ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES:
ICRC PURSUES EFFORTS FOR PALESTINIAN "DEPORTEES"

Today the ICRC has received permission from the Israeli authorities to send two ICRC delegates - a doctor and a senior representative from its delegation in Tel Aviv - to visit more than 400 Palestinians forcibly transferred from the occupied territories and stranded between Israeli-controlled and Lebanese-controlled Lebanese territory. This expulsion was in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The ICRC delegates will assess the precise needs of the "deportees". The results of the survey will be presented to the Israeli and Lebanese authorities so that the ICRC can organize a relief operation if necessary.

In the first three days after the Palestinians' arrival in Maij-ez-Zouhour/Zumraya (18-20 December), the ICRC brought the "deportees" food, water, 50 tents, 1,200 blankets, kitchen sets, gas stoves, heaters, medicines, mattresses and warm clothes. Since 21 December the ICRC's action had been blocked.

TAJIKISTAN
ICRC distributes desperately needed supplies

On 30 December the ICRC distributed plastic sheeting, blankets, sets of dressings and basic health kits to displaced people in Kumsangir and Pandj near the southern border. There are some 15,000 displaced in Kumsangir, more than 10,000 in Pandj and several hundred thousand throughout the country.

The ICRC also provided medical supplies to the main hospital in Kofarnihorn. In Kurgan-Tyube in the south-west of the country ICRC delegates, with the cooperation of the local Red Crescent Society, distributed 25 tonnes of relief supplies on 23 December. In addition, the ICRC succeeded in organizing the transport by train from Termez to Shartuz of 250 tonnes of flour provided by the World Food Programme. On arrival the supplies were handed over to a local committee in charge of distribution.

In view of the persistent violations, the ICRC is continuing to encourage all parties concerned to respect international humanitarian law.

SOMALIA
1992: ICRC brought 150,000 tonnes of food

For the ICRC, activities in Somalia dominated 1992. In the course of the year the institution brought a total of 150,000 tonnes of food (rice, lentils and oil) to the country's starving people. This is equivalent to a convoy of lorries stretching for 150 kilometres. Some 1.5 million Somalis received food on a daily basis from the ICRC's network of communal kitchens. Thousands more lives were also saved through the ICRC's medical programme.

In all, 33,600 sacks of seed were distributed to a number of Somali villages. One and a half million sheep, 165,000 camels and as many cows were treated for parasites.

The ICRC also assumed the role of the country's postal service in 1992. Its 33 tracing offices throughout the country and in Kenya handled over 200,000 Red Cross messages between members of families separated by the conflict.
AFGHANISTAN
ICRC surveys Tajik refugees' needs
As more refugees pour across the frontier from Tajikistan into northern Afghanistan, a team from the ICRC's Kabul delegation is carrying out a survey to assess needs amongst the 50,000 arrivals. Thousands more are massed on the frontier and it is feared that many will cross over if the fighting continues in the south of Tajikistan. An ICRC medical coordinator also visited Tajik refugee camps in Mazar-i-Sharif and Tashqorgan to evaluate the situation.

RWANDA
ICRC food convoy arrives
The ICRC has transported by convoy from Uganda more than 350 tonnes of food for displaced people in the north of Rwanda. A second convoy is due to follow in the next few days.

The 350,000 displaced people are still in an extremely precarious position. Lack of access to their agricultural land has further exacerbated their nutritional condition in the last few weeks. The ICRC plans to establish a regular "pipeline" bringing in 7,000 tonnes of relief supplies a month.

ZAIRE
ICRC assists displaced people in Likasi
The troubles in the Shaba region in the south-east of Zaire have had tragic consequences for the displaced throughout the province. In the camp for displaced people in Likasi children are suffering from malnutrition, and a number of people are reported to have died. The ICRC has reacted quickly by providing food for the most vulnerable groups, i.e., women, children and the elderly. In the last few days the ICRC has distributed 52 tonnes of flour, beans and oil to around 13,000 people in the camp.

CAMEROON
First ICRC relief distributions in Cameroon
Tension has reigned in and around the town of Bamenda in north-west Cameroon since the presidential elections at the end of 1992. A significant number of people have fled their homes because of the disturbances, and the ICRC has been providing them with cooking utensils, buckets, rice and beans in order to tide them over. Some 450 families, who have taken refuge in a dozen small villages in the surrounding area, have thus been assisted.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC CONDEMS RAPE

Following the recent publication of reports by the UN and EC commissions of enquiry regarding rape in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the ICRC wishes to re-emphasize that it has always condemned rape and any other form of attack against women's dignity. Rape is a violation of Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention: "Women shall be especially protected against any attack on their honour, in particular against rape, enforced prostitution, or any form of indecent assault."

The ICRC President met Ann Warburton and Simone Veil, representatives of the EC commission of enquiry, on 18 and 19 December. He explained the ICRC’s mandate to protect and assist all victims of the conflict and also spoke of the ICRC’s efforts to remind the parties concerned of their obligation to respect international humanitarian law (IHL).

Mr Sommaruga also stated that the ICRC was not in a position to confirm or deny the alleged figures since very few witness accounts have been heard by ICRC delegates in the field. Nevertheless, the ICRC considers it highly probable that rapes have been committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina alongside other violations of IHL including summary executions, torture, internment, deportation and the harassment of minority groups, as well as hostage-taking, expropriation, threats and intimidation.

The ICRC has publicly denounced all these violations and has appealed to the parties to the conflict to instruct all combatants to respect the basic principles of IHL.

MOZAMBIQUE
ICRC helps to reunite "war orphans" with their families

A 12-year-old boy stopped in his tracks, pointed and shouted excitedly: "This is my house". Ms Dominique Moosman, an ICRC nurse currently working in the northern province of Nampula, explained: "He had been separated from his family for three and a half years as a result of an attack on his village." Thanks to the ICRC and the local Red Cross he was one of many throughout the country to be finally reunited with their families.

The children, ranging from toddlers to 14-year-olds, had gone missing during the assault on their towns and villages, some only a few months ago, others as long ago as 1985. In RENAMO-controlled areas they had been housed by the authorities or by host families.

Since the signing of the General Peace Agreement in October the ICRC has been working together with the RENAMO administration to register the "war orphans", locate their families and reunite them with their loved ones.

While the children are awaiting news of their families, the ICRC is providing them with clothes, blankets and food. As a result of the recent drought some children are malnourished and most suffer from parasites. The ICRC has vaccinated them and will begin an extensive vaccination programme in February for all children and pregnant women in isolated areas.

In the Nampula province alone, the RENAMO authorities have handed over a list of 600 "war orphans" to the ICRC. For the whole country the exact number of children separated from their parents because of the conflict is unknown.

All humanitarian agencies operating in Mozambique must combine their efforts to
reunite the children with their families so that they can once again lead a normal life.

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

ICRC cannot speculate on number of detainees

In spite of the agreements signed by all parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the ICRC has still not received information concerning all detainees and all detention centres in the former Yugoslav republic. Since July 1992 the ICRC has registered 10,800 detainees and has visited 52 detention centres. Until the ICRC has visited all detention centres, especially those near the front lines, near besieged towns and in the country's interior, the institution cannot estimate the exact number of detainees.

Before negotiations began in Geneva on 2 January, the ICRC Vice-President met Mr Cyrus Vance on 30 December to discuss the protection of all detainees in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the application of the agreement signed on 1 October 1992 stipulating the release of all prisoners held in connection with the conflict.

ICRC delegates are continuing to visit 2,750 detainees who are currently held in 18 known detention centres and are awaiting release.

**SOMALIA**

ICRC sends second team of "flying doctors"

The ICRC has decided to send in a second flying surgical team to complement the team that has been working in Somalia for over a year. The medical needs throughout the country are enormous - many of the wounded are in need of emergency surgery mainly as a result of gunfire and mines.

It is also hoped that the presence of this second team, from the Netherlands Red Cross, will make it possible that more time is spent training Somali doctors and nurses in war surgery. At the moment the first team, composed of members of the Australian, Swiss, Danish and Finnish Red Cross Societies, is constantly on the move and is therefore often unable to do follow-up work.

**SAUDI ARABIA**

ICRC visits all Iraqi civilians in Rafha camp

Between 8 and 12 January ICRC delegates visited Iraqi civilians interned in Rafha camp, near the Iraqi border. The Iraqi civilians from Artawieh camp had recently been transferred to the Rafha camp, bringing the total population to 30,000. As well as checking living conditions, the ICRC is particularly involved in establishing contacts between them and their families abroad.
SOMALIA: ICRC SHOCKED AND ANGERED BY DEATH OF KURT LUSTENBERGER

Following the violent death of Kurt Lustenberger, recently appointed ICRC administrator in Bardera, the ICRC demonstrated its anger by stopping all activities in Somalia for 48 hours. All ICRC flags in the famine-ravaged country are currently flying at half-mast as a sign of mourning.

The ICRC deplores this ignoble act and wishes to transmit its sincerest sympathy to Kurt Lustenberger’s family, friends and close colleagues.

An improvement in security conditions is absolutely essential to enable the ICRC to protect and assist the Somali population. The ICRC will constantly carry out security assessments at national and regional level.

Respect for the ICRC and Somalia Red Crescent Society emblems and employees, accompanied by security guarantees, are essential factors for the continuation and success of the ICRC’s operation in the country.

TAJIKISTAN

Thousands suffering from food poisoning

For the first time two ICRC delegates were able to travel by their own means to Kurgan-Tyube, Kulyab and Farkhar, in the south of Tajikistan, on 14 and 15 January. Although the area south of Kulyab had never been a conflict zone, the region had been blockaded for several months. This blockade was only lifted towards the end of December.

Owing to the lack of fuel, farmers in Farkhar harvested the wheat crop too late, without any machinery, and as a result some weed was mixed up with the wheat and caused food poisoning, affecting around 6,000 people. Hospital staff are caring for 1,500 people and the rest are living in public buildings and private homes where they are being looked after by friends and relatives.

The ICRC has delivered medicines and basic medical supplies to the main hospitals in Farkhar and Dangara and has sent 1,000 family parcels for the sick. On 16 January 18 tonnes of food parcels left Dushanbe for Farkhar.

ICRC brings assistance to the Garm Valley

On 15 and 16 January two ICRC delegates visited Hoit and Garm, east of Dushanbe, where there are approximately 40,000 displaced people living in overcrowded schools, hospitals and private homes. These people had fled the fighting in the Vahsh Valley, Kurgan Tyube and Kulyab.

The displaced particularly need food, clothing and footwear. As an emergency measure, the ICRC has sent 26 tonnes of food parcels which will be distributed by the Committee for Refugees according to ICRC criteria. Subsequent deliveries of clothes, wheat and medicine will be supervised by the ICRC.
MOZAMBIQUE
ICRC verifies release of security detainees

Under the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique the ICRC, together with the parties concerned, has supervised the release of 450 security detainees held by the Mozambique Government in connection with the conflict. The ICRC, in collaboration with the Mozambique Red Cross Society, has provided basic assistance to released detainees such as clothing, blankets and food. In addition, the institution traced the families of detainees, some of whom had been held for many years, and ensured their safe return home.

There are still 25 cases to be examined by the Attorney General of Mozambique to determine whether they fall under the provisions of the Peace Agreement.

The ICRC has no information regarding detainees held by the RENAMO forces.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC convoys bring relief to people in Zenica

The ICRC is currently providing between 800 and 1,000 tonnes of relief supplies per week to people in Zenica, in central Bosnia-Herzegovina. Ten convoys, with ten trucks in each, transport family parcels, clothing, blankets and stoves to 230,000 displaced and 18,000 pensioners in the town and surrounding area, as well as 4,000 people living in social institutions.
AFGHANISTAN: ICRC PRESENT AMIDST ONGOING BATTLE

In spite of the recent escalation of violence in Kabul between opposing Mujaheddin factions and the daily indiscriminate shelling of the city, the ICRC continues to carry out its humanitarian activities on behalf of the numerous war wounded. Thanks to their contacts with all the parties concerned, ICRC delegates organize weekly humanitarian convoys bringing medical supplies from Pakistan to Kabul. The ICRC provides full support to the surgical services of two hospitals and assists other medical facilities in the Afghan capital. In the course of the last ten days, 65 wounded have been evacuated by ICRC ambulances to the hospitals still functioning in Kabul.

SOMALIA
ICRC President in Mogadishu
"The ICRC will continue to aid Somalia but urges the UN to take up rehabilitation and development work", declared ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga at a press conference in Mogadishu on 27 January. Mr Sommaruga had visited Baidoa, Belet Huen, northern and southern Mogadishu during the last four days.

Mr Sommaruga stressed the importance of improving security conditions, deploiring the fact that humanitarian workers have been attacked. He declared: "We are here to help the victims of the war, in all impartiality, neutrality and independence, and we want to continue this work without hindrance from gangs or military forces." He added that he would like a positive response from all the Somalis concerned, not only in words but by actions.

The ICRC President concluded that the ICRC will remain in Somalia, pursuing its relief and medical activities but that it cannot act as a development agency. The institution will concentrate its efforts within its own special mandate.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
ICRC evacuates 17 Palestinians
On 23 January four ICRC delegates were flown into the Zemraya camp, where 413 illegally deported Palestinians remain stranded. An ICRC doctor was able to examine 21 deportees outside the camp and recommended eight cases for hospitalization. The Israeli authorities only allowed four to be evacuated.

The ICRC delegates handed over 850 Red Cross messages to the deportees' representatives. No replies were sent.

The ICRC team also conducted private interviews with the 15 deportees who had received permission to return. Two of them decided to stay in the camp in solidarity with those who remained.

The four sick deportees who were evacuated are currently hospitalized in the "security zone" under Israeli control in southern Lebanon.

For future operations, the ICRC will try to gain access by road.
BHUTAN
ICRC visits detainees
On 19 January an ICRC team was granted a two-hour audience by the King of Bhutan, followed by a working meeting with the Foreign Minister and the Home Secretary. The delegates also met several other high-ranking government officials in connection with their mission.
Subsequently, the ICRC visited Thangang prison, Bhutan's main detention centre, and police headquarters in Thimphu, where they conducted interviews with prisoners. On 24 January delegates organized a dissemination seminar for government officials and the heads of the security forces.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC relief supplies arrive in Sarajevo
The ICRC was able to organize the transport of relief supplies from Zenica to Sarajevo on 21 January. Some 40,000 blankets and 200 stoves were handed over to the local Red Cross in Sarajevo which immediately began distribution. In the next few days the ICRC hopes to bring the total to 80,000 blankets, 4,000 stoves and 50,000 items of winter clothing.

CROATIA
Emergency assistance given to displaced people
Following the recent escalation of violence in the southern part of Krajina, the local authorities fear an influx of 10,000 displaced people in Benkovac. There are currently around 3,000 displaced in the area, half of them children. Owing to the emergency situation the ICRC has immediately reinforced its staff in Knin.
The ICRC carried out a medical survey at the hospitals in Benkovac and Knin, where the institution has stepped up its operations. On 25 January the ICRC provided emergency medical assistance, 65 stoves, 600 kitchen sets and 2,000 blankets to the displaced in the area.

RWANDA
ICRC provides first aid
During the recent clashes in the capital on 20 January the ICRC, together with the Rwandan Red Cross, provided first aid to the wounded and transferred 47 people to a hospital in Kigali, where the ICRC has also delivered dressing sets.

NAKHICHEVAN
ICRC distributes medical supplies
Between 15 and 19 January an ICRC delegate and medical coordinator visited Sadarak, in the north of Nakhichevan, where they distributed medical supplies to several hospitals in the area. Now that the fighting has died down the people who had fled to Cherur have returned to Sadarak.
ZAIRE: ICRC RESPONDS TO MOUNTING VIOLENCE

In response to the recent outbreak of violence in Kinshasa, ICRC delegates conducted a tour of the capital’s five main hospitals as soon as security conditions allowed. The delegates distributed medical equipment including perfusions and first-aid material.

In collaboration with the local Red Cross, the ICRC has developed a system of intervention in an emergency by training first-aid volunteers from the Red Cross Society of Zaire and making first-aid material available to them.

RWANDA
ICRC alleviates tension
On 25 January fighting erupted in the northern prefectures of Gisenyi, Ruhengeri and Kibuye, claiming hundreds of lives and causing more than 3,000 people to flee their homes. Only the ICRC was able to remain on the scene, its presence alleviating the tension. On 29 January the ICRC went to Muhororo and Ngororero where delegates distributed 510 blankets, 300 pans, 1,500 bars of soap and 50 jerrycans to 1,500 displaced people. They also evacuated ten wounded to the hospitals in Muhororo and Gitarama and provided the two hospitals with medical supplies.

CROATIA
ICRC provides assistance to people in Krajina
Since the escalation of violence in Krajina the ICRC has delivered 120 tonnes of emergency assistance in the form of medical supplies, stoves and blankets. The institution has also provided the local Red Cross with 28 tonnes of food to be distributed to the most vulnerable groups in the area. ICRC delegates and local employees continue to provide protection and assistance to the civilian population and have recently visited 19 detainees in Zadar and two others in Knin.

TOGO
Togolese Red Cross evacuates wounded
Following the recent clashes in Togo’s capital, the Togolese Red Cross (TRC) evacuated most of the wounded to Lomé’s main hospital. Since the beginning of a general strike two months ago the TRC has been on alert with two teams of doctors and first-aid workers prepared to patrol the streets in an ambulance and to provide emergency first aid at the TRC’s headquarters.

The ICRC, which has financed first-aid kits for the local Red Cross, has also conducted a dissemination campaign through radio and tv spots as well as articles in the press. The ICRC plans to provide more first-aid material to the TRC and has already started distributions of medical supplies to five regional hospitals.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC convoy no longer blocked
An ICRC convoy from Split managed to reach Zenica in central Bosnia on 2 February, after having been blocked for two weeks. The convoy of seven lorries transported 2,500 family parcels, 2.5 tonnes of tinned food, 15,000 items of winter clothing and 9 tonnes of flour for displaced people living in and around Zenica.

ICRC delegates in the field have
approached the parties to the conflict in order to guarantee full respect of international humanitarian law, particularly regarding the civilian population, as well as access to the region and to all detainees.

On 1 and 2 February ICRC delegates visited 51 Croats held by Muslim forces and 228 Muslims held by the Croats.

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

ICRC insists on release of all detainees

The ICRC Delegate General for Europe, Thierry Germond, met presidents Izetbegovic, Boban and Karadzic in Geneva at the end of January to discuss ICRC activities in the field and to promote respect for international humanitarian law. The ICRC insisted that the parties concerned comply with the agreement signed on 1 October 1992, stipulating the unilateral and unconditional release of all detainees.

Although 5,500 prisoners have been released so far, another 2,750 known to the ICRC are still being held. The ICRC also requested notification of all detainees to whom delegates have not yet had access.

During the meeting with Mr Karadzic Thierry Germond also pointed out the urgent need to take measures in Trebinje, in southern Bosnia-Herzegovina, in order to alleviate the pressure on the Muslim population.

**UZBEKISTAN**

Regional delegation opened in Tashkent

On 29 January the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr Mutalov, and a representative of the ICRC signed a headquarters agreement allowing the creation of a regional delegation in Tashkent. From this office a delegate and an ICRC administrator will cover four countries in Central Asia: Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. The ICRC representatives will carry out traditional ICRC activities, concentrating on the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

**CHAD**

Orthopaedic centre handed over to national NGO

Since 1981 the ICRC has partly financed an orthopaedic centre in N'Djamena run by Secours Catholique et Développement (SeCaDev), a Chadian NGO which provided the personnel and some of the material necessary for the manufacture of artificial limbs. Since then 1,346 prostheses and 744 orthoses have been made. In collaboration with the Chad government, the ICRC financed the training of ten local orthopaedic technicians. After three years of training an examination was organized with the participation of a French specialist in Education in Prosthetics and Orthotics. A Chadian diploma was awarded to the nine students who passed the exam.

In January 1993 the SeCaDev took over full financing of the centre. This year the ICRC intends to send an ICRC orthopaedic technician there to enable the centre to benefit from the latest technical developments used in other ICRC operations.
AFGHANISTAN: WORK CONTINUES DESPITE HEAVY FIGHTING

The ICRC’s 12 delegates in Kabul are carrying on with their emergency activities, in spite of the indiscriminate shelling of the city’s civilian population. Hospitals are filled to overflowing and operating around the clock. In 18 days the delegates have registered 4,026 wounded admitted to the five hospitals still functioning.

In spite of the serious risks involved, and thanks to the ICRC’s contacts with all the factions, convoys of medical supplies have been arriving regularly from Pakistan, and the ambulance service evacuating the wounded from the inner city has remained operational.

SRI LANKA

20 civilians released

Twenty civilians held for several months by the Sri Lanka armed forces were released and handed over to the ICRC in Palali on 5 February. Eighteen of them were taken in an ICRC-chartered boat from Kankesanturai to Point Pedro, in an LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) zone. The other two wished to fly back to the capital.

The ICRC’s most extensive detention activities in Asia are carried out in Sri Lanka. In 1992 the 60 delegates assigned to the programme registered 4,558 detainees in 497 places of detention and visited a total of 9,978 people.

SOMALIA

Transfer of former prisoners gets underway

On 10 February the ICRC started transferring 380 men and women captured in April 1992 by forces loyal to General Aideed and released on 29 January in Mogadishu. Delegates had visited the prisoners regularly during their captivity, and interviewed each of them on their release to make sure that they wished to return to their places of origin. The prisoners will be flown on ICRC-chartered aircraft to Baidoa, Kismayo, Belet Huen, Garoe and Abduwak and will receive food, clothing and blankets.

TAJIKISTAN

More relief supplies for displaced people

On 7 February ICRC delegates based in Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, distributed food, clothing and blankets in six of the eight centres for displaced people that they have visited. They estimate that over 30,000 people are living in these centres, often in hazardous conditions. A similar number have been taken in by the local population, and the ICRC and the Tajik Red Crescent have launched an assistance programme for them.

The ICRC has also distributed clothing and food in the Kurgan-Tyube region, south of Dushanbe, and provided hospitals in Kulyab and Pjandj (south-east of Dushanbe) with sets of dressings and disposable syringes.
THAILAND
Khao-I-Dang hospital closed
The ICRC hospital in Khao-I-Dang, near the Cambodian border, was closed down in early February, as there were no more casualties arriving there for treatment. Opened in 1980, the hospital was the only medical facility providing surgical services to the Khmers who had sought refuge along the border. It was run by the ICRC with medical personnel seconded by National Red Cross Societies and recruited locally from among the refugees.

The hospital’s original capacity of 100 beds was doubled at the height of the fighting, when it admitted up to 3,000 patients and performed over 5,500 operations a year.

The ICRC has been working at Mongkol Borei hospital, in Cambodia, for the past two years. It shares responsibility for the hospital’s medical and surgical services with the Cambodian Ministry of Health.

MALAWI
Visits to 19 prisons
The ICRC has visited 19 prisons in Malawi since August 1992. Delegates have registered 325 security detainees and persons arrested following disturbances, including trade-union leader Chafuwka Chihana. Several of the detainees visited have been released in the past few weeks.

The detainees have received sets of dressings, blankets, clothing and soap from the ICRC, and a sanitary engineer has started a survey of all the prisons.

The Malawi authorities have also granted the ICRC access to security detainees held in police stations, and have reacted favourably to the suggestion that the ICRC open offices in Blantyre and Lilongwe so as to establish a more permanent presence in the country.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Simultaneous release of detainees
On 8 February, 61 Bosnian Croats held by Bosnian government forces and 342 Bosnian Muslims held by Bosnian Croat forces were released in the Zenica/Busovaca region of central Bosnia under the auspices of the ICRC and in the presence of UNPROFOR representatives.

The detainees had all been captured during the recent fighting between Bosnian Croats and Bosnian government forces in central Bosnia.

COTE D’IVOIRE
Headquarters agreement signed
On 8 February in Abidjan the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire and the ICRC signed what is known as a headquarters agreement, establishing a general framework for relations between the ICRC and the Ivorian authorities with regard to ICRC activities under its mandate. Côte d’Ivoire is the forty-fourth country to sign a HQ agreement with the ICRC, whose delegation in Abidjan also covers operations in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Guinea.
RWANDA: MASS EXODUS OF DISPLACED

Following the recent outbreak of fighting between the Rwanda Patriotic Front and the Rwandan armed forces, the majority of the 350,000 displaced people living in the north of the country, near Ruhengeri, Byumba and Ngarama, have fled further south. The local population has also taken to the road bringing the total to around half a million displaced with no shelter or food.

In spite of the logistical problems caused by this huge population movement, the ICRC has managed to send initial relief supplies to the displaced people in the region. ICRC delegates have also evacuated more than 50 war-wounded and sick to a hospital in Kigali.

On 14 February a Hercules plane flew in an ICRC surgical team to provide essential support to one of the capital’s overcrowded hospitals. The ICRC also delivered 10 tonnes of medical supplies.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC visits detention centre in Sarajevo

On 10 February the ICRC conducted its first visit to 48 Serb detainees held in the "Ramiz Salcin" prison in the centre of Sarajevo. The Bosnian authorities allowed the ICRC to register the detainees and carry out private interviews with them. The ICRC has received authorization to visit other detention centres in Sarajevo and the surrounding area.

The ICRC has six local employees in Sarajevo dealing with tracing matters. An average 20,000 messages are exchanged per month between Sarajevo and elsewhere. An ICRC relief delegate is currently supervising the distribution of 80,000 blankets, items of winter clothing and 200 stoves by the local Red Cross.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
ICRC transmits new report on treatment of Palestinian detainees under interrogation

On 15 February ICRC Head of Delegation in Israel and the occupied territories met the Ministers of Police and of Justice to hand over the new ICRC report on treatment of Palestinian detainees under interrogation. In this confidential document, which was also submitted to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the ICRC deals with the treatment and living conditions of Palestinians in interrogation sections.

In 1992 ICRC delegates visited each month an average of 500 Palestinian detainees under interrogation in Israel and the occupied territories.

YEMEN
ICRC visits detainees

During the first two weeks of February a team of five ICRC delegates, including a doctor, started this year's series of visits to detainees in the Republic of Yemen.
The delegates carried out visits to the central prisons of Sana'a, Dhamar, Ibb, Ta'ez and Hodeidah as well as to other detention facilities. Intermediate assessments of the living conditions and treatment of detainees were discussed with the Ministers of the Interior and of Justice, as well as with the Chief of Security and the General Prosecutor.

MOZAMBIQUE
ICRC starts massive vaccination programme
The ICRC health team in Mozambique, in collaboration with UNICEF, has just begun an ambitious vaccination programme in isolated areas in the provinces of Sofala and Manica. During the distribution of food rations between February and March over 50,000 under-fives and women of childbearing age are to be vaccinated against measles and tetanus, respectively. By September 1993 the ICRC, with the help of local staff and expatriate supervisors, aims to inoculate more than 150,000 people against six common childhood diseases. This second phase of the expanded programme of immunization will also cover people in the provinces of Nampula and Gaza.

NIGER
ICRC's first visit to detainees
For the first time ICRC delegates have been able to obtain access to Tuareg detainees held by the government. The majority were arrested in August 1992. ICRC delegates gained access to 61 detainees in four detention centres in the south of the country. The ICRC provided on-the-spot medical and sanitary assistance to these detainees.

AFGHANISTAN
Opening of orthopaedic centre in Herat
The orthopaedic centre in Herat recently opened its doors to amputees from the west of the country who need fitting with artificial limbs. Herat is now the ICRC's third orthopaedic centre after Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif.

The centre consists of workshops where artificial limbs are made, physiotherapy rooms where the amputees learn to walk, refectories, a kitchen and dormitories.

Once the 15 local employees have received sufficient training, production will double to an average of 80 above-knee and below-knee prostheses per month.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH
ICRC distributes family parcels and blankets
During the past three months the ICRC has delivered 1,950 family parcels and 2,000 blankets to 20,000 displaced people living in and around Stepanakert. Between 6 and 9 February three ICRC delegates conducted an evaluation survey to assess the future needs of the displaced people in the area. They also pursued discussions with the authorities to obtain access to all detainees and ensure respect for international humanitarian law.
ZAIRE: ICRC APPEALS FOR ADDITIONAL CHF 6 MILLION

The ICRC has just launched a Special Appeal for Zaire for more than CHF 6 million. The institution has started to provide food supplies for 65,000 people, mostly of Kasaian origin, who have set up makeshift camps around the railway station in Likasi, in the Shaba region. The relief supplies of 3,960 tonnes of flour, 990 tonnes of beans and 495 tonnes of palm oil are expected to cover the needs of the displaced until June 1993.

In order to facilitate a return to normal life for those people willing to settle in the Kasai region, the ICRC envisages distributing seeds and hoes to 20,000 families.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC visits second prison in Sarajevo

On 18 February the ICRC visited Kula Butmir prison in Sarajevo where delegates registered and conducted private interviews with 126 Muslim and Croat detainees held by the Bosnian Serb forces. Ninety-five of the detainees had formerly been held in Manjaca. A further 34 detainees who had also been transferred from Manjaca to Kula Butmir were released near Jablanica ten days before the ICRC’s visit.

Local Red Cross and ICRC receive important donation

On 23 February the German Red Cross donated eight new trucks to the ICRC, thereby enabling it to increase its humanitarian activities in central Bosnia.

At the same time 22 tonnes of tinned vegetables were handed over to the representative of the Split branch of the Croatian Red Cross. These supplies will be distributed to refugees and other needy people in Dalmatia.

SOMALIA
ICRC hands over part of veterinary programme in Hiran province

On 24 February the ICRC handed over part of its veterinary activities in Hiran province to Oxfam Quebec, a non-governmental organization, as part of its policy of looking for development-oriented agencies to take over certain programmes.

The aims of the ICRC’s veterinary programme are to improve the nutritional level of the nomads by allowing them to produce meat and milk, increase their income by enabling them to sell healthy animals and to provide a boost to the economy. Nineteen veterinary teams, consisting of Somali personnel and three expatriate supervisors, have treated over two million camels, cows, sheep and goats for parasites and vaccinated half a million animals.

The ICRC will continue to participate in the vaccination programme which allows it access to rural communities in need of assistance and protection.
NAMIBIA
ICRC helps to trace the missing
In June 1991 the ICRC was mandated by the Namibian Government to trace Namibians missing since the war of independence began. Once the Namibian Government had secured the cooperation of the governments of South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Angola, the ICRC could begin its tracing activities.
To date the ICRC has registered 2,184 tracing requests from the families of those missing. Some 2,150 requests directly concern SWAPO, to which 380 replies have been received so far, and the rest the former South African administration of Namibia.
The ICRC, after having received all likely tracing requests and acted as a neutral intermediary, will sum up the whole process in a final report to be handed over to the Namibian Prime Minister at the end of April.

CUBA
Assistance for Haitian refugees
Following a mission of the General Delegate for Latin America which took place earlier this year the ICRC sent relief supplies to the Cuban Red Cross to the tune of around CHF 57,000. The supplies included food (oil, powdered milk, corned beef and sardines), medical supplies (antibiotics, dressing sets, surgical material, disinfectant), articles of personal hygiene and tents. The supplies are meant to establish an emergency stock that will enable the Cuban Red Cross to intervene quickly and efficiently in case of a new influx of Haitian refugees.

JORDAN
Visits to detention centres
Between 9 and 18 February ICRC delegates conducted a series of visits to the seven rehabilitation centres in Jordan.
Regular visits are carried out to security detainees held in the General Intelligence Department prison once every two weeks. These detainees are subsequently transferred to the rehabilitation centres.

MIDDLE EAST
Radio series promotes the spirit of humanitarian law
During the month of Ramadan the ICRC is sponsoring a series of 30 radio programmes on Radio Monte Carlo’s Arabic service (to be broadcast at 10.00 and 15.45 UTC) and the Egyptian Radio’s "Sawt el Arab" (23.15 and 09.00 UTC). The programme promotes basic humanitarian principles and respect for victims of armed conflict.
The series is inspired by "A Thousand and One Nights”. Sheherazade tells Prince Shahrayar what has happened to her during the day when she leaves the palace to return to her family. Two poems on humanity, accompanied by music to be sung by a well-known Arabic singer, have been written for the introduction and conclusion.
TAJIKISTAN: MOBILE CLINIC TREATS DISPLACED PEOPLE

The first mobile medical clinic set up by the ICRC in Tajikistan gave consultations between 22 and 26 February in the Kumsangir region in the south of the country. Most of the approximately 300 displaced women and children treated by the ICRC had recently returned from Afghanistan. Many of the newly returned are either working for state-run or cooperative farms or have been taken in by local people. There are few medical facilities in the region and a severe lack of petrol keeps many of the returnees from reaching a clinic.

The most frequently seen illnesses include skin diseases, bronchitis, pneumonia, anaemia, diarrhoea and eye infections. The sustained lack of food, soap and adequate clothing has exacerbated the situation of the most vulnerable among the displaced.

Between 1 and 5 March the mobile clinic will be in Kolkhos Telman, near the Afghan border. The medical team also intends to survey the need for medical care in the area around Kolkhos Kropskaya where there are reportedly a large number of displaced and returnees.

Since mid-December the ICRC has regularly distributed food supplies, hygiene products and clothing to tens of thousands of displaced within Tajikistan.

SRI LANKA
Third boat to carry assistance to Jaffna peninsula

A third boat has been added to the fleet conveying supplies to the population of the Jaffna peninsula, bringing the amount of assistance transported there per month to 10,000 tonnes. The Mercs. Waduwa, with a capacity of 4,000 tonnes, is currently being loaded in Colombo with flour, rice, sugar, lentils, kerosene and petrol. The ICRC provides protection for the three boats which carry food and other essentials provided by the Sri Lankan government for the 800,000 civilians cut off from the rest of the country because of the conflict in the north. Two new barges will help to discharge the cargo at Point Pedro, the only point on the peninsula in an LTTE zone which is still accessible.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC assists Muslims driven out of Sipovo

Muslims in Sipovo, a village south of Banja Luka, are being pressured into leaving their homes to go to Travnik and Zenica. To reach these areas they must travel the heavily mined road between their village and Turbe. At the request of the ICRC, UNPROFOR de-mined this road. The institution also formally appealed to Bosnian Serbs to allow safe passage to civilians who wished to leave through the Serb-controlled area.

On 26 February ICRC workers stationed in Travnik, about five kilometres beyond Turbe, provided about 2,000 new arrivals with blankets and some food. Negotiations were also held with the authorities in Travnik to prepare accommodation and food for the displaced people.
SOMALIA
Kitchens keep going
Violent demonstrations affected a restricted part of Mogadishu on 24 and 25 February and prevented expatriate aid workers from carrying out their work. Nevertheless the ICRC’s communal kitchens programme went on unhindered, thanks to the Somalia Red Crescent Society and the ICRC’s local employees who were able to bring the daily supplies to each kitchen.

RWANDA
Thousands still on the move
An estimated 860,000 people have been displaced by the fighting in the north of the country. Some have settled in five makeshift camps, others are still looking for shelter.

The ICRC operates two mobile teams near the front line, keeping track of the movements of the civilian population and giving assistance wherever possible. A hundred sick and wounded have been evacuated from the conflict zones to hospital.

The ICRC has delivered 27 tonnes of urgent medical supplies to the hospitals in Kigali and those dispensaries which are still open in rural areas. In the civilian hospital in Rwanda’s capital an ICRC surgical team has carried out over 70 operations. The ICRC has also handed over medical supplies in the zone held by the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

In spite of the problems posed by the exodus from the countryside, the institution has already distributed around 1,000 tonnes of food supplies in the prefectures of Kigali, Byumba and Ruhengeri.

In collaboration with the World Food Programme, the ICRC is currently establishing a food pipeline from Uganda via Tanzania, which will allow over 7,000 tonnes of beans and cereals to get through to the displaced every month. The ICRC now has 24 expatriates posted in Rwanda.

ZAIRE
Red Cross takes assistance into surrounded parliament buildings
After negotiating with representatives of the army, the ICRC was able to furnish food, water and medicines to the Red Cross Society of Zaire for around 700 people who had been held by the army from 24 February in the parliament buildings in Kinshasa. The 700 were released on 26 February.

AFGHANISTAN
Local Red Crescent distribution to displaced in Kabul
The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), in collaboration with the ICRC, has made two distributions of wheat and food parcels to around 1,000 displaced people in Kabul in the Taimani and Qala-e-Fatullah districts. An ICRC delegate was present at the second distribution in order to guarantee security and ensure the smooth running of the operation. A delegate later met with ARCS representatives in order to discuss future distributions.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: PLENIPOTENTIARY MEETING HELD IN GENEVA

Representatives of the three parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina met in Geneva on 5 and 6 March under the auspices of the ICRC. They agreed orally to three points related to the release of detainees. Firstly, the ICRC is to hand over an operational plan by 9 March. Secondly, by 15 March the three parties should unconditionally agree to this plan as well as hand over the list of people accused of serious violations of international humanitarian law. Thirdly, by 28 March the parties to the conflict should unilaterally, unconditionally and simultaneously release some 2,700 detainees visited by the ICRC in 25 detention centres. The Bosnian Serb representatives added to this number those people held in Zvornik and Visegrad, places of detention to which the ICRC has not yet had access.

CAUCASUS
IHL seminars for high-ranking officers
For the first time an ICRC delegate specialized in the dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL) to the armed forces, and a dissemination delegate in the field, organized IHL seminars for high-ranking Russian officers based in Armenia, Georgia and North Ossetia. The ICRC delegate also promoted IHL among combatants involved in the fighting over Nagorny-Karabakh. During the last 12 months the ICRC has repeatedly urged the parties to the conflict to respect the fundamental principles of IHL, particularly with regard to the protection of civilians, wounded combatants and prisoners of war.

LIBERIA
First visits to detainees held by ULIMO
Between 12 and 25 February ICRC delegates conducted a series of visits to ten detainees held at the ULIMO (United Liberation Movement) military prison of Tubmanburg, 60 kilometres north of Monrovia. The delegates brought supplies in the form of blankets, buckets, barrels, cups, plates, spoons, detergent, soap and mops. The delegates also organized a dissemination session in Tubmanburg for ULIMO officers. The success of the exercise was confirmed later when an officer at an ULIMO checkpoint in Bomi explained to his soldiers that the ICRC is a neutral and impartial organization.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Seminars on war surgery held in Banja Luka and Zenica
A seminar on war surgery was held for 20 Bosnian Muslim surgeons on 6 March in Zenica, demonstrating ICRC techniques which are particularly valuable for surgeons working in first-aid posts near the front lines. A previous seminar had been held on 27 February for 25 Bosnian Serb doctors in Banja Luka. One of the participants took the initiative to translate the ICRC war-surgery manual into Serbo-Croat. It will be published locally and distributed widely to doctors regardless of their ethnic origin.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Evaluation of situation in Cerska and Konjevic Polje
On 6 March an ICRC delegate conducted a survey of several towns in eastern Bosnia. The town of Cerska was found to be empty, but in nearby Konjevic Polje around 120 wounded should be evacuated. In Srebrenica 100 seriously wounded should also be evacuated while 2,000 others require medical care.
A meeting was held with the Bosnian Serb authorities in Zvornik in order to obtain permission to carry out these evacuations. However, different conditions imposed by local authorities have postponed the process.
In anticipation of these evacuations taking place, the ICRC has provided Tuzla hospital, which will treat the wounded, with medical and surgical supplies.

DJIBOUTI
ICRC visits soldiers held by FRUD
On 4 March an ICRC delegate visited 28 soldiers of the national Djibouti army being held by the FRUD (Front for the Restoration of Democracy) at the military fort of Assa-Gueyla, north of Djibouti. The delegate handed over packages and money given by the detainees' families. An ICRC doctor has been stationed in the area since 3 March in order to assess the medical needs of the civilians. The ICRC has already provided one tonne of medical supplies to the field dispensaries in this FRUD-controlled zone.
The ICRC recently evacuated two wounded FRUD soldiers from the FRUD-held zone in the north of the country to the French military hospital in Djibouti. The ICRC had previously reached an agreement with all parties concerned allowing the wounded rebel combatants safe passage to and from the hospital. An ICRC plane also evacuated ten civilians in need of hospitalization to the government hospitals in Djibouti.

ANGOLA
Visits completed to Sao Paulo prison
Last month the ICRC conducted a series of visits to the prison of Sao Paulo in Luanda. ICRC delegates visited a total of 436 UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) detainees and provided them with a monthly food parcel of rice, beans and oil.
Since mid-November, when the ICRC recommenced prison visits in the capital, the institution has distributed more than 700 Red Cross messages from the people visited.

MEDIA 7 is published by the International Committee of the Red Cross
19, Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland
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DJIBOUTI: ICRC SENDS FLYING DOCTORS

Military operations in Djibouti have increased since the beginning of the year. Following recent clashes in Obok the ICRC sent a flying surgical team, consisting of a surgeon, anaesthetist and two nurses, to Assa-Gueyla on 16 March to treat the wounded as rapidly as possible. An ICRC doctor in the FRUD (Front for the Restoration of Democracy) zone has already identified at least ten people needing urgent surgical attention.

TAJIKISTAN
ICRC expands assistance to civilians

Since the beginning of its relief operation in Tajikistan in December 1992 the ICRC has reached more than 188,000 beneficiaries in the three areas most severely affected by the conflict: Dushanbe and the surrounding area, Hatlon province in the south (formerly Kurgan Tyube and Kulyab provinces) and the Garm Valley.

The ICRC has distributed more than 14,500 supplementary food parcels (rice, beans, oil, sugar, tea), as well as soap, over 450 tonnes of wheat and 115 tonnes of non-food items such as blankets, plastic sheeting, winter clothing and footwear.

The beneficiaries of these distributions are mainly displaced people or returnees who have often found their homes in ruins.

SOMALIA
Six children reunited with their mother

On 4 March six children from Mogadishu were reunited with their mother in Italy after months of separation. The ICRC was able to arrange for the visa necessary for the children to be able to fly to Nairobi by ICRC plane. They then travelled on to Europe.

The ICRC is occasionally able to reunite children with their parents living abroad and husbands and wives separated by the conflict. However, the ICRC’s tracing agency’s main activity is distributing Red Cross messages, since postal services have broken down. With 27 offices throughout the country and ten others in neighbouring Kenya the ICRC is able to distribute between 15,000 and 20,000 messages per month. Somalis are thus able to contact relatives living in other parts of Somalia, in neighbouring Ethiopia and Kenya and further afield.

Every month the ICRC, in cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent Society, also traces around 400 people separated from their close relatives by the conflict.

SOMALIA
ICRC water and sanitation programme

Since the beginning of ICRC involvement in Somalia, ICRC water and sanitation engineers have focused their activities on places with large concentrations of people, such as camps for the displaced and the area around sources of water as well as on community kitchens and hospitals. Since January 1992 the teams in Somalia have dug a total of 192 wells and over 900 pit latrines, mainly in camps for displaced people. Five boreholes have been completely rehabilitated and 20 others in Mogadishu supplied with fuel to run their generators. Over 500 energy-saving stoves have been distributed to the kitchens in order to reduce wood consumption.
ICRC engineers have recruited cleaning teams among the displaced on a food-for-work basis. In addition, several town cleaning campaigns have been organized and thousands of animal carcasses buried with the help of volunteers from the Somali Red Crescent Society.

During the next three months the ICRC will concentrate its efforts on rural areas and regions where no other humanitarian organization is present.

EL SALVADOR
ICRC closes delegation
Owing to the implementation of the peace agreement the situation in El Salvador is now returning to normal. After being present in the country for the past 13 years, the ICRC closed its delegation on 15 March. The regional delegate for Central America based in Costa Rica will continue to maintain contact with the authorities and carry out regular ICRC activities such as dissemination of international humanitarian law and support to the National Red Cross Society.

FINLAND
ICRC President meets high-ranking officials
ICRC President Mr Cornelio Sommaruga visited Finland between 6 and 8 March at the invitation of the Finnish Red Cross. He gave an address to members of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, members of parliament, representatives of the Finnish Defence Forces and journalists.

Mr Sommaruga also met the Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr Jaakko Blomberg, the Under-Secretary of State for Development Cooperation, Mr Mauri Eggert, and the Prime Minister, Mr Esko Aho. The ICRC President asked for support in implementing international humanitarian law (IHL), repeating that humanitarian operations should be respected and facilitated as an entity separate from political and military activities.
SUDAN: GOVERNMENT SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ICRC

On 21 March the Sudanese Government and the ICRC signed a memorandum of understanding on ICRC activities in southern Sudan.

Following this agreement the ICRC submitted a plan concerning the resumption of its protection and assistance work to the parties to the conflict in southern Sudan. The ICRC hopes to be able to take up its traditional tasks as soon as possible. These include visits to detainees, tracing work relating to families separated by the conflict and assistance and protection activities for the civilian population.

SOMALIA
ICRC evacuates expatriate staff from Mogadishu North

The ICRC decided to pull out its 18 expatriate staff from Mogadishu North on 20 March following an armed robbery, during which two delegates were held at gunpoint at the ICRC sub-delegation and forced to hand over USD 180,000 from the safe. This incident, together with the lack of security and difficult working conditions which have prevailed over the last few weeks, obliged the ICRC to withdraw its expatriates.

The Somali Red Crescent Society is carrying on with medical and relief activities in Mogadishu North. The ICRC is still present in Somalia and its relief effort continues in Mogadishu South, Baidoa, Kismayo, Bardera, Merca, Belet Huen, Garoe, Hargeysa and Berbera.

ETHIOPIA
Release of detainees

On 20 March the ICRC, in cooperation with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), began supervising the release and return home of around 12,000 detainees from the Dedessa camp. The ERCS is responsible for transporting the detainees, most of whom are OLF (Oromo Liberation Front) prisoners, from the Dedessa camp to their homes. The ICRC provided the National Society with food supplies to be distributed to the ex-detainees during the journey.

Although detainees have been released from the Hurso camp neither the ICRC nor the ERCS have provided transport. However, since 18 March an ICRC team has been visiting people still held in both camps.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC receives replies to its plan of action for the release of detainees

Following the meeting between plenipotentiary representatives of the three parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina held in Geneva on 5 and 6 March, the ICRC has received replies to its proposed plan of action. The Bosnian Croats were the only party to agree unconditionally to the plan, which provides for the release of all detainees by 28 March. The Bosnian Serbs and Muslims confirmed their agreement to the plan in principle but expressed some reservations.

The ICRC has no intention of abandoning its plan of action and trusts that the release operation will proceed as soon as possible.
ICRC EMPLOYEE DISCOVERS LONG-LOST SON

On 29 March a file landed on the desk of a secretary at the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva. It concerned a request from a Cambodian to find his sister in France - and the secretary in question was the young man's mother! Norin had been separated from his mother at the age of 17 when he had stayed behind in Mongkol Borei, a town held by the Khmer Rouge. After the death of her husband and her other two sons, Xuan Morin fled to Vietnam with her youngest child in a desperate bid to save their lives. Thanks to the ICRC Xuan, a Cambodian of French nationality, was able to join two daughters in France in 1979.

After years of trying to trace her son Norin, Xuan never lost hope and reactivated the case. It was only by chance that she discovered his whereabouts this week. She hopes to be reunited with Norin as soon as possible, to make up for the 15 lost years.

ROMANIA
ICRC delegation closed

The ICRC closed its delegation in Bucharest on 31 March as the current situation in the country rendered a permanent presence unnecessary.

The ICRC's delegation in Bucharest was opened in December 1989 during the fall of the Ceaucescu regime. Thanks to an unprecedented mobilization of the entire Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, assistance was distributed throughout the country to all victims of the internal disturbances. The ICRC also conducted visits to detainees and monitored developments in the humanitarian situation.

This was the first major humanitarian operation in eastern Europe. At the height of its activity the ICRC had 34 delegates working in the field.

The ICRC will continue to maintain regular contacts with the Romanian authorities and to carry out traditional ICRC activities such as tracing and the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC medical activities in Tuzla

During the evacuation of the war-wounded from Srebrenica, the ICRC nurse based in Tuzla was present at the centre set up to receive them. The centre has received medicines worth more than CHF 60,000 from the ICRC to help it cope with this emergency.

Since December 1992 the ICRC has been stockpiling emergency supplies in its warehouse in Tuzla. An ICRC nurse regularly visits eight field hospitals along the front line, giving medical care and bringing supplies for the treatment of the wounded.

The central hospital in Tuzla has also received medical assistance from the ICRC. A survey has just been conducted in the psychiatric hospital where the ICRC will be carrying out renovation work. Medicines, clothes and sanitation materials have already been supplied to this institution.

In the area around Tuzla an ICRC sanitation engineer has conducted an emergency water treatment programme in order to prevent epidemics of diarrhoeal diseases.
CAMBODIA
Dissemination of IHL to Khmer Rouge
For the first time ICRC delegates were able to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) among people in the zone held by the Khmer Rouge. For four days delegates visited villages north of Banteay Chmar, in Banteay Meanchey province, where they were warmly welcomed by community leaders, combatants and the local population. The team showed a video programme explaining the importance of the Red Cross emblem, the activities of the ICRC and its methods of work and basic rules of IHL.
ICRC delegates based in Phnom Penh have also promoted IHL to the government’s armed forces and various UN contingents.

TAJIKISTAN
ICRC survey in Garm Valley
Between 19 and 23 March ICRC delegates conducted a survey in the valleys of Garm, Tavildara and Sagirdascht to assess the needs of the displaced and resident population as well as to distribute medical assistance to the hospitals in the area.
The delegates were informed of the presence of more than 5,000 displaced people in and around Hoyt, 7,000 in the Tavildara area, 3,000 in Sagirdascht and 20,000 in the Kalai-Khum region. ICRC delegates reported to the local authorities some allegations of misconduct on the part of the militia towards the civilian population.
The ICRC will concentrate its future efforts in the severely affected areas around Hoyt, Garm and Sagirdascht.

ICRC aid for the displaced
The ICRC has distributed plastic sheeting and emergency food supplies to some 8,000 displaced people who had been forced to leave Dushanbe and return to the district of Kabodyon, in the south of the country. The ICRC, in cooperation with the UNHCR, has approached the Tajik government to discuss their forced return and their present situation.

VENEZUELA
Visits to detainees
Between 22 and 30 March two ICRC delegates and a doctor visited a total of 132 detainees in San Carlos, Santa Ana and Yare prisons. The delegates repeated their visits to 43 detainees held in connection with the attempted coup of 4 February 1992 and for the first time visited 86 people detained following the attempted coup of 27 November and three others in relation to the events of 4 February. The visits were conducted according to normal ICRC criteria.
AZERBAIJAN: ICRC ASSISTANCE TO POPULATION Fleeing FIGHTING IN KELBAJAR

Three teams of ICRC delegates and medical staff are undertaking an important emergency relief operation for the victims of the recent fighting in the Kelbajar region. Since 1 April ICRC delegates have distributed some 10,000 blankets, hundreds of pairs of shoes and winter clothing to the civilian population which is crossing on foot the mountainous region of Mourovdar. Hundreds of women and children in a very weak condition have been evacuated by ICRC landcruisers.

The ICRC is also distributing medical supplies to first-aid posts on the mountain pass and to the hospitals in Dashkesan and Khanlar, two towns where the displaced are being assembled by the authorities.

The ICRC is at present taking steps to increase its relief supplies to the Kelbajar region in order to assist the remaining civilian population. The ICRC is also seeking access to all combatants and civilians detained in connection with the fighting.

SOMALIA
ICRC activities in central Somalia
Since mid-March two ICRC relief administrators have been based in Dusa Mareb, a town in the semi-arid area of central Somalia which has been stricken by drought for the last three years. The ICRC has distributed 300 tonnes of food supplies to 19 villages in the region.

Following a survey carried out by a water and sanitation team the ICRC has just begun rehabilitating four boreholes and distributing spare parts for a number of others in Galgadud and Mudug.

In addition, three veterinary teams are conducting a vaccination campaign and treating livestock for parasites in Dusa Mareb, Harardere and Obbia.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC resumes family reunions
In mid-March the ICRC resumed family reunions which had been suspended since the end of January owing to the outbreak of hostilities in the south of the country.

Six family members from Banja Luka were able to join their husbands and fathers in Croatia on 16 March. Three days later the ICRC transported 36 women and children from Zenica to Split so that they could be reunited with their husbands and fathers in the Czech Republic.

On 29 March the ICRC accompanied nine family members from Zenica to Split for resettlement in Finland where their relatives had already been accepted. On the same day, the institution took 28 wives and children from Bihac to Karlovac to join their relatives in the Czech Republic.

Family reunions remain a priority for the ICRC in Bosnia-Herzegovina. For instance, in the last three months of 1992 over 750 people were reunited with their families in Belgrade, Split and Zagreb. In addition, the ICRC helps to restore contact between families separated by the conflict. An average of 50,000 Red Cross messages are forwarded every week.
MOLDOVA
ICRC visits detainees
On 29 and 30 March two ICRC delegates conducted visits to six detainees, known as the "Ilascu Group", who are awaiting trial. Negotiations, which began in July 1992, finally bore fruit when delegates received authorization from the Transdniestrian authorities to visit the six, who are held in two detention centres in Tiraspol. The visits were conducted in accordance with ICRC standard criteria.

SRI LANKA
ICRC supervises release of prisoners
The ICRC supervised the release of five prisoners on 31 March in two different areas. Two Muslim fishermen captured at sea by the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) were handed over to ICRC delegates in Alampil and accompanied to Anuradhapura. They then continued on to Trincomalee where they were reunited with their families.

Three other Muslim Tamils were brought to Jaffna and handed over to the ICRC sub-delegation. Two of them had been captured by the LTTE between Mannar Island and the coast and the third was unknown to the ICRC. Under the protection of the ICRC they were accompanied to Pallali, from where they were able to return to their homes on Mannar Island.

URUGUAY
Seminar for South American armed forces
Between 29 March and 2 April the ICRC Regional Delegation based in Buenos Aires, in cooperation with the Uruguay Defence Ministry, organized in Punta del Este the first seminar for the sub-continent's armed forces. Almost all South American countries were present and most of the delegations were led by a general and composed of those responsible for training and operations. The seminar was inaugurated by the Uruguay Defence Minister, and the ICRC Delegate General for Latin America addressed the participants on the main challenges faced by the ICRC and international humanitarian law today.

CHILE
Visits to detainees
Between 15 and 31 March, ICRC delegates based in the Regional Delegation in Buenos Aires and a doctor conducted a series of visits to 19 detention centres where they registered 47 new detainees and revisited 113. These visits were conducted in accordance with the ICRC's customary working procedures.
RWANDA: URGENT ICRC APPEAL FOR CHF 111.8 MILLION

On 13 April the ICRC launched an urgent appeal for an extra CHF 111.8 million for its operations in Rwanda, bringing the total 1993 budget for the country to CHF 127.5 million. The ICRC, in cooperation with the Rwandan Red Cross, the Belgian Red Cross and the World Food Programme, aims to bring assistance to 900,000 displaced people who are afraid to return to their homes in the most fertile parts of the country.

The displaced, living in makeshift camps and dependent on outside food aid for survival, desperately need clean water to combat recent dysentery outbreaks. An ICRC sanitary engineer has started water and sanitation programmes for more than 100,000 people living in the Nyacyonga and Rusine camps. The programmes make maximum use of mobile units in case the displaced move on.

The revised budget should allow the ICRC to provide a surgical team, plus two field nurses, a medical coordinator and a nutritionist. Since the beginning of February an ICRC surgical team has performed 227 operations in the main hospital in Kigali and medical personnel have evacuated the wounded from the front line.

The Belgian Red Cross will be in charge of the non-food and medical assistance programme.

The ICRC, with 20 expatriates and 53 local employees, distributed 2,300 tonnes of cereals, beans and cooking oil last week. However, it is estimated that around 13,000 tonnes of food a month are needed to provide a daily ration of 2,400 calories.

SOMALIA
ICRC replaces kitchen programme with dry food distribution

The ICRC intends to reduce the overall scale of its community kitchen programme owing to the recent influx of other humanitarian agencies involved in food relief and the stabilization of the population's nutritional status. Most of the community kitchens are being replaced in favour of the distribution of dry food rations.

The ICRC, which provided around 178,000 tonnes of food in 1992, has already closed its delegation in Bardera and is gradually reducing the number of kitchens in Mogadishu. Some kitchens will remain open to cater for beneficiaries with no other means of survival.

In future, the ICRC intends to focus its efforts on medical, tracing and detention activities.

PAKISTAN/AFGHANISTAN
ICRC closes hospital in Peshawar

On 10 April the ICRC closed its hospital in Peshawar (Pakistan) as part of its programme to transfer medical activities to Afghanistan. The hospital was opened in 1981 and since then ICRC doctors have treated around 25,500 war wounded.

The ICRC began renovating the surgical department of the Public Health Hospital in Jalalabad in October 1992. An expatriate surgical team consisting of a surgeon, an anaesthetist, an operating theatre nurse and two ward nurses treated
349 war wounded there in the first three months of this year. Sixty per cent of patients were victims of mines.

The ICRC has 26 expatriates working in Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat.

SWITZERLAND
Mines symposium in Montreux
Between 21 and 23 April the ICRC will hold a symposium on landmines, bringing together over 60 international experts - representatives of humanitarian agencies, arms manufacturers, government officials, mine clearance specialists, military officers, doctors and lawyers. A report will be drawn up on the magnitude of the problem and practical measures to limit the use of these lethal weapons. Particular emphasis will be placed on coordinating efforts and enforcing current legislation.

MALI
ICRC protection and medical activities
While tension between the Mali government and the Tuareg movements in the north has eased since a national pact was signed in April 1992, the ICRC has continued its traditional activities such as visits to detainees held by both parties, the exchange of messages between Tuareg refugees and their families in Mali and dissemination of international humanitarian law. The ICRC is also rehabilitating isolated health posts north-west of Timbuktu which have been seriously affected by the conflict.

In order to contribute to the implementation of the peace process the ICRC is organizing a seminar for the medical personnel of all rebel movements in the country’s capital, Bamako, as well as the first meeting for two years between local authorities and civilian representatives of all ethnic groups in the north.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC visits fourth prison in the Sarajevo area
On 3 April ICRC delegates visited Hraskica prison, a detention centre under Muslim control. The delegates registered 28 Serb detainees and held private interviews with them.

To date the ICRC have visited 232 detainees held by Bosnian Serbs or Muslims in four detention centres in the Sarajevo area.
SOUTH AFRICA: ICRC AND NATIONAL SOCIETY PROVIDE FIRST AID

To cover any incidents in connection with the funeral of Chris Hani, more than 80 Red Cross volunteers and ICRC delegates were on duty at the Soweto Stadium, Germiston Cemetery and Dawn Park on 19 April. A first-aid tent was set up at the stadium where the injured and sick were treated. In all, the ICRC and employees of the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) took 30 casualties to hospital and treated dozens on the spot.

This Red Cross operation took place in the Rand region during the weekend owing to the fact that official ambulances were unwelcome and the normal paramedical teams were reluctant to enter areas of unrest. ICRC delegates and field workers were well received by the mourners.

Throughout the country Red Cross ambulances evacuated more than 30 seriously injured people and first-aid teams treated hundreds of minor cases.

During the week preceding Chris Hani's funeral ICRC and SARCS first-aid teams were on duty at rallies and memorial marches throughout South Africa.

AFGHANISTAN
Hospital under fire
On 16 April four rockets were fired at the surgical hospital of Karte Seh in Kabul, formerly run by the ICRC. The attack took place during visiting hours, causing the death of three people and wounding 44 others. The victims were treated on the spot.

The ICRC Head of Delegation immediately contacted a representative from the Ministry of Defence to protest against the attack and to demand respect for the neutrality of hospitals under all circumstances. The delegation also addressed a note of protest to the Afghan President and to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Health.

PAKISTAN
Record admissions at Quetta hospital
Following the recent fighting in the Afghan town of Kandahar, 400 kilometres south of Kabul, the ICRC hospital in Quetta (Pakistan) admitted 134 people and performed 124 operations between 15 and 21 April. ICRC staff were forced to accommodate some of the 143 inpatients in three tents and on the hospital's verandah. The ICRC is sending a third surgical team to help the two in place cope with the increased workload.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC medical team in Srebrenica
Following an agreement on the demilitarization of Srebrenica signed on 18 April under the auspices of the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR), for the first time the ICRC has sent two doctors, a nurse and a delegate to the town of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia to help in the triage of the sick and war-wounded, together with two Muslim and Serb doctors.
TAJIKISTAN
ICRC relief distributions to returnees
On 16 and 17 April the ICRC distributed 1,170 family parcels to around 5,850 beneficiaries in two villages in Bakhtar district, in the Hatlon province, and 82 tonnes of wheat grain to around 32,800 beneficiaries in the surrounding area. Delegates also handed out 3,000 family parcels to around 15,000 returnees who had recently come back to their homes in the Kabodyon region.

Between 13 and 16 April ICRC delegates completed their fourth mission in the Garm Valley. In the neighbouring Jazman Valley, an isolated area where the authorities have refused to assist the displaced, the ICRC provided 30 tonnes of wheat flour to around 2,560 beneficiaries. Aid was also handed out at the soup kitchens in Obigarm and Sitcharuk.

In Leninsky, in the Dushanbe area, the ICRC distributed 297 family parcels to 1,640 beneficiaries.

URUGUAY
IHL lectures for diplomats
Between 12 and 15 April the ICRC Regional Delegation in Buenos Aires organized three talks for future diplomats from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on international humanitarian law (IHL) and the ICRC’s principal activities.

In addition, the Regional Delegate for Latin America gave talks on the ICRC’s activities to the Presidents of the International Affairs Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate.
AZERBAIJAN: ICRC MISSION TO KELBAJAR

On 19 April an ICRC team from Stepanakert composed of a medical coordinator and a delegate conducted a survey in the Kelbajar region to ensure that all people captured since the town was taken had been transferred to Stepanakert, and to assess the needs of any civilians remaining in the area.

According to local authorities, all prisoners captured during recent fighting had been transferred to the Nagorny-Karabakh capital. Between 1 and 26 April ICRC delegates were authorized to register and interview combatants and civilians held in Stepanakert. Some of the detainees were wounded. An ICRC doctor took the necessary measures to ensure that these people received appropriate treatment.

The ICRC team found the towns in the area to be virtually deserted, apart from looters searching for valuables and taking anything they came across. The ICRC contacted the authorities to protest against this lack of respect for civilian possessions.

In the Barda district the ICRC distributed 966 family parcels and clothing to around 4,000 people who had fled the Kelbajar region.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC returns to Srebrenica

Two ICRC doctors returned to Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia on 25 April to take part, together with two Muslim and two Serb doctors, in the triage of the sick and the war wounded. Subsequently, 151 people were evacuated by the UN to Tuzla where they are receiving medical treatment.

An ICRC sanitation engineer conducted an evaluation of the sanitary conditions in the besieged town. In view of the appalling conditions in Srebrenica and the growing risk of epidemics he sent an urgent request for equipment, which should arrive in the very near future.

Central Bosnia

ICRC delegates based in Zenica visited and registered 374 detainees held by the Bosnian government forces (BIH) and 289 people detained by the Bosnian Croat forces (HVO) in Zenica and Vitez respectively on 22 April. The detainees were being held in connection with the recent fighting between the two parties in central Bosnia.

On 24 April the ICRC was able to organize the first relief convoy from Split to Zenica since the upsurge of violence in central Bosnia. Seven of the twelve trucks were carrying medical supplies. The convoy arrived safely in Zenica and returned to Split without incident.

SWITZERLAND
Experts discuss the problem of mines

Between 21 and 23 April the ICRC held a symposium on landmines in Montreux, Switzerland, bringing together over 65 representatives of humanitarian agencies, arms manufacturers, government officials, mine clearance specialists, military officers, doctors and lawyers. The points under discussion included medical care and rehabilitation of the victims, mine clearance, possible measures to implement
the 1980 UN Convention on prohibitions or restrictions on certain conventional weapons, proposals for further rules of international humanitarian law, restrictions on the manufacture of landmines and ways of controlling the trade in and stockpiling of mines.

The ICRC will produce a report on the symposium’s findings and recommendations within the next few weeks.

In order to alert public opinion to the disastrous effects resulting from the widespread and indiscriminate use of landmines, the ICRC together with other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement launched an urgent international appeal on the subject.

MYANMAR
Dissemination course for the armed forces
Between 19 and 21 April, 28 officers of the Myanmar armed forces took part in an introductory course on the law of war. The participants were colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors from combat units, training institutes and the legal branch of the military. The course was given by the ICRC delegate to the armed forces based in Geneva, assisted by the ICRC regional delegate and the resident delegate in Yangon. The army, navy and air force chiefs of staff attended the opening ceremony.

IRAQ
Blood transfusion programme
Owing to the oil embargo and economic sanctions imposed on Iraq since August 1990 and the freezing of its assets abroad, the Iraqi authorities are having difficulty in purchasing medical supplies and medicines. The ICRC is currently providing assistance to the country’s 18 blood transfusion centres in the form of blood bags, tests for blood grouping, crossmatching, HIV and hepatitis B. This assistance, costing CHF 1 million, will continue during the next three months.
INDONESIA: ICRC PRESIDENT MEETS HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS

ICRC President Comelio Sommaruga is conducting an official visit to Indonesia from 1 to 7 May. On 3 May Mr Sommaruga, together with the Delegate General for Asia and the regional delegate, met the country's President, Mr Suharto, the President of the Indonesian Red Cross Society, Mr Sutuwo, and the Coordinating Minister for Political Affairs and Security, Mr Soedarman. The matters raised included East Timor and Aceh. A memorandum on the ICRC's activities in East Timor between 1975 and 1993 was handed to Mr Soedarman.

The ICRC President also met General Sudradjat, with whom he discussed problems encountered by ICRC delegates in the field, visits to Aceh and the organization of courses on international humanitarian law for the armed forces.

Mr Sommaruga stated that the ICRC was planning to close its office in Irian Jaya but that delegates would continue to carry out ad hoc activities from Djakarta, including visits to Irianese detainees and the provision of assistance to Irianese refugees in Papua New Guinea who want to return to Irian Jaya.

The ICRC President expressed his wish to open an office in Aceh, in northern Sumatra, and stressed that it is not yet time to close the Dili office in East Timor.

Mr Sommaruga plans to visit East Timor during the course of his visit to Indonesia.

SOUTH AFRICA
Red Cross vehicles stolen
Two vans clearly marked with the Red Cross emblem were hijacked by armed men in Vosloorus, East Rand, and Evaton, Vaal, respectively on 23 and 28 April. One belonged to the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) and the other was an ICRC vehicle. Both had been used in joint SARCS-ICRC relief activities for victims of the violence in the Johannesburg region.

During the first three months of this year the ICRC and the SARCS assisted over 5,000 victims of the disturbances throughout the country. Staff of the two organizations are present in the "townships" in the Reef area on a daily basis. Their medical services are often the only ones available when clashes break out.

The theft of two vehicles protected by the emblem is a serious violation of the trust and confidence which are preconditions for this vital Red Cross operation. The SARCS and the ICRC have called on all political groups, security forces and the public to ensure that the neutrality of the Red Cross is respected.

ZAIRED Red Cross action continues in Shaba region
Following the recent upsurge of violence in and around Kolwezi in the Shaba region and in spite of the recent departure of thousands of Kasaians, there are still more than 30,000 displaced people at Kolwezi's railway station and in schools. In view of the deteriorating nutritional situation, the ICRC provided a local religious organization with food for around 500 children. ICRC delegates also gave basic
food supplies to displaced people returning by train to Kasai.

More than 50 volunteers of the Red Cross Society of Zaire have been working night and day to treat the wounded in Kolwezi and Tenke. The ICRC provided the hospitals in the area with basic medical supplies. In addition to distributions of food and medical supplies, the ICRC handed out blankets to the displaced people in Kolwezi and Likasi, where the ICRC is continuing its food relief programme for over 60,000 displaced people.

IRAQ
Sanitation survey
Between 10 and 24 April an ICRC sanitation engineer conducted a survey of water and sewage treatment stations in Baghdad, Hillah, Najaf, Karbela, Kut, Amara and Basra. The aim of the visit was to assess the situation in these governorates, where there is a high risk of epidemics because of inadequate sewage disposal and water supply systems.

Owing to the oil embargo and economic sanctions imposed on Iraq since August 1990 and the freezing of its assets abroad, the Iraqi authorities are having difficulty in purchasing the spare parts needed to keep water and sewage treatment stations in working order. In addition, staff are often not in a position to carry out regular maintenance of existing equipment.

To face the huge need for spare parts and to keep water distribution and sewage disposal at the present level, the ICRC plans to provide Iraq with the most urgently needed spare parts and supervise their installation.

The ICRC will visit the country's remaining governorates during the second stage of this operation.

THAILAND
Closure of sub-delegation in Aranyaprathet
The ICRC President will hand over the premises of its sub-delegation in Aranyaprathet, near the Cambodian border, to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Executive Vice-President of the Thai Red Cross Society, on 9 May. The ICRC will keep a small office in the town to maintain the ICRC's contacts along the border and to provide operational support for the ICRC's delegation in Phnom Penh, the sub-delegation in Mongkol Borei and the orthopaedic centre in Battambang.

JORDAN
Symposium in Amman
Between 4 and 6 May the ICRC held a symposium on the implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) in Amman. The participants included lawyers, editors, writers, journalists and professors from North Africa, the Middle East and the Arabian Peninsula who intend to promote IHL principles. The three-day symposium covered IHL, its implementation and its promotion. ICRC delegates took advantage of the opportunity to review the ICRC's activities on behalf of war victims and the challenges encountered by the ICRC today. The symposium closed with a round-table discussion on ways of raising awareness of humanitarian challenges.
SUDAN: ICRC RESUMES ITS ACTIVITIES AFTER ONE YEAR'S ABSENCE

As a result of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 21 March 1993 by the Sudanese Government, the ICRC was able to make its first flight into southern Sudan on 10 May after operations in the region were suspended a year ago. Two ICRC delegates and two doctors are currently assessing the situation in and around Juba, mainly in camps for displaced people and in the town’s hospitals and dispensaries, where medical supplies will be distributed.

Over the next few weeks the ICRC will carry out a detailed survey of 14 different locations in Upper Nile and Equatoria provinces controlled either by the Sudanese Government or by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army factions.

The ICRC plans to visit detainees held in connection with the conflict, offer tracing services for families which have been split up in the fighting, provide medical care to the wounded and evacuate serious cases to referral hospitals in southern Sudan or to the ICRC hospital in Lokichokio (north-west Kenya).

The ICRC intends to re-establish a permanent presence in Juba, from where it will carry out cross-line operations where necessary. The ICRC’s logistical base and hospital in Lokichokio will continue to serve as a centre of ICRC activity for the operation in southern Sudan.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
First mission to Gorazde in eastern Bosnia

For the first time the ICRC has been able to send two delegates and a doctor to Gorazde. Between 5 and 7 May the team distributed thousands of Red Cross messages to the civilian population, visited 30 Bosnian Serb detainees held by the Bosnian government forces and carried out an evaluation of the situation in the town. The team is expected to return to the area this week in order to provide relief assistance for around 10,000 people.

ICRC visits some 1,900 detainees in central Bosnia

Since 22 April ICRC delegates have visited around 1,900 detainees, arrested as a result of the clashes between the Bosnian Croat forces (HVO) and the Bosnian government army (BIH), in 16 detention centres around Zenica and Vitez.

The ICRC supervised the release of some 800 of these 1,900 detainees. More than 270 were released on the spot.

Rehabilitation project in Sarajevo

The ICRC has initiated a rehabilitation project in Sarajevo to help war wounded, particularly victims with spinal injuries. On 4 May the ICRC and the Sarajevo University Clinic signed an agreement concerning the establishment and running of a rehabilitation centre in Bosnia-Herzegovina’s capital.

In cooperation with the Norwegian Red Cross the ICRC will supervise and pay for the restoration of the former infectious diseases clinic in Sarajevo. The institution will also provide the necessary rehabilitation equipment and furniture.

Restoration will begin immediately, and the 60-bed centre should be finished in two months' time.
SWITZERLAND
ICRC to maintain pressure on landmine issue

The symposium on landmines held by the ICRC in Montreux, Switzerland, between 21 and 24 April brought together 66 specialists who agreed that it has become imperative to take stock of the human and environmental cost of anti-personnel mines in relation to their military effectiveness.

The participants asked the ICRC to initiate a dialogue with the armed forces on the military necessity for anti-personnel mines, particularly those that are undetectable and have no self-destruct mechanism, thus posing the most serious and long-term threat to civilians.

The ICRC agreed to step up its efforts to promote the implementation and development of the law pertaining to the use of landmines, the training of war surgeons and the provision of medical care and rehabilitation for mine victims.

The ICRC is also willing to convene meetings of experts to gather systematic and objective information for the Review Conference on the 1980 UN Weapons Convention, due to be held in 1994 or 1995.

THAILAND
ICRC President participates in anniversary celebrations

On 8 May, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, the ICRC President participated in the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS). Mr Sommaruga also attended a Marathon for Humanity organized by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.

During an official ceremony attended by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Mr Sommaruga made a speech to diplomats and various ministers, including the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

On 9 May the ICRC President handed over the premises of its sub-delegation in Aranyaprathet to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Executive Vice-President of the TRCS.

The ICRC opened its delegation in Thailand in 1975 and has been present in the country ever since. In close cooperation with the Thai Red Cross Society the ICRC has carried out its traditional activities mainly along the border with Cambodia.

SOMALIA
ICRC adapts food distribution policy

Owing to the mobilization of other international agencies, increased agricultural activity within the country and the subsequent radical improvement in the nutritional status of the Somali population, the ICRC is progressively reducing its food input to various locations in Somalia, including Baidoa, Belet Huen, Bardera and Mogadishu. However, in April the ICRC still provided over 15,000 tonnes of food supplies to vulnerable groups with no other means of survival.

The ICRC is distributing between 700 and 1,000 tonnes of dry rations a month to the displaced population in Kismayo and to institutions and the war wounded in northwest Somalia. Meanwhile, mobile kitchens are providing cooked food for around 7,000 displaced people living in camps in the Belet Huen area.

As other organizations are now taking over food distribution, the ICRC will concentrate on activities directly stemming from its mandate, such as tracing, visits to detainees and medical work.
CARNAGE IN KABUL:
ICRC ORGANIZES MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR WAR-WOUNDED

The Afghan capital has again become the theatre of fierce confrontation between various rival factions. The ICRC estimates at about 600 the number of lives claimed so far by six days of ground combat, rocket attacks and air raids. Since renewed fighting broke out on 12 May indiscriminate shelling has damaged many of Kabul's medical facilities. The hospitals that are still operating have admitted more than 3,200 casualties. Many of the wounded in the suburbs have been evacuated to Jalalabad, east of Kabul, where the ICRC supports the surgical department of the main hospital. The Karte Seh hospital in Kabul (formerly run by the ICRC and still entirely supported by it) was cut off by the fighting for three days. On 12 May the hospital came under heavy machine-gun fire injuring 11 patients and killing one. When delegates were finally able to reach it on 15 May with urgently needed medical supplies, there were 327 patients at the 280-bed hospital. The Wazir Akbar Khan hospital, the second ICRC-supported surgical facility in Kabul, sustained slight rocket damage, and several rockets partially destroyed the ICRC's orthopaedic centre, part of which had previously been evacuated.

Despite the extremely hazardous conditions in the city, the ICRC was able to distribute emergency medical supplies, blankets and mattresses to various hospitals and health facilities. Delegates evacuated 52 wounded people to nearby hospitals. The ICRC also regularly organizes convoys from Pakistan with humanitarian assistance, especially medical supplies, for distribution in the Afghan capital.

TAJIKISTAN
Survey and dissemination in Badakhshan
From 1 to 11 May three ICRC delegates and two interpreters conducted a survey and dissemination mission in Badakhshan, a mountainous autonomous region in eastern Tajikistan which harbours some 60,000 people displaced by the fighting in other parts of the country. During the ten-day mission they visited Khorog, Kalai-Khumb, Ishkashim and Vanch and carried out dissemination sessions on the law of war and the Red Cross principles for the various armed forces and police services present in Badakhshan. They also held talks with local authorities on the possible return of the displaced people, most of whom would now like to leave for their places of origin in Dushanbe and its surroundings and in the Hatlon Oblast in the south. The massive arrival of these people in 1992 and early 1993 has placed a heavy burden on the local economy and infrastructure in this isolated region. The ICRC has made contact with the authorities in Dushanbe and in Badakhshan with a view to ensuring that their return takes place in the best possible conditions.

GUINEA-BISSAU
ICRC visits detainees for first time
On 14 and 15 May ICRC delegates made their first ever visit to security detainees in Guinea-Bissau. The delegates were able to see all detainees held in connection with the abortive coup d'état of 17 March this year, in places of detention run by the army, the police and the navy. Visits were carried out according to standard ICRC criteria, and included interviews in private with the
detainees. Reports concerning conditions of detention will be submitted to the authorities concerned.

Zaire
Clashes in the east
Following violent clashes in the Kivu region of Zaire, hundreds of people are reported to have been killed and thousands more displaced. Subsequent to political tension in the region, recent armed confrontation between the indigenous population and people of Banyarwanda origin living in the Walikale and Masisi areas has resulted in large numbers of people fleeing their homes.

Delegates sent to Goma have been able to establish initial contacts with the local authorities and start evaluating the needs in and around the town. If the situation of instability persists, the ICRC plans to establish a presence in Goma in order to promote protection of the civilian population in the region. Food and other needs will most likely be covered by other organizations already present, although the ICRC may be called upon to help the Red Cross Society of Zaire cover urgent first-aid needs.

European Community and ICRC Reach Accord on Financing
On 18 May Mr. Manuel Marin, a member of the Commission of the European Community, and ICRC President Cornélia Sommaruga signed a financing agreement in Brussels. For over ten years the ICRC has maintained relations with the European Community, which is one of its main donors. This agreement should facilitate the handling of funding requests submitted by the ICRC to the Commission.

The ICRC maintains close relations with all of its main donors in order to ensure that it has a reliable base of funding.

Tracing Works:
Mother and son reunited in Geneva
At 8:15 this morning Mrs. Xuan Morin, a secretary at the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency in Geneva, was finally reunited with her son, Hak Norin, after 15 years of being separated by the war in Cambodia.

As we reported in Media 7 No. 98, Mrs. Morin learned the whereabouts of her son in late March while processing tracing requests for Cambodians.

Last year the ICRC Central Tracing Agency in which Xuan Morin works organized the reunion or transfer of people from over 1,500 families torn apart by war and internal conflict around the world and resolved 31,800 tracing cases, while forwarding over a million Red Cross messages to keep separated family members in touch when it would otherwise be impossible. This is the first time an employee has been reunited with a close family member under such circumstances. It serves as a poignant reminder of the usefulness of the agency's work.
SOUTH AFRICA:
RED CROSS HELPS DISPLACED, EVACUATES WOUNDED IN EAST RAND

Red Cross first-aid teams evacuated dozens of wounded and assisted large numbers of people displaced in the clashes in the East Rand that have claimed the lives of at least 50 people since the weekend.

When the fighting erupted during a march through Thokoza on 22 May, Red Cross first-aiders evacuated almost 70 wounded people to hospital. After renewed clashes on Monday, more than 200 people — mainly women and children — fled their homes to take shelter at Natalspruit hospital. The National Society has since provided them with food and blankets. Further evacuations took place after fighting broke out again on Tuesday. ICRC delegates as well as staff and three ambulances of the South African Red Cross have remained on alert.

ISRAEL/OCUPIED TERRITORIES
ICRC President’s official visit

Between 20 and 24 May ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga conducted an official visit to Israel and the occupied territories. Mr Sommaruga met Israel’s President, Mr Ezer Weizman, the Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, and high-ranking representatives of the Ministries for Foreign Affairs, Justice, Police and Defence.

The ICRC President reiterated the institution’s position concerning the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention. He raised issues related to the respect of civilian lives and private property by the security forces, the treatment of detainees under interrogation and the deportation policy. Other points under discussion included the policy of settlement and its consequences, access to all Lebanese nationals detained by the Israeli Government and the humanitarian consequences of the closure of the occupied territories.

During his stay in the West Bank and Gaza, Mr Sommaruga participated in a round-table discussion with various Palestinian representatives on issues related to international humanitarian law. He also met relatives of Israelis missing in action and was received by the Tel Aviv University for a talk on the humanitarian challenges faced by the ICRC.

CHINA
Fourth Asia and Pacific Regional Conference

Between 24 and 29 May the ICRC is taking part in the Fourth Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Beijing. The ICRC’s Vice-President, Mr Claudio Caratsch, and the Delegate General for Asia are presenting a report on the ICRC’s activities in the Asia and Pacific Region between 1985 and 1992.

The National Societies of the area are discussing disaster preparedness, including the dissemination of international humanitarian law, development and health issues.

AFGHANISTAN
Renewed violence in Kabul

Despite a peace agreement signed on 20 May in Jalalabad by the leaders of the main factions, the violence raged until Saturday in Kabul. More than 1,000 people have lost their lives and more than 4,500 have been
injured in heavy ground combat, rocket attacks and air raids since renewed fighting broke out on 12 May.

Indiscriminate shelling has severely damaged many of Kabul’s medical facilities, including the Karte Seh hospital (formerly run by the ICRC and still entirely supported by it) and the ICRC’s orthopaedic centre. The ICRC Head of Delegation in Kabul has appealed to the warring parties, urging them to respect medical personnel and installations. A cease-fire called on Sunday appears to be holding.

ICRC delegates continue to deliver monthly assistance to the Wazir Akbar Khan hospital, the second ICRC-supported surgical facility in Kabul, while emergency medical supplies, blankets, mattresses, food and generator fuel are provided to other medical facilities in the city.

ABKHAZIA

Military informed of rules of war

Between 17 and 20 May an ICRC delegate promoted international humanitarian law (IHL) to over 85 Abkhazian officers of the 23rd and 24th brigades. Seminars were presented by the ICRC in Sukhumi, Ochamchira and Gudauta, where the local press, members of the public, and local and national television also attended.

BHUTAN

Second series of prison visits

Between 17 and 24 May ICRC delegates conducted a second series of visits to two detention centres in Thimphu, the country’s capital. The delegates were able to carry out private interviews with the detainees. In addition, Red Cross messages were exchanged between detainees and their families during the visits.

GEORGIA

Meeting with President Shevardnadze

The ICRC’s Delegate General for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the Head of Delegation in Georgia met with President Shevardnadze at the presidential palace in Tbilisi earlier this month. They spoke of the overall situation in the Caucasus, touching briefly on the problem of hostage-taking since a number of Georgians are currently held in connection with the Armenian/Azerbaijani conflict, before addressing the humanitarian issues related to the conflict in Abkhazia. They also discussed the prospect of Georgia’s adherence to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols.

SYRIA

ICRC participates in Disaster Management Training Programme

The Head of Delegation in Amman (Jordan) was invited to take part in a training workshop on disaster management held from 16 to 20 May in Latakia (Syria). This workshop was organized by the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the American University of Beirut.

An ICRC relief expert informed those taking part about the ICRC’s activities, in particular the assistance given to displaced people during the Gulf war. Participants included representatives from all Syrian ministries affected by disaster management.
IRAN/IRAQ: PRISONERS OF WAR REPATRIATED

One hundred Iraqi POWs were repatriated on 28 May under the auspices of the ICRC. All the prisoners concerned had been captured during the 1980-88 war between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq. The operation took place at noon local time at the border crossing known as Khosravi-Mundharieh.

The Iranian authorities allowed the ICRC to work in accordance with its standard procedures. Two Arabic-speaking delegates from the delegation in Iraq crossed to Iran at the border point and were able to see each prisoner in private to establish whether they wished to be repatriated.

The ICRC welcomes this latest repatriation, but points out that to its knowledge almost 20,000 Iraqi POWs have still not been offered the opportunity to return to their homes. Moreover, the ICRC is still without news of several hundred Iranian POWs whose existence has been reported by people who were captured or detained with them.

RWANDA

Five hundred tonnes of food distributed daily

Over the past three months the ICRC adapted its food aid programme in Rwanda to meet the needs of 900,000 displaced people. The displaced are being assisted by the ICRC in thirty camps situated between the recently created demilitarized zone and the capital, Kigali.

Since 25 May a mobile ICRC medical team has been helping displaced people who have returned to the demilitarized area. Together with the Belgian Red Cross the team provides emergency medical assistance.

The ICRC also recently returned to the part of the country controlled by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) opposition, where delegates were able to visit prisoners held by the RPF and provide tracing services for displaced people. On 24 May the ICRC began a food assistance programme for 10,000 people in the RPF-controlled zone, targeted at women, children and the elderly. This programme is expected to continue for a two-month period, which should cover the needs until the next harvest. Some 3,500 blankets were also distributed in this area.

NORTHERN CAUCASUS

Surveys in Ingushetia and Ossetia

From 12 to 20 May ICRC delegates surveyed the needs of about 70,000 displaced Ingush people and approximately 40,000 Ossetians in Ingushetia and North Ossetia, respectively.

In Ingushetia, where one in four people are displaced, great stress has been placed on the region’s resources. The ICRC will shortly begin relief distributions to the most vulnerable. There is no urgent need for assistance in North Ossetia among Ossetians who fled the ethnic strife in Georgia.
FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
Simultaneous release of detainees

On 24 May detainees were released simultaneously by Croat and Serb forces for the first time in the southern Krajinas since the clashes that began there at the end of January. These releases took place near Otocac at the UNPROFOR checkpoint.

All the detainees had been previously registered and visited by the ICRC. Each detainee was interviewed in private to determine whether or not they wished to be released.

The Serbian party handed over 29 detainees, of whom two were wounded. The Croatian party was prepared to hand over 28 detainees, including four wounded, but five of them chose to await legal proceedings and eventual release.

The release was preceded by several weeks of intensive negotiation between the Serbian and Croatian parties under the auspices of representatives of the ICRC, the European Community Monitoring Mission and UNPROFOR.

NIgeria
New plans for Nigerian Red Cross

From 24 to 26 May the ICRC, the Federation and the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) held meetings in Lagos, which culminated in an agreement on how to support the National Society of a country with 90 million inhabitants and enormous humanitarian needs.

A management specialist will subsequently be sent by the Federation to oversee the implementation of this restructuring of the NRCS. The ICRC's involvement will remain essentially that of providing logistical and technical support.

BOUGAINVILLE
Refugees assisted in Solomon Islands

An ICRC delegate was on mission in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands between 5 and 26 May to determine the humanitarian needs resulting from the conflict in Bougainville.

Although the ICRC was not authorized to conduct a mission on the island itself, the organization was able to give limited assistance to Bougainville refugees in the Solomon Islands through the Red Cross there. Negotiations continue with the Papua New Guinea authorities for access to Bougainville.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC TRANSFERS 1,500 BOSNIAN CROATS TO CROATIA

During the night of 9 June the ICRC transferred 1,500 Bosnian Croats from Turbe to Novska in Croatia. These women, children and elderly people belonged to a group of more than 3,000 civilians who had previously fled the fighting in Moslem-held Travnik to surrender to the Bosnian Serbs in Turbe. The Bosnian Serb authorities in the town and the authorities of the Republic of Croatia had agreed to the transfer of these civilians to Croatia, under the auspices of the ICRC. The ICRC is taking the necessary steps to allow the transfer of the remaining 1,500 Bosnian Croats camped out on Mount Vlasic, in the no man's land between Bosnian government forces and the Bosnian Serb lines. In the meantime, the ICRC has provided them with blankets, tents, clothes and food.

Around 750 Bosnian Croat males, who had also fled Travnik, are presently detained in Manjaca by Bosnian Serb forces. The ICRC is undertaking the necessary steps to visit and register them in the near future.

ANGOLA
First ICRC mission to Huambo

Between 5 and 8 June the ICRC's Head of Delegation in Angola, two delegates and a doctor assessed the humanitarian needs of the people in the Huambo area. The team visited three hospitals and toured the town, which had been severely affected by the fighting earlier this year.

The delegates also met UNITA representatives to discuss medical assistance, food supplies, detainees and those reported missing, separated families and foreign nationals.

The ICRC hopes that this mission will mark the beginning of an emergency operation to assist all those suffering as a result of Angola's war. To achieve this aim, according to the ICRC's Head of Delegation, the full cooperation of both parties to the conflict is necessary. "The victims have already waited too long," he added.

SWITZERLAND
Argentine President visits ICRC Headquarters

On 8 June the President of the Argentine Republic, Mr Carlos Saul Menem, visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva. In his welcoming speech ICRC President, Mr Comelio Sommaruga called on Argentina's support for the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims to be held in August in Geneva. He also spoke of the institution's activities between 1977 and 1982 on behalf of security detainees and people reported missing.

During the Falklands/Malvinas conflict ICRC delegates visited and registered more than 12,000 prisoners of war.

Mr Menem, who had been visited by ICRC delegates in 1977 when being held as a political detainee, praised the ICRC's activities on behalf of political prisoners and affirmed that Argentina would always uphold international humanitarian law and back the institution's efforts to ensure its implementation.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
First ICRC mission to Zepa
Between 4 and 6 June the ICRC was able to conduct its first mission to Zepa, in eastern Bosnia. Delegates assessed the situation of the civilian population living in the Muslim enclave. The ICRC plans to concentrate its efforts on providing medical assistance and distributing Red Cross messages to those separated from their loved ones.

Water supply problems in Srebrenica
Although the ICRC’s sanitation team working in Srebrenica has been able to improve the quality of water, supply problems persist owing to the influx of people into the area - the town’s population has grown from 6,000 to more than 20,000 inhabitants.

Srebrenica’s water treatment station, situated near the front in an area controlled by the Bosnian Serbs, is still not operational.

The Bosnian Croats are rationning water on the left bank of the Neretva River in Mostar, thereby obliging Muslim civilians to cross the front lines to fetch water. The Bosnian Serb population in Donji Vakuf also faces water shortages as the main source of water is controlled by the Bosnian government forces.

The ICRC has reminded all parties to the conflict that the prevention of supplying war victims with essential commodities is a violation of international humanitarian law.

AZERBAIJAN
ICRC responds to needs of victims of recent violence
On 6 June the ICRC sent two delegates to Gandja, the country’s second-largest city, to assess the needs of the victims of the violent clashes on the weekend. The team provided Gandja’s civilian and military hospitals with urgent medical supplies to treat the wounded, and continues to assess the situation.

SOMALIA
ICRC provides medical assistance
Following recent clashes between Somali gunmen and UN troops in Mogadishu on 5 June the ICRC surgical team at Keysaney Hospital (run by the Somali Red Crescent Society) performed emergency operations on 18 wounded Somalis. The ICRC also provided Benadir Hospital in the country’s capital with essential medical supplies for the treatment of 120 Somalis.

SENEGAL
Red Cross assists displaced in Casamance
Last week the ICRC, in collaboration with the Senegalese Red Cross Society, distributed 64 tonnes of rice and 8,000 litres of cooking oil to around 8,000 displaced people living in Casamance, in the south of the country. As a result of disturbances in the area over the last year more than 10,000 people have left their homes to find shelter with their relatives on whose meagre resources they depend.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ETHNIC CLEANSING CONTINUES

On 16 June a group of 2,000 Bosnian Croats - consisting of women, children and old people - were forced to leave a sector controlled by the Muslim forces in central Bosnia to surrender to the Bosnian Serbs near Donji Vakuf. The ICRC responded immediately by sending a three-truck convoy with food and blankets. The institution plans to provide the refugees with 8,000 family parcels today.

The ICRC is taking the necessary steps to evacuate these Bosnian Croats to Croatia in the very near future.

Between 10 and 11 June the ICRC escorted the remaining 2,000 Bosnian Croats from Mount Vlasic, the no man's land between Bosnian government forces and the Bosnian Serb lines in central Bosnia, to Novska in Croatia. Twenty-eight ICRC trucks, 15 landcruisers and 44 private vehicles evacuated women, children and old people who had fled the fighting in the Muslim-held town of Travnik to surrender to the Bosnian Serbs in Turbe.

Since 9 June the ICRC has evacuated around 3,500 Bosnian Croats from the Turbe area to Novska. The institution is still seeking authorization to visit and register Bosnian Croat men allegedly detained in Manjaca by Bosnian Serb forces.

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
One million Red Cross messages exchanged

Since the beginning of the year, the ICRC has distributed a record number of Red Cross messages in connection with the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. In 1992 the ICRC passed on around 650,000 messages, compared with one million in the first half of this year. This increase not only reflects the continued need of families separated by the conflict to maintain contact but also the development of the collection and distribution network.

The ICRC’s access to zones in Bosnia-Herzegovina which had previously been off-limits for security reasons meant that hundreds of families could write messages to their loved ones for the first time. In May more than 20,000 messages were collected in Srebrenica and Gorazde in a few days.

The ICRC has also exchanged around 39,000 messages between detainees and their families since the beginning of the year.

ANGOLA
ICRC returns to the Planalto to help conflict victims

A Boeing 727 aircraft chartered by the ICRC made two flights to Huambo on 15 June with 12 tonnes of food and two tonnes of medical supplies for the city’s main hospital. An ICRC delegate also flew in taking a vehicle and the necessary equipment to re-open the ICRC’s office in Huambo and start Red Cross activities, which had ceased in January owing to the fierce fighting in the area.

The Angolan government authorized the flights after an ICRC contact mission to the city, during which UNITA gave its agreement in principle to the resumption
of the ICRC’s work.

The ICRC hopes to provide medical and material assistance, visit detainees and restore links between families separated by the conflict.

AZERBAIJAN/ARMENIA
ICRC reunites four Azeris with their families

On 13 June the ICRC organized the transfer of four Azeri civilians, including a 10-month-old baby, from Stepanakert, the main town in Nagorny-Karabakh, to Erevan in Armenia. There they boarded an ICRC plane which transported them to the Azeri capital Baku where they were reunited with their families.

The four Azeris belonged to a group of 90 people who had been captured during the fighting in Kelbajar at the beginning of April. Since then the ICRC has visited them regularly and has contacted their families.

The institution is continuing to take the necessary steps to obtain the unconditional release of all hostages held in connection with the conflict.

SOMALIA
Medical supplies flown into Mogadishu

On 13 and 14 June the ICRC flew in six tonnes of medical supplies to Mogadishu to maintain its emergency stock, now totalling 11 tonnes. An additional ICRC nurse arrived on Sunday to join the ten other delegates currently working in the country’s capital.

During the last few days the ICRC has provided Mogadishu’s main hospitals with urgently needed surgical equipment and supplies. Two ICRC nurses will continue to monitor the need for further assistance.

With the ICRC’s support, the Somali Red Crescent Society has recently opened eight first-aid posts to treat the wounded.

MOROCCO
Promotion of IHL among high-ranking officers and top civil servants

Between 7 and 11 June the ICRC gave a series of lectures on international humanitarian law (IHL) in Rabat, Kénitra, Marrakech and Agadir. Participants included high-ranking officers of the Royal Gendarmerie and the Royal Armed Forces as well as top civil servants. An ICRC dissemination delegate and the Tunis-based regional delegate gave an introductory presentation on IHL which was followed by the film "Plea for Humanity". Topics raised during lengthy discussions included IHL in connection with the civilian population, the treatment of prisoners of war and the right to intervene on humanitarian grounds ("le droit d’ingérence").

JAPAN
ICRC President visits Tokyo

ICRC President, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, conducted an official visit to Tokyo between 13 and 17 June. On 15 June he had a private audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. In addition, Mr Sommaruga discussed issues related to "humanitarian mobilization" with Japan’s Prime Minister, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Kabun Muto, and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also met the President and high officials of the Japanese Red Cross Society.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC EVACUATES 1,790 BOSNIAN CROATS TO CROATIA

On 19 June an ICRC convoy of 27 trucks and 14 Land Cruisers arrived in the Croatian town of Novska with 1,790 Bosnian Croats, who had been evacuated from the area of Donji Vakuf.

Three women with their new-born babies and two unaccompanied children joined the convoy in Banja Luka where they had been receiving medical treatment in the local hospital. They will be reunited with their relatives who were evacuated by the ICRC on 9 and 10 June from the Travnik area.

ICRC delegates in Banja Luka are trying to gain access to around 470 Bosnian Croat men who had fled to Donji Vakuf with their families but were unable to leave the area. The institution will also endeavour to restore family ties through the exchange of Red Cross messages and to secure the men’s release so that they can be reunited with their families now living in Croatia.

Since 9 June the ICRC has evacuated more than 5,000 Bosnian Croats from central Bosnia to Croatia.

The ICRC has renewed its appeal to the parties to the conflict to avoid attacks on the civilian population and their forced transfer from their place of residence. The practice of expulsion is in total contradiction to international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
The ICRC reaches Gorazde

On 20 June, for the first time since the end of May, an ICRC team reached Gorazde in eastern Bosnia. An ICRC doctor, a nurse and two delegates provided the town’s hospital with 1.5 tonnes of medical supplies, such as anaesthetics, infusion materials, sutures, antibiotics and other medicines as well as sterilization equipment.

The ICRC delegates on the spot are currently assisting the sick and wounded and negotiating the evacuation of some 120 particularly serious cases.

The institution plans to send a convoy to Gorazde on 24 June with 40 tonnes of food - 20 tonnes of family parcels and 20 tonnes of flour - and more medical supplies.

The ICRC has recently been able to maintain a permanent presence in Srebrenica and Zepa, where it is assessing the population’s needs, implementing protection, assistance and sanitation programmes as well as carrying out tracing work.

Access to all the besieged cities in eastern Bosnia remains the ICRC’s top priority because of the precarious situation of the civilian population.

SRI LANKA
ICRC supervises release of five hunger strikers

On 22 June the ICRC supervised the release of five of the 39 prisoners who had conducted a nine-day hunger strike. The freed detainees were accompanied to Colombo by 28 members of their families.
The 34 remaining prisoners are being held in Jaffna until the Government sends a certain quantity of items, such as fuel, medicines and fertilizers, requested by the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). Fifty of the prisoners' relatives are refusing to leave the city until they have all been released.

The ICRC transported 78 relatives to Jaffna to meet the 39 prisoners on 18 June. The LTTE commander informed the ICRC delegate that if a government emissary came to Jaffna the prisoners would be freed. The ICRC transmitted the message. The following day retired Brigadier Weerasekera met the LTTE representatives. He was told that the prisoners would be released if the embargo on certain items was lifted.

SIERRA LEONE
Relief operation in Kono District
The ICRC recently provided more than 23,500 displaced people in 83 villages in the Kono area with a month's ration of bulgur, vegetable oil and soap. The ICRC also distributed rice seed in time for planting. As the region is now considered safe, relief and medical rehabilitation programmes will be taken over by other non-governmental organizations.

The ICRC has provided six dispensaries in the Kono District with medical supplies.

AZERBAIJAN
Medical and material assistance
For the last two weeks fighting has intensified in and around Agdam and Agdara/Martakert between the Azerbaijani army and local Armenian forces from Nagorny-Karabakh. The ICRC has provided around 40,000 displaced people with plastic sheeting to protect them against the current heavy rains in the region. The institution has also given urgently needed medical supplies for the treatment of the wounded to front-line hospitals in Terter, Agdam and Gandja.
CHAD: ICRC BOOSTS BUDGET FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE

Renewed violent clashes between rival factions in the first four months of this year prompted about 50,000 people to flee towards the Central African Republic or take refuge in the bush. Some of them have since returned, only to find their villages destroyed, their food stocks gone and no medical infrastructure left. The ICRC has therefore decided to extend its budget for Chad by nearly CHF 1.6 million, enabling it to step up its activities for displaced people in Logone, in the south of the country.

As the only humanitarian organization present, the ICRC has drawn up a three-month plan of action designed to cover the most urgent needs of local and displaced people in Logone. With the consent of the authorities and in close cooperation with the Red Cross of Chad, the ICRC proposes to provide some 100 villages with seeds and hoes as well as food aid (millet and groundnuts) to tide them over to the September harvest. It also plans to help medical personnel resume their work at local dispensaries and to supply basic medicines, mainly against malaria.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Delegates visit Bosnian Croats held in Manjaca
On 27 June ICRC delegates visited and registered 466 Bosnian Croat men detained by Bosnian Serb forces in Manjaca. The detainees had fled a sector controlled by the Bosnian government forces in central Bosnia to surrender to the Bosnian Serbs. They were then separated from their families who were recently evacuated by the ICRC to Croatia.

AZERBAIJAN
Relief assistance for returnees to northern Nagorny-Karabakh
The ICRC has recently distributed relief supplies to around 1,630 returnees from Stepanakert (Nagorny-Karabakh) and Armenia. They are now living in the Hatherk area, 25 kilometres west of Agdara/Martakert. The supplies consisted of family parcels, blankets, kitchen sets, tarpaulin and plastic sheeting.

TAJIKISTAN
Repatriation of displaced in Badakhshan
Following discussions between ICRC delegates and the parties to the conflict in Tajikistan, 442 people were transported by bus from Khorog in the Badakhshan region to Tavildara on 23 June. The ICRC provided the displaced with 1,500 blankets. The following day they continued their journey to Kafarnihorn, Bakhtar or Dushanbe.

The ICRC hopes that further discussions between the institution and the authorities concerned will result in the continuous return of displaced people from Badakhshan, a mountainous autonomous region in eastern Tajikistan.

Half of the 50,000 displaced in Badakhshan come from Dushanbe, the other half from Hatlon Oblast. Most of the displaced from the south stop off in Dushanbe where the ICRC has provided a communal kitchen in the government-run transit centre.
NORTHERN CAUCASUS
Regional Red Cross seminar
Between 21 and 23 June the Russian Red Cross Society organized a dissemination seminar in Nalchik, Kabardino-Balkaria, for the Red Cross branches in the northern Caucasus. Participants included representatives from Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Chechenia, Adygei, Karachai-Circassia, Rostov, Krasnodar, Stavropol, Piatigorsk and Abkhazia.

The seminar focused on international humanitarian law, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and the ICRC as well as relief principles and activities.

SOMALIA
ICRC visits detainees held by UNOSOM
On 28 June ICRC delegates visited ten people detained by UNOSOM (United Nations Operation in Somalia) forces in a detention centre in the country’s capital. They are being held in connection with the recent events in Mogadishu.

ECUADOR
Prison visits
Between 21 and 24 June two ICRC delegates and a doctor visited four detention centres in Quito and Guayaquil where they registered 12 detainees. Nine of the detainees, for whom this was the first ICRC visit, had been arrested on 6 March by the armed forces for alleged membership of the Sol Rojo guerilla group. Around 30 others, who had been arrested for the same reason, had already been released.

The delegates returned to the prisons on 27 and 28 June to distribute medical and material assistance to the detainees.

MEDIA 7 is published by the International Committee of the Red Cross
19, Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: (022) 734 60 01 - Fax: (022) 734 82 80 - Telex: 41 42 26
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AZERBAIJAN
AGDAM: ICRC DELEGATES ON THE SPOT

On 4 July fierce fighting broke out between the Azerbaijani and Armenian armed forces in the vicinity of Agdam, forcing tens of thousands to flee the city. ICRC delegates based in Barda, some 45 kilometres further north, rushed to Agdam that day. They distributed urgently needed medical supplies to treat the wounded, most of whom were civilians. The delegates also provided shelter material to those who could not find refuge in public buildings or with relatives.
Up to 100,000 people could be displaced as a result of the recent increase in hostilities.

GEORGIA
ICRC assists hospitals in Abkhazia
Following the upsurge of violence over the last two weeks, hundreds of people have been wounded throughout Abkhazia. Delegates based in Sukhumi and Gudauta visited the hospitals receiving the war wounded and distributed medical supplies for their treatment.

The ICRC has appealed to the Georgian and Abkhazian authorities to respect international humanitarian law, especially as regards the protection of the civilian population and the treatment of prisoners. The institution is still trying to gain access to all detainees held in connection with the conflict.

SIERRA LEONE
First visits to detainees in Bo and Daru

Last week ICRC delegates based in Freetown conducted the first visits to detainees held outside the country’s capital. On 28 and 29 June delegates registered and visited 63 detainees in Bo and 82 in Daru, in eastern Sierra Leone.

The military commander in Bo has authorized the ICRC to visit detainees held in three other detention centres.

ANGOLA
ICRC evacuates 317 foreign nationals from Huambo
The ICRC has evacuated 317 foreign nationals from Huambo to Sao Tomé and Principe in three flights since 24 June. The majority of people flown out were Portuguese.

The other evacuees were of Angolan, Brazilian, Cuban, French, Italian, Mexican, Russian and Spanish nationality. During a private interview with ICRC delegates they confirmed their wish to leave Huambo and did so with UNITA’s permission.

SWITZERLAND
International Conference for the Protection of War Victims
On 6 July the Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Flavio Cotti, and ICRC President, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga,
held a joint press conference in Berne on the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims.

All member States of the United Nations and its specialized institutions have been invited to participate in this conference which will take place in Geneva between 30 August and 1 September. Observers at the United Nations' General Assembly, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and non-governmental organizations have also been invited to attend with observer status.

High-ranking officials of the 189 countries invited will examine the means at their disposal to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and to improve the protection of war victims.

ZAIRE
ICRC helps 60,000 displaced in Shaba region

Thousands of displaced Kasaians in the Shaba region still depend on the ICRC's food relief. Last month the institution provided 60,000 internally displaced people in Likasi and Kolwezi with 1,280 tonnes of corn, beans and oil, as well as blankets.

The institution maintains a permanent presence in these two towns to improve the nutritional status of the displaced children and to ensure the protection of the Kasaian population.

ZAIRE
Delegates assess situation in the east

Following violent clashes in the Kivu region, delegates have visited a dozen villages in the Goma area, where there are around 65,000 displaced people. Food and medical needs are currently covered by non-governmental organizations.

By their presence delegates hope to ensure the protection of the civilian population in the area and to intervene on their behalf with opposition leaders. The ICRC will continue its evaluation on the Goma-Rutshuru-Beni line and will take action if the need arises.

IRAQ
Seminar on war surgery techniques

The ICRC and the Iraqi Military Medical Services jointly organized a war surgery seminar in Baghdad between 6 and 8 July for 100 experienced surgeons and field doctors. The opening session was attended by the Iraqi Ministers of Defence and Health, as well as other dignitaries.

Two ICRC surgeons and Iraqi specialists exchanged views on matters such as war wound management, classification and the management of injuries.

The seminar was the first of this size and scope in the Middle East.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: SITUATION DETERIORATES FURTHER

In spite of the international community’s efforts to stop the fighting, the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina drags on into its second year. The number of victims continues to mount. With this increase in need for ICRC protection and assistance, the institution appeals for an additional CHF 72 million, bringing the 1993 revised appeal for the former Yugoslavia to CHF 188 million.

ICRC activities: July 1992 - June 1993

16,300 detainees visited
6,800 detainees liberated under ICRC auspices
1,300 relatives reunited
1.5 million Red Cross messages handled
38,850 tonnes of relief assistance distributed
(value CHF 86.4 million)
CHF 14 million worth of medical material distributed

Between July and the end of September the ICRC plans to distribute relief assistance to 650,000 beneficiaries per month. The ICRC’s medical programme consists of providing around 150 hospitals with monthly distributions of surgical material valued at CHF one million.

The ICRC’s 200 expatriates and over 600 local employees will continue their efforts to protect the civilian population and detainees, to maintain links between families separated by the conflict and to promote respect for international humanitarian law.

RWANDA

Thousands of displaced return to demilitarized zone

Several hundred thousand displaced people living in camps outside the demilitarized zone are slowly returning to their homes despite the fact that no relief and rehabilitation programme exists in the demilitarized area. The civilian population there remains deprived of the most basic services. This is due to a lack of infrastructure and local administration.

The ICRC and the Rwandese Red Cross have moved several distribution points to the boundary of the zone to make them more accessible to the returnees. The institution is envisaging setting up distribution points in the demilitarized zone as soon as distributions can be carried out in safe conditions.

At the end of May the ICRC introduced two mobile clinics providing basic care for the returnees. So far, some 13,500 people have received outpatient treatment and 75 emergency cases have been evacuated to government hospitals.

Rwanda is the ICRC’s biggest relief operation. Between April and June around 12,000 tonnes of cereals, beans, oil and salt were distributed monthly. Improvements in the combined World Food Programme-ICRC food pipeline have made it possible to meet the needs of some 900,000 people affected by the Rwandese conflict.

ICRC President, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, is expected to visit Rwanda at the end of July.
NORTHERN CAUCASUS
Relief assistance to displaced and vulnerable groups
The ICRC has started distributing family parcels to displaced people and vulnerable groups in North Ossetia. On 10 July delegates provided relief assistance to 500 Ingush families in Karsa, a town near Vladikavkaz.
The ICRC's programme aims to assist 6,000 families - around 30,000 people - in North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

MALI
ICRC visits 48 detainees
Between 28 June and 8 July an ICRC delegate and a doctor conducted a series of visits to 48 detainees held in detention centres in Bamako, Segou and Timbuktu. Thirty of the detainees visited are former dignitaries, eight are military detainees (arrested after the attempted coup d'etat of July 1991) and ten are being held in connection with events in the north of the country.

AZERBAIJAN/ARMENIA
ICRC transfers five Azeris from Erevan to Baku
On 14 July the ICRC transferred five Azerbaijani civilians from Erevan (Armenia) to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The group had been released by the local authorities in Stepanakert, the main town in Nagorny-Karabakh, following the CSCE mission to this area. The five Azeris had been injured and captured during the fighting in Kelbajar at the beginning of April.
The ICRC is continuing to take the necessary steps to obtain the unconditional release of all hostages held in connection with the conflict.

MONGOLIA
First IHL seminar for soldiers and diplomats
The ICRC's regional delegation in Hong Kong, the Mongolian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the Mongolian Red Cross organized a seminar on international humanitarian law (IHL) in Ulan-Bator, the country's capital, between 5 and 8 July. The seminar, the first of its kind to be held in Mongolia, was attended by 25 soldiers, diplomats and representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Civil Defence.
The seminar was inaugurated by the Chief of Staff and closed by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.
The ICRC hopes to organize more seminars in the near future.

BOLIVIA
ICRC organizes regional meeting
The ICRC's regional delegation in Argentina organized a meeting for the Red Cross Societies of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) on 7 and 8 July. Unfortunately, delegates from the Paraguayan Red Cross were unable to attend for technical reasons.
A delegate from the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also participated in the meeting. The topics discussed included the role of a National Society in the dissemination of international humanitarian law, the training of Red Cross personnel, tracing work and the promotion of the Red Cross image.
SEVERE MALNUTRITION IN CENTRAL LIBERIA

In a village south of Salala, which previously had a population of 250 people, 34 men, women and children have died since the beginning of June as a result of malnutrition. Up to 20% of the population are suffering from kwashiorkor, severe protein deficiency. This figure appeared in a report written by an ICRC nutritionist and two delegates who assessed the dire situation in the Salala region last week.

The Liberian Red Cross Society (LRCS) runs clinics in Gbarnga, Salala and Totota which are supported by the ICRC. Medical staff see 50-60 patients a day suffering from malaria, intestinal parasites and diarrhoea. Each week there are hundreds of cases of kwashiorkor, anaemia and anorexia.

The displaced population swamps the number of residents south of Salala and Weala. Food is scarce for everyone: cassava farms are often looted and the civilian population has to provide the military with food.

If the people in Bong County manage to hold on to their harvest in October they will have sufficient food for the next six months. However, the people in Salala and the south will continue to experience a prolonged period of hardship owing to lack of rice seed, a high malnutrition rate and a large number of soldiers in the area.

SWITZERLAND
Geneva Conference: Greater protection for war victims

The International Conference for the Protection of War Victims - to be held in Geneva between 30 August and 1 September - will focus on four main topics: collectively rejecting the unacceptable; preventing suffering in time of war; taking action despite all adversity; and repressing violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and providing reparation for damages caused by the conflict.

The first implies the urgent need for a vigorous and determined response by the international community, States and individuals alike to the barbarity of war.

The second topic stresses measures preventing violations of the Geneva Conventions and thereby easing the suffering of the civilian population. This calls for an examination of legislative measures and methods of dissemination of IHL at the national level, and the extension of rules concerning weapons (especially landmines, incendiary and chemical weapons) to non-international armed conflicts.

The third theme includes means to ensure respect for IHL and the Red Cross/Red Crescent emblem, coordinate humanitarian action and provide for the safety of those engaged in humanitarian work.

The last topic concerns dissuasive provisions to be made in peacetime for the repression of breaches of IHL, and emergency measures to be taken in conflict situations where the law is violated on a massive scale. This also involves discussing reparation for damages caused to victims of such violations, and the necessary penal measures to be taken against the perpetrators at the national and international levels.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC establishes permanent presence in Gorazde

On 14 July the ICRC returned to Gorazde after receiving authorization from the Bosnian Serb forces. This was the first time in several weeks the ICRC succeeded in
obtaining access to the enclave. Two trucks brought in urgently needed medical and relief supplies. An ICRC team comprising two delegates and a nurse have set up a permanent presence in the town.

**CENTRAL BOSNIA**

**Difficulty in bringing assistance**

Owing to the recent upsurge of violence in central Bosnia, the ICRC is still encountering problems in bringing assistance to the victims of the conflict in Mostar and central Bosnia. This is in spite of an agreement signed on 10 July between the governmental forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnian Croats, guaranteeing the security of humanitarian convoys.

**CONGO**

**Action stations for local Red Cross**

In view of the recent events in Brazzaville, the Congolese Red Cross (CRC) has been in a state of alert for several weeks, ready to intervene in an emergency.

The ICRC’s delegation in Kinshasa handed over basic medical material to the CRC which maintains a permanent first-aid post at its headquarters in the city. A first-aid team covers each of the capital’s seven districts, providing medical care and evacuating the sick and wounded to hospital.

ICRC delegates visited the 2,000 displaced people who have sought shelter in the People’s Palace in Brazzaville and handed over some medical supplies.

The ICRC also provided medical supplies to the Makelele Hospital in Bacongo, a part of Brazzaville isolated from the rest of the city.

The institution is maintaining close contact with the Congolese Red Cross in case more supplies or assistance are needed.

**CUBA**

**Seminar on rules of war**

Between 12 and 16 July the ICRC organized a seminar in Havana on the rules of war for 35 high-ranking officers of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Two ICRC delegates conducted the seminar together with a Spanish lecturer, General Javier Sanchez del Rio, military judge and Director of the Centre for Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law of the Spanish Red Cross.

The seminar was closed by General Guillermo Rodriguez del Pozo from the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

**ANGOLA**

**ICRC completes evacuations from Huambo**

On 15 July an ICRC plane evacuated two people - a Namibian and a South African - from Huambo to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. The previous week the ICRC evacuated 93 people - 43 from Cape Verde, 36 from Sao Tomé and Principe and 14 from Angola. They were flown from Huambo to Sao Tomé and Principe. Since 24 June the ICRC has evacuated a total of 415 people from Huambo.

An ICRC medical team has recently conducted surveys in Bailundo, Caala and Katchiungo, three municipalities in the Huambo province.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC SUPERVISES RELEASE OF HUNDREDS OF DETAINEEs

On 23 July the Bosnian Serb forces unilaterally released 17 detainees from Kotor Varos, near Banja Luka. The ICRC transferred them to Karlovac, 40 kilometres south of Zagreb.

Under the auspices of the ICRC, 41 Bosnian Muslim men were transferred from Batkovic detention centre near Bijeljina to Karlovac on 21 July. This was part of a simultaneous release agreed between Bosnian Serbs and the Bosnian government forces. At the same time, 243 Bosnian Serb detainees were transferred from Tuzla to Bijeljina and 389 Bosnian Muslims from Bijeljina to Tuzla.

ICRC delegates were also present at Celebic on 19 July for the release of 66 Bosnian Croat detainees and 65 Bosnian Serbs.

The ICRC had access to all the detainees who took part in these release operations. Delegates interviewed them and registered their agreement to be released on the spot or transferred.

The ICRC is continuing its efforts to obtain access to all detainees - in particular combatants captured at the front line - held in connection with the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

AZERBAIJAN
ICRC helps displaced from Agdam

After several weeks of fighting, the town of Agdam fell to the Armenian forces of Nagorny-Karabakh on 23 July. Thousands of civilians fled, taking the road east to Barda and Yevlakh or south towards Agdjabedi. More than 15,000 displaced have set up make-shift camps near water points along these roads. Around 30,000 others have sought shelter in schools and farms.

The ICRC provided some 12,000 recently displaced with plastic sheeting to protect them from the burning sun. However, until people settle and their needs are better defined, no large relief operation can be undertaken. Three delegates based in Barda are assessing the situation so that the ICRC can prepare an emergency relief programme for the displaced.

LEBANON
ICRC assists displaced and wounded

The ICRC is currently evaluating the material needs of the thousands of displaced who have not been able to find shelter with friends and relatives. The institution has started distributing food and material supplies to those most affected by the armed conflict. In cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross, the ICRC is also providing medical supplies to hospitals near the front line and local Red Cross ambulances are evacuating the wounded from the conflict areas.

The ICRC has appealed to all parties concerned to respect international humanitarian law, in particular to protect the civilian population and their possessions.
GEORGIA/ABKHAZIA
Visits to detainees in Gudauta
Since the beginning of July the ICRC has had access to some 40 Georgian combatants held in Gudauta by the Abkhazian forces. ICRC delegates visited them and the detainees exchanged Red Cross messages with their families.
The ICRC has also started visiting a limited number of Abkhazians captured by the Georgian forces.
The institution is continuing to take the necessary steps to obtain access to all detainees held in connection with the conflict.

SUDAN
ICRC evacuates wounded
On 26 July the ICRC evacuated 15 wounded from southern Sudan - eight from Yuai and seven from Kongor - to the ICRC’s surgical hospital in Lokichokio (north-west Kenya). They had been injured as a result of recent fighting between the two factions of the SPLA (Sudanese People’s Liberation Army). The ICRC also evacuated 36 wounded from Kongor, in the Upper Nile province, to Lokichokio on 23 July.
All evacuations were carried out after receiving authorization from the government and SPLA factions.

TAJIKISTAN
ICRC opens office in Chorog
Owing to the tense situation in Badakhshan and along the Afghan-Tajik border, two ICRC delegates have set up a permanent office in Chorog, in the south of Badakhshan. An emergency stock of medical and relief supplies (3,000 family parcels and 5,000 blankets) will be established to enable the ICRC to intervene when necessary.

THE MEDIA
Geneva Conference: Practical information
Representatives of the media who want to attend the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims - to be held between 30 August and 1 September - must be accredited by the Swiss Government.
For general information or to obtain a press pass, journalists can contact the Swiss Embassy or Consulate in their country of residence or from the Service de Presse du Departement fédéral des Affaires étrangères, Palais fédéral-ouest, CH-3003 Berne, tel.: (031) 61 30 47, fax: (031) 21 30 87.
The forms must be accompanied by an original letter from the editor on headed paper and a photocopy of the press card. These documents must arrive before 10 August.
A press pass can also be obtained from 26 August onwards (same documents and identification papers necessary) at the Press Centre of the Centre International de Conférences Genève, Rue de Varembe 15, CH-1202 Genève, tel.: (022) 791 92 13, fax: (022) 791 98 66.
For radio and television journalists, lines can be reserved and technical assistance provided by the Schweizerische Radio- und Fernsehgesellschaft, Fernsehstrasse 4, CH-8052 Zurich, tel.: (01) 305 62 83, fax: (01) 302 73 13 or the Société suisse de Radiodiffusion, Giacomettistrasse 1, CH-3000 Berne 15, tel.: (031) 43 94 57, fax: (031) 43 94 74.
ANGOLA: AIR RAIDS OVER HUAMBO CLAIM CIVILIAN LIVES

A wave of air attacks has caused mass destruction and an unknown number of casualties in different parts of Huambo, including residential areas. This indiscriminate offensive has been going on since Monday 2 August, making the need for humanitarian assistance in Huambo more urgent than ever.

On Wednesday, 4 August, the ICRC’s office in Huambo was bombarded by aircraft of the government armed forces, resulting in the total destruction of the ICRC premises and vehicle parked outside. Miraculously the staff inside were unhurt.

Today the ICRC’s chief in Angola has made representations to the authorities in Luanda, protesting at the lack of respect for the Red Cross emblem. The ICRC’s Geneva headquarters also released a communication to the press yesterday, appealing to the Angolan government and UNITA to respect the civilian population, which continues to bear much of the brunt of the fighting. The institution is now negotiating with the government to recommence ICRC activities throughout the country, under acceptable conditions of security.

LEBANON
ICRC brings emergency supplies
Since large-scale military operations resumed on 25 July, the ICRC has provided medical supplies to hospitals, dispensaries and mobile clinics along the front line and in the main towns in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley. Delegates also distributed 84 tonnes of food, 323 family parcels, over 5,000 blankets and 214 kitchen sets to around 2,300 families who were forced to flee these areas.

The Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) has worked with great courage to assist victims of the recent shelling. It has evacuated 122 wounded and handed over food and medical supplies to the displaced who had sought refuge in the region’s main hospitals. To support the LRC, the ICRC is repairing and maintaining the ambulances used in this emergency operation and plans to donate 3,500 blankets, mattresses and 50 helmets.

Delegates will concentrate on distributing food supplies to people affected by the hostilities who receive no other form of assistance and on providing medical supplies to dispensaries in the south.

The ICRC is gathering information on alleged breaches of international humanitarian law in order to submit a report to the parties concerned.

SUDAN
ICRC appeals for further CHF 16.7 million
On 2 August the ICRC appealed for a further CHF 16.7 million (USD 11.1 million) for its operations in Sudan, bringing the total revised 1993 budget to CHF 27.7 million (USD 18 million).

The ICRC’s Plan of Action is intended to provide the victims of the conflict with a means of survival. The mainstay of the assistance involves distributing fishing tackle, mosquito nets, seeds and farming tools to 120,000 families. Some 3,400 tonnes of food will be distributed to prevent consumption of the seeds and to respond to urgent nutritional needs which may not be covered by other organizations. The budget also provides for the treatment of 50,000 heads of cattle. The ICRC’s medical activities will include a rehabilitation programme for Juba regional hospital, the evacuation of the wounded to hospitals in Juba and to the ICRC’s surgical hospital in Lokichokio (Kenya), provision of medical supplies for rural hospitals and dispensaries and sanitation projects.

The relief programme will run from 1 July to 31 December 1993. Assistance is planned for an estimated 400,000 people in Kongor, Olang, Ayod, Lafon, Bor, Malakal, Kajo-Kaji and Kansuk.
RWANDA
Mr Sommaruga visits ICRC’s biggest relief operation

The ICRC President, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, conducted an official visit to Rwanda between 27 and 31 July. He was accompanied by a Committee Member and the Deputy Delegate General for Africa.

Mr Sommaruga met the President of the Republic, Major General Juvenal Habyarimana, and other high-ranking government officials, including the Prime Minister. He also met the President of the RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front), Mr Alexis Kanyarengwe.

In discussions with Mr Sommaruga, both government and opposition officials thanked the ICRC for the assistance it has provided conflict victims in Rwanda. (The ICRC and the Rwandan Red Cross currently distribute about 12,000 tonnes of food per month to about 900,000 displaced people). The ICRC President stressed the urgent need for a return of the displaced to their places of origin, highlighting the responsibility of the parties to the conflict to ensure that this takes place in acceptable conditions.

Before leaving Rwanda Mr Sommaruga participated in the closing ceremony of an ICRC dissemination course organized for 40 high-ranking officers of the Rwandan armed forces.

CONFERENCE
Geneva Conference for the Protection of War Victims

In preparation for the conference due to take place at the end of this month in Geneva, the ICRC has sent out information packages to 153 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and to over 55 ICRC delegations and offices. The packages include written documentation for the general public, the media and specialists in the field of international humanitarian law as well as radio, television and photographic material for use in a worldwide awareness campaign on the law of war and the States’ responsibility to ensure observance.

The main aim of the conference is to bring together representatives of the nearly 200 member States of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It will provide them with a unique opportunity to concentrate on finding ways to ensure respect for the law, and thus reduce the suffering of war victims.

ARMENIA
Promotion of IHL

An ICRC dissemination delegate made a presentation to the working group of the Chiefs of Staff at the Armenian military headquarters in Erevan on 30 July. The Chief of Staff, a Lieutenant-General and 90 other high-ranking officers discussed the rules of war, the responsibility of States and civilian and military authorities regarding the respect and application of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the ICRC’s mandate.

The ICRC organized the first seminar on the promotion of IHL for 60 officers of the Armenian armed forces on 27 July. A delegate presented the ICRC’s role in the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols. Discussions focused on the application of these laws at the national level, respect for IHL as well as sanctions against violations.
SIERRA LEONE:
ICRC SURVEY REVEALS SEVERE MALNUTRITION

A recent ICRC survey in the eastern extremity of Sierra Leone has uncovered dramatic levels of malnutrition among refugees returning from Liberia. The current figure of approximately 3,000 refugees may well top the 50,000 mark over the next few weeks, as more victims of the conflict return.

Last week the ICRC distributed emergency rations to undernourished children in Daru, Jojoima, Kuiva and Mobai, where levels of up to 24% severe malnutrition and 68% moderate malnutrition had been detected. In Jojoima 20% of children measured were found to be suffering from Kwashiorkor — a further 14% were marasmic.

This new shift of refugees comes after recent moves by the Sierra Leone government forces to retake areas previously controlled by the RUF (Revolutionary United Front) armed opposition. The ICRC is already assisting displaced people in the Zimmi area, and is now mobilizing emergency food aid for the Daru region and preparing to extend its operation if need be.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAR VICTIMS

Preparations are under way at ICRC headquarters for the International Conference to be held in Geneva from 30 August to 1 September.

The conference has been convened by the Swiss Confederation to draw the attention of the States of the world to the serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in recent conflicts, to recall their obligation to respect and ensure respect for the Geneva Conventions and to prompt the international community to act to protect war victims.

In the light of the Vienna Human Rights Conference held in June, many representatives of the press have requested clarification concerning the relationship between the protection of war victims and the defence of human rights.

The two bodies of international law are quite distinct. International humanitarian law dates back further than the first international codes of human rights, and deals with the protection of war victims, such as prisoners, the sick and wounded, shipwrecked sailors and civilians in affected areas. It also covers the use of weapons and the obligation to avoid inflicting indiscriminate or unnecessary suffering during conflicts.

International human rights instruments, on the other hand, are generally aimed at codifying the rights of citizens in peacetime as well as during emergencies such as conflicts, when certain rights may be suspended. Human rights instruments often deal with political or economic rights, issues which are never covered in humanitarian law.

Human rights and humanitarian law are complementary in so far as they both aim to protect the individual, his or her rights, property and physical integrity. By protecting these rights for conflict victims, humanitarian law ensures that their human rights are respected as well.

The Geneva Conference will deal exclusively with the protection of victims of war, i.e., international humanitarian law.

NORTHERN CAUCASUS

Relief assistance for the displaced

Between 10 and 30 July the ICRC provided 6,000 family parcels for about 22,000 displaced people in North Ossetia and Ingushetia. The ICRC’s office which was opened in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria) on 7
July was used as a logistics base for this relief operation.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Visits begin in Mostar
After six weeks of negotiations, the ICRC finally obtained access to approximately 1,000 Muslim detainees held by Bosnian Croat forces. They were arrested in the western part of Mostar in early July and are being held at the Rodoc heliport near Mostar. The visits, which began on 10 August, are still going on.

SUDAN
ICRC evacuates wounded to hospital
Within the last week the ICRC organized three emergency flights to evacuate people wounded in the southern Sudan conflict. A total of 51 casualties were flown from Arua on the Ugandan border to the ICRC's surgical hospital at Lokichokio, in north-west Kenya, where they received treatment from ICRC medical staff. The ICRC regularly carries out such evacuation flights for victims of the fighting in southern Sudan. The hospital at Lokichokio, first set up in 1987, is equipped with an operating theatre, inpatient wards and an orthopaedic centre. It provides training for Sudanese medical staff. Last week more wards had to be opened in order to accommodate the growing influx of patients (305 inpatients). The hospital is largely manned by doctors and nurses seconded by National Societies.
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAR VICTIMS: MEDIA CAMPAIGN

The ICRC, along with the 152 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, has launched a worldwide campaign to heighten public awareness of the Geneva Conventions. The campaign, a first for the ICRC, is a part of the preparations for the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims which is due to take place in Geneva from 30 August to 1 September 1993.

The media package bearing the slogan "Respect and Ensure Respect for the Geneva Conventions" includes TV and radio spots, a radio programme and specially prepared publications in English, French, Spanish, German and Arabic; some are also available in Portuguese, Russian and Chinese. Film footage has been distributed to major TV stations around the world.

On 26 August National Societies will organize news events in their own countries on the theme of the conference. On the same day, Conference President Flavio Cotti (Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs) and ICRC President Corneliu Sommaruga will address the international press in Geneva.

CHAD
Quick response to evacuate wounded in Ndjamena
A mass funeral procession in Ndjamena on 8 August came to an abrupt halt when a military crackdown resulted in 41 deaths and over 150 casualties. The ICRC and the Red Cross of Chad (RCC) were on the spot immediately to evacuate the wounded to hospital. The ICRC provided the central hospital with medical supplies, including suture material, dressings, intravenous fluids and basic drugs, to help local doctors and nurses cope with the flood of casualties. This support is continuing, as many of the wounded are still hospitalized.

In the south-west of Chad, in the Logone region, the ICRC/RCC relief programme is coming to an end. Now that a certain degree of calm has returned to the area, seed and food distributions, started at the beginning of July, are no longer necessary. Over four weeks 85,000 people living in 171 villages received over 150 tonnes of assistance from the ICRC and the RCC.

ZAIRE
Major relief operation in Shaba region going strong
The ICRC’s food distributions in the southernmost region of Zaire are still urgently needed by the displaced Kasaian community gathered mainly in the towns of Likasi and Kolwezi.

Although several thousand people have already managed to leave Likasi, many more continue to arrive from the surrounding areas, creating new accommodation and sanitation problems. There remain some 65,000 Kasaian in Likasi living in precarious conditions and a further 25,000 in Kolwezi. Here the
Katangan community is also receiving ICRC assistance. The needs are engendered by regular security problems with the local military and with militant activists.

Around 100 tonnes of food are distributed every week by the ICRC in Likasi and Kolwezi. At present an ICRC nutritionist is carrying out a survey in Kolwezi, where the condition of children under five has degenerated.

CONGO/ZAIRE
ICRC steps up action to meet the needs

The ICRC's regional delegation in Kinshasa is being expanded to meet the growing humanitarian needs in Zaire and the Congo.

Following recent troubles in Brazzaville and other towns, a delegate has been stationed in the Congolese capital in order to maintain regular contact with the various authorities. The ICRC will thus be able to evaluate the situation of the civilian population and follow developments in the country. A survey is planned for Dolesie, where recent troubles have reportedly caused the displacement of around 1,000 people. The ICRC has already sent basic medical material to the local branch of the Congolese Red Cross, in order to help them meet initial first-aid needs.

The ICRC will base another delegate in the Kivu region of Zaire, bordering Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, where violent attacks involving indigenous tribes and Banyarwanda people (of Rwandan origin living in Zaire) have provoked the displacement of over 100,000 people. The permanent presence of an ICRC delegate will facilitate regular contact with all concerned parties and place the institution in a better position to encourage respect for the civilian population.

An additional delegate will join the ICRC's operation in the Shaba region, where the problem of displaced people is still of grave concern to the ICRC, and where increased contact with local authorities is needed.
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAR VICTIMS: ICRC MAKES ITS POSITION CLEAR

At a press conference in Geneva on Thursday 26 August, Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs Flavio Cotti and ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga emphasized the need for governments to step up their efforts to improve respect for international humanitarian law. The press conference was part of the campaign to draw media attention to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims to be held next week in Geneva. On the same day related media events were organized by National Societies in 66 different countries.

On Tuesday 24 August the ICRC sent a paper to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in which it states clearly that governments have to make a firm stand for the rights of conflict victims. Legal instruments exist — the Geneva Conventions — but they are too often ignored. Through the Conference the ICRC aims to persuade governments to make a solemn commitment to abide by the Geneva Conventions, and ensure that others do likewise. For the sake of all humanity, States must put an end to the needless suffering inflicted on the victims of war. Only concerted action on a global scale can expect to meet with any success.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
ICRC photo exhibition kicks off in Jerusalem

A high-profile photo exhibition portraying the ICRC’s work was inaugurated in Jerusalem on Sunday 22 August. The launching ceremony was attended by various prominent personalities from the Palestinian community, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives of non-governmental organizations and the press. A Committee member from the ICRC’s headquarters in Geneva also participated.

The photo showcase will travel around over the next few weeks to the ICRC’s offices in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. The aim is to inform as wide a public as possible about international humanitarian law and the role of the ICRC worldwide.

SUDAN
Relief operation under way

Over the past few weeks the ICRC has commenced a relief operation destined to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians living in abject misery in the south of Sudan. Over ten years of war in the region have caused widespread devastation and created acute humanitarian needs. Fishing equipment, seeds, tools and mosquito nets have so far been brought in, already reaching over 100,000 people. Some of the places assisted include Leer, Lafon, Malakal, Ayod and Kongor.

The recent increase in relief input from the ICRC can be partly credited to the use of a DC-3 medium-lift aircraft, which allows greater quantities to be transported. Over the next few weeks the ICRC intends to complete its planned distributions of seeds and tools, before the rainy season comes to an end.

RWANDA
ICRC starts food programme in demilitarized zone

On Monday 23 August the ICRC began distributing food to people displaced by the conflict who have returned to the Kisaro area. Kisaro is in the demilitarized zone separating government-held territory from the region controlled by the RPF opposition.

The institution also started relief work again on 19 August in the Murambi area, east of Byumba, which is in government territory. ICRC operations had come to a halt there two
weeks ago, due to persistent disorder during distributions, mainly attributed to an absence of effective local authority. The authorities and the displaced community have since made an effort to improve discipline, in order to allow distributions to go ahead.

Nutritional and agricultural surveys are now under way in the demilitarized zone and in the RPF-controlled area. The ICRC has already discovered that its relief assistance in these areas will have to be better targeted in the future, in order to meet the growing needs among specific vulnerable groups.

Aside from the relief programme, on 20 and 21 August three RPF fighters were released by the Rwandan government and were transported to the RPF zone by the ICRC. Likewise, 12 combatants from the Rwandan armed forces who had been freed by the RPF were brought back to Kigali by the ICRC, following a visit by delegates to the region controlled by the opposition movement.

**PANAMA**

**Visits to prisoners held since the American intervention**

From 9 to 13 August an ICRC team including a doctor visited 38 detainees held in two places of detention in Panama. The prisoners were captured or arrested as a result of the American invasion and subsequent change of government in late 1989. The ICRC team also went to Miami, where they carried out a routine visit to General Manuel Noriega, who is still in detention at the Metropolitan Correction Centre. Two other Panamanian prisoners of war who had previously been held with the General in the United States had been released on parole.

**NAGORYN-KARABAKH CONFLICT**

**Displaced assisted by the ICRC**

Following the offensive launched by Armenian forces of Nagorny-Karabakh on Fizuli and Dzebrail an estimated 60,000 civilians fled the area. Last week the ICRC responded to the need for emergency medical supplies at the two temporary hospitals. ICRC staff handed out several hundred tarpaulins to the displaced, to use as temporary shelter against the rain. The displaced were moving eastwards with their possessions, including their livestock, along the road from Goradiz to Imishli.

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

**ICRC resumes visits in Tarcin/Pazaric**

For the first time in three months the ICRC visited about 100 detainees held by the Bosnian government forces in Tarcin/Pazaric. Delegates reached the area by using the main road from Sarajevo via Hadzici which had been closed since last year. Before heavy fighting broke out in central Bosnia the ICRC got to this area from Mostar. In addition, after six weeks of negotiation, the institution was able to visit some 2,000 people detained by Bosnian Croat forces in the Rodoc Heliport (Mostar). The ICRC is continuing its efforts to gain access to all detainees held by the three parties to the conflict.
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAR VICTIMS: 160 STATES REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

A total of 815 representatives of States and organizations took part in the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims this week in Geneva. One hundred and sixty countries were represented, over 40 at ministerial level, while 16 organizations and a further 16 observers were present.

One hundred and thirteen delegates spoke at the Conference, all of them calling for a firm commitment from governments to rigorously apply the Geneva Conventions. Most of the speakers expressed their sincere condolences to the ICRC and to the bereaved families of the three ICRC employees who lost their lives over the weekend. Many went further, voicing the need for instruments at international level to give humanitarian workers free access to war victims and to guarantee their security.

Most delegates to the Conference declared that there was no need to revise the Geneva Conventions. What was needed, they said, was for States to be true to the spirit of the Conventions and make a greater effort to apply the rules of war to the letter. A general consensus was reached on how the existing tools could be better applied. Most delegates agreed that a combination of widespread dissemination work and tangible measures taken at a national level should be complemented by the establishment of an International Criminal Court. A suggestion was also made that some kind of international monitoring mechanism be set up, with the International Fact-Finding Commission a possible candidate for the task.

The Conference culminated in a declaration by the participants, in which they condemned violations of international humanitarian law and undertook to enforce the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

SIERRA LEONE
ICRC partially suspends its activities

The ICRC has suspended its relief work in Sierra Leone following last week's violent attack on a Red Cross convoy close to the Liberian border. Two ICRC nurses lost their lives and a third was wounded in the ambush. The ICRC's two Ivorian and Guinean drivers, initially reported missing, are now safe and well in Kenema.

For the past 18 months the ICRC has been helping 11,000 displaced people and refugees to survive, supplying them with food and other basic necessities such as cooking pots, clothing, soap and seeds. Medical treatment including tetanus vaccinations of under-fives and women of childbearing age was also carried out in the region. The ICRC's relief programme was recently extended to cover a further 25,000 victims of the conflict further north, in the Koidu area.
ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
Druze marriages on the Golan Heights

On Monday 30 August two Druze women from Syria married Druze men from the Golan Heights. After the ceremony, which took place on the demarcation line controlled by United Nations forces, both couples entered the territory occupied by Israel.

The same day, some 70 students from the Golan Heights crossed the demarcation line on their way to Damascus University, after having spent their holidays at home.

Both operations were carried out under the auspices of the ICRC, which acted as a neutral intermediary between Syria and Israel.

EASTERN AFRICA
First regional rules of war seminar

The ICRC organized East Africa's first regional seminar on international humanitarian law from 12 to 18 August. Twenty-two senior officers from the Tanzanian, Sudanese, Ugandan and Kenyan armed forces attended the seminar which was held in Kenya.

Dissemination activities to the armed forces have been carried out in East Africa since 1988, but a regional event had not been possible until a meeting in June 1992 with the Kenyan Chief of Staff, itself the result of the ICRC/OAU Conference held in December 1991.

AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN
ICRC's Quetta hospital receives new influx of patients

In the last week 40 wounded Afghan nationals from Kandahar province were evacuated to Quetta in Pakistan. They are now receiving treatment at the ICRC hospital in Quetta which is specially equipped to take care of war casualties.

The victims were injured during six days of factional fighting near Kandahar town which also left some 260 people dead. A cease-fire was declared on 29 August.

Since the 150-bed hospital opened in Quetta in 1983 it has performed over 28,700 surgical operations and treated some 13,200 wounded as a result of the conflict in Afghanistan.
SUDAN: JUBA SUB-DELEGATION REOPENS

In early September, authorization was received from the Sudanese Government for the ICRC to reopen its sub-delegation in Juba. The delegate arrived on 6 September. There has been no permanent ICRC presence in the city since end-May of this year. The institution hopes to be able to undertake more regular field missions to isolated areas from Juba, the main city in southern Sudan.

The ICRC has also received government approval of the flight plan for its humanitarian activities during the month of September. Authorization was received on 31 August, the first time this year that it has been granted by Khartoum before the start of the month in question. This means that the ICRC will be able to carry out its relief work in southern Sudan during the entire month of September, bringing desperately needed assistance to the victims of conflict in the region.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Record number of Red Cross messages handled in a week

In the first week of September, the ICRC handled over 100,000 messages in former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina. These messages were exchanged between detainees and their families, as well as between family members who have been separated by the conflict. Red Cross messages are often the only means of communication in areas where the mail service no longer functions. They are collected and distributed both within and outside of former Yugoslavia in cooperation with the local Red Cross and more than 80 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide.

In 1992 one million Red Cross messages were handled in former Yugoslavia. A further 1,950,000 have already been processed in the first eight months of 1993. This increase in messages distributed underlines not only the need for this service but also the growing trust that local people are now placing in it.

SRI LANKA
ICRC resumes its activities in Jaffna

The ICRC has resumed its operation escorting government food supplies to the Jaffna peninsula. Activities were suspended following a security incident and attacks on ships in port. The institution is now satisfied that the necessary guarantees have been given.

The ICRC provides protection for three ships carrying basic necessities to the isolated northern peninsula. A population of 800,000 civilians would otherwise suffer severe hardship without these shipments that deliver an average of 7,000 tonnes of goods per month. The ICRC’s role is to ensure that distribution channels function in the east and that supplies are brought into Jaffna on a regular basis.
HONG KONG
ICRC participates in International Surgical Week

An ICRC surgeon took part in this year's International Surgical Week, held in Hong Kong from 21 to 28 August. The surgeon presented clinical and weaponry based data from the Red Cross Wound Database. This Database contains information on some 19,000 war-wounded treated in five of the ICRC's hospitals, including Peshawar, Quetta and Kabul for the Afghan conflict, Khao-I-Dang on the Thai/Cambodian border and Lokichokio, Kenya, near the Sudanese border. The Database is kept at ICRC headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The ICRC's experience of the management of war-wounded patients is widely recognized among military medical personnel. For this reason, the ICRC has been invited to take responsibility for the session on trauma surgery at the next International Surgical Week, scheduled to be held in Lisbon in 1995.

MEDIA 7 is published by the International Committee of the Red Cross
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ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES:
ICRC VISITS PALESTINIAN DEPORTEES IN MARJ EZ ZOUHOUR

On 10 September the ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories was given access to the 215 Palestinian deportees who have remained in Marj Ez Zouhour after 181 of them were allowed by Israel to leave the camp. A team of five from the ICRC, consisting of three delegates and two doctors, crossed the "security zone" occupied by Israel in South Lebanon, reaching the camp by road.

During the visit, the doctors examined sick deportees in order to establish which were the most serious medical cases and request their evacuation to hospital. Medical supplies were handed out to the clinic at the camp. Red Cross messages were also distributed and others collected for the families of the deportees.

CROATIA/UNPAs
ICRC responds to latest outbreak of fighting

The ICRC sent urgent medical supplies to hospitals in Gospic, north of Zadar, Knin, in the southern United Nations Protected Area (UNPA), and Vojnic, south of Zagreb, following renewed fighting between the Croatian army and ethnic Serb forces over the last few days. The supplies included dressings, antibiotics, analgesics and intravenous fluids. In the nearby Medak area, the institution also distributed food and blankets to displaced Serbian civilians, numbering around 600. On 12 September delegates visited eight prisoners held by Croatian authorities because of the conflict.

The ICRC reminded the parties involved in the fighting to respect international humanitarian law, in particular to refrain from random shelling of civilian populated areas, a practice expressly forbidden by the Geneva Conventions.

AFGHANISTAN
Jalalabad hospital copes with influx of war-wounded

The ICRC-assisted hospital in Jalalabad was able to treat 30 war-wounded patients on 10 September, following an upsurge of fighting in the town.

The ICRC began reconstructing the Jalalabad hospital in November 1992 after surveys of existing facilities indicated that they were not equipped to handle large numbers of war-wounded. The ICRC has concentrated its efforts on training staff, mainly in war surgery. This has directly influenced the number of operations, particularly on war-wounded, that can be efficiently performed by the hospital. The work should be completed by the end of this year.
CHINA
First ICRC mission to Sinkiang
On 10 September the ICRC completed its first visit to the autonomous region of Sinkiang. The ten-day mission was organized by the ICRC regional delegation in Hong Kong, together with the Chinese Red Cross, and enabled delegates to visit Urumqi, the capital, and Tourfan, Kachgar and Altay.
Meetings were held with provincial authorities and representatives of the local Red Cross and Red Crescent Society. These discussions have lead to a greater understanding of humanitarian issues in this immense region.
Sinkiang is situated on the Chinese border with the ex-Soviet republics of Central Asia and with Pakistan. It has some three times the surface area of France and is populated by minorities, predominantly the Islamic Ouigours.

SYRIA
First seminar on IHL
The ICRC held a seminar on international humanitarian law (IHL) in Homs from 6 to 8 September. This is the first time that a seminar of this type has been held in Arabic for the Syrian Red Crescent Society. It was also an opportunity for the ICRC to explain its activities. The seminar was attended by representatives of various professions such as lawyers, teachers, doctors and journalists.

ZAIRE
New ICRC presence in Kivu
The ICRC has recently opened a sub-delegation in the town of Goma, Kivu. It is the first ICRC presence in north-eastern Zaire and was set up particularly to investigate problems of sanitation and water and assess the needs of displaced people in Kivu. An ICRC sanitary engineer has been sent out to find solutions to these questions. The sub-delegation is also responsible for organizing emergency teams of local Red Cross personnel and producing first-aid kits.
In Shaba, the southernmost region of Zaire, the ICRC is continuing its food distribution programme for the displaced Kasaian community. In the town of Likasi the food situation seems to be under control, although in Kolwezi pockets of malnutrition have been found among children. This is usually due to cramped living conditions, lack of hygiene and shortage of medical supplies. Some 5,000 blankets have also been distributed to the displaced Kasaian community in the last two weeks.
In Kamina, Kasai, 85 orphans, cared for by religious orders, receive flour, oil and beans.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: NEW SUPPLY ROUTES OPEN TO ZENICA

The ICRC has sent relief assistance to the 150,000 displaced people in the Zenica area, central Bosnia. This is the first time such assistance has been possible since the route via Split was cut off following a new upsurge of violence some weeks ago. The relief convoys can now travel along two different routes, either from the Serbian-controlled regions in northern Bosnia, via the town of Turbe, or from south of Belgrade, via Tuzla. On 16 September seven trucks containing 100 tonnes of family parcels and wheat-flour left via Turbe for Zenica. Since the beginning of 1993 the ICRC has distributed some 32,000 tonnes of relief goods worth CHF 50 million, reaching an average of 600,000 displaced people in Bosnia-Herzegovina every month.

RWANDA
Second wave of displaced return to demilitarized zone

Nearly all of the 550,000 people displaced by the war have been able to return to their homes in the demilitarized zone in the north of Rwanda. They were forced to leave the region in February of this year, but began to return home in July. The ICRC estimates that some 40,000 displaced still remain in the camps. Over 30 Rwandese Red Cross food distribution points have been moved into the demilitarized zone to offer assistance to the returnees.

A further 350,000 people are still in camps south of the demilitarized zone. They were forced to leave their homes more than two years ago. The ICRC is anxious that these people should be able to return home soon. A convoy has been sent from Uganda into the region carrying seeds and cuttings that should be planted during the crop sowing period in September. The north of Rwanda is a fertile and rich agricultural land where beans, corn and sweet potatoes are normally grown.

The ICRC is continuing its food programme in the demilitarized zone and to the camps, supplying basic essentials to 900,000 people. Food distribution is now targeted to cover the needs of the most vulnerable camps and food rations have been readjusted according to the nutritional situation.

In the northern zone held by the opposition Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), the ICRC has started its second distribution to the 10,000 civilians who have remained in the area. It has included deliveries of soap and hoes. The ICRC was also responsible for the recent transportation back to the zone of three prisoners released by the government.

EAST TIMOR
Prison visits resumed

In agreement with the authorities a series of ICRC visits to East Timor detainees resumed on 30 July, and were completed on 23 September, in accordance with the ICRC standard criteria of action. During this period a total of 29 places of detention were seen by ICRC delegates. These included four prisons, two of which are outside of East Timor, and 25 detention facilities at district level.

SOMALIA
10 million livestock treated in ICRC veterinary programme

Twenty-three ICRC veterinary teams have treated nearly 10 million sheep, goats, cattle and camels in the past year. The operation began in September 1992 and is designed to enable livestock owners to become self-sufficient again. About 70% of the Somali population is nomadic, relying entirely on livestock for its survival.
Local owners, traders and veterinarians reported that the programme has had positive results on animal health as well as on export figures. These have risen to 1.2 million animals exported between January and June 1993 from 350,000 animals for all of 1992. Before conflict broke out in Somalia, livestock had accounted for some 80% of the country's export revenue. The ICRC's role is now to ensure the smooth transition from the emergency to the rehabilitation phase, involving a two-year training programme for Somali veterinarians and the establishment of a pharmaceutical distribution network. By December 1993 the ICRC veterinary programme will end its activities in Somalia, enabling other development agencies to pursue the next phase of privatization.

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND
ICRC President carries out official visit
ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga conducted an official visit to Australia from 13 to 16 September and to New Zealand from 17 to 18 September.

The first part of the presidential visit to Australia centred on the 90th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Canberra. Mr Sommaruga was invited, as special guest, to speak on the respect of international humanitarian law. He discussed issues of humanitarian importance with Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Governor General, Senator Gareth Evans, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and other members of the Australian government, as well as Mr Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Secretary, and General Edi Saudradjat, the Indonesian Minister of Defence and Security.

During the second part of his visit, Mr Sommaruga was the guest of the Australian Red Cross where he was awarded the Medal of Honour, the organization's highest decoration.

In New Zealand, the President met with the Prime Minister, Hon. J.B. Bolger, and other members of the government. He also received a warm welcome from the National Red Cross Society and presented the Florence Nightingale Medal to the mother of Ms Wendy Smith, presently Federation delegate in Namibia. Before leaving New Zealand, Mr Sommaruga gave blood to the Wellington blood bank, as part of a time-honoured tradition.

JORDAN
Health in prison seminar
The ICRC ran a seminar entitled "Health in Prison", taking place in Amman from 22 to 23 September. It was held under the patronage of HRH the Crown Prince of Jordan with the participation of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Some 27 Jordanian doctors as well as ICRC representatives from Geneva and Jordan attended. Subjects covered included "Medical ethics and prison" and "Water and sanitation".

CONGO
Rules of war seminar
The ICRC organized a seminar on international humanitarian law in Brazzaville, from 16 to 23 September. Nearly all of the countries from central Africa sent three delegates each, including Congo, Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Burundi, Rwanda, Sao Tome, Republic of Central Africa and Zaire. The seminar was designed specifically for senior military officers involved in teaching and featured a new teaching manual.
GEORGIA: ICRC RESUMES HOSPITAL VISITS

The ICRC delegation in Sukhumi has resumed its hospital visits and distribution of emergency medical aid. The three delegates have been in the Black Sea port since the upsurge of fighting earlier this month, but were forced to take shelter on 22 September. They were able to leave the shelters on 28 September, and immediately recommenced visiting hospital No. 2 which has reopened.

In addition, an ICRC delegate and a nurse left Tbilisi on 28 September. At present, they are evaluating the situation in the hospitals in the west of the country and will proceed to Ochamchira where fighting continues. On 29 September two small planes left Tbilisi for Gudauta, a port 35 kilometres to the north of Sukhumi, with medical emergency supplies destined for Sukhumi and Tkvarsheli. The ICRC also has teams based in Gudauta and Tkvarsheli.

The ICRC expresses its concern over the fate of the civilian population. Tens of thousands of civilians are on the move, fleeing the conflict regions, many of them still hiding in the mountains for fear of reprisals. In coordination with other international organizations present in Georgia, ICRC teams are evaluating the needs of these unfortunate people in order to carry out an emergency programme once the situation has stabilized.

VIET NAM
ICRC orthopaedic centre doubles its capacity

The ICRC orthopaedic centre in Ho-Chi-Minh City is fitting an average of 200 amputees a month with prostheses. It was set up in cooperation with the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs in 1988. Since its inception, it has treated some 5,500 amputees, with its capacity doubling from an average of 1,000 patients per year in 1989 to around 2,000 by end-1993.

In 1975 Viet Nam had some 60,000 amputees as a result of the conflict. The authorities requested ICRC assistance to ensure that all the needy were cared for.

In addition to fitting amputees, the centre has a production unit manufacturing orthopaedic components. Many of the artificial knees and feet produced in Ho-Chi-Minh City are then sent to three other centres in the south of Vietnam, enabling them to produce their own prostheses using the same technique. The artificial parts are increasingly produced in polypropylene plastic, which has allowed costs to be reduced.

Some 28 Vietnamese work at the centre, as well as three ICRC specialists.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
ICRC visits places of detention in Zepce

On 22 September the ICRC delegates based in Banja Luka and Zenica jointly visited the three places of detention in Zepce, held by Bosnian government forces. The delegates registered some 150 prisoners. This is the first time that the ICRC has been able to visit any of the detainees held in the area.

SOMALIA
ICRC agricultural programme bears fruit

As it draws to a close at the end of 1993, the ICRC Emergency Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme will have distributed nearly 2,900 tonnes of seeds, 184,000 packets of vegetable seeds and 162,000 farming tools. The programme was designed to provide destitute farmers with the basic implements needed to resume agricultural activities, regain self-sufficiency and prevent further loss to the production system in this once fertile land. It began in 1992, before the three-month long Gu, or rainy season. This year, the harvest that follows the Gu gave reasonable yields due to the programme, plentiful rains and the first comparatively peaceful times since the outbreak of conflict in 1991.
The ICRC is now concentrating on farmers who are less well off, either due to natural causes such as floods, or because they have returned from refugee camps and are resettling in their former homesteads. The institution plans to provide roughly 95 tonnes of maize, 205 tonnes of sorghum, 660 tonnes of cow peas, 3.2 tonnes of vegetable seeds and 48,000 farming tools.

The ICRC is paying special attention to the most vulnerable ethnic groups who depend on fishing for their survival, such as the Bantu and the Bajuni. Some 40,000 families in communities living along the rivers and in coastal areas have received sea and river fishing kits. A second round of fishing tackle will be distributed before the end of 1993.

RWANDA
ICRC medical and relief programmes continue

Three ICRC-assisted first-aid posts have been set up in Rwanda’s northern demilitarized zone. They offer medical care to some of the returnees in the region.

Previously, medical care was provided by two ICRC-run mobile clinics, handling an average of 700 consultations a week. The ICRC has now been able to close these clinics.

Food distribution programmes continue in Rwanda where the ICRC assists both the returnees in the demilitarized zone and the displaced still in camps. The two groups have varying nutritional requirements. In the camps to the north of Kigali, for example, food rations have stabilized at around 2,100 calories per person. This is made up of 6 kilos of wheat-flour, 6 kilos of corn, 4 kilos of beans, 700 grams of oil and 150 grams of salt per person per month. The displaced in these camps were forced by conflict to leave their homes over two years ago.

In the demilitarized zone, many of the returnees have found that their crops have been destroyed and it is too late to harvest this year’s sweet potatoes. They remain in need of ICRC relief assistance.

NAGORNY-KARABAKH CONFLICT
Promotion of IHL near front line

Beginning 20 September the ICRC gave a series of four presentations on international humanitarian law (IHL) to troops based near the front lines in Baloudja, Haikazov, Martuni and near Martakert. The seminars focused on the treatment of prisoners in armed conflicts and each was attended by an average of 60 officers and soldiers.

COSTA RICA
Seminar for journalists

On 14-15 September, the ICRC regional delegate organized a seminar for journalists entitled "Safety for journalists on dangerous professional missions". It was run together with the Costa Rican College for Journalists and the National Red Cross Society. Ten journalists attended, representing the principal media in the country, but others were unable to participate because of typhoon "Gert". The seminar covered the role and activities of the ICRC, international humanitarian law in general and protection of journalists under the law. The participants expressed the wish that the seminar become an annual event.
SOMALIA: EXTREMELY SERIOUS MEDICAL SITUATION

An ICRC surgeon was flown into Mogadishu on 5 October to reinforce the medical team treating the influx of casualties into the city’s hospitals, after the violent fighting on 3 and 4 October. The ICRC expatriate nurse has assessed the number of war-wounded at over 700 in the three main hospitals of Digfer, Benadir and Keysaney. The ICRC was immediately able to assist these hospitals with substantial medical supplies. Moreover, the institution in cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent Society opened five first-aid posts in the affected area to minister first aid to the wounded and treat out-patients that had been discharged from hospital due to overcrowding. The institution expresses concern about the wounded still in the streets and houses that have not had access to proper medical care.

Since June of this year the ICRC has visited 172 Somalis held by UNOSOM and one Nigerian UNOSOM soldier detained by Somalis. The detention visits were in accordance with the ICRC standard criteria of action.

The ICRC appeals to all forces involved in the fighting in Mogadishu to respect international humanitarian law.

GEORGIA
Emergency relief for displaced fleeing Abkhazia

The second ICRC convoy in two days left Tbilisi on 6 October carrying 15 tonnes of relief assistance for the tens of thousands of displaced people who are seeking shelter in Svanetia, north-west Georgia, following the fall of Sukhumi. The convoy is carrying food, blankets, warm clothes and shoes for the displaced who left the coastal town of Sukhumi, unprepared for the icy mountain conditions of Upper Svanetia. The displaced civilians are particularly in need of food that needs little preparation as cooking facilities are almost non-existent. In addition to the cold, they are suffering from exhaustion after several days of walking at an altitude of more than 2,000 metres.

SRI LANKA
Jaffna hospital supplies meet emergency

Some 308 war-wounded, including civilians, have been admitted to the Jaffna hospital following last week’s military offensive on the northern peninsula. The hospital was able to handle the influx thanks to a considerable stock of ICRC medical supplies built up to cope with just such an emergency. The unloading of ICRC-protected boats carrying goods to the civilian population cut off on the Jaffna peninsula could resume on 6 October, having been delayed for several days by a general curfew declared by the army.

In addition, 600 families are displaced due to the offensive. They have received food from the ICRC and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society emergency stock.
BULGARIA
Conference of Balkan Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies adopts declaration
The 10th Conference of Balkan Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was held in Sofia from 29 September to 3 October. Subjects covered included the lack of respect for international humanitarian law in former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The participants deplored the extent of serious violations committed by the warring factions and expressed their determination to continue to make the law known as widely as possible. They also reviewed means of coordinating their assistance to victims, both to those trapped in conflict zones and to refugees who have fled.
All participants adopted a solemn declaration confirming their intention to continue to work together for respect of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. They requested the parties involved in the conflict to abide by their commitments and to facilitate the work of the Movement and of all other humanitarian agencies working for the victims.

BURUNDI
Assistance for released detainees
Most of the 700 detainees held in Burundi for security reasons and visited regularly by the ICRC have now been released. Freedom was granted in an amnesty declared by President Ndadaye's new government on 9 September. Many of the ex-detainees do not have the financial means to return to their homes and have received ICRC help in the form of transportation and general assistance. The institution is now assessing the situation in the detention centres as more and more prisoners are released.
The ICRC has maintained a permanent delegation in the capital Bujumbura since January 1992. The institution has had regular access to detainees held for security reasons since 1986. In addition, sanitation work in prisons was also carried out under the supervision of an ICRC sanitary engineer.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC VEHICLE HITS MINE

An ICRC armoured car leading a convoy to Tesanj hit a mine on 12 October, not far from its destination. No one was hurt in the incident. The convoy, consisting of 14 trucks loaded with blankets, individual food parcels and wheat flour and accompanied by two ICRC armoured vehicles, has had to return to Banja Luka without being able to deliver its cargo.

After several months of negotiations to obtain access to the besieged towns of Tesanj and Maglaj, the ICRC had received the final clearance, including security guarantees from all parties involved, to send a relief convoy to Tesanj. Relief supplies have not been able to reach the town since 1 June.

The ICRC regrets that it has been prevented from carrying out its humanitarian activities in this way and appeals once more to all parties to the conflict to respect the ICRC’s mandate to assist all victims.

RWANDA
Red Cross messages provide vital link

The ICRC’s Tracing Agency has brought eagerly awaited news of friends and family to some of the displaced people in camps in the north of Rwanda. Contact has been established between more than 1,500 families who were separated by the conflict up to three years ago and have been without news of relatives who stayed behind in the zone.

This summer an ICRC team visited the northern zone held by the opposition Rwanda Patriotic Front. They collected over 1,000 Red Cross messages from heads of families. These were then taken to seven of the camps for the displaced where notices were put up to draw attention to the messages. Many of the displaced were amazed to receive information about relatives that they thought were dead or missing.

Distribution of the Red Cross messages was complicated by the fact that much of the population is illiterate and required help from ICRC delegates in writing or reading their messages.

The ICRC is now working with the Rwandese Red Cross to set up a programme for the future distribution of Red Cross messages.

CAMBODIA
Crime wave plagues humanitarian activities

The ICRC had two of its vehicles stolen and suffered two other security incidents in Cambodia in the space of two days, on 9 and 10 October. Robberies are being carried out all over the country; of last weekend’s incidents three took place in Phnom Penh and one in Battambang. The rise in acts of organized crime since the beginning of this year is reaching an alarming level in Cambodia.

Criminal activities are affecting all of the humanitarian organizations working in Cambodia and are a reflection of the difficulties that the new government is having in maintaining law and order and guaranteeing the security of people and property. The crime wave is a serious
obstacle to the ability of humanitarian organizations to accomplish their tasks.

The ICRC has one delegation, two sub-delegations and an office in Cambodia staffed by over 40 expatriates.

GEORGIA
ICRC present and active in Zugdidi
An estimated 20,000 to 30,000 displaced people are stranded in Zugdidi, western Georgia, having fled from the conflict zone in Abkhazia. As well as fearing for their own future, they are anxious to have news of friends and family left behind in Abkhazia. The ICRC is continuing its relief work and is to set up an office in Zugdidi to coordinate its humanitarian activities.

Tens of thousands of refugees are also concentrated in Chuberi, in the mountainous Svanetia region and in Kutaisi, the country’s second largest city. The third ICRC convoy in two weeks left Tbilisi on 11 October, carrying blankets and family parcels to Zugdidi as well as clothing, shoes, kitchen sets, plastic sheets and stoves to help the Chuberi and Kutaisi displaced.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ICRC meets medical needs
After assessing the requirements of ten Moscow hospitals, ICRC delegates have distributed medical assistance according to need. The hospitals are caring for those wounded in the events earlier this month. Emergency supplies included dressings and pharmaceutical products.

The main concern of the ICRC is the situation of the people detained in connection with the recent uprising.

AFGHANISTAN
Renewed fighting in Kabul and Sarobi
The ICRC-assisted hospital in Karte Seh, western Kabul, has treated a new influx of over 90 war-wounded in the last few days. Gunmen and civilians were wounded last Sunday, following the heaviest clashes between rival factions in the Afghan capital in recent weeks. The Karte Seh hospital, which was formerly run by the ICRC, is still entirely supported by the institution.

Fighting has also broken out in Sarobi on the main road from Jalalabad to Kabul. Some 70 wounded are trapped in the town’s bazaar. The ICRC has evacuated two of the wounded and is trying to transport others to Kabul hospitals.

AZERBAIJAN
First rules of war seminar in Agdam
The ICRC has organized a series of three international humanitarian law seminars in Agdam, near the border with Nagorny-Karabakh. This is the first time that a seminar of this kind has been held in Agdam. Over 200 soldiers attended the seminars which covered the rules of war.
GEORGIA: FEARS FOR SAFETY OF CIVILIANS IN ABKHAZIA

The ICRC is concerned about the safety of some of the civilians who remained in Abkhazia after the fall of Sukhumi. The civilians, whose numbers are unknown, are threatened by attacks from uncontrolled elements taking advantage of the present situation in the Black Sea port and its surrounding area. ICRC delegates are monitoring events and providing protection for civilians, as well as delivering food and medical assistance to some of the more isolated groups.

The ICRC is continuing its relief distributions to displaced people in Mingrelia. A sixth convoy crossed the front line to bring essential supplies to Zugdidi this week. The institution is assisting several thousand people who have found shelter in public buildings and has provided food to a community kitchen that has been set up in Zugdidi. Medical supplies have been distributed to three hospitals in Zugdidi and two in Kutaisi.

Visits to all the detainees held in connection with the conflict situation remain a major concern for the ICRC.

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Three millionth Red Cross message exchanged

The three millionth Red Cross message to be exchanged since the beginning of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia reached its addressee in Sarajevo earlier this week. The message was sent from a refugee in a camp in Austria to a family member still in Sarajevo. It ends:

"We listen to the news broadcast by Radio Sarajevo. When you get this message, please tell our friends that we often think of them. (...) I must tell you that I have not yet drunk a cup of coffee, not to mention eaten food, without remembering you."

Red Cross messages are often the only link between detainees and their families, as well as between family members who have been separated by conflict. They play a vital role in areas where the regular mail service no longer functions. Last month, the ICRC broke its previous record when it handled over 100,000 messages in one week in the former Yugoslavia, mainly in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

SUDAN

First visits to detainees in 1993

On 16 and 17 October, ICRC delegates working in southern Sudan were able to visit 182 detainees held by the SPLA (Sudanese People’s Liberation Army) Garang faction. These detainees are mainly members of the Sudanese armed forces. Of the total number, eight were visited for the first time. The visits were carried out in accordance with the ICRC’s standard procedures. The delegates distributed clothing, blankets, soap and basic medical supplies for the detainees.

The last ICRC visit to detainees held by the SPLA was in April 1992.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Local Red Cross reestablishes presence in Bougainville

The ICRC is helping the Papua New Guinea Red Cross to reestablish its presence in Bougainville, an island in Papua New Guinea which has been torn by conflict.

On 14 October an ICRC delegate together with a representative of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross visited Bougainville. They brought medical supplies for the hospital in Buka, and clothing which was distributed to displaced people in Wakanui. There are tens of thousands of displaced on the island.

The ICRC has been following developments in Bougainville since the insurrection in 1989 and has carried out periodic missions to the island.

MALI
End of two-year ICRC presence

The ICRC is closing its subdelegation in Timbuktu as well as its offices in Goundam, Lere and Niafunke this month because of the improvement in the general situation in the region. During a ceremony held to mark the closure of the subdelegation, both the civilian and military authorities of Timbuktu and the Tuareg representative thanked the ICRC for the significant role it played in reconciling the two communities during the crisis.

ICRC operations in the region have involved visits to detainees held in connection with the conflict, as well as medical assistance, including evacuation of the wounded and providing support to isolated health posts.
BURUNDI: MORE THAN A HUNDRED THOUSAND FLEE VIOLENCE

The ICRC is extremely concerned about the safety of civilians in Burundi since the military coup d'etat on 21 October. More than a hundred thousand civilians have fled the violence in the north, north-east and east of Burundi to seek refuge in neighbouring Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire. ICRC delegates have been unable to visit the country by land because of the numerous obstructions on the road, although they did carry out a short survey by air. Many dead were spotted, including children. In the capital Bujumbura delegates have evaluated medical needs. So far few patients have reached the hospitals as most of the wounded do not survive their injuries. Emergency medical and basic supplies are ready to be sent in from Kigali, in Rwanda, and Nairobi, should they be required.

The ICRC has appealed to the military and civilian authorities to respect international humanitarian law, especially as regards the protection of the civilian population and the treatment of prisoners. The institution has also asked the authorities to appeal to the population to cease immediately all acts of hatred and cruelty.

SOUTH AFRICA
Over 500 ICRC visits to police stations in the past year

October 1993 marks the first anniversary of the ICRC receiving authorization to visit detainees in South African police stations, unannounced and according to ICRC standard procedure. In the past year, delegates have conducted over 500 visits to detainees in some 300 police stations and prisons.

Visits to detainees, including those awaiting trial, are part of the ICRC's broader objective of preventing abuse, improving conditions of detention, lessening human suffering and upholding international humanitarian law.

Since the mid-80s the ICRC, in cooperation with the South African Red Cross Society, has assisted victims of political violence by visiting detainees, providing material assistance and treating and evacuating the wounded and injured during outbreaks of fighting.

GEORGIA
Precarious situation in Mingrelian hospitals

The ICRC is stepping up its assistance to hospitals in Mingrelia, Georgia. The conflict in the region has meant that medical supplies are no longer reaching the region from Tbilisi. Stocks in the hospitals in Senaki, Samtredia and Zugdidi are dangerously low and the ability of these medical facilities to respond to emergencies is in jeopardy.

ICRC medical assistance is also being given to hospitals in Tbilisi where some 600 wounded are being treated. In addition, the town's hospitals are sheltering a growing number of refugees - over 300 - who are mainly relatives of patients.
SUDAN
Agricultural programme takes root

The ICRC’s distribution of agricultural equipment and cereal seeds in southern Sudan comes to a temporary close this month, as the second rainy season finishes. Since August delegates have distributed 170 tonnes of agricultural assistance for a population of 400,000. Sorghum, cowpea, pumpkin, maize, okra and other vegetable seeds have been made available, along with different types of tools such as hoes.

Some areas of southern Sudan have two planting seasons a year. The second, from July to September, lasted longer this year, allowing a further distribution of seeds. The produce will be harvested in November and December.

August also saw the start of an ICRC distribution of fishing tackle. Some 10 tonnes along with 20 tonnes of mosquito nets were given out to the population of 350,000 living near the Nile river and its tributaries. The fishing equipment has enabled the population to supplement its diet with river fish.

Distribution of fishing material and vegetable seeds will continue in the coming months.

MONGOLIA
Red Cross training course

The ICRC’s regional delegation in Hong Kong, together with the Mongolian Red Cross, organized a training course in Ulan-Bator, the Mongolian capital, between 18 and 22 October. The course focused on the principles of international humanitarian law. Representatives from the Mongolian Red Cross headquarters and each of the eight aimaks, or provinces, attended the course.

AFGHANISTAN
ICRC-assisted hospital treats new influx of wounded

The Karte Seh hospital in western Kabul has admitted 38 wounded following heavy fighting in the Afghan capital in recent days. The ICRC assists two hospitals in Kabul, Karte Seh and Wazir Akbar Khan, in order to ensure their ability to cope with emergencies. In 1993 the ICRC provided CHF 2.7 million in assistance to these two hospitals. This covered medical supplies, food, salaries of hospital employees, fuel and other running costs.
BURUNDI: DESPITE LULLS, VIOLENCE CONTINUES

Although the violence has become less fierce in parts of Burundi, inter-ethnic confrontations are continuing in the central and eastern parts of the country. The ICRC now has 15 delegates, including a medical team, to provide emergency assistance to the war-torn central African state. Delegates have travelled from the capital Bujumbura to Gitega in the centre of the country and on to Muyinga and Kiremba in the north by road so that they could have maximum contact with the local people and thus provide a reassuring presence. They are also attempting to go to Kamzi in the east. The delegates have been warmly greeted in the countryside and have been helped in removing obstacles placed on the roads for protection against intruders. In Bujumbura ICRC medical staff are visiting hospitals daily. Early this week a plane carrying 1.6 tonnes of medical material was sent from the ICRC regional delegation in Nairobi, via the sub-delegation in Kigali, Rwanda, where it picked up additional staff. All told, the ICRC has sent 13.6 tonnes of medical material to Burundi. On 3 November the ICRC began visits to the eight detainees held in connection with the failed coup d’état.

SUDAN
New programme of assistance for the displaced

On 1 November the ICRC began its programme of assistance in Malakal in southern Sudan where some 1,270 displaced people live in camps and schools, forgotten by the outside world. Following an ICRC evaluation mission, delegates found these people living in insanitary conditions and suffering from malnutrition, the majority without a roof over their heads and having to travel over a mile to fetch water from the Nile river.

The ICRC is sending a delegate and a nurse to Malakal to be joined by a nutritionist from Geneva where they will initiate an emergency programme including nutritional rehabilitation. At this stage, the plans are, initially, to select and evacuate the most serious 80 cases to appropriate hospitals, and to transfer another 150 suffering from malnutrition to the paediatric hospital. The ICRC will also provide blankets, mosquito nets and fishing equipment to these people.

MOZAMBIQUE
Agricultural programme reaps its benefits

The ICRC emergency relief programme in Mozambique comes to a successful end in December 1993. Not only have families been able to build up food and seed stocks but the population as a whole looks much better off than before.

Operational since the summer of 1992, the programme consists of a major food distribution, assistance in rebuilding the country’s agriculture through the distribution of seeds and tools and non-food assistance such as blankets and clothes. It was set up following one of southern Africa’s most serious droughts in 1991-1992 and after a peace agreement in October 1992 ended years of internal strife. The programme targets two groups in particular for help: the displaced who...
are now returning to their homes and the inhabitants of regions where last year’s rainy season was insufficient. In all some 60,000 families were assisted last year and 20,000 to 25,000 will receive distributions this year.

The ICRC agronomists devised three types of seed kits to adapt to the agro-ecological conditions in each region. These were for arid zones and wet zones with a special distribution for the north coastal area. The results of this year’s harvest have enabled them to perfect their kits for the 1994 harvest.

CROATIA/UNPA
ICRC organizes family reunions in UNPA

Six elderly people who have been isolated by the authorities in the Croatian seaside town of Senj since mid-September, following an attack on their villages in the Medac pocket, have finally been able to return to their relatives in the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA).

ICRC delegates first visited the displaced people in Senj on 26 September and found them physically well but feeling isolated. They all expressed a wish to return home. Family members were contacted and confirmed their willingness to care for their relatives.

The family reunions took place on 27 October when the six were driven to their destinations in Gracac, Ploca Papuka, Korenica and Medac by ICRC delegates from Knin. The ICRC carried out the reunions purely on humanitarian grounds according to the wishes of the six who wanted to be with their families.

CUBA
ICRC and Cuban Red Cross to open dissemination centre

Last week the ICRC and the Cuban Red Cross concluded an agreement in Havana providing for the establishment of a centre for the dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL). The centre should be opened by the end of this year. It is the first of its kind in Latin America and will be located in the Cuban capital. It will conduct activities aimed at explaining the importance of humanitarian law to the armed forces, the police, government officials and the general public.

RUSSIA
IHL seminar for the Ministry of Defence

For the first time a seminar on international humanitarian law (IHL) has been organized by the ICRC for the Russian Ministry of Defence. Twenty-five superior officers took part in the course which ran from 1 to 5 November at the Military Academy of Economics, Finance and Law in Moscow.

One of the principal themes was the behaviour of the combatants during and after hostilities with respect to IHL. The seminar was organized following a course in June for special troops of the Russian Ministry of the Interior.
BURUNDI: WOUNDED RESPOND TO RADIO CALLS

As the internal strife continues in the northern, eastern and central regions of Burundi, many of the wounded are too frightened to leave their hideouts in the countryside to seek medical care. To reassure them, ICRC delegates are putting out radio announcements, giving details of when the medical teams can be found at various points on the main roads. So far, the results have been encouraging, with up to 30 wounded people being brought for treatment at one time. There are now five ICRC medical teams in the provinces of Burundi, with two trucks to evacuate the most seriously injured. They have provided some 20 hospitals and medical centres with emergency medical supplies. In the capital Bujumbura, hospital medical staff is being reinforced later this week by an emergency ICRC surgical team of six. There will be 21 ICRC expatriates in Burundi by the end of this week. Their supplies have been replenished by one tonne of medical supplies that arrived by plane from Nairobi on 10 November.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Thousands flee Vares

Following the Bosnian governmental force's takeover of the town of Vares on 3 November, several thousand civilians fled across the nearby Serbian lines to the village of Brugule. Four ICRC trucks from Belgrade loaded with emergency food rations, blankets and medical supplies later reached Sokolac, to the north-east of Sarajevo and some 120 kilometres from Brugule, where a further 1,400 civilians, mainly Croats, have sought refuge. The local Red Cross has opened a soup kitchen in the town.

According to reports given to the ICRC by the displaced, a further 3,000 people are still in Brugule, living in the open without shelter or food. ICRC emergency rations have been sent to the area.

On 5 November ICRC delegates from Zenica delivered blankets, family parcels, baby food, candles and plastic sheeting to another 3,000 displaced people, mainly women and children, who managed to cross back into Bosnian Croat-controlled territory and are sheltering in school buildings in Kiseljak, 40 kilometres west of Sarajevo.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Visits to detainees

ICRC delegates have visited 23 detainees who are being held, awaiting trial, as a result of the October events in Moscow. The visits to two different detention centres took place between 27 October and 3 November. They were carried out according to the ICRC standard procedures for visits.

The ICRC team consisted of two delegates and one doctor. One of the institution's criteria for accepting to carry out visits is to be able to see detainees...
out visits is to be able to see detainees again in order to follow up on their situation.

CONGO
Red Cross medical assistance momentarily suspended
Violence broke out between government supporters and the opposition in parts of the Congolese capital, Brazzaville, earlier this month. The Congolese Red Cross with logistic help from the ICRC evacuated 13 dead, 12 wounded together with a few ill people from Bakongo, the most affected part of the city, and provided emergency medical assistance to two hospitals.

However, since 8 November, the National Society has had to suspend its work in Bakongo following threats and increasing insecurity.

For two days the ICRC made regular broadcasts on Radio Congo, appealing to the parties to allow the Red Cross to carry on its work with impartiality and neutrality.

BRAZIL
IHL for peace-keeping troops
On 29 October the ICRC regional delegate based in Brasilia has given an introductory course on international humanitarian law (IHL) to 45 Brazilian officers who will shortly be joining the peace-keeping forces in Angola and Mozambique. This is the first time that the ICRC has taken part in a training session for peace keepers in Brazil although the principle of regular ICRC participation has been accepted by the country’s armed forces.

TAJIKISTAN
Seminar for the Tajik Red Crescent Society
An introductory seminar on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, organized jointly by the ICRC and the Federation, took place on 25 and 26 October. Participants included members of the Tajik Red Crescent Society representing all regions of the country except Kulyab. Held at the National Society's headquarters in Dushanbe, the seminar marked the first occasion in two years that members of the Tajik Red Crescent Society had met on a national level.

MEDIA 7 is published by the International Committee of the Red Cross
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Issued by COMREX/PUB - Tel.: 730 20 64
BURUNDI: ICRC SURGICAL TEAM OPERATIONAL IN CENTRAL BURUNDI

An ICRC surgical team of five arrived at a small, independent hospital in Kibuye, central Burundi, on 14 November, where over 100 wounded were in need of emergency treatment. The team, consisting of medical staff seconded by the National Red Cross Societies of Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland, set to work very rapidly carrying out between 10 and 15 operations daily. The ICRC has also sent medical supplies and equipment from Kigali and Nairobi. Kibuye is located in one of the main areas of unrest in Burundi. The situation in the central African country remains tense nearly a month after the collapsed coup d'etat of 21 October.

MADAGASCAR
Visits to 83 detainees
An ICRC team consisting of a delegate and a doctor has completed a round of visits to 83 detainees in Madagascar. The visits took place between 28 October and 6 November and involved detention centres in Antananarivo, Antsiranana and Tulear. The detainees are being held following the troubles in early 1993 and include 14 members of the armed forces. Some 20 detainees have been tried by a civilian tribunal, the others are awaiting sentencing in the near future.

The visits took place according to the ICRC's standard procedures including interviews in private with detainees.

CAMBODIA
Closure of Cambodian Mine Action Center announced
The ICRC is extremely concerned about the planned closure of the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) on 30 November. The decision to suspend operations was taken because of difficulties in getting finance for the project now that it is under direct government control, the imminent departure of expatriate specialists and the withdrawal of equipment that is essential for mine clearance.

On humanitarian grounds, it is vital for the CMAC to be able to carry on its activities with full support in a country where mines kill and maim several hundred people every month. The ICRC encourages all parties concerned to find immediate and long-lasting solutions to this problem in the interests of the Cambodian people.

NAGORNY-KARABAKH CONFLICT
Release of civilians
On 6 November six Armenians and 18 Azeris were released, under ICRC auspices, near Agdam, on the front line, following an agreement with the Official Commission for Prisoners, Hostages and Missing Persons (CEPOD). The ICRC is continuing to take the necessary steps to obtain the unconditional release of all hostages held in connection with the conflict in Nagorny-Karabakh.

LIBERIA
ICRC resumes food convoys
The first ICRC food convoys since the suspension of operations in rural Liberia at the end of last year have reached their
destination from Cote d'Ivoire without any difficulties. The ICRC team in Gbarama has so far registered over 40,000 beneficiaries at 18 distribution points. Food distributions began on 11 November, while registration continued in cooperation with the Liberian Red Cross and a local non-governmental organization. Nutritional data indicate that an average of 50 percent of the population is affected by moderate to severe malnutrition.

Relief activities have been hampered by logistical problems. The ICRC has surveyed the roads leading into the distribution areas and is starting to improve them where necessary. The fact that border crossings were allowed on only two days a week further restricted the volume of goods that could be transported into the affected areas, despite the good cooperation of the observers who were monitoring the convoy crossing into the NPFL-held area. This restriction has now been lifted and convoys are allowed to cross the border freely.

CONGO
ICRC active in Brazzaville
The ICRC has been authorized to continue its work in Bakongo and Makalekele, the two troubled districts of Brazzaville, the Congolese capital. On 12 November delegates met with representatives of the Congolese government and the opposition party. As well as obtaining the proper authorizations, the delegates received the necessary security guarantees to allow them to evacuate wounded from the two districts to the central hospital in Brazzaville. The ICRC has also assisted the two medical centres in Bakongo and Makalekele with basic medical supplies.

Elsewhere in Brazzaville, the Congolese Red Cross continues to be on the alert, particularly within its permanent first-aid post at its headquarters in the city. The ICRC is maintaining close contacts with the Congolese Red Cross in case more supplies or assistance are needed.

GENEVA
Study tour for Red Cross representatives
The ICRC invited eight representatives from the National Red Cross Societies of China, Mongolia, North Korea and South Korea to participate in a study tour at Geneva headquarters. The representatives, who came from different professional backgrounds, were given the opportunity to learn more about the role and functioning of the ICRC. On this occasion, they also made contact with the Federation and the Swiss Red Cross Society in Bern. This was the third such tour organized for a group from these countries in the Far East and took place between 1 and 12 November.
SRI LANKA: ICRC NEGOTIATING ACCESS TO LTTE-HELD PRISONERS

The ICRC is making every possible effort to gain access to prisoners taken by the LTTE in the course of their attack on a military base at Pooneryn on 11 November. The government has issued a list of some 750 missing soldiers and officers, believed dead or captured, and has asked the ICRC to determine their fate. The tracing agency in Colombo has also received numerous requests to trace people missing as a result of the recent military confrontation.

ICRC delegates have been in frequent contact with LTTE officials in Jaffna, Mullaittivu and Kilinochchi and are trying to convince them of the urgency of revealing the identity of prisoners and of allowing the ICRC to visit them. So far the LTTE leader has refused to meet ICRC representatives. As neutral intermediary, the ICRC handed over to officials in Vavuniya 186 urns containing the ashes of government soldiers killed in the fighting.

BURUNDI
Dysentery epidemic in Kiremba region
A medical team of three, consisting of a surgeon and two nurses seconded from Swiss Disaster Relief, has arrived in Kiremba, in the Ngozi province of northern Burundi, to reinforce the ICRC medical team at the local hospital. Some 80-war wounded have been admitted to the hospital which is located 15 kilometres from the Rwandan border. As the situation eases in certain parts of Burundi, some refugees are beginning to return to their country from camps in Rwanda. There are some 200 people infected with illnesses such as dysentery and malaria a day arriving in Ngozi province.

GEORGIA
ICRC resumes activities in Mingrelia
The ICRC has established a base in the Mingrelian town of Kutaisi and has resumed distribution of food and medical assistance to the thousands of displaced people who fled the conflict zone in Abkhazia. The ICRC had been in Mingrelia since the beginning of October but had had to suspend assistance temporarily after a security incident in Zugdidi on 26 October.

Surveys will now be carried out throughout the area following the recent conflicts which have opposed government forces with troops loyal to former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, to assess the extent of needs in hospitals and public buildings.

BHUTAN
Visits to detainees
The ICRC has completed the third round of visits to detainees in Bhutan. Delegates visited 315 people, held in two detention centres. The previous visits took place in January and May of this year.

During the ICRC mission to Bhutan, the authorities signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 11 November in the capital Thimphu. The terms of the MOU cover the ICRC standard procedures for visiting prisoners. The document is valid for a period of five years.
AFGHANISTAN
ICRC emergency assistance in Kunduz
An ICRC team has been helping care for the wounded in the Kunduz local hospital, following an outbreak of fighting in Shir Khan Bandar, on the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border.
Delegates have also received authorization from local commanders to visit prisoners taken during the fighting. So far, 41 prisoners, including high-ranking officers, have been registered. The ICRC has also requested access to detainees held by the other warring parties.

SRI LANKA
Medical assistance to wounded
In the week of the LTTE attack and government counter-attack, the Jaffna Teaching Hospital admitted over 1,000 wounded combatants and civilians. To treat these patients the hospital had recourse to the stock of emergency medical supplies kept at the hospital by the ICRC. The stock has since been replenished in case there are further casualties. The ICRC also assisted the hospital in Kilnochchi, to which some of the wounded on the LTTE side were evacuated, as well as the Anuradhapura hospital, which is treating wounded members of the Sri Lankan armed forces. The Sri Lankan army is continuing to bomb points on the Jaffna peninsula, but has so far avoided the area around the Jaffna Teaching Hospital, except on one occasion when the hospital itself was hit and its X-ray room destroyed. The ICRC has made repeated representations to the authorities concerned to remind them of their agreement to respect the "safety zone" created by the ICRC around the hospital in order to provide some measure of protection to the civilian population in the event of military activity on the peninsula.

NORTH KOREA
IHL seminar for officers
The ICRC regional delegation in Hong Kong has organised a three-day seminar on international humanitarian law and the structure of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for the armed forces in North Korea. A total of 25 commanding officers participated in the course which took place in Pyongyang from 16 to 19 November.

NAGORNY-KARABAKH CONFLICT
Mission to Zanguilan
On 18 November an ICRC team made its first visit to the previously inaccessible area of Zanguilan. The region has been occupied by Nagorny-Karabakh forces since the beginning of November, provoking the exodus of thousands of people. The delegates also visited the town of Horadiz before returning to Stepanakert where they will report their findings to the authorities.
RWANDA: RED CROSS STAFF MEMBER KILLED IN ATTACK ON VEHICLE

A local Red Cross staff member lost his life and three others were seriously wounded when their vehicle was hit by an explosive in the Ruhengeri region of northern Rwanda on 27 November. The truck was transporting relief assistance for displaced people in the demilitarized zone and was travelling on a road used regularly since August. On 29 November all Red Cross activities in Rwanda were suspended as a mark of respect.

The ICRC is outraged by this totally inadmissible act and has appealed to the parties to the conflict in Rwanda to respect international humanitarian law and to provide renewed formal security guarantees.

KENYA
Over 40 African countries participate in IHL workshop

High-ranking military officers from more than 40 African countries will be participating in a workshop on international humanitarian law (IHL) organized by the ICRC and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) from 6 to 10 December in Nairobi. Its purpose is to assess and compare programmes used to spread knowledge of the law among the armed forces.

The OAU plays a crucial role in promoting IHL on the African continent. As conflicts become deadlier and more protracted worldwide, with civilian victims totalling ten times as many as military casualties, the need to respect IHL and the universally recognized humanitarian principles becomes even more urgent. Since 1986 some 50 courses on IHL have been organized in 36 African countries and 20 regional seminars have brought together participants from 46 countries.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Kitchen programme for the housebound

As winter engulfs Bosnia, 15,000 housebound people in and around the capital Sarajevo are having a daily hot meal delivered to their door thanks to the ICRC/Red Cross lunch programme which began on 25 November. The programme is being run from 14 Red Cross community kitchens, will last five months and is staffed by over 100 Red Cross volunteers.

An ICRC plane will fly 412.5 metric tonnes of tinned meat, vegetables, cereals and flour into Sarajevo each month for the kitchen programme. From the airport the supplies are transported by ICRC trucks to the Red Cross kitchens on each side of the front line. A daily supply of 5,000 loaves of bread are delivered to the different locations where Red Cross workers prepare and cook the food.

The beneficiaries are chosen according to ICRC criteria and are amongst the most vulnerable of the city’s residents.

SUDAN
ICRC feeding centres operational for undernourished in Malakal region

The ICRC has set up two feeding centres in southern Sudan to provide therapeutic treatment for severely undernourished and ill children and adults from the camps for the displaced in Malakal and Obel. The first centre, in the paediatric hospital in Malakal, opened its doors on 13 November with 67 patients
and 44 of their relatives. Since then, some 190 patients and 130 of their relatives have been registered. Under the constant supervision of an expatriate nurse and around ten local employees, the children receive five meals a day, including high-energy milk and porridge, and medical care. The objective to achieve is a weight gain of 10 grams per kilo per day. Most of the children are accompanied by their mothers or other family members who also receive weekly dry food rations. As well as food, the ICRC is providing assistance in the form of soap, kitchen sets, plastic drums and sheeting, kerosene lamps, clothes, blankets and jerrycans. The second feeding centre in Obel, 30 kilometres south of Malakal, opened on 25 November, operating from a shelter that was specially constructed for the purpose.

An ICRC delegate, nurse and nutritionist were responsible for setting up the emergency programme, arriving in the region in early November.

BURUNDI/RWANDA
Sanitation team improves water supply

The arrival of up to 80,000 refugees from Burundi to the Zangwa and Bugarama camps in Rwanda, has put a considerable strain on the quality and quantity of water available in the two camps. An ICRC sanitation team, after monitoring the water supply, has installed two mobile purification units which filter and disinfect water from the nearby swamp. This system provides the Zangwa camp with up to ten litres of clean water per person per day.

In Kirundo, northern Burundi, ICRC sanitation engineers have provided short-term assistance to the 100-bed Kirundo hospital which is suffering shortages owing to an influx of wounded following the recent events.

LEBANON
Television debate on IHL

An ICRC delegate from Geneva, specialized in dissemination to the armed forces, took part in a televised debate organized by the ICRC delegation in Lebanon on 29 November. The debate covered all aspects of international humanitarian law (IHL). The other participants were two Lebanese specialists on the subject, a professor and a retired judge. The programme will be shown on private Lebanese television in early December and can be seen throughout the country. This is the first televised debate of its kind in the Middle East.

MYANMAR
War surgery seminar in Yangon

The ICRC organized a seminar on war surgery for 30 participants, including five civilian specialist surgeons, in Yangon from 8 to 10 November. Throughout the seminar there were lively discussions and contributions from all participants. The ICRC's talk on the rights and duties of medical personnel in armed conflict was well received, as was the presentation on the prosthetic programme which is run in cooperation with the Myanmar authorities.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION:
ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PETERSBURG DECLARATION COMMEMORATED

On 2 December, in St. Petersburg, the 125th anniversary of the St. Petersburg Declaration was commemorated by some 300 high-ranking representatives from the armed forces of 32 countries. The event was organized by the Mayor’s office and the Russian Ministries of Defence and of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC whose delegation was led by its President, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga. The Declaration was the first multilateral treaty specifically drawn up to limit the effects of warfare on civilians and was signed by 17 countries in 1868. The ceremony followed a well-attended two-day symposium on dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL).

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Convoy reaches Tuzla from Belgrade
After almost three weeks without supplies for the winter relief programme, ICRC Tuzla received eight truck loads of assistance from Belgrade on 4 December. This is only the second consignment to reach the delegation since the beginning of November, whereas 12 ICRC convoys from Belgrade are needed monthly to bring 1,200 tonnes of individual food parcels, wheat flour and clothing for 48,000 ICRC beneficiaries in the Tuzla and Zenica regions.

Over the last six weeks it has been difficult to obtain free passage for vehicles going to northern and central Bosnia. As the cold sets in, people living in industrial towns, where local food production is limited, face a very harsh winter unless unimpeded access to their cities can be guaranteed.

BURUNDI
Double priority for medical teams
ICRC medical teams in Burundi have been concentrating their efforts on two separate emergencies in recent weeks, namely epidemics and war wounds. They have been helping to stem a dysentery epidemic currently rife especially amongst displaced people. Half a million antibiotics, enough for 15,000 affected people, have been distributed for this purpose, mainly by the ICRC medical team in Kiremba, near the Rwandan border. The team continues to carry out minor surgery and treatment, as required.

In Kibuye, 121 operations have been performed since the ICRC surgical team’s arrival in the central Burundese town. Up to 95% of patients there are suffering from war wounds. The team is still treating some 61 patients that have been hospitalized.

Further north in Gitega, government health structures have broken down completely, although certain religious health centres are still operational. The ICRC medical team based there is providing medical supplies to the health centres that are still operational. Since the end-October when the troubles began the ICRC has provided 20 tonnes of medical supplies and equipment to Burundi.

CAMBODIA
Tuberculosis emergency
The ICRC is concerned about the resurgence of tuberculosis in Cambodia.
The disease kills around 13,000 Cambodians a year, while it is estimated that some 40,000 people are affected by the virus. The situation is particularly worrying because the country's medical structures have been so damaged by the conflict that they are unable to cope with a medical emergency of this magnitude.

The Cambodian government, with the support of the French Red Cross, has initiated a programme to stamp out tuberculosis. The Ministry of Health will also be launching a five-year plan including the latest treatments. Unfortunately, until now these efforts have been hampered by a lack of funds.

**RWANDA**

**Strategy promotes self-sufficiency**

More than 16 million sweet potato cuttings and 300,000 manioc cuttings have been distributed to 11,000 families as part of the ICRC’s agricultural programme in the demilitarized zone of northern Rwanda. Some 50 tonnes of corn seeds and 110 tonnes of bean seeds have also been distributed to an additional 12,300 families since the project began at the end of September.

Over the past months, some of the displaced people were able to plant their crops of which many have already been harvested, particularly in West Ruhengeri where the land is very fertile. In other areas where the soil is not as rich and the population has been displaced for a longer period, the ICRC has attempted to promote self-sufficiency with a strategy that combines food assistance with agricultural rehabilitation.

The ICRC continues to distribute 9,000 tonnes of food a month to 800,000 people, including 350,000 who are displaced. In addition 200 tonnes of sorghum seeds will be distributed during January in order to reinforce the population’s level of self-sufficiency. Close monitoring of their nutritional needs and agricultural trends should enable the ICRC to adjust food distributions as necessary.

**CHINA**

**IHL seminar for officers in Nanjing**

The ICRC regional delegation in Hong Kong organized a three-day seminar on international humanitarian law (IHL) in Nanjing from 22 to 26 November. Some 30 high-ranking officers from the People’s Liberation Army participated actively in the course which was held at the Army Political Academy. The seminar was organized with the participation of the Chinese Red Cross.

**EGYPT**

**IHL calendar in Arabic**

The ICRC delegation in Cairo has produced a calendar in Arabic for 1994. For the second year running it compares Arab culture with the provisions of modern international humanitarian law (IHL) thereby demonstrating that some of the ICRC humanitarian principles are also propounded in the Arab tradition. Illustrated with calligraphy by Mounir Chaarani, this calendar will be distributed to ICRC contacts throughout the Arab world.

As of January 1994 this publication will be available in English, French, Spanish, German, Russian, Italian and Arabic. If you would like to order your copy in one of these languages, please contact the press division at the address below.
GENEVA: ICRC APPEALS FOR OVER SFR 600 MILLION FOR 1994

The ICRC has launched its 1994 emergency appeals for a total of Sfr 618,163,154. The appeals, which cover the ICRC’s field activities worldwide, are based on the institution’s objectives for the coming year and reflect the situation as it stands today. They were presented to representatives of the permanent missions of the major donor countries in Geneva on 15 December.

In 1994 the ICRC foresees a continuing massive humanitarian effort in former Yugoslavia (Sfr 192 million), as well as major operations of over Sfr 20 million in Angola, Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories, Liberia, Rwanda and Sudan. In all, the ICRC will have delegations or regional delegations in 49 countries.

The ICRC’s operations are entirely financed through voluntary contributions from parties to the Geneva Conventions, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and private donors.

IRAQ
ICRC begins medical and sanitation programme

The ICRC has begun a vast programme of medical and sanitation assistance for the Iraqi population sorely affected by the three-year international embargo. The assistance, which will be distributed over a period of several months, takes the form of medical equipment such as materials for blood transfusions, radiology and orthopaedics, as well as spare parts for water distribution centres.

In early 1993 an ICRC team consisting of a doctor, an orthopaedic technician and a sanitation engineer toured the country to evaluate the medical and sanitation needs of the population.

NORTH CAUCASUS
Winter programme for displaced

As winter approaches, 4,000 vulnerable families have been assisted by the ICRC in the towns of Nazran and Vladikavkaz. Some 12,000 blankets as well as electric fires and food have been supplied to people displaced by the Ingush-Ossetian conflict and the troubles in South Ossetia. The relief is provided first to people housed in public buildings and in prefabricated shelters. The 92 children in the Vladikavkaz orphanage have also been assisted.

These distributions began on 26 November and will continue up to the end of the year. In August the ICRC carried out a first phase of assistance for victims of the conflict.

AFGHANISTAN
Situation of displaced serious

The ICRC has completed a survey in the Sarobi region of Afghanistan this month. One of its objectives was to evaluate the situation of displaced families, following the recent bombardment of Sarobi. The delegates found that some 30 to 50 families were affected by the bombing and had either moved in with relatives or were forced to live in makeshift shelters. Close to 10,000 people had already left the conflict zone of Tagab valley, fleeing to
Jalalabad where the ICRC has set up an emergency programme of assistance for the displaced.

MYANMAR
Joint orthopaedic programme
For the first time an ICRC orthopaedic technician, accompanied by a doctor from the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), made a visit to Sagaing and Chin in northern Myanmar, between 28 November and 7 December. Some 50 amputees in the remote border area were registered to be fitted with artificial limbs in 1994 as part of a joint programme organized by the Myanmar Ministry of Health, the ICRC and the MRCS. In the town of Kale, amputees were encouraged to register at the hospital by MRCS volunteers who rode through the towns on bicycles. ICRC delegates distributed publications about the Red Cross in various hospitals.

YEMEN
Visits to detainees
On 13 December a team of ICRC delegates and a doctor began a 12-day round of visits to the major prisons in the Republic of Yemen. During their visits, the delegates will check on conditions of detention and will discuss improvements with the authorities, particularly in the fields of health and hygiene in prisons.

ANGOLA
ICRC team sent to Huambo
On 6 December the ICRC sent delegates to Huambo to prepare a relief programme. The team includes a nutritionist and medical personnel. It will begin operations shortly. A second ICRC team is due to leave Geneva to develop similar activities for the government-held towns.

NAGORNY-KARABAKH CONFLICT
Release of civilians across frontline
Some 17 detainees were released under ICRC auspices, across the frontline, near Agdam on 8 December 1993. The civilians were both Armenians and Azerbaijanis and included ten elderly Azerbaijanis. The ICRC is continuing to take the necessary steps to obtain the unconditional release of all hostages held in connection with the conflict in Nagorny-Karabakh. The institution also facilitates the transfer of ex-detainees across the frontline once the decision to release them has been taken by the authorities.

As of January 1994 Media 7 will become ICRC News and will be available in English, French, Spanish, German, Russian, Italian and Arabic. If you would like to order your copy in one of these languages, please contact the press division at the address below.