to regain their independence and self-sufficiency."

In accordance with the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique, the ICRC has begun to supervise the release process of security detainees. To date, the ICRC has overseen the release of 70 detainees in the provinces of Niassa, Cabo Delgado and Nampula. The ICRC, helped by the Mozambique Red Cross Society, facilitated the detainees’ return to their homes and provided blankets, soap, clothes and food.

Although the ICRC is able to function effectively in zones held by both the RENAMO and the Government, the institution is calling on other humanitarian agencies to speed up their food distributions. "The humanitarian emergency operation in Mozambique constitutes an essential contribution to the restoration of peace and security in the country" underlines Mr Braunwalder.

NORTH OSSETIA AND INGUSHETIA
Mission to conflict zone

On 4 November, following increased violence in the region, the ICRC sent a team from Tbilisi to determine the need for humanitarian assistance in North Ossetia (an autonomous Republic in the Russian Federation) and Ingushetia (the western part of Checheno-Ingushetia). The ICRC team visited Vladikavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia, and Nazran, the principal town of Ingushetia. ICRC delegates held high-level talks with local leaders and Russian military commanders. The parties concerned agreed to give the ICRC access to all people detained in connection with the conflict. The ICRC delegates explained the need to respect international humanitarian law (IHL) and pointed out that hostage-taking, which is perpetrated by all parties, is banned by the Geneva Conventions. They called on the parties concerned to bring an immediate end to this practice.
The ICRC survey team also visited the hospitals where hundreds of wounded were taken. ICRC delegates distributed emergency medical supplies to two hospitals in Vladikavkaz and one in Nazran.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC reopens office in Bijeljina
The ICRC reopened its office in Bijeljina, in the north-east of Bosnia-Herzegovina, on 6 November. The office had been functional in April and May of this year but the ICRC was forced to close it as a result of insufficient security conditions. Following negotiations with the local authorities and several missions carried out in the area, it was decided to re-establish a permanent presence in order to cover the region more efficiently.

The main tasks of the three delegates working in Bijeljina will be to assist the local population and to visit the detention centres in the entire region.

The ICRC currently has six offices in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Banja Luka, Bihac, Bijeljina, Mostar, Trebinje and Zenica) which provide assistance in the form of protection to the civilian population, relief, medical and material supplies as well as tracing services and visits to detainees.

COLOMBIA
Evaluation survey in Putumayo
As a result of the recent events in Putumayo, which led to the national state of emergency, the ICRC is planning a mission to the area to conduct a survey of the situation.

The ICRC, which has 12 delegates in Bogota, Bucaramanga, Villavicencio (in Meta province) and Popayan, mostly carries out visits to security detainees in prisons and interrogation centres. ICRC delegates have visited some 600 detainees in 46 detention centres since the beginning of the year, providing protection and assistance. The ICRC funds the transport of detainees' relatives to enable family visits and finances the return of released detainees to their homes. In addition, on several occasions the ICRC has actively participated in the release of soldiers captured by the opposition movement.

When the need arises, the ICRC provides medical assistance to the rural dispensaries treating civilians wounded as a result of political violence. It also runs an orthopaedic programme for people who have lost limbs owing to the use of land mines in certain areas.

ANGOLA
Emergency medical assistance in Luanda
In response to dramatic events in Luanda, the ICRC sent 3 tonnes of medicines and first-aid material to Angola. A part of these medical supplies has been distributed in the hospitals of Luanda, Benguela and Huambo.

A first-aid post run by the Angola Red Cross has been set up just outside Luanda in order to give basic medical care to 5,000 displaced people fleeing Caxito. The medical supplies are provided by the ICRC.

In Luanda, where there were around 1,000 wounded as a result of the recent fighting, the ICRC distributed 5 tonnes of food to the hospitals in the capital (for wounded patients and nursing staff).
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ZIMBABWE: DECLARATION TO IMPROVE THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The Henry Dunant Institute, in collaboration with the ICRC's regional delegation, held a five-day intensive seminar on Criminal Justice and Imprisonment in Harare between 9 and 13 November. The conference was opened by Emmerson Mnangagwa, Zimbabwe's Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. In his address to high-ranking government officials, prison commissioners and magistrates from 12 African countries, Mr Mnangagwa said: "We should attempt to improve the quality of justice for the offenders, which means that we should attempt to reduce injustice within the system".

Participants of the 12 English-speaking African States, including South Africa, Malawi and Ethiopia, made a declaration urging the respective authorities to grant bail on a regular basis, especially for first and minor offenders; to speed up the legal process and to release prisoners awaiting trial, if the trial does not commence within a specified period.

The declaration also touched on the problem of overcrowding in prisons and recommended that governmental commissions should work out a plan of action aimed at providing alternative forms of release.

The ICRC, which pursues traditional detention activities in several of the States taking part in this seminar, welcomed the declaration and the participants' willingness to improve detention conditions.

IRAN/IRAQ
ICRC visits Iranian servicemen held in Iraq

On 8 November ICRC delegates visited the Ramadi Camp IX, 100 km west of Baghdad, and were able to talk privately with 64 Iranians captured during or after the Shi'ite and Kurdish uprisings in 1991. These detainees included the two pilots shot down in April during a raid inside Iraq. ICRC delegates discussed the conditions of detention and the detainees' state of health and distributed hygiene articles and recreational items.

Since 1991 the ICRC has made renewed efforts to repatriate all categories of prisoners, whether they were detained in connection with the Iran/Iraq war in either country or whether they were servicemen captured during or after the Gulf war.

In the Republic of Iraq the ICRC has had access to all those POWs who had previously refused repatriation and was able to interview 599 of them in August 1992. Today several hundred POWs remain unaccounted for.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran the ICRC has renewed its offer to visit over 20,000 Iraqi POWs and some 6,000 servicemen who are still being held.

The Islamic Republic of Iran freed some 400 servicemen on 12 November in the absence of the ICRC, as was the case for the 200 released in mid-October.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC reopens office in Tuzla

The ICRC reopened its office in Tuzla, in the north-east of Bosnia-Herzegovina, on 14 November. The office had not been manned since May of this year owing to insufficient security. Three delegates will provide a permanent presence in the area, giving assistance in the form of relief supplies to the civilian population, tracing and visits to detainees.
Since July the ICRC has distributed 6,000 tonnes of relief supplies to 390,000 beneficiaries in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The ICRC also distributed 170 tonnes of surgical material and medical supplies to 35 hospitals in the country. As part of its programme of detention visits, the ICRC supervised the release of 2,928 detainees and is still visiting more than 5,400 in 20 detention centres.

NEW YORK
ICRC President talks with UN high-ranking officials
On 10 November ICRC President Comelio Sommaruga took part in a round table discussion with Mrs Ogata (UNHCR), Mr Eliasson (UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs) and Mr Küssbach (President of the International Commission of Fact-Findings). This Panel on Humanitarian Questions was organized by the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Mr Sommaruga stressed the need to respect international humanitarian law (IHL) in all conflicts, be they internal or international. To this end, the ICRC President proposed that the Swiss Government should organize an ad hoc conference as soon as possible, to be attended by all UN States and observers.

The ICRC President also welcomed the adoption of the 780 Resolution proposing the creation of a commission to investigate grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions in ex-Yugoslavia. He expressed his hope that this measure would also apply to violations of the Geneva Conventions throughout the world.

Mr Sommaruga met all members of the UN Security Council and Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the UN. They discussed a range of topics including the non-respect of IHL, the protection of supplies and relief workers and the question of mines.

INDONESIA AND EAST TIMOR
Visits to detainees
Between 21 July and 29 October 1992 ICRC delegates conducted a series of visits to 356 security detainees in 39 detention centres. The majority of detainees are being held in connection with the events on 30 September 1965 as well as the current situation in Aceh (Sumatra), Irian Jaya and East Timor.
RWANDA: ICRC ALARMED BY NUTRITIONAL PROBLEMS

In the course of a nutritional survey recently conducted in camps for displaced people in and around Ruhengeri, Byumba and Ngarama, in northern Rwanda, the ICRC detected alarming levels of malnutrition, particularly among infants. From the beginning of June to mid-July the number of people fleeing the fighting in the north more than doubled the camps' population bringing the total to 350,000. This sudden increase combined with shortages of local produce led to this nutritional deficiency.

In order to provide full rations to the displaced people in the camps 7,000 tonnes of food per month are needed immediately. This amount represents a 50% increase in the volume of food that has been distributed up to now by the Rwandese Red Cross (RRC). The ICRC, in cooperation with the World Food Programme and non-governmental organizations, plans to increase its logistical support to the RRC.

Owing to the considerable amount of food needed urgently, as well as certain logistical problems, convoys are coming from Mombasa (Kenya) and Kampala (Uganda). Some convoys will use the Cyanika road between Uganda and Rwanda which has been opened specially for the ICRC.

TAJIKISTAN

Meeting with high-ranking politicians
ICRC delegates, accompanied by a representative of the Tajikistan Red Crescent, conducted a mission to Khodjan (formerly Leninabad) from 18 to 20 November. They met the leaders of different political parties during the Extraordinary Parliamentary Session, for which the ICRC was granted observer status. Delegates described the ICRC’s humanitarian activities in Tajikistan and insisted on respect for the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems.

The political leaders generally accepted the ICRC’s presence in Tajikistan and its humanitarian action based on the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

First airlift to Dushanbe
The ICRC has carried out its first airlift operation from Kiev to Dushanbe following recent missions to Tajikistan’s capital. The institution delivered 216 bales of blankets.

There are around 120,000 displaced in Dushanbe, 30,000 of which are housed in schools, hotels and student hostels. These people do not have enough warm clothing, blankets and food. The ICRC plans to deliver plastic sheeting, food parcels and medical kits in the near future.

An ICRC medical coordinator visited Dushanbe to conduct a survey of the medical needs in the troubled capital. After visiting several hospitals and centres where displaced people have sought shelter, the ICRC noted that there is a lack of medical material including anaesthetic, antibiotics and bandages.

The ICRC is presently carrying out an evaluation of the humanitarian situation in Kul’ab and Kurgan-T’ube.
CAMBODIA
ICRC dissemination campaign to soldiers
The ICRC has received authorization from the Government in Phnom Penh to organize dissemination sessions in six provinces around the capital for the armed forces of the State of Cambodia. Several thousand soldiers and officers in active service will attend this programme which began on 19 November and which will continue until the end of December.

CROATIA
ICRC reunites families
Since the beginning of July the ICRC tracing office in Zagreb has reunited more than 400 Bosnians with their families abroad. ICRC convoys transfer children under 16 years of age, old people over 60 and single women living in conflict areas from Bosnia to Zagreb two or three times a week. Relatives come from Croatia and Slovenia and as far afield as Germany, Austria and Poland in order to see their loved ones.
On 28 November the ICRC is planning to transport 22 children and 11 elderly people from Velika Kladusa in Bosnia-Herzegovina to Zagreb so that they can be reunited with their relatives.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH
ICRC relief and medical assistance
Violent clashes between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan forces in the enclave are continuing. With winter approaching and supply problems increasing, the ICRC has distributed 950 family parcels to those displaced people most in need and medical supplies to two hospitals in Stepanakert.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC helps families and the disabled
The ICRC delivered 65 tonnes of relief assistance consisting of family parcels, bulk food and detergent to Eastern Bosnia for 26,000 beneficiaries and also distributed blankets and clothing to 250 patients in the psychiatric hospital in Modrica.
ICRC delegates based in Belgrade also oversaw the transfer of four Croats, two elderly people with two children, from UNPA (UN Protected Area) Sector East to Osijek and one elderly woman from Osijek to Borovo Naselje (Eastern Slavonia).
T AJIKISTAN: ALARMING SITUATION NEAR THE AFGHAN BORDER

An ICRC delegate, currently on a mission in Tajikistan, visited an area bordering Afghanistan where there are an estimated 150,000 displaced people. The delegate carried out a survey of Khoshma, where 63,000 displaced people live on eight hectares of "no-man's land" beside a river marking the border. These people, who had fled the fighting in the Shartusz area on 12 November, have no shelter in a region where the night temperature drops to well below freezing. One hundred people have already died in these difficult conditions and as a result of illness. There are no medical supplies or medicines to treat the sick. Food is getting short and sanitary conditions are poor.

The institution is planning to meet the urgent needs of the people seen, and delegates will assess the situation of the remaining displaced people in this region as soon as possible.

ICRC delegates are currently negotiating with all the parties concerned to allow supplies to reach those people in need and to ensure respect for the Red Cross emblem.

AFGHANISTAN
Huge increase in mine injuries

Since April 1992 the number of mine victims admitted to ICRC hospitals has increased by up to 130% compared with figures for the same period in previous years. Some 1,700 cases have been treated this year at the ICRC hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta (Pakistan) as well as at the former ICRC hospital in Kabul, which still receives considerable ICRC assistance. At times, over 60% of total admissions have been related to mine accidents, resulting in the amputation of limbs, blindness or death. As only a small fraction of all mine victims manage to reach medical facilities, it must be assumed that the real number of casualties is considerably higher.

The ICRC, increasingly concerned by these grim statistics, has decided to launch an information campaign to raise awareness of the devastating effects on the civilian population of the indiscriminate use of land mines in war-torn countries.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC transfers 300 mentally handicapped patients

The ICRC, in collaboration with the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM), transferred 53 mentally handicapped women from an institution in Visegrad, close to the heavy fighting on the Bosnian-Serb border, to safety in Croatia and Slovenia. The patients, of whom 50 were Croatian, two Slovenian and one Polish, were moved on 27 November from Visegrad in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina to Belgrade, where the Red Cross of Yugoslavia had arranged accommodation for them. The following day the ICRC escorted the women from Belgrade to Lipovac, where they were met by the ICRC team from Zagreb. They were then transported to Croatia and Slovenia.

In cooperation with Médecins Sans Frontières, Handicap International and the ECMM, the ICRC transferred a further 247 Bosnian patients from the same institution to Garevac in northern Bosnia.
VENEZUELA
ICRC reacts following abortive coup d'état

The day after the coup d'état on 27 November, which led to over 200 deaths, several hundred wounded and the capture of 1,300 rebels, two ICRC delegates went to Caracas where they discussed the possibility of gaining access to the detained rebels with representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The delegates were also warmly received by Mr Mario Villaroel Lander, President of the Venezuelan Red Cross and of the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with whom they evaluated the amount of medical assistance to be provided by the ICRC.

Following the failed coup in February, the ICRC has visited around 50 rebels detained in four detention centres, including a military hospital, in Caracas.

CAMEROON
IHL seminar for French-speaking African States

Between 23 and 27 November the ICRC and the Henry Dunant Institute, in collaboration with the Cameroon Institute for International Relations and the Cameroon Red Cross Society, organized a regional seminar for 16 French-speaking African States on national measures for the implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

The 43 representatives, from the ministries of Justice, Defence, Foreign Affairs and from academic circles, agreed to the need to adopt national measures to contribute to greater respect for IHL rather than an amendment of IHL itself.

JORDAN
ICRC participates in training course

The Jordanian Civil Defence invited the ICRC to attend a course for Jordanian and Yemenite officers on 28 November. The ICRC presented its humanitarian activities and expounded on International Humanitarian Law. Mr Yves Etienne, from the medical division at ICRC headquarters in Geneva, gave a lecture on the problems related to water management during a catastrophe.

AZERBAIJAN
ICRC distributions in Nakhichevan

ICRC delegates have distributed 560 family parcels and 1,105 blankets to people in Cherur who have fled the recent violence in Sadarak, in the north-east of the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan. Some 3,000 people are currently living in train carriages and tents in the town.
SOMALIA: ICRC STILL ACTIVE

During the intervention of international forces in Somalia, the ICRC will maintain its presence in the country, carrying on its relief operation, medical assistance, tracing work and agricultural and veterinary programmes, especially in the regions where the population is badly affected, such as Bardera, Baidoa and Belet Huen.

Over the past few weeks the shut-down of the ports in Kismayo and Mogadishu has meant that the ICRC’s communal kitchens have had to reduce their output in and around these two centres. The reopening of the ports is an absolute priority and will allow the required amount of food to get through once again.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Winter assistance to the Ozren region
An ICRC convoy of ten trucks has brought relief supplies to Zavidovici, a town in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina cut off by the conflict. The assistance included 1,500 family parcels, 45 tonnes of flour, 15 tonnes of tinned food, 7.5 tonnes of detergent, as well as blankets and stoves.

The ICRC intends to deliver a comparable amount of relief supplies next week to the municipalities of Petrovo Selo and Lukavac, near Tuzla in the Ozren region. The distribution will be carried out by local Red Cross workers to the large number of displaced people and vulnerable groups in the area.

Since August 1992, the ICRC has regularly delivered food assistance and medical supplies to this region.

ICRC brings assistance to Pale
The ICRC delivered nearly 80 tonnes of family parcels, blankets and candles to 5,000 people in Pale. In addition, 13 tonnes of bulk food were delivered to the Red Cross communal kitchen which feeds 300 people a day. Hygiene products such as soap, detergent and disinfectant were also provided.

Medical supplies, including dressing material, sutures, blood bags, antibiotics and antalgics, were handed over to the hospitals in Pale and Vlasenica.

ICRC visits detained Serbs
On 26 and 27 November ICRC delegates were able to visit for the first time 314 Serb detainees held by the Bosnian forces in Tarcin, south-west of Sarajevo. The visit was carried out with the full cooperation of the authorities. Delegates plan to continue visiting these detainees regularly and to bring them the necessary assistance until such time as they are released.
SAUDIA ARABIA
ICRC facilitates the return of nine people from Iraq to Kuwait

On 9 December the ICRC facilitated the repatriation from Iraq of one man, five women and three children, all nationals or residents of Kuwait. The group was transferred to Kuwait via Arar in Saudi Arabia.

The ICRC, in its capacity as a neutral intermediary, organized this repatriation convoy together with the authorities concerned. It is the twentieth of its kind to pass through the Judayyidat Arar border post.

The nine people were handed over to a Kuwaiti delegation by ICRC officials. Among them were three people listed as missing by the Government of the State of Kuwait.

This operation brings the total number of people who have returned under ICRC auspices via Arar to Kuwait to 5,654.

AZERBAIJAN
ICRC begins distributions in Agjabedi

At the end of November the ICRC started an assistance programme for displaced people in the region of Agjabedi, 40 kilometres east of Agdam. Some 13,000 inhabitants of Latchin in Nagorno-Karabakh have sought refuge in the area since the capture of their town by Azeri forces. So far the ICRC has been able to assist over 5,000 people with blankets, winter clothes and cooking utensils.

AFGHANISTAN
ICRC increases medical assistance to hospitals

After renewed clashes broke out between rival factions in Kabul over the weekend, the ICRC carried out a survey of the capital’s hospitals and clinics to determine needs. Emergency medical assistance was immediately distributed to hospitals receiving casualties from the latest outbreak of fighting. ICRC ambulances also transported some of the wounded to hospital.

The area around the ICRC’s orthopaedic centre was particularly affected by the fighting. On 6 December the warring parties observed a 15-minute cease-fire to allow the ICRC to evacuate its 38 employees from the orthopaedic centre, where no patients were being treated at the time, to a safer part of town.

UGANDA
ICRC evacuates south Sudanese wounded

At the Sudan-Uganda frontier post at Nimule the ICRC took in charge 32 people wounded in the conflict in south Sudan and transported them by road to Gulu in Uganda. They were then transferred by plane to the ICRC hospital in Lokichokio (Kenya). The ICRC has carried out similar operations over the past few months.
SOMALIA: ICRC RESUMES AIRLIFTS

The ICRC has resumed its airlifts to Baidoa, Bardera, Kismayo and West Mogadishu after a few days' suspension. In addition, at two beaches near the capital, the ICRC is currently unloading 4,000 tonnes of rice donated by French schoolchildren, and 3,000 tonnes of ICRC food. While the port of Kismayo remains closed, a French ship and an ICRC vessel were able to enter the port of Mogadishu on 16 December with a cargo totalling 15,600 tonnes of rice, beans and oil.

The communal kitchen programme is still running in the main towns. In some rural areas the programme had to be stopped since supplies were not getting through. This was due to the insecurity prevailing in the countryside, resulting partly from the concentration of international intervention forces in the capital.

In Baidoa, 150 kilometres west of Mogadishu, the ICRC has 23 communal kitchens, four nutritional units, which also offer special health care to the severely undernourished, and three health centres. In spite of its efforts to feed around 15,000 people in Baidoa, there were still more than 1,350 deaths in November, 375 of them children. The ICRC also has opened an intensive feeding centre in Bardera.

So far this year the ICRC has brought in more than 150,000 tonnes of food, distributed mainly through its communal kitchens. It is hoped that other organizations will be able to take over soon and provide the 60,000 tonnes per month needed for the long-term survival of the Somali people.

YEMEN
ICRC collects messages for Somalis
A representative from the ICRC's regional delegation in Kuwait carried out a visit to the refugee camp of Madinat Al-Shab in Aden and collected more than 500 family messages for Somalis living in Somalia or in refugee camps in Kenya.

Acting on recommendations by ICRC doctors, the institution has distributed essential medical supplies to numerous prisons in Yemen.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC continues visits to detainees
Following the recent release of 2,009 detainees from Manjaca, the ICRC continues to visit thousands of people held by the parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. For the time being ICRC delegates regularly visit 538 detainees held by the Croats, 1,027 held by the Muslims and 2,780 held by Serb forces. Since mid-September the ICRC has supervised the release of 357 detainees held by the Croats, 26 held by the Muslims and 3,561 held by the Serbs.

The ICRC is pursuing its efforts to obtain the release of all detainees held in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

ROME
ICRC participates in donors' meeting for Mozambique
The ICRC attended a UN Pledging Meeting for Mozambique on 15 and 16 December at the invitation of the Italian Government. The head of the ICRC's delegation in Maputo told the participants: "It is our duty, as members of the
international community, to stand by the Mozambican people and give them the support they need now."

Since the opening of the roads at the end of September the ICRC has delivered relief supplies to more than 250,000 beneficiaries in isolated areas and has distributed seed to over 300,000 people to help them regain a measure of self-sufficiency.

EAST TIMOR
ICRC visits detainees
The ICRC is continuing its programme of visits to people detained in connection with the situation in East Timor. So far delegates have seen 20 detainees in Dili and will have access to more places of detention in the near future.

LIBERIA
Medical supplies for rural Liberia
During its temporary withdrawal from Gbarnga, the ICRC has handed over relief and sanitation supplies to the Liberian Red Cross Society (LRCS) so that the wounded can still be treated. Through the Gbarnga branch of the LRCS the ICRC has also provided medical supplies to medical centres in Kakata and Bong Mines.

AFGHANISTAN
ICRC provides medical assistance to Tajik refugees
In response to the arrival of around 50,000 refugees from Tajikistan in northern Afghanistan over the last ten days, the ICRC has provided enough medical supplies to hospitals in Mazar-i-Sharif to treat up to 200 casualties.

The next issue of Media 7 will be published on 7 January 1993.

Season's greetings from the ICRC Press Division.