

# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

OF THE RED CROSS

## REFERENCE R E P O R T

ICRC - 1990

362.191

563(1990 ENG)



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS



# REFERENCE REPORT

# ICRC - 1990



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

## **NOTE**

This report is primarily an account of the ICRC's work in the field and its activities to promote international humanitarian law. Mention is made of some of the negotiations entered into with a view to bringing protection and assistance to the victims of international and civil wars and internal disturbances and tension. Other negotiations are not mentioned, since the ICRC feels that any publicity would not be in the interest of the victims. Thus, this report cannot be regarded as covering all the institution's efforts worldwide to come to the aid of the victims of conflict.

Moreover, the length of the text devoted to a given country or situation is not necessarily proportional to the magnitude of the problems observed and tackled by the institution. Indeed, there are cases which are a source of grave humanitarian concern but on which the ICRC is not in a position to report because it has been denied permission to take action. By the same token, the description of operations in which the ICRC has great freedom of action takes up considerable space, regardless of the scale of the problems involved.

## CONTENTS\*

<b>Foreword</b> .....	5
<b>Legal Bases</b> .....	6
<b>Criteria for Action</b> .....	7

### FIELD OPERATIONS

#### AFRICA

Southern Africa .....	12
□ South Africa .....	12
□ Angola .....	13
□ Mozambique .....	16
□ Namibia .....	19
Central and West Africa .....	20
□ Liberia .....	20
□ Rwanda .....	22
□ Chad .....	22
East Africa .....	23
□ Ethiopia .....	23
□ Uganda .....	25
□ Somalia .....	28
□ Sudan .....	30
Regional delegations .....	33

#### LATIN AMERICA

Central America and the Caribbean .....	40
□ El Salvador .....	40
□ Guatemala .....	42
□ Nicaragua .....	42
South America .....	44
□ Chile .....	44
□ Colombia .....	44
□ Peru .....	45
Regional delegations .....	47

#### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Afghan conflict .....	52
□ Afghanistan .....	52

□ Pakistan .....	55
Conflict in Cambodia .....	56
□ Cambodia .....	57
□ Thailand .....	58
Philippines .....	60
Sri Lanka .....	62
Regional delegations .....	64

#### EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Albania .....	70
Bulgaria .....	70
Romania .....	70
United Kingdom .....	71
USSR .....	71
Yugoslavia .....	72
International Tracing Service (ITS), Arolsen .....	73

#### MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Conflict between Iran and Iraq ..	76
Egypt .....	77
Iraq/Kuwait .....	78
Israel and the occupied territories ..	79
Jordan .....	81
Lebanon .....	83
Syria .....	85
North Africa .....	85
□ Western Sahara conflict .....	85
Regional delegations .....	85
Relief supplies dispatched by the ICRC in 1990 .....	88
Contributions in kind received and purchases made by the ICRC in 1990 .....	89

#### THE LAW AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Promotion of the Conventions and Protocols .....	90
---	----

\* (in French alphabetical order).

Respect for international humanitarian law .....	91	Relations with the components of the Movement .....	99
Development of international humanitarian law .....	92	□ National Societies .....	99
Relations with other institutions in the realm of international humanitarian law .....	93	□ League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies .....	100
Relations with other international and regional organizations .....	94	Henry Dunant Institute .....	101
Dissemination .....	95	<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b> .....	102
<b>COOPERATION WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT</b>		<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b> .....	106
The work of the statutory bodies .....	98	<b>ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS</b> ....	107
□ Standing Commission .....	98	□ ICRC telecommunications network .....	107
□ Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace .....	98	<b>FINANCE</b> .....	108
□ Ad hoc Group against Racism and Racial Discrimination ...	98	States party to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977. ....	112-117

## ***Foreword***

*The 1990 Reference Report contains a summary of the ICRC's activities during the year, including its field operations to protect and assist civilian and military victims of armed conflicts and internal disturbances, its work in the area of principles and law and the activities of its administrative support staff and Central Tracing Agency at headquarters.*

*The 1990 Reference Report supplements the "Annual Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross 1990", published during the first half of 1991, which provides a brief overview of the institution's activities and various financial tables.*

## Legal Bases

In law, the work of the ICRC is based upon the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the Resolutions adopted by International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

It was at the prompting of the ICRC that governments adopted the first Geneva Convention in 1864. In the years since, the ICRC, with the support of the entire Movement, has put constant pressure on governments to adapt international humanitarian law to changing circumstances, especially developments in the means and techniques of warfare, in order to provide more effective protection and assistance for the victims of armed conflict.

Today almost all States are bound by the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, which, in times of conflict, protect wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of the armed forces, prisoners of war and civilians.

Two Protocols additional to these Conventions were adopted on 8 June 1977, designed mainly to reaffirm and develop the humanitarian rules governing the conduct of hostilities (Protocol I) and to extend the body of humanitarian law applicable in non-international armed

conflicts (Protocol II). Almost two-thirds of the world's States are now bound by the Protocols.

The legal bases of any action undertaken by the ICRC may be summed up as follows:

- in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I, the international community gave the ICRC a mandate in the event of *international armed conflict*. In particular, the ICRC has the right to visit prisoners of war and civilian internees. The Conventions also confer on the ICRC a broad right of initiative;
- in situations of *armed conflict which are not international in character*, the ICRC also has a right of initiative recognized by States and enshrined in the four Geneva Conventions;
- in the event of *internal disturbances and tension*, and in any other situation which warrants humanitarian action, the ICRC has a right of humanitarian initiative which is recognized in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and allows it to offer its services to States without that offer constituting interference in States' internal affairs.



## *Criteria for Action*

### **Activities for people deprived of their freedom**

In 1990, ICRC delegates carried out 5,199 visits to 84,769 people deprived of their freedom in 1,327 places of detention in 42 countries (*for details see the countries/conflicts concerned*).

By virtue of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977, the ICRC visits persons deprived of their freedom in international armed conflicts (prisoners of war within the meaning of Article 4 of the Third Convention and Article 44 of Protocol I) and persons protected under the Fourth Convention (civilian internees, persons arrested by the Occupying Power and penal-law detainees in enemy hands).

In the event of non-international conflicts, covered by Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol II of 1977, the ICRC concerns itself with persons deprived of their freedom in connection with the conflict (combatants of government or rebel forces captured by the opposing side, civilians arrested by the government or captured by the rebels because of their support, real or not, active or not, for the opposing forces, whether or not they have been tried).

In situations of internal disturbances and tension, which are not covered by international humanitarian law, the ICRC has a statutory right of initiative entitling it to offer its services to visit people arrested for political or security reasons.

The purpose of ICRC visits is purely humanitarian; ICRC delegates observe the material and psychological conditions of

detention and the treatment accorded to detainees, provide them with relief supplies if required (medicines, clothing, toilet articles) and ask the authorities to take any steps deemed necessary to improve the detainees' treatment.

ICRC visits to places of detention, whether pursuant to the Geneva Conventions or outside the field of application of international humanitarian law, are carried out according to specific criteria. Its delegates must be allowed to see all the detainees and talk freely to them without witnesses, have access to all premises used for detention, repeat their visits and, if necessary, distribute material assistance to the detainees and their families. They must also be provided with a list of the persons to be visited or permitted to draw up such a list during the visit.

Before and after these visits, discussions at various levels are held with the people in charge of the detention centres. Confidential reports are then drawn up. In the case of international armed conflict these reports are sent both to the Detaining Power and to the Power of Origin of the prisoners of war, while in other cases they are sent only to the detaining authorities.

These confidential reports are not intended for publication. The ICRC confines itself to releasing the number and names of the places visited, the dates of the visits and the number of people seen. It does not express an opinion on the grounds for detention and does not publicly comment on the material or psychological conditions it finds. If a government should publish incomplete or inaccurate

versions of ICRC reports, the ICRC reserves the right to publish and circulate them in full.

## Central Tracing Agency

The ICRC's Central Tracing Agency (CTA) was once again very busy in 1990, the number of persons being sought, like the overall volume of data to be processed, having tripled in three years.

The ICRC's first small information offices came into being during and after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. The subsequent central information agencies set up by it during the two World Wars were huge in comparison. The latest, the Central Tracing Agency, today makes extensive use of computers. It is represented in the field by some 60 specialized delegates posted to 27 delegations. At its Geneva headquarters, over 80 staff members work on card files — a mute record of so many families torn apart by past and present conflicts. Sixty million such cards have been established since 1914, including, for example, the 500,000 cards bearing names of Indo-Chinese refugees or displaced persons compiled since 1979.

On the basis of the ICRC's obligations under the Geneva Conventions or its right of humanitarian initiative, the Agency's main tasks are as follows:

- ☐ to obtain, centralize and, where necessary, forward any information that might help to identify the people in whose behalf the ICRC works (in 1990, 1,089,521 such data were registered);
- ☐ to maintain the exchange of family correspondence when the usual means of communication have been disrupted (985,237 letters and family messages forwarded in 1990);

- ☐ to trace persons reported missing or whose families have had no news of them (74,119 tracing requests processed in 1990);
- ☐ to arrange for transfers, repatriations and reunification of separated families (78,180 civilians and prisoners of war repatriated in 1990);
- ☐ to issue, for a limited period and a single journey, "ICRC travel documents" to persons without identity papers (3,121 such documents issued in 1990 to 4,305 refugees and displaced persons);
- ☐ to issue captivity, hospitalization or death certificates for former detainees, prisoners of war or their rightful claimants (48,708 such certificates issued in 1990).

The forwarding of family messages, tracing activities and family reunifications are often carried out in conjunction with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Central Tracing Agency, which acts as technical adviser to those Societies, organized three training courses in 1990, including a regional seminar in Dakar. Twenty-eight National Society representatives took part.

Following the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, the Agency was approached by a number of the States concerned for assistance in setting up National Information Bureaux as provided for by the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. Such bureaux have the task of collecting relevant information about persons protected under the Conventions and passing it on to the Agency.

## Medical and material relief

The ICRC furnishes medical and material assistance in situations of armed conflict

and internal disturbances or tension providing it can:

- ☐ assess on the spot the urgency of the victims' needs;
- ☐ carry out field surveys to determine the categories and number of people needing assistance;
- ☐ organize and monitor the distribution of relief.

In 1990, the ICRC purchased and dispatched to 48 countries a total of 43,042 tonnes of relief supplies for a value of 62.1 million Swiss francs, consisting of 13,319 tonnes of material relief (other than medical) worth 24.7 million francs purchased directly by the ICRC and 29,723 tonnes worth 37.4 million francs provided by donors as contributions in kind to ICRC field operations. Medical assistance purchased and dispatched in 1990 came to an additional 31.4 million francs. The

total value of medical and material relief supplies purchased or received and dispatched in 1990 thus amounted to 93.5 million francs.

Actual distributions by the ICRC in 1990 totalled 41,210 tonnes of material relief supplies for a value of 60.7 million Swiss francs, plus medical assistance for a value of 28.7 million francs. The total value of the medical and material relief distributed by the ICRC in 1990 thus amounted to 89.4 million francs. Medical and other assistance for detainees and their families, included in the above figures of relief distributed, cost 3.9 million francs and amounted to more than 1,127 tonnes of relief supplies. Financial assistance in places of detention came to a total of 2.5 million francs.

*(See detailed tables on pages 38, 49, 68, 72, 87).*



# FIELD OPERATIONS

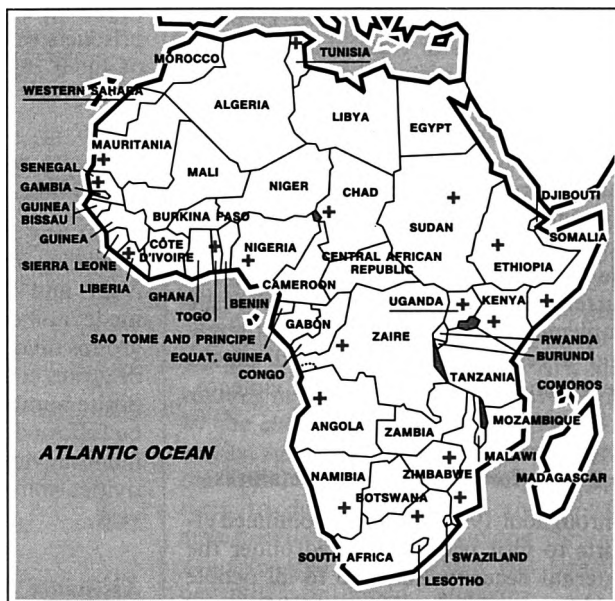
## AFRICA

*Africa's vulnerability to conflict only worsened in 1990, despite deep changes in South Africa and the independence of Namibia. Wars continued to rage throughout the continent, leaving thousands dead, thousands more injured, and millions displaced or seeking refuge in other countries. Internal strife spread through a host of countries. Finally, first in Liberia and then in Rwanda, internal conflicts broke out, ravaging these small countries and destabilizing two sub-regions.*

*At the beginning of 1990, the ICRC had operational delegations in 10 places:*

*Addis Ababa, Kampala, Khartoum, Luanda, Maputo, Mogadishu, Nairobi-Lokichokio, N'Djamena, Pretoria and Windhoek. Later in the year, given the surge in needs for humanitarian assistance mentioned above, delegations were established in Monrovia and Kigali. The ICRC also maintained regional delegations in Dakar, Harare, Kinshasa, Lagos, Lomé and Nairobi. They were especially instrumental in carrying out the institution's mandate in the context of change which marked the continent in 1990.*

*The budget for 1990 operations in Africa, approved at the end of 1989, was originally set at 180,015,300 Swiss francs. By the end of the year, taking into account budget extensions and special appeals, it reached 218,445,600 francs. Total ICRC expenditure in Africa in 1990 was 149,561,300 francs. Not all programmes were carried out in their entirety due to major operational difficulties.*



## ***Southern Africa***

### **SOUTH AFRICA**

Intensified unrest in the townships caused greater humanitarian needs in 1990, as the disturbances in Natal worsened and spread to other regions as well, first extending down the Indian Ocean coast, and then reaching the townships around Johannesburg. Thousands died, thousands more were wounded, and there was widespread destruction of homes and property. The ICRC, in cooperation with the National Society, acted to relieve the suffering of the victims of this strife by implementing a family relief programme and a relief programme for displaced people in areas affected by the violence.

#### **Representations and activities for prisoners and detainees**

Throughout 1990, the ICRC continued efforts to visit people detained under the Internal Security Act, and to all people held for unrest-related reasons in facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Law and Order. Talks aimed at gaining access to these detainees and sentenced prisoners continued through the end of the year.

ICRC delegates visited security prisoners held by the authorities in Transkei (considered an independent country by the South African authorities) in January. ICRC delegates visited seven security prisoners, including one whose case was then being heard, at a prison under the jurisdiction of the military council in Transkei.

After the 6 August agreement between the government and the ANC<sup>1</sup> regarding a plan to release prisoners held in connec-

tion with the conflict, the ICRC set up an exceptional assistance programme for released prisoners. The programme began on 1 September and provided the prisoners with basic supplies worth a total of about 16,000 Swiss francs to help them reintegrate into society.

#### **Activities for the population in townships and rural areas**

Regarding the high level of violence prevailing in the townships (mainly in the Natal and Reef areas), ICRC delegates made numerous representations to the groups involved. On these occasions, the delegates continuously reminded their opposite numbers of the very basic rules to be followed in order to spare the lives of innocent victims. These dissemination activities were intensified throughout the year.

#### **Assistance for prisoners' families**

A major area of ICRC activity concerned the provision of assistance to the families of prisoners sentenced under the Internal Security Act or for other unrest-related reasons. This aid aimed at avoiding material hardship caused by the imprisonment of a family member. Families of prisoners also received travel vouchers to permit them to visit the prisoners in detention.

Relief was provided to a monthly average of 220 families through food vouchers, and the delegation assisted in the transport of approximately 400 people per month to visit family members in detention.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Pretoria handled 171 Red Cross messages mainly for people with a family member in a country at war (Angola, for instance).

<sup>1</sup> African National Congress.

### **Family relief programmes**

In Natal, the ICRC's activity centred around a joint ICRC-South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) programme which supplied food and non-food items such as kitchen sets, jerrycans and blankets on a one-off, case-by-case basis to displaced people and to families who had lost their breadwinner. In 1990, as violence spread to other areas of the country, the ICRC began similar programmes with Red Cross regional branches in the Reef area near Johannesburg and in Transkei, where many families of migrant workers killed in the strife near Johannesburg were left in need.

### **Programmes for Mozambican refugees**

Refugees from war-torn Mozambique continued to enter South Africa by the thousands through the homelands of Gazankulu and Kangwane. Although they were not considered refugees by the South African authorities, the ICRC counted these people and provided soap, blankets and kitchen sets to them through three relief committees in the homelands. This assistance was provided to refugees for a period of three months after arrival. The delegation also made representations to the authorities on several occasions regarding attacks or alleged mistreatment of some Mozambican refugees, and to ensure that they were not subject to arbitrary arrest and expulsion.

### **Relief programmes for displaced people**

Throughout 1990 the ICRC assisted people displaced because of violence, including fighting between supporters of the ANC and Inkatha. It provided one-off help consisting of blankets, food, cooking utensils and first-aid kits to people fleeing violence-stricken areas.

The delegation distributed about 33 tonnes of assistance, including food

packages, 4,772 blankets, 674 kitchen sets and other goods, to families and displaced people affected by the violence in Transvaal. Other groups, including Natal families and displaced people, families of victims of the violence in Transkei and Mozambican refugees, received over 40 tonnes of assistance in similar programmes.

### **Cooperation with the National Society**

The ICRC worked with the National Society in implementing the family assistance programmes and in providing assistance to displaced people in Natal, in Southern Transvaal and in Transkei. The ICRC and the Southern Transvaal regional branch of the National Society set up a joint programme for first-aid training in black townships in November; by the end of the year, over 400 people had taken part in the course. In addition, the ICRC encouraged the National Society to develop similar activities. It also provided financial backing for the Transkei Red Cross, which was largely dependent on outside financing.

## **ANGOLA**

The fighting in Angola's 15-year-old internal conflict worsened in 1990, making it a particularly bleak year for the civilian population. Among the most affected people were those on the Planalto, or central highland, and in the south-east, where droughts and irregular rainfall disturbed food production for the third consecutive year.

In June, the ICRC submitted to the parties to the conflict a memorandum in which it proposed various means of extending its work throughout Angola.

In mid-year, the two sides agreed to permit the ICRC to transport goods and per-

sonnel for humanitarian reasons between areas controlled by UNITA<sup>1</sup> and those held by the government, and from other countries into Angola. This also represented a logistic milestone, as it was the first time in many years that roads could be used to reach the Planalto. The institution sent a number of convoys and small plane-loads of relief and medical goods from Namibia to Cunene and Cuando Cubango, from the coast to Huambo (on the Planalto) and from the Planalto to Likwa, south-east Angola, in October and November.

In December, ICRC field operations throughout the country were temporarily stopped at the request of the parties to the conflict. At the end of the year, the ICRC was engaged in talks with them with a view to resuming activities.

#### **Activities for prisoners and detainees**

The Luanda delegation continued to hold talks with the authorities aimed at gaining access to various categories of prisoners as defined in the ICRC's June 1989 offer of services, i.e., people held for security reasons or for reasons connected with the conflict. In 1990 access to these prisoners was still not granted.

#### **Tracing Agency**

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Luanda resolved tracing requests involving 704 people and assisted 392 people in family reunifications in 1990. These family reunifications concerned only people who had to be transferred from one government-held area to another; none were between UNITA and government zones. It also distributed 1,183 Red Cross messages, nearly all between people in Angola and Angolans living in Namibia.

#### **Medical activities**

Throughout 1990, ICRC medical programmes provided assistance to people both on the central highlands and in the south-east. ICRC medical staff on the Planalto and in Cunene province gave or supervised consultations in local clinics in 1990, and the delegation evacuated more than 2,500 wounded or sick people from isolated villages for treatment in district hospitals. Delegates also organized the vaccination of women and children against six childhood diseases as part of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).

On the Planalto, the ICRC maintained two orthopaedic centres, in Bomba-Alta and Kuito, producing 1,575 prostheses, fitting 859 patients with prostheses and making nearly 1,700 pairs of crutches. In addition, these centres carried out over 1,800 major repairs to prostheses during the year. ICRC orthopaedic staff also travelled to other areas of the country to help care for those who had lost the use of limbs due to the conflict. An ICRC sanitation engineer worked on the Planalto year-round, sinking new wells and ensuring the cleanliness of water sources in villages where the ICRC operates. Sanitation work done by the delegation helped thousands of people to have a more reliable source of water in 1990.

#### **Assistance for the civilian population**

To fight the severe malnutrition noted in many parts of the Planalto, the ICRC concentrated its relief efforts in the first part of the year (until the April harvest) on emergency food distributions in this region. The situation had been made worse by over-use of the limited land available for cultivation: much of the area was off limits to farmers owing to land mines and lack of security.

---

<sup>1</sup> National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.



With the arrival of the main April harvest, the delegation slowed the pace of general food distributions while continuing other activities, such as agricultural programmes (including in the south-east), medical assistance and tracing activities.

Many of the 25 or 30 communities in the area covered by the ICRC on the Planalto were hit by famine in early 1990, with as much as 30 per cent of the population suffering serious malnutrition in some places. The delegation therefore brought over 3,300 tonnes of food to the Planalto in early 1990, reaching nearly 130,000 people per month. The ICRC also opened five feeding centres in one of the hardest-hit towns, Ganda, reaching up to 1,900 people per day and helping hundreds of seriously malnourished children to avoid starvation.

The amount of food distributed was reduced from a monthly average of over 1,000 tonnes in the period from January to April to about 90 tonnes per month in mid-year, after the main harvest in April.

It later climbed to 681 tonnes in November, before the ICRC was forced to cancel food distributions in December when operations were stopped.

Between May and August 72,000 families on the Planalto received seed enabling them to plant *nacas* fields; these were fields irrigated by streams and rivers, which could be used for food production even during the dry season. Later in the year (September-November), the delegation distributed seed to about 200,000 people on the Planalto for fields dependent on rainfall, or *lavras* fields. The harvest from this crop represented the main source of food on the Planalto.

Just before the middle of the year, the delegation distributed blankets and other non-food items to 117,000 people on the

Planalto in preparation for the cold season.

Toward the end of the year, as the cycle of food shortages started once again on the Planalto, the ICRC resumed general food distributions there. It also initiated a programme in Cuando Cubango. From September to November, over 1,195 tonnes of food were distributed to 120,000 people. At the beginning of December, the ICRC was forced to stop general food distributions on the Planalto at the very peak of the lean season because it did not have the necessary authorizations from the parties to the conflict.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

The Angolan Ministry of Defence and the ICRC organized a seminar for about 40 army officers on the law of war in early April.

Dissemination programmes for the general public made use of publications and radio spots.

The ICRC, together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, assisted in running the Macolocolo mother and infant primary health care centre in Huambo, which opened in January. In addition, an ICRC tracing delegate worked closely with the National Society, especially in the provinces, to improve the Angola Red Cross tracing services, with mixed results. The ICRC also provided assistance for the ARC's blood donation programme and furnished relief supplies to the National Society.

### **Logistics**

The opening of cross-line and cross-border operations in October enabled the ICRC to use road transport for the first time in seven years between Lobito and the Planalto, and to transport goods and

personnel from Namibia into the south and the south-east. Before that, virtually the only way to carry goods to the Planalto and between *municípios* there was by air.

Even while using road transport late in the year, it was still imperative for the ICRC to keep a minimum number of aircraft for use on the Planalto and to maintain communication with the south-east. The parties to the conflict authorized the ICRC to use roads only in certain places and their authorization was granted only temporarily, subject to extremely detailed prior notification; therefore, to keep up its ability to reach conflict victims in the most isolated areas, the ICRC continued to use aircraft.

### *South-east Angola*

In January, ICRC delegates saw, for tracing purposes, 235 prisoners held by UNITA and in October carried out a complete visit to 206 prisoners. Early in the year, the ICRC was able for the first time to exchange Red Cross messages between people in UNITA zones and government-held areas. Also for the first time, Red Cross messages were exchanged between government soldiers held by UNITA and members of their families.

In Cuando Cubango province, the ICRC delegation included a medical team stationed at Luangundu hospital. A general practitioner, a midwife and a nurse were there year-round, and an ICRC surgeon was sent to reinforce the team when the caseload was particularly high. The ICRC also provided medication and technical support at other hospitals and clinics in the area.

In April, May and June the ICRC supplied seed for 26,000 people who fled battles in the Mavinga area, and clothing and blankets for about 4,000 displaced peo-

ple from the same region. Seed, tools and non-food items were also supplied to people near the Zambian and Namibian borders.

## **MOZAMBIQUE**

The ICRC continued activities in a variety of fields in Mozambique in 1990. The delegation extended the scope of its visits to prisons, helped set up a specialized course for local orthopaedists, and opened a sub-delegation in Xai-Xai and an office in Chimoio. In addition to the local work of the Maputo delegation and the ICRC's four sub-delegations, delegates assessed the situation in government-controlled areas of Tete, Niassa, Cabo Delgado and Inhambane provinces, where the ICRC had no permanent presence. However, many of the ICRC's relief and medical activities in the field, and especially those in areas under the control of the opposition and in contested regions, were suspended or reduced for months at a time because of security constraints or owing to lack of authorization from RENAMO<sup>1</sup>. Despite these constraints, the ICRC continued year-round to provide relief and medical assistance to conflict victims in the field.

Beginning in mid-November 1989, the ICRC was forced to stop using surface transport because of security considerations. In January 1990, after RENAMO reaffirmed that it would respect ICRC personnel, vehicles and aircraft, the delegation resumed the use of roads and waterways and opened the sub-delegation in Xai-Xai, thus extending the ICRC's operational capacity in Gaza province.

Delegates surveyed the situation in RENAMO-held areas in Nampula and Zambezia provinces and reported large-

<sup>1</sup> Mozambican National Resistance Movement.

scale needs for non-food assistance, including medical supplies.

During a survey in RENAMO-held areas of Zambezia province in early June, two delegates were unable to return to their base for three weeks due to security considerations. They continued their evaluations in RENAMO-held territories until 19 June, when they were able to return to Quelimane.

In July, the opposition asked the ICRC to curtail relief operations in the field while entering into discussions with it on ICRC activity in the country. The delegation thus stopped all surveys, relief and medical assistance activities in RENAMO-held areas and in areas subject to attack, while it held talks with RENAMO representatives overseas. ICRC relief assistance continued throughout the country via the National Society and various institutions.

In September, the President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Joaquim Albert Chissano, visited the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva and held talks with the ICRC President and several members of the Committee.

The government and RENAMO later began negotiations which led in early December to an agreement regarding humanitarian questions and specifically the role of the ICRC. It reaffirmed the parties' authorization for the ICRC to provide humanitarian assistance to all Mozambicans anywhere in the country, and it guaranteed respect for the ICRC's personnel, facilities and emblem.

### **Visits to detained people**

In 1990, as in 1988 and 1989, the ICRC was granted access to facilities run by the SNASP<sup>1</sup>. Beginning in February, the

ICRC also visited sentenced prisoners transferred from SNASP prisons to civilian prisons (those run by the Ministry of Justice). Such prisoners began to be transferred after the courts resumed consideration of their cases.

During visits to SNASP prisons in 1988, 1989 and most of 1990, delegates did not visit prisoners whose cases were in the "preliminary investigation" stage, but were given their names, in accordance with an agreement between the government and the delegation. The ICRC continued negotiating to gain access to these prisoners. Finally, in October, delegates were granted access to them. This represented a major breakthrough in protection activities; for the first time, delegates were able to take steps to improve the conditions of detention of these inmates and to help them re-establish contact with their families.

ICRC delegates visited 755 people in 15 places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Security or the Ministry of Justice. They registered 382 prisoners after having visited them for the first time.

### **Visits to people held by the army**

The delegation continued to request access to people arrested in connection with the conflict and held by the armed forces, but without success.

### **Assistance for prisoners and detainees**

ICRC tracing and medical staff regularly worked in prisons visited by the delegation. Sanitation staff ensured the provision of clean water and appropriate drainage in detention facilities, and the ICRC carried out relief distributions when necessary. Upon release, prisoners received parcels with food and non-food relief goods.

<sup>1</sup> People's National Security Service, part of the Ministry of Security.

### **Tracing Agency**

Many of the Red Cross messages handled by the Maputo tracing office were either to or from prisoners visited by ICRC delegates as part of protection activities in prisons. The National Society carried out most of the field work in close cooperation with ICRC staff. In 1990, 174 tracing requests were resolved, and ICRC and National Society staff distributed 2,723 Red Cross messages.

### **Medical activities**

The ICRC evacuated the sick and wounded from isolated areas to provincial medical centres, supported local medical facilities with basic medicine, food and other supplies, and carried out sanitation work in villages and prisons, building latrines and ensuring supplies of safe drinking water. Medical staff participated in all prison visits and monitored the medical and nutritional status of inmates.

ICRC planes flew Ministry of Health employees and over 35 tonnes of medical supplies to isolated areas. The ICRC evacuated 243 people to health facilities from isolated areas in 1990.

### **Orthopaedic programme**

The ICRC maintained four orthopaedic workshops in Maputo, Beira, Quelimane and Nampula, built accommodation facilities for patients at two of these centres, initiated a specialized training course for local orthopaedists and constructed a training workshop for this programme in Beira.

Production of prostheses remained stable at the ICRC's four orthopaedic workshops, while the number of repairs to prostheses grew by 25 per cent as compared with 1989. In August, the Maputo workshop began using polypropylene to produce artificial legs, since that material

had proven more resilient and safer than plastics used in the past for the moulding of prostheses. This technique was later adopted by the other three workshops as well.

The ICRC's four orthopaedic workshops produced 784 prostheses and fitted 362 patients with prostheses. They also put out 1,966 pairs of crutches and 34 wheelchairs, and carried out 390 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

Orthopaedic staff from the ICRC workshops travelled to other areas of the country to assist disabled people in remote or isolated districts.

### **Training programme**

The ICRC, in cooperation with the Beira Institute of Science and Health, established a three-and-a-half-year intermediate training course for approximately 40 Mozambican students. Five Angolan students joined the programme as well. The course, which began in April, aimed at increasing Mozambique's self-sufficiency by preparing local supervisory staff to manage orthopaedic centres after the departure of expatriate personnel.

### **Assistance for the civilian population**

The ICRC concentrated its assistance programme on the most vulnerable groups, institutions and displaced people. This assistance was generally carried out by the delegation in cooperation with the National Society. The delegation gradually reduced relief distributions from a monthly average of 230 tonnes at the beginning of 1990 to an average of about 65 tonnes at the end of the year, as other agencies were then able to cover much of the need for general food distributions in areas where the ICRC was working.

### ***General food distributions***

After nutritional surveys indicated a large-scale need for food assistance in Nipiode and Mucuaba, near Ile (Zambezia province) in January, the ICRC began general food distributions for about 15,000 people. These distributions continued through May. Another 4,000 people received ICRC food assistance in Nampevo in June.

### ***Institutions and displaced people***

Through the Mozambican Red Cross Society, the ICRC regularly supported health institutions, orphanages, social welfare cases and returnee transit centres throughout the country. The ICRC and the National Society distributed food and non-food assistance to people forced to flee their villages owing to attacks.

All told, the ICRC and the Mozambican Red Cross distributed 1,780 tonnes of relief supplies in Mozambique, the bulk of which (over 1,500 tonnes) consisted of maize, beans and oil. About 140 tonnes of the overall figure was made up of soap, blankets and clothing.

### ***Dissemination***

Throughout the year, the ICRC held talks on international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles for thousands of members of the army and police, as well as civilians, party officials, and Red Cross staff. The delegation also used other means of reaching the general public, including radio broadcasts in Portuguese and a number of local languages. Much of the delegation's dissemination work was done in close cooperation with the Mozambican Red Cross Society.

In addition, the delegation organized a number of special seminars for high-ranking military officers and government officials, including sessions on the law of

war, international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles. These included representatives of the Ministries of Defence, Security, Justice and the Interior as well as instructors from the Mozambican People's Police.

### ***Cooperation with the National Society***

The National Society was involved in nearly all ICRC activities in 1990, as activities in opposition-held areas, which are carried out exclusively by ICRC staff, were extremely limited by the constraints mentioned above. The ICRC provided training in tracing activities and first aid for National Society employees.

## **NAMIBIA**

The main area of ICRC activity in Namibia remained the northern border region, where the institution assisted people affected by the conflict in neighbouring Angola. Late in the year, the delegation also set up the logistic base necessary to carry out cross-border operations into south-eastern and southern Angola.

In March, the ICRC President went to Namibia to participate in ceremonies marking the country's accession to independence. While there, he met a number of leaders, including the presidents or heads of state of Angola, Congo, Egypt, Mozambique, South Africa, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

### ***Representations and activities for prisoners and detainees***

From January to April, the ICRC visited prisoners in three places of detention a total of four times. Eight prisoners, some of whom were security prisoners and others who claimed to be UNITA soldiers, were seen.

In addition, the ICRC made representations to the authorities to ensure the protection of people arrested as illegal immigrants in the Caprivi Strip.

The ICRC distributed about 62,600 Swiss francs worth of relief goods to people in detention and to families of ex-prisoners. Prisoners' families received 1,244 food vouchers.

The ICRC Tracing Office in Namibia resolved cases involving 640 people and exchanged 1,771 Red Cross messages, mainly for refugees from Angola.

### **Angolan refugees**

Angolan refugees in the north, children in a state hospital in Oshakati, patients at Rundu State Hospital and various other needy groups received about three ton-

nes of assistance, including food and blankets, from the delegation.

### **Dissemination**

Dissemination activities intensified toward the end of the year, when the delegation began holding sessions for military personnel in Oshakati and at the Namibia Defence Forces Military School and the Osona Military Base in Windhoek.

### **Cooperation with the Namibian Red Cross**

The ICRC and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked together to develop the Namibian Red Cross as it took steps to become a recognized National Society and member of the League.

## ***Central and West Africa***

---

### **LIBERIA**

The conflict that broke out in Nimba county, in the north, late in December 1989 slowly spread to the capital during the first half of 1990, leading a growing number of refugees to flee the country. In January, the ICRC set up a delegation in Monrovia to provide assistance within Liberia. The institution also quickly established tracing offices for Liberian refugees in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, and later set up another tracing office in Sierra Leone. The ICRC's regional delegations also provided assistance to the National Societies of the neighbouring countries as they dealt with the influx of refugees.

In the middle of the year, Monrovia, besieged by rebel forces, was the scene of acute human suffering, as the forces

of two rebel groups — the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) led by Charles Taylor and the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) headed by Prince Johnson — became bogged down in their attempts to take the capital from the Armed Forces of Liberia, led by President Doe.

The ICRC set up protection centres for vulnerable groups in the capital, one of which was brutally attacked in late July (see details below). The security situation in the capital deteriorated to the point where it was no longer possible for the ICRC delegation to work. On 30 July, the ICRC issued an appeal to all the parties to the conflict to respect the physical and mental integrity of the population and expressed its concern at the serious exactions committed against civilians in Monrovia. The ICRC pulled out of Monrovia in early August.

After the closing of the Monrovia delegation, the ICRC continued work begun in early April in areas of Liberia held by the NPFL. At the end of October, having been assured that conditions in the capital permitted resumption of activities, the ICRC reopened the Monrovia delegation.

### **Protection of the civilian population: ICRC efforts run up against a terrible human tragedy**

The fighting had already taken on an ethnic dimension since the beginning of the year, pitting Mano and Gio people against the late President's tribe, the Krahn. With the deadlocked military situation and the worsening tension around the capital in the middle of the year, many people were subjected to attacks for ethnic reasons in Monrovia in May, June and July. They and others congregated in about 20 accommodation centres in various parts of Monrovia, including churches, schools and embassies.

Prompted by the population's need for protection, in June the ICRC and the Liberian Red Cross Society extended the protection of the Red Cross emblem to five centres for vulnerable groups in the capital. For three weeks, these centres provided shelter, medical attention and food for up to 6,000 people in serious danger because of their ethnic origin.

On 30 July, in the early morning, a group of armed men broke into the Lutheran Church, one of the centres under the protection of the Red Cross, and went on a killing spree which left hundreds dead. The ICRC was forced soon thereafter to leave Monrovia. Given the absolute lack of respect in the city for international humanitarian law and for the Red Cross emblem, the institution's work had become impossible. Despite its appeal of 30 July, the ICRC remained absent from Monrovia for three months.

### **Visits to people in detention**

Delegates continually requested access to people held in connection with the conflict in talks with all those participating in the fighting. In December, the ICRC gained access to 18 NPFL prisoners held by the Military Observer Group of the ECOWAS<sup>1</sup> (ECOMOG)<sup>2</sup> in Monrovia. Civilians interned by the NPFL during the war represented another major concern for the ICRC, and the institution was able to obtain the NPFL's permission to visit interned Liberians and foreign nationals at the end of December.

People in detention received about four tonnes of assistance from the ICRC in 1990, including three tonnes of food.

### **Tracing Agency**

Early in the year, the ICRC quickly established tracing offices and agencies in Monrovia and in various places where large numbers of Liberian refugees had fled (Nzerekore in Guinea, Man in Côte d'Ivoire, and later Freetown in Sierra Leone).

With the three-month closing of the Monrovia delegation, tracing activities were made practically impossible, as the ICRC was not present in the capital. The ICRC tracing service thus adapted to the lack of a delegation in Monrovia by sending copies of all tracing requests to all tracing offices involved in assisting Liberians in the region. At the end of the year, the ICRC tracing service was once again operational on both sides of the front, and the number of Red Cross messages distributed grew accordingly, as did the number of tracing requests resolved.

<sup>1</sup> Economic Community of West African States.

<sup>2</sup> Economic Community Monitoring Group.

In 1990, ICRC tracing agencies in Monrovia, Man and Freetown resolved 209 tracing requests and processed 5,027 Red Cross messages.

### **Medical activities**

The ICRC distributed medical supplies throughout 1990 to hospitals and first-aid posts in both Monrovia and in NPFL-held areas. The ICRC also handed over medical material to the ECOMOG medical service once it began working in Monrovia in September, and to the Liberian Red Cross clinic in Kakata.

Monrovia had serious sanitation problems, especially regarding the water supply for its estimated 300,000 inhabitants, near the end of the year. In November and December, the ICRC maintained a sanitation team to clean up the city, bury the dead and try to improve the supply of clean water in the Monrovia area.

The total value of medical material provided by the ICRC in Liberia in 1990 was 152,288 Swiss francs.

### **Relief**

Early in the year, the ICRC provided food and other relief goods to people displaced by the conflict in the north. As the front progressed south, assistance was given on both sides of the front line. After the temporary closing of the Monrovia delegation, the ICRC continued to provide relief goods to displaced people in rural Liberia. With the delegation's reopening at the end of October, the ICRC resumed relief distributions for vulnerable groups in the capital.

## **RWANDA**

In October, when the conflict broke out in northern Rwanda, an ICRC team

reached that country within a day of the first reports of incidents, and provided about ten tonnes of supplies (mainly food) to hospitals and displaced people through the Rwandan Red Cross. Delegates began a series of visits to people arrested in connection with the events on 13 October. By the end of the year, they had visited 5,341 prisoners in 27 places of detention (18 Ministry of Justice facilities, eight gendarmerie installations and one military camp). During these visits, delegates provided about three tonnes of food, cleaning equipment, jerrycans, clothing and educational material to the prisoners. The ICRC also processed 3,550 Red Cross messages in Rwanda in 1990.

Earlier in the year, the Kinshasa delegation had carried out a series of visits to Rwandan prisons (*see below, under Kinshasa regional delegation*).

## **CHAD**

In Chad, the ICRC delegation continued efforts to gain access to Libyan prisoners of war held by the Hissène Habré government, and also carried out orthopaedic and dissemination work.

### **Representations and activities for prisoners of war**

Throughout 1990, the ICRC continued to request access to all Libyan prisoners of war held by the Chadian government, as it had done for the previous two years. In January, the ICRC issued a memorandum to the States party to the Geneva Conventions asking them to ensure that the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention be respected in the case of these prisoners.

In the end, with the exception of 53 Libyan prisoners of war visited in March 1990, the ICRC was not allowed to visit



about one thousand others captured by the Chadians in late 1986 and in 1987. The group of 53 prisoners was visited in preparation for their repatriation, which never took place under the Habré government. No other prisoners were seen until the change of government. This was a clear violation of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

After the fall of the Habré government in December, the Libyan prisoners, including the 53 seen in March, were released and later repatriated or transferred to other countries without having been interviewed by delegates.

In late December, ICRC delegates visited a group of 594 prisoners who had been transferred to Kamina, southern Zaïre aboard aircraft chartered by the US government. Delegates also went to Libya and visited another group of former POWs who had been repatriated directly from Chad in the beginning of December.

The N'Djamena delegation also issued certificates of detention for people who were visited by ICRC delegates in the late 1970s and 1980s. In 1990, 138 such requests were received. The Tracing Agency also handled Red Cross messages from the 53 Libyan prisoners visited by delegates; one of the prisoners received a reply, which was sent through the postal system.

### **Medical activities**

ICRC prosthetists/orthotists continued to work at the Kabalaya orthopaedic centre in N'Djamena, participating in the training of local staff and in the production of prostheses, orthoses and crutches. The centre produced 214 prostheses and 118 orthoses, fitting 101 and 71 patients, respectively. It also made 146 pairs of crutches and carried out 165 major repairs to prostheses.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

In the first half of the year, the ICRC and the Red Cross of Chad held dozens of dissemination sessions reaching some 30,000 journalists, schoolchildren, students, civil servants and Red Cross staff throughout southern Chad. Beginning in July, the ICRC delegation progressively handed over all dissemination equipment, documentation and material to the National Society, which was due to assume full responsibility for this programme in January 1991.

In addition to the hand-over of dissemination material and equipment, the ICRC also helped the National Society to develop a shelter and integration centre for street children in N'Djamena.

## ***East Africa***

### **ETHIOPIA**

Once again in 1990, northern Ethiopia was the scene of heavy fighting and much human suffering. The armed conflict continued and tension increased during the year. In February, the port of Massawa changed hands after a major battle,

leaving Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, dependent on air transport for communications with the rest of the country. Further south, major clashes were reported within 150 kilometres of the capital. Heavy fighting took place near Dessie (Wollo province) and Bahr Dar (a town in northern Gojjam province, near Lake Tana).

In 1990, after an absence of one and a half years from the north, the ICRC started surgical activities in that region. Following the withdrawal of foreign medical personnel in late 1989 and early 1990, there was an acute shortage of surgeons, anaesthetists and specialized nurses throughout the country. In June and July, the ICRC began sending surgical teams, equipment, medication and other supplies for three general hospitals (in Bahr Dar, Dessie and Asmara) near the front.

The number of families displaced by the conflict was estimated at over 150,000, and thousands of families had been separated by the fighting. Hundreds of prisoners were held in connection with the conflict both by rebel groups and the government. The fighting brought a growing number of casualties. There were regular reports of violations of international humanitarian law by the combatants, including ill-treatment of civilians and the bombing of villages and towns. In addition, Ethiopia still hosted some 760,000 refugees from the Sudan and northern Somalia at year's end.

### **Activities for prisoners and refugees**

Several representations were made, without results, to the parties to the conflict in Ethiopia, with a view to allowing the ICRC to visit the thousands of members of the Ethiopian armed forces captured by the EPLF<sup>1</sup> and the TPLF/EPRDF<sup>2</sup> and to visit political detainees held by the Ethiopian government.

Beginning in July 1990, the ICRC participated in the repatriation from Boroma, north-western Somalia, to Babile, Ethiopia of Ethiopian people who had sought

refuge in Somalia during the Ogaden crisis of the 1970s. The ICRC provided logistic and technical means for their transport, in cooperation with UNHCR<sup>3</sup> and other agencies. While the area around Babile had not suffered from fighting in recent years, Ethiopian refugees in Somalia were caught up in the conflict in the Somali north-west. The National Societies of the two countries also took part in this operation. By the end of September, some 3,300 refugees had returned to Ethiopia. After a three-month pause in repatriation activities owing to the hazardous situation, the ICRC organized one more convoy at the end of December for more than 500 refugees.

Working closely with the National Society, the ICRC Tracing Agency in Addis Ababa resolved 813 tracing requests in 1990, almost all for Somali refugees in camps in Ethiopia. No work was carried out for victims of the internal conflict because the ICRC was not permitted to work on both sides of the front.

### **Medical activities**

#### *Surgical assistance*

Three Ministry of Health general hospitals were forced to enlarge their surgical facilities because of a heavy influx of wounded soldiers in early 1990. Besides caring for the war wounded, these hospitals provided surgical services for the general population of nearly 1 million civilians living near Asmara, Bahr Dar and Dessie. Following a survey in June, the ICRC deployed three full surgical teams at the hospitals in these towns and set up sub-delegations in the three cities. The surgical teams performed over 2,500 operations through the end of the year. In addition, the sub-delegation in Asmara

<sup>1</sup> Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

<sup>2</sup> Tigrean People's Liberation Front/Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

assisted the National Society towards the end of the year in ensuring that vulnerable groups (about 10,000 families) received adequate supplies of clean water.

### ***Orthopaedic programme***

The delegation continued technical orthopaedic work at the Debre Zeit rehabilitation centre and stepped up its co-operation with the Prosthetic-Orthotic Centre in Addis Ababa. The ICRC prosthetists/orthotists also supported the orthopaedic centres in Asmara and Harar. In the latter, a large group of Somali refugee patients received treatment. All told, the centres at Debre Zeit and Addis Ababa produced 750 prostheses and fitted 566 patients with prostheses, made 202 orthoses and fitted 146 patients with orthoses, and produced over 12,000 pairs of crutches. They also put out 123 wheelchairs and carried out 83 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

Orthopaedic activities at the Debre Zeit rehabilitation centre were based on an agreement of June 1989 between the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), which called for the ICRC to provide technical and material support to the centre.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

The ICRC held dissemination sessions for the Presidential Guard Special Forces Brigade in October. Throughout the year, the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society held joint dissemination sessions in Wollo, Shoa, Gojjam, Sidamo and Hararghe, reaching tens of thousands of soldiers, militiamen, government and party officials and members of the general public.

Under the terms of an agreement signed on 19 June between the ERCS, the

Ministry of Health and the ICRC, National Society staff played a key role in the ICRC surgical programme launched in June in the north, providing essential services such as blood bank management and ambulance support, and assisting in contacts with the authorities.

## **UGANDA**

The ICRC extended the scope of its protection activities, set up an emergency first-aid medical post with surgical facilities for one month to care for people wounded in the Sudan conflict, and implemented a major relief programme for 85,000 displaced people in camps near Kumi. The delegation also assisted victims of the Rwandan conflict by participating in the repatriation of 214 Ugandans, including 52 children, from Kigali and by temporarily supporting refugees in the border region.

Activities in various parts of Uganda, especially those near Gulu and Soroti, where the civilian population was still affected by internal conflict, were blocked or disrupted for several months in 1990 owing to security reasons or problems in obtaining authorizations. In the beginning of the year, the delegation was forced to suspend field activities at the Soroti sub-delegation because of extremely stringent restrictions imposed on it, reportedly for security reasons. These restrictions were lifted in mid-June, and the ICRC resumed activities in the region. From April to October, the ICRC sub-delegation in Gulu was forced to curtail field work and concentrate on activities such as visits to prisoners and assistance for people within the town itself because of serious security incidents in the north and north-east.

The ICRC President visited Uganda from 24 to 27 March and held talks with high-

ranking officials in the government and in the National Society. During his visit, the ICRC President emphasized the specific mandate of the ICRC as a humanitarian organization which, although not engaged in development work, strived to help populations affected by war regain their self-sufficiency. He also called on all African leaders to avoid relegating humanitarian assistance programmes to the back burner while seeking the prior solution of international or internal problems, and declared that the ICRC was concerned about the growing number of cases of misuse of the emblem throughout the world.

The ICRC President also met the President of Uganda and addressed the question of Uganda's ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

### Visits to prisoners

ICRC delegates visited people arrested and detained in relation with the armed conflict or for reasons of state security in Ugandan civilian prisons throughout the year. In January the ICRC was granted access to all persons detained in connection with the ongoing internal conflict or for security reasons. This included detainees held in military barracks. The visits were stopped by the authorities in February. After lengthy negotiations, visits to detainees held in military barracks resumed in October, but only for civilians and sentenced soldiers. Negotiations aimed at gaining access to soldiers not yet sentenced continued through the end of the year. In addition, throughout 1990 delegates regularly visited a number of police stations and prisons in search of prisoners who came within the ICRC's mandate.

Delegates carried out a total of 75 visits to 13 government prisons, four military

facilities and nine police stations, seeing 1,433 prisoners, including 1,237 for the first time. There were mass releases of prisoners in January and April.

The prisoners released in January and in late April received one-off food and non-food assistance from the ICRC, mainly consisting of blankets, hoes, clothing and soap.

Delegates registered the released detainees during the above-mentioned mass releases. The delegates then took measures to verify their safe return home.

In addition, when delegates noted vital needs for food or other supplies in facilities visited by the delegation, the ICRC distributed relief goods and medical supplies. The delegation did not assume the regular responsibility of caring for people deprived of their liberty; such tasks remained the responsibility of the authorities. Distributions were thus carried out on an *ad hoc* basis, and were limited in duration. The ICRC distributed a total of more than nine tonnes of such assistance in 1990.

### Tracing Agency

ICRC tracing staff were active in the north and in West Nile Province, where there were large numbers of Sudanese refugees.

In 1990, the ICRC Tracing Agency in Kampala resolved tracing requests involving 204 people and handled 17,238 Red Cross messages.

In December the ICRC organized a convoy to repatriate by road a group of 214 Ugandans who were unable to leave Rwanda for security reasons from Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, after the authorities of both countries asked for the institution's help.

### Medical activities

When large numbers of people wounded in the conflict in southern Sudan began arriving in West Nile Province in January, the ICRC sent a medical team to survey the situation and later opened the Moyo first-aid medical post. A surgical team was sent from the ICRC hospital in Lokichokio (Kenya) to Moyo for one month in February.

During their one-month stay, the ICRC medical staff in Moyo carried out 44 operations and admitted 99 patients, 19 of whom were eventually transferred to Lokichokio for further treatment.

Other ICRC medical activities included 150,000 Swiss francs worth of support for local health facilities, evacuation of about 150 sick and wounded people from conflict areas to district hospitals, vaccination campaigns for about 17,000 people and nutritional evaluations. ICRC medical staff also took part in all visits to prisoners.

### Orthopaedic activities

In the beginning of the year, the ICRC added a prosthetist/orthotist to the staff at the orthopaedic centre run jointly by the British Red Cross, the Ugandan Red Cross and the Ministry of Health. At the end of the year, the ICRC's involvement in this project came to an end. The British Red Cross continued assisting in the centre.

Production of prostheses at the centre reached 180, and 175 patients were fitted with prostheses. Some 280 orthoses were produced and 257 patients were fitted with orthoses. The centre put out 1,843 pairs of crutches and 338 wheelchairs, and carried out 55 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

### Assistance for the civilian population

The ICRC distributed a total of 5,934 tonnes of relief goods, including 5,291 tonnes of food, in 1990.

After a major offensive against rebel positions near Kumi in February, up to 85,000 displaced people in ten camps near the town required assistance. At first, the ICRC provided non-food relief goods such as blankets, cooking pots, plastic sheeting, soap, shovels and jerrycans for the camps' inhabitants, while other organizations supplied their food. ICRC nutritional staff closely monitored the nutritional status in the camps from February on. When, in June, nutritional surveys indicated a serious need for an improvement in the food distribution system, the ICRC registered the camps' inhabitants and assumed responsibility for general food distributions for a period of three months from July to October, supplying 5,102 tonnes of food, most of which had been handed over to the ICRC logistic base in Mbale by the World Food Programme. From July to November, delegates distributed rations to the 85,000 camp residents. Finally, toward the end of the year, when many of the camp residents were able to return to their homes, the ICRC continued providing food assistance for them. This was necessary because of the disruption to the food system caused by their absence.

About 14,000 families who returned to their villages from the camps in the middle of the year received some 53 tonnes of seed as well as agricultural tools to assist in their resettlement in August and September. Later in the year, an ICRC agronomist surveyed the food production capacity of other villages which had recently received returnees, and reported that these people would be dependent on food aid until at least the next harvest, in June 1991. The report on this survey

was the basis for an agricultural tool and seed distribution carried out in early 1991 to enhance local production.

A similar programme was implemented for about 41,000 families near Gulu.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

Seminars and presentations on the law of war and the Red Cross principles reached thousands of soldiers, policemen and prison personnel. Special seminars and talks were held for about 850 armed forces officers, prison wardens and senior officers of the Uganda Police Forces. Other dissemination activities were aimed at local officials, medical staff, members of the clergy, teachers, students and Red Cross members throughout the country.

The delegation provided training and technical assistance for local staff.

Beginning in late 1989, the ICRC financed a series of four first-aid courses for Ugandan Red Cross staff. The delegation also participated in the financing of two quarterly reviews, *Reach Out Magazine* and *Youth Bulletin*, both put out by the National Society and each with a circulation of over 1,000.

## **SOMALIA**

In 1990, the ICRC was the only humanitarian organization with a regular presence in northern Somalia, where the conflict between government forces and the SNM<sup>1</sup> continued unabated. The fighting compounded ethnic tensions, leading to an extremely complicated situation where the various Somali tribes in the area found themselves aligned with the combatant

groups; the circumstances of the conflict were rendered still more complex by the presence of thousands of Ethiopian refugees in the area.

In early October, delegates began surveying the situation in areas held by the Somali National Movement. In December, the ICRC finally was able to reach SNM-held areas directly by plane.

One by one, assistance agencies and organizations pulled out their expatriates from the north in 1990, mainly for security reasons. While maintaining its presence at the Berbera sub-delegation, the ICRC was forced to cut back drastically its field operations in October after a number of security incidents. During one such incident, on 6 October, an ICRC delegate was killed. As a consequence, additional security measures were taken to protect ICRC staff and operations in early December.

### **Representations and activities for the protection of people in detention**

Throughout the year, the ICRC kept up contacts with the Custodial Corps aimed at gaining access to people detained for security reasons. In September, the ICRC submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of the Interior on ICRC protection activities.

### **Tracing Agency**

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Mogadishu resolved tracing cases involving 976 persons and assisted in family reunifications involving 61 people. It processed 1,412 Red Cross messages in 1990.

### **Medical activities**

The war led to a situation where medical facilities were practically non-existent. The ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent

---

<sup>1</sup> Somali National Movement.

refurbished a hospital in Berbera in mid-1989 to assist victims of the conflict, and the ICRC also took other action to support medical facilities in the north and evacuate the wounded to the Berbera facility.

The ICRC added a surgical team to the one based at the Berbera surgical hospital in February 1990, when the number of wounded reached a high level; by then the hospital's capacity had grown from 50 to over 80 beds. ICRC aircraft and vehicles evacuated patients to this facility throughout the year. The hospital staff included a physiotherapist as from the middle of the year. In addition, the ICRC provided medical supplies and assistance to district hospitals in six towns affected by the conflict in the north-west (Boroma, Burao, Las Anod, Hargeisa, Erigawo and Sheikh), and the delegation carried out sanitation work (principally ensuring clean sources of water) in institutions in the major towns of the north.

The ICRC surgical hospital in Berbera admitted 1,115 patients, 617 of whom were evacuated by the sub-delegation, and performed a total of 2,611 operations.

In addition to about 730,000 Swiss francs' worth of medical material used at the Berbera hospital, the ICRC provided over 190,000 francs' worth of medical material to various health facilities in Berbera, Boroma, Burao, Hargeisa, Las Anod and Mogadishu.

### **Assistance for the civilian population**

The fragile economy of the north-west suffered greatly from the war, leaving many people dependent on outside assistance. Beginning in May, the Berbera sub-delegation was able to use roads in the area, and the ICRC began providing food and non-food assistance for over 15,000 displaced people in the Awdal

region, near Boroma. The sub-delegation continued to use convoys to reach Hargeisa, Boroma, the Awdal region and Burao throughout the middle of the year, distributing food and non-food assistance to needy people throughout the region.

### **Displaced people**

After an ICRC survey in the Awdal region (north of Boroma) found urgent needs among some displaced people and nomads, the ICRC began general food distributions there in March, eventually reaching up to 15,000 people in the region.

A growing number of newly displaced people arrived in Berbera at the beginning of the year. The ICRC continued to provide food and non-food assistance such as blankets, clothing, soap and kitchen sets for displaced people, social welfare cases and institutions (such as orphanages, hospitals and centres for the handicapped).

In total, the ICRC distributed over 2,300 tonnes of relief goods in Somalia in 1990, most of which was food (wheat, rice, beans, lentils, cooking oil, sugar, etc.). The delegation also distributed about 35 tonnes of non-food assistance comprising blankets, soap and clothing.

### **Activities for Ethiopian refugees**

Tens of thousands of Ethiopian refugees had come to northern Somalia as a result of the 1977 war between the two countries. Efforts were undertaken throughout 1990 to facilitate the repatriation of this group, which was caught up in the war. By June, UNHCR had obtained the approval of the Ethiopian and Somali authorities for the repatriation of about 5,000 of the tens of thousands of Ethiopian refugees living in north-western Somalia. The ICRC, in its role as neutral intermediary and in cooperation with

UNHCR local staff, registered returnees and transported them to the Ethiopian government's accommodation centre for returning refugees in Babile, Ethiopia.

### ***Repatriation***

In October, the ICRC repatriation programme for Ethiopian refugees in the north-west was temporarily halted for security reasons, but it resumed in late December, when an eighth convoy arrived in Babile. A total of 3,864 people were repatriated thanks to this programme.

### ***Assistance***

At the beginning of 1990, after the United Nations halted its assistance programme for refugees, the ICRC directly assisted over 17,000 people in the Bihin refugee camp south of Berbera and provided food for therapeutic feeding centres in refugee camps in Boroma. The delegation also provided 475 tonnes of food to ELU/CARE<sup>1</sup> for redistribution in camps near Boroma.

In February, with the beginning of the six-month United Nations Extraordinary Interim Emergency Programme (UN-EIEP) for Ethiopian refugees in northern Somalia, the ICRC curtailed its assistance for refugees. However, when the EIEP drew to an end in August, the ICRC was once again the only agency able to assist Ethiopian refugees, and the delegation resumed limited emergency assistance to the camps in September.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

The delegation held dissemination sessions in the north and in the area around the capital, reaching about 5,000 army

officers, policemen, political and traditional leaders, and members of the general public.

Special dissemination sessions were held for members of the Custodial Corps and army and navy officers.

The ICRC provided material support, including vehicles, radio sets, generators and garage equipment for the Somali Red Crescent in Mogadishu and Berbera.

### **Logistics**

In the first half of the year, the only means of transporting relief goods, personnel and wounded people to and from the towns in the north-west was by small plane. At the end of May, the ICRC began using truck convoys to haul relief goods to Boroma via Hargeisa, and in August, began reaching Sheik and Burao by road as well. The delegation still required small aircraft to ferry supplies from Mogadishu to the Berbera surgical hospital, to evacuate the wounded and to reach isolated areas.

## **SUDAN**

From the beginning of 1990, the institution's activities grew steadily in southern Sudan. Delegates used road transport to reach Bor, and later descended the Nile to Shambe and Adok, the port towns for Yirol and Leer.

In April, following a suspension of seven months, the ICRC resumed flights to three government-held towns (Malakal, Juba and Wau) and three places in areas held by the SPLA<sup>1</sup> (Kongor and Leer, with Bor serving as a logistic stop-over point). Relief activities, once resumed, in-

<sup>1</sup> CARE Emergency Logistical Unit.

<sup>1</sup> Sudan People's Liberation Army.



cluded support for vulnerable groups in southern towns, distributions of seed and non-food items and general food distributions in Leer and Malakal, as well as veterinary vaccination campaigns. At the same time, ICRC medical activities in the region picked up, and the ICRC kept up efforts to visit people held in connection with the conflict.

In October ICRC flights were again blocked by the Sudanese authorities pending an agreement between the government and the SPLA on how to use the Red Cross II, a barge donated by the Norwegian government for ICRC activities in southern Sudan.

### **Representations and activities for people in detention**

From May to October, ICRC delegates paid three visits in a government place of detention in Juba, to a total of 11 prisoners. In September and November, delegates visited 64 people who had reportedly surrendered to the authorities in Malakal, at the Malakal military headquarters. In October, delegates visited 35 government soldiers held captive in an SPLA camp.

The ICRC submitted an offer of services to the government in 1990, and also continued efforts aimed at ensuring access to all people held by the SPLA, including those visited in 1989 and the 35 seen in early 1990. At the end of the year, negotiations were continuing to allow the ICRC to visit all people detained as a result of the conflict in the Sudan.

### **Tracing Agency**

Much of the volume of tracing work in Sudan centred around the transmission of Red Cross messages between Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda and their families in Juba and other areas. The

ICRC tracing office received over 500 Red Cross messages and distributed over 650 for this group in 1990. The delegation also handled an increasing number of tracing requests and messages between Ethiopian refugees and Ethiopians living abroad. There was also significant growth in the number of Red Cross messages exchanged between SPLA-held areas and places held by the government, although the overall number of such messages remained relatively low.

The number of people traced by the ICRC in southern Sudan rose from 127 in 1989 to 797 in 1990. Similarly, the number of Red Cross messages distributed by the ICRC grew from 1,470 to 5,308. However, the great majority of these were sent between the capital and Juba.

Overall, the ICRC resolved tracing requests involving 1,233 people in Sudan in 1990 (including the 797 in the south). The Tracing Agency also processed 7,861 Red Cross messages.

After the port of Massawa, in Ethiopia, changed hands, a large number of Ethiopian refugees and unaccompanied minors began arriving in Port Sudan. The tracing office in Sudan received tracing requests concerning over 300 people for this group.

### **Medical activities**

The ICRC maintained two surgical teams at the surgical hospital in Lokichokio, northern Kenya, for the treatment of victims of the southern Sudan conflict. The ICRC's Lokichokio surgical hospital admitted 777 people in 1990 and hospital staff performed 1,700 operations. In February, one of the teams was sent to Moyo, northern Uganda, where the ICRC had established a first-aid medical post on an emergency basis after Sudanese war-wounded began arriving in January.

The ICRC provided 30,000 Swiss francs' worth of medical supplies to health facilities in Yirol, Bor, Kongor, Kapoeta and Leer.

In the field, ICRC medical personnel vaccinated women and children against six diseases (measles, tuberculosis, polio, tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough) and gave medical consultations. ICRC vehicles and aircraft evacuated people from isolated towns to Lokichokio or Khartoum for medical treatment.

Prosthetists/orthotists also worked at orthopaedic workshops in Khartoum and at the ICRC's Kassala orthopaedic centre. Both Sudanese and Ethiopian conflict victims were treated at the Kassala centre. The two ICRC orthopaedic centres produced 631 prostheses and fitted 500 patients with prostheses, made 221 orthoses and fitted 193 people with orthoses, and put out 238 pairs of crutches. They carried out 479 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

As part of ICRC activities aimed at ensuring proper sanitary conditions, ICRC staff participated in sanitation activities and the provision of clean water in towns in the south and at medical facilities.

### **Assistance for the civilian population**

In 1990, the amount of food assistance supplied in southern Sudan fell in comparison with 1989, thanks to a good harvest at the end of 1989 and to ICRC and other emergency rehabilitation programmes. The ICRC concentrated on the rapid, one-off coverage of emergency food needs in 1990. There were two major relief distributions, in Leer and Malakal, reaching over 141,000 people in August and September.

The ICRC distributed 1,295 tonnes of relief goods from Kenya and 6,350 tonnes of goods from Sudan in conflict

areas of Sudan in 1990. Juba, Malakal and Wau each received about 2,000 tonnes of relief goods, and people in Leer and Kongor received over 780 tonnes and 293 tonnes, respectively. The ICRC also assisted populations in Aweil, Bor and Yirol. In addition to these distributions, the ICRC handed over more than 544 tonnes (90% of which was food) to the National Society for its relief programmes for displaced people in Omdurman and the Red Sea Hills.

The ICRC supplied food and non-food assistance to vulnerable groups in Khartoum, Wau, Malakal and Juba, and also distributed non-food assistance, including blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito netting and agricultural tools to needy people in towns under the control of the SPLA in the south, including Leer, Kongor, Yirol and smaller areas south of Shambe along the Nile river.

Another important part of the ICRC's relief activity consisted in rehabilitation work, including the distribution of over 570 tonnes of seed and 76 tonnes of agricultural tools and veterinary programmes. The Danish Red Cross implemented the ICRC's veterinary programme for the south, vaccinating more than 300,000 head of cattle against rinderpest.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

In July, the ICRC's delegate for dissemination to the armed forces in Africa and the Sudanese Head of Military Justice held a three-day course for 25 Sudanese army majors and colonels. Beginning in the middle of the year, the Khartoum delegation held a series of dissemination sessions for students and staff at the Law University of Khartoum and at other institutions of higher education.

The ICRC supported Red Crescent branches in Juba, Malakal and Wau, covering the needs of up to 1,000 social welfare cases in these towns in the conflict zone and assisting in a kindergarten and education programme, and helping extend awareness of health issues, including childhood diseases, AIDS and other problems.

The delegation also supported National Society programmes for displaced people in Omdurman and in Khartoum, providing water on a regular basis and also furnishing blankets and flour. In July the ICRC handed over about 40 tonnes of relief supplies to the National Society to help it mount an assistance programme for over 4,000 people displaced by disturbances in the Darfur region.

## REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

The ICRC regional delegations in Dakar, Lomé, Lagos, Kinshasa, Harare and Nairobi were instrumental in responding to a number of emergencies in 1990.

Three regional delegations in West Africa sent delegates to assist Liberians both in Liberia and in neighbouring countries in 1990. Delegates from the Kinshasa regional delegation were instrumental in setting up the ICRC delegation in Rwanda. Regional delegates were also sent to other countries (namely, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Zambia and the Casamance region of Senegal) when civil unrest or other disturbances occurred there.

Over and above the work done in response to new emergencies, ICRC regional delegations continued protection, tracing, medical and relief activities.

All regional delegations continued dissemination activities and cooperation programmes aimed at developing Red

Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in the region. In addition, given the specific need for dissemination among the armed forces on the continent, the ICRC posted a delegate in charge of disseminating international humanitarian law to the armed forces of sub-Saharan Africa in Nairobi in January 1990. He participated in seminars held in Gabarone and Mbabane in late July for army personnel from 10 southern African countries and a seminar held in Lomé for high-ranking military personnel from 10 West African countries in early May.

**DAKAR:** (*Cape Verde, Guinea (Conakry), Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal*)

The Dakar delegation carried out tracing and protection work in connection with the events that struck Mauritania and Senegal in 1989.

ICRC delegates visited 89 Mauritanian security prisoners in four places of detention in Senegal in 1990. Of these, 60 were registered for the first time. Food, blankets and personal hygiene items were distributed to prisoners as well. In addition, the delegation regularly sent staff to these prisons to carry out tracing work.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Dakar distributed 723 Red Cross messages, nearly all relating to the tension between Mauritania and Senegal, and participated in family reunifications involving 29 people.

### *Casamance unrest*

The ICRC offered its services to visit people arrested in connection with the strife in the Casamance region of southern Senegal. Discussions on this matter continued at the end of the year.

After civil unrest broke out in the Casamance region the ICRC distributed

medical supplies at the Ziguinchor hospital, and the ICRC and the National Society distributed about five tonnes of relief supplies at the end of May.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with National Societies**

In April, the regional delegation held a seminar in Conakry for Guinean journalists on the promotion and dissemination of the Red Cross and Red Crescent principles.

The Dakar delegation organized a regional training seminar on tracing activities for representatives of 10 West African National Societies in November.

The delegation assisted the Senegalese Red Cross in a first-aid training course for Red Cross personnel in three departments beginning in the middle of the year. The ICRC supplied stretchers, first-aid kits and other supplies for Red Cross activities in the Casamance region. The Mali Red Cross also received first-aid kits at the end of the year.

### **LAGOS: (Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone)**

The ICRC delegate in Lagos was instrumental in contacting ECOMOG representatives in Lagos for discussions on ICRC activities in Liberia.

**GAMBIA** — ICRC delegates visited 38 security prisoners in one Ministry of the Interior place of detention in February. Assistance was also provided for the families of those security prisoners. In addition, the delegation provided 16,600 Swiss francs' worth of relief goods and 3,800 francs' worth of medical supplies to prisons in Gambia through the Gambian Red Cross. The ICRC Tracing Agency in Lagos processed 191 Red Cross messages in 1990.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with National Societies**

**CAMEROON** — The ICRC organized a workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in June for Secretaries General and information officers of National Societies in the sub-region.

High-ranking members of the Cameroonian armed forces attended a special seminar organized by the ICRC and the Cameroon Red Cross Society in the beginning of the year. In August, the ICRC held a workshop for Ghanaian prison personnel in Accra on international humanitarian law, the Red Cross principles and the activities of the Red Cross.

### **LOMÉ: (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Togo)**

In September, the ICRC offered its services to visit people held for reasons of state security in Burkina Faso and Niger.

**TOGO** — In November, ICRC delegates visited three places of detention in Togo run by the Ministry of the Interior and saw 19 sentenced security prisoners.

The Lomé delegation distributed 7,650 Swiss francs worth of relief supplies to detained people in Togo and also provided financial assistance to the families of detainees in Burkina Faso and a number of other countries in the region.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Lomé handled 67 Red Cross messages in 1990.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with National Societies**

In December the ICRC, together with the Benin Red Cross and the Benin armed forces, held a train-the-trainers seminar for 30 army instructors, covering aspects of international humanitarian law. The ICRC also assisted in the creation of a

documentation centre on the subject in Cotonou.

Forty officers from the armed forces of the ANAD<sup>1</sup> countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo), the two ANAD observer States (Benin and Guinea) and Guinea-Bissau attended a seminar on international humanitarian law from 3 to 11 May.

The Lomé delegation held a seminar for 30 officers of the "Gendarmerie Nationale" in June.

**KINSHASA: (Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Zaire)**

At the end of March, the President of the ICRC visited Zaire and met the Zairian head of state and other high officials.

The ICRC President gave speeches at Kinshasa University and participated in an hour-long televised round table.

Throughout the year, delegates visited security prisoners in facilities under the jurisdiction of various Zairian ministries, agencies and authorities. In all, 35 visits were paid to seven places of detention, and 120 security prisoners were seen, including 82 who were visited for the first time. The Kinshasa delegation also sent delegates to these facilities to carry out tracing work for detained people.

**BURUNDI** — The ICRC sent delegates to visit six prisons run by the Ministry of Justice in April and May. A total of 93 security prisoners were seen.

**RWANDA** — The ICRC carried out a series of visits to Rwandan prisons at the end of June and beginning of July (i.e.,

before the events later in the year). Delegates based in Kinshasa visited 40 security prisoners during this series of visits.

The delegation distributed food and non-food relief supplies to prisoners and to the families of detained people.

**GABON** — When disturbances broke out in May and June, an ICRC delegate went to Port Gentil to carry out a survey and help distribute food to needy people.

### Dissemination

The ICRC held a regional seminar on the implementation of international humanitarian law at the university in Kinshasa for legal specialists from five countries. A four-day information seminar for army staff, government employees, representatives of the press and National Society staff was held in June in Kinshasa, and a similar course was held in late October for officers of the Congolese People's Army in Brazzaville.

The directors of the penitentiary services of most of the French-speaking African countries attended a seminar given in Bujumbura, Burundi, in September.

Throughout the year, the ICRC gave presentations on international humanitarian law to members of the Zairian armed forces, the Garde Civile and local authorities, and the delegation carried out dissemination activities aimed at the general public, including the use of radio spots.

### Cooperation with National Societies

In June, the delegation handed over to the Red Cross Society of Zaire about 3.5 tonnes of relief goods to assist in the relief effort for victims of the flood which struck Bandalungwa in late May. The ICRC also assisted with training for

<sup>1</sup> Accord de non-agression et de coopération en matière de défense.

Zairian Red Cross disseminators and helped refurbish a first-aid post in Limete, in the middle of the year.

***HARARE: (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe)***

The Harare delegation played an important logistic role in support of major ICRC operations in Mozambique and Angola. The delegation also maintained technical assistance for the orthopaedic centre in Bulawayo and carried out food and non-food relief distributions in Zambia and Zimbabwe for people affected by the war in Mozambique.

**Visits and tracing activities**

**ZAMBIA and ZIMBABWE** — Together with National Society teams, delegates visited Mozambican refugees detained at police posts in Zambia and Zimbabwe and interceded on their behalf.

The Tracing Agency in Harare resolved tracing requests involving 174 people and handled 7,176 Red Cross messages, mainly for Mozambican refugees.

**Medical activities**

***Distributions of medical supplies***

Hospitals and medical facilities in about 30 communities in the eastern border regions of Zambia and Zimbabwe received ICRC medical assistance, including dressing material, first-aid kits, surgical gloves and disinfectant.

***Orthopaedic activities***

Under the terms of the 1984 agreement between the ICRC and the Zimbabwean Ministry of Health, the ICRC handed over responsibility for the management of the Bulawayo orthopaedic centre to the ministry in the middle of the year.

The ICRC completed three-week training courses for local orthopaedic technician apprentices from Swaziland and Lesotho in the beginning of the year, and left one expatriate orthopaedic technician at the Bulawayo centre until the end of the year to finish the second two-year training course for orthopaedic technicians and to ensure a smooth transition.

In 1990, the Bulawayo orthopaedic centre produced 301 prostheses and fitted 273 patients with prostheses. It made 243 orthoses and fitted 182 patients with orthoses, and put out 740 pairs of crutches. The centre carried out 121 major repairs to prostheses.

**Assistance for civilians**

People displaced by the spill-over effects of the Mozambican conflict received assistance from the ICRC and the National Societies of Zambia and Zimbabwe in the eastern border areas of the two countries. In addition, in western Zambia the ICRC assisted people affected by the Angolan conflict.

Distributions in Zambia and Zimbabwe for displaced people and refugees along the Mozambican and Angolan borders amounted to about 90 tonnes of food, three tonnes of seed and farming tools, and 13 tonnes of non-food assistance, including blankets, clothing, tents and kitchen utensils.

**Cooperation with National Societies**

The ICRC provided over three tonnes of tents, blankets, kitchen utensils, buckets and storm lanterns to local branches of the Zimbabwe Red Cross as part of a disaster preparedness programme, and partially financed the salaries of Provincial Programme Officers in eastern Zimbabwe. The delegation provided six tonnes of similar assistance to the Zam-

bian Red Cross disaster preparedness programme. In Malawi, the delegation furnished National Society personnel responsible for working with Mozambican refugees with first-aid kits and financed information tours led by local staff. The Botswana Red Cross received assistance for its programme for the handicapped, blood bank and ambulance service. The Harare delegation also supplied bicycles and other material for the Zambian and Zimbabwe Red Cross tracing programmes and assisted in the training of National Society tracing staff. A large proportion of the tracing activities of the two National Societies was centred on assistance for Mozambican refugees.

**NAIROBI:** (*Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania*)

**KENYA** — The President of the ICRC visited Kenya in March and held talks with the President of Kenya and other high government officials. The ICRC President took this opportunity to thank the Kenyan government and National Society for their support for ICRC operations in neighbouring countries, and most notably, in Sudan.

### Tracing Agency

The delegation issued 839 travel documents for 960 people (including many children), mainly refugees from Somalia and Ethiopia. In addition, the delegation handled 474 Red Cross messages and resolved tracing requests involving 140 people in 1990.

### Dissemination

In January, the ICRC based a regional delegate for dissemination to armed forces throughout Africa at the Nairobi regional delegation. By the end of 1990, some 800 officers from 35 of the 46 sub-Saharan

African countries had taken in-depth courses or participated in seminars on international humanitarian law, rules for combatants and respect for the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems. The delegate participated in special seminars throughout Africa.

In January and March, ICRC and National Society disseminators held talks on the Red Cross and Red Crescent principles for prison officers in Kenya and Tanzania.

In March, the ICRC gave a three-day workshop on the Red Cross for 25 Kenyan journalists.

### Cooperation with National Societies

Early in the year, the ICRC provided financial backing to enable the Kenyan Red Cross Society (KRCS) to open a branch in Turkana, northern Kenya, near the ICRC logistic centre and hospital in Lokichokio. The KRCS and the ICRC held joint dissemination sessions for the armed forces, the police, members of the prison service, and at universities. The delegation also financed the basic salary of dissemination and information officers of the National Societies in Kenya, Tanzania and Djibouti, provided material support and publications, and financed the purchase of first-aid kits.

In 1990, the ICRC continued a programme begun in August 1989 under which 128 first-aiders were trained for the as yet unrecognized Comoros Red Crescent.

The Nairobi delegation also provided video material and publications for the information section of the still to be recognized Seychelles Red Cross.

The Tanzanian Red Cross received assistance in the tracing field and the

ICRC helped the National Society to open a branch in Zanzibar. The delegation also helped cover the costs of producing the

Society's quarterly newsletter, and paid the salaries of an information officer and a dissemination officer.

## RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1990

### AFRICA

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Medical assistance	Relief		Total
	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	(Tonnes)	Sw. fr.
South Africa .....		469,887	227.6	469,887
Angola .....	419,445	6,547,150	7,842.6	6,966,595
Angola (south-east) .....	387,732	560,482	465.7	948,214
Benin .....		6,500	6.5	6,500
Burundi .....		7,553	2.7	7,553
Djibouti .....	2,718			2,718
Ethiopia .....	1,590,945	1,769	3.1	1,592,714
Ethiopia (Eritrea, via Sudan) ....	127,620	311,073	235	438,693
Gambia .....	3,757	16,653	8	20,410
Liberia .....	153,518	399,986	158.4	553,504
Mali .....	10,820			10,820
Mozambique .....	601,605	1,911,699	1,782.6	2,513,304
Namibia .....		72,446	66.3	72,446
Uganda .....	92,894	4,170,220	5,934.6	4,263,114
Rwanda .....	35,750	28,401	12.9	64,151
Senegal .....	16,594	12,408	11.7	29,002
Somalia .....	910,812	2,105,243	2,326.6	3,016,055
Sudan .....	282,651	5,667,200	7,041	5,949,851
Sudan (conflict in southern Sudan, via Kenya) .....	479,259	1,728,787	1,298.2	2,208,046
Swaziland .....		26,178	2	26,178
Togo .....		7,639	1.3	7,639
Zaire .....		69,472	44.6	69,472
Zambia .....	9,962	114,891	59.3	124,853
Zimbabwe .....		112,299	54.8	112,299
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>5,126,082</b>	<b>24,347,936</b>	<b>27,585.5</b>	<b>29,474,018</b>



# LATIN AMERICA

*The 1980s took a severe toll in Latin America. The imbalance in North-South relations, the foreign debt burden, widespread social injustice, unchecked corruption and a flourishing drug trade all contributed to a further undermining of the region's already fragile institutions. With few exceptions, the standard of living in the countries south of the Rio Grande declined steadily and the gap between social classes continued to widen.*

*In this context, throughout 1990 the ICRC strove to fulfil its humanitarian mandate on behalf of the most needy categories of the population (civilians, prisoners of war, security detainees and the missing).*



*Over the past years Latin America has been a home for political upheaval and change. On the one hand, encouraging prospects for dialogue in El Salvador and new governments in Chile, Nicaragua and Paraguay, and on the other hand, mounting violence in Colombia and Peru, have made it necessary for the ICRC to redeploy its staff and reorganize its logistics in the field.*

*The regional delegations worked, often in cooperation with the respective National Societies, to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. In addition they maintained and strengthened ICRC contacts with governments with a view to encouraging ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, promoting implementation of international humanitarian law through national legislation and raising financial support for ICRC work worldwide. Finally, with the agreement of the governments concerned, they continued to carry out protection and assistance activities for security detainees and, in some cases, for civilians affected by violence, such as displaced persons.*

*The ICRC maintained an average of 76 delegates in Latin America during 1990, as well as 249 local employees. They were assigned to five delegations: Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru, and three regional delegations in Bogotá, Buenos Aires and San José.*

*The total budget for Latin America in 1990 came to 29,755,300 Swiss francs. Expenditure stood at 21,826,500 francs.*

## ***Central America and the Caribbean***

### **EL SALVADOR**

The ICRC carried out its protection and assistance work in El Salvador in 1990, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and with Additional Protocol II. After the major offensive launched by the FMLN<sup>1</sup> in November 1989, plans for the coming year had to be postponed, as immediate needs for emergency medical care, evacuation of the wounded and protection and registration of security detainees took priority. This emergency period continued into 1990, until the curfew was lifted on 1 February. Despite the obvious extra workload resulting from this violent period, projects originally planned for 1990 picked up again after this date, alongside efforts to deal with the aftermath of the fighting.

In July 1990 a major breakthrough was witnessed when both parties to the conflict signed a human rights agreement. Nevertheless, despite an immediate fall in the number of captures and cases of ill-treatment of the civilian population, offensives picked up again in the last quarter of 1990. In the context of renewed tension throughout the country, once again civilians bore the brunt of recurring violence in built-up areas. The ICRC repeatedly reminded the parties to the conflict to

show greater respect for the civilian population.

#### **Activities for persons detained in connection with the conflict**

In 1990 ICRC delegates paid regular visits to places of detention under the control of the armed forces and the security corps, as well as penal centres under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice. On average 150 to 200 visits were made every month, and about 1,000 new security detainees were registered over the year, most of them being released a few weeks after their arrest.

Throughout the year, whenever contact was established with the FMLN, a number of matters were discussed, including the notification of capture of civilians and members of the armed forces. In 1990 the FMLN handed over 56 captured persons to the ICRC.

#### **Protection of the civilian population**

A considerable number of field missions carried out by ICRC delegates in El Salvador last year were made in order to monitor abuses against the civilian population. This reflected the ICRC's growing concern for civilians, who were increasingly caught in the crossfire between the armed forces and the opposition in 1990. The ICRC regularly submitted to both the government and the FMLN

<sup>1</sup> Farabundo Martí Liberation Front.

delegates' findings and suggestions for improving the situation of civilians.

### **Tracing Agency**

Following the reduction in the number of people arrested for security reasons, the number of requests from family members for information also fell. Apart from these requests for news of disappeared persons or persons allegedly arrested by government forces or the FMLN, the ICRC Tracing Agency received other conflict-related allegations and issued hand-over certificates for 79 wounded persons evacuated from conflict areas and 58 soldiers and civilians released by the opposition. Financial assistance was also given to families wishing to visit a detained relative. Additional work included the exchange of over 2,300 Red Cross messages and the resolution of over 1,000 tracing requests.

### **Medical and sanitation activities**

Following the violence in November 1989, ICRC delegates conducted a complete survey of hospitals which were receiving a large influx of wounded in San Salvador and other major cities. The ICRC organized the delivery of some 18.5 tonnes of medical supplies straight away, and continued distributions to 17 hospitals, 7 health centres, 8 penal centres, clinics and mobile units of the National Society on through 1990, in order to replenish their depleted stocks and to enable them to be better equipped to confront any similar crisis situation in the future.

Traditional ICRC medical activities were carried out throughout 1990 by two medical teams. Field visits allowed the ICRC to give over 23,500 medical and dental consultations to people in conflict areas or displaced people with no other access to medical services; to supervise and supply five health posts in conflict

areas; to carry out a vaccination programme (over 22,500 vaccinations) with the Ministry of Health, treating people in remote areas; and to evacuate wounded civilians and combatants in remote areas to hospitals.

In addition to the medical activities above, the ICRC supervised the construction and operation of latrine and water projects in areas affected by the conflict. In 1990 visits to 118 existing latrine projects and 177 water projects were conducted, while a further 44 visits were made to new sites for evaluation purposes.

### **Relief programme**

Material assistance was provided to detainees (articles of personal hygiene, medication, mattresses and clothing), released detainees (travel costs to their homes, food and shelter) and the families of detainees (travel costs to visit detained relatives). In addition, the ICRC occasionally provided hospitals, homes for the elderly, orphanages and civilians living in areas affected by the conflict with food, blankets and other basic items. In all, 106 tonnes of assistance were distributed at a cost of around 290,000 Swiss francs.

### **Cooperation with the National Society**

In 1990 the ICRC continued its financial and material support to the Salvadoran Red Cross Society in order to enable it to maintain and develop its traditional activities, including ambulance and first-aid services and a blood transfusion centre. Support to the National Society was especially important last year in the light of needs brought about by the events of November 1989.

### **Dissemination**

The ICRC made a large number of presentations on international humani-

tarian law, stressing the importance of respect for the civilian population and the Red Cross emblem. During field missions to conflict areas, members of the opposition and the general public were major targets of dissemination work. Courses and conferences were mainly given to the armed forces and the police, and efforts were also carried out through the mass media.

Another popular method of dissemination in El Salvador last year was through the medium of theatre. Specially conceived plays with audience participation explained very clearly exactly what goes on when, for example, ICRC delegates visit security detainees. The plays were by and large presented to members of the armed forces, and set in a Salvadoran context.

## **GUATEMALA**

Cooperation with the Guatemalan Red Cross was a priority in 1990 and many facets of National Society work were touched upon, the ICRC offering assistance in the following ways: training staff; setting up a dissemination department within the National Society, which would eventually take over the training of their own staff; determining the needs of civilian victims of the conflict by conducting thorough surveys with the National Society to evaluate those needs and the best ways of meeting them.

In addition, a course on the law of war was given from 8 to 12 January to 26 future officers of the general staff of the Guatemalan Armed Forces.

## **NICARAGUA**

Following the elections in March, the cease-fire agreement of April 1990 and

the subsequent end of the conflict in Nicaragua, the situation in the country no longer came under the ICRC's mandate. For this reason, the network of ICRC sub-delegations and offices, which was set up over the years to offer protection and assistance to the direct and indirect victims of the conflict, was dismantled in the course of the year and the delegation's expatriate staff was reduced from 20 to 8 by December.

### **Visits to detainees**

Roughly 1,300 security detainees who had been registered by the ICRC were still behind bars in February 1990, but by the end of April none of these people were being held for reasons related to the conflict. Upon the request of the authorities, the ICRC was actively involved during the release of those detainees in locating their families, monitoring their health and their transportation back to their places of origin, as well as providing food and clothing.

### **Tracing Agency**

On 15 November the delegation submitted a list of 997 missing persons from the 10 years of conflict to the new authorities. In addition, the delegation continued to check tracing requests still pending against information regarding returning refugees and demobilized contras obtained from lists drawn up by UNHCR and CIAV/OAS/ONUCA<sup>1</sup>.

Over 8,400 Red Cross messages were exchanged throughout the year and 925 tracing requests were resolved. The ICRC also issued 177 certificates for former detainees visited by the ICRC, as evidence that they had been held captive.

<sup>1</sup> "Comisión Interamericana de Averiguación y Verificación," Organization of American States and ONU Centro America.

## **Medical activities**

Throughout most of the year ICRC medical personnel carried out evaluations of medical services in areas where large numbers of demobilized contras and civilian refugees were arriving for resettlement. Thirteen hospitals received material assistance and medical supplies at a value of over 67,500 Swiss francs, while in the south Atlantic region the delegation carried out a vaccination programme in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. Medical assistance to detainees was terminated in April.

## **Orthopaedic activities**

On 27 June an agreement was signed providing for continued cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the ICRC regarding the Erasmo Paredes Herrera Orthopaedic Centre in Managua. The agreement will remain in effect until June 1992. In 1990, 492 prostheses were produced and fitted to 229 patients, while 1,229 orthoses were manufactured and fitted to 684 patients.

## **Relief**

During the first quarter of 1990 basic medical supplies and articles of hygiene were distributed to penal institutions. The ICRC also monitored health care of detainees in prisons and hospitals. Food and non-food assistance to detainees and their families was valued at just under 88,500 Swiss francs.

Throughout the rest of the year assistance was directed at demobilized contras and resettling returnees. In particular, tools and construction materials were provided, along with kitchen sets, blankets, clothing, soap and food, especially in

the River Coco area and the RAAS (the Atlantic autonomous southern region). In all, almost 55,000 beneficiaries received 175.4 tonnes of food aid and 87.6 tonnes of non-food assistance. The assistance programme in the River Coco area, initiated in 1985, was terminated in July, and the ICRC sub-delegation in Puerto Cabezas was subsequently closed, as was the warehouse in Waspán.

Over the last quarter of 1990 the offices in Rosita, Juigalpa and Matagalpa were also closed, as was the sub-delegation in Bluefields. A large amount of material was given to the British Red Cross in Bluefields to help it continue its ambulance-boat project. This material consisted mainly of vehicles, boats, office equipment, VHF radios and building materials.

## **Dissemination and information**

In 1990 ICRC seminars, presentations and conferences on international humanitarian law and the work of the ICRC were aimed at a broad spectrum of the population in Nicaragua. Main groups targeted were the military, the police, university students, secondary school-children and members of National Society branches. For the first time ever, members of the Sandinista police force and the rural police forces, composed of ex-contras, participated together in ICRC dissemination seminars.

The first course ever given to high-ranking officers in the Nicaraguan army took place over five days from 29 October to 2 November, and in cooperation with the ICRC, the army produced and distributed a new Soldiers' Manual outlining basic rules of conduct in time of conflict.

## South America

### CHILE

Visits were made to security detainees in 29 prisons run by the *Gendarmeria nacional* (Ministry of Justice), and to detainees under interrogation at the *Policía de Investigaciones* and the *Carabineros*. Negotiations with the new government which came into power in March resulted in permission to continue these visits.

In total, 193 visits were made and 530 detainees visited. 69 of these 530 were registered for the first time.

Food aid, medical assistance and other assistance in the areas of housing, hygiene, education, clothing and leisure were given to security detainees at a cost of 78,259 Swiss francs. Families of detainees and released detainees also received food aid valued at 232,512 francs and assistance with costs of family visits and other financial aid totalling 10,173 francs. Limited medical assistance was also provided to released detainees.

### COLOMBIA

Over the year ICRC delegates made 66 visits to 34 places of detention in Colombia, all of which were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice. During these visits 810 security detainees were seen and 217 new detainees were registered. In spite of repeated attempts, ICRC delegates were not granted access to detainees being interrogated by the armed forces and the police. Nonetheless, in December 1990 the *Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad* (DAS), which comes under the direct control of the Presidency, gave formal authorization for ICRC delegates to visit its detainees.

Last year the ICRC also assisted in the release of 13 persons captured by opposition movements. Those freed included members of the national police force and the armed forces, as well as seven civilians, two of Swiss nationality.

In order to try to put an end to forced disappearances, the ICRC made constant efforts to obtain access to persons detained for interrogation by the army and the police. At the end of the year the outlook for access appeared positive.

In addition to tracing work, which involved the handling of 39 tracing requests, transport costs were paid to 243 families so that they could visit their detained relatives. On December 24 the ICRC paid for 100 children to visit their incarcerated parents at Medellín.

#### Relief and medical activities

Throughout 1990 the ICRC provided detention centres and penitentiary infirmaries with medicines, cleaning materials, mattresses, cooking utensils, clothing and sport and leisure equipment at a total value of 5,609 Swiss francs (medical assistance not included). The ICRC also footed the bill for repairs to several odontological units in detention centres and a reserve of medical supplies purchased in view of an anticipated substantial rise in prices. The civilian population also received mattresses, blankets, food and medical supplies at a cost of 8,868 Swiss francs (medical assistance not included), after families were displaced by the violence, especially in the departments of Cesar, Santander and Aranca. Medical supplies distributed amounted to 33,913 francs.

## Dissemination activities

Owing to the climate of violence in the country, throughout the year the ICRC continued to work alongside the National Society within the context of its vast programme of dissemination. Major target groups were university students and staff, the national police force, government officials, lawyers, members of the armed forces, the National Society and non-governmental organizations.

## PERU

The delegation in Lima, which was opened in 1984, has expanded over the years, to keep pace with the mounting violence throughout the country, in its efforts to assist security detainees and civilians affected by the internal conflict. The expatriate staff was increased to 31 by the end of the year and after numerous field surveys, operations were extended into areas previously cut off to any aid whatsoever. The ICRC therefore played a key role in bringing assistance and protection to victims of the conflict where no one else could.

At the beginning of June the ICRC's Director General carried out a mission to Peru, where he met with the newly-elected President Alberto Fujimori, together with the Delegate General for Latin America and the head of delegation in Lima. The ICRC representatives explained the role of the institution and its activities in Peru.

Travel in the country being particularly precarious, the delegates moving around in the emergency zones were obliged to follow very strict security regulations and, although acceptance of the ICRC and hence its security improved considerably over the year, efforts continued to develop dissemination activities among the armed forces and the opposition, in an

attempt to forestall any future security problems.

With the opening of a new office in Huanayo the ICRC consolidated its presence in the emergency zones. The institution thereby increased public awareness of what the ICRC actually does and as a result became more effective in carrying out its work. By the end of the year, apart from its main delegation in Lima, the ICRC had offices in Ayacucho, Abancay, Tingo María and Huancayo.

## Protection activities for detainees

In 1990 a rise in the number of security detainees was noted. Visits to the DIRCOTE (*Dirección contra el terrorismo*) anti-terrorist unit in Lima were resumed on 19 October, after 56 days of denied access.

Visits in 1990 were made to 77 centres of detention under the Ministry of Justice (*carceletas*, penitentiaries in the capital and detention centres in emergency zones) as well as 6 transit centres under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior in Lima and Tingo María. A total of 762 visits were made and 1,967 security detainees were registered, 1,097 for the first time.

Visits to detention centres meant that delegates were able to carry out interviews without witnesses with detainees. Visits also allowed the ICRC to bring medical and material assistance to security detainees, and facilitated the fumigation of several detention centres. Total medical assistance was valued at 63,525 Swiss francs, while material assistance totalled 42,829 francs.

Numerous high-level discussions were held with a view to obtaining access to detainees held for interrogation in places under the army and the police. In this way the ICRC hoped to see an end to

the cases of forced disappearances so often denounced in Peru. By the end of 1990, however, access had still not been given.

### **Tracing Agency**

Efforts were concentrated on registering security detainees and informing their relatives. Transport was also paid for families to visit detained relatives.

### **Medical activities for the civilian population**

Besides traditional ICRC medical work such as medical consultations and caring for the wounded, vaccination programmes formed an integral part of medical operations in 1990.

As the ICRC was firmly rooted in the emergency zones of Apurímac, Ayacucho, Huanuco and Junín, its medical teams were able to make regular visits to health centres in regions most affected by the fighting, bringing medical supplies and basic medicines and providing training for health workers located in these regions. These visits allowed the ICRC to carry out an average of between 200 and 300 medical consultations per month and also facilitated a programme for prevention of diarrhoea among children, with the help of material supplied by UNICEF.

Additional medical assistance was brought to civilians wounded in the fighting. The ICRC ensured medical attention for 425 such civilians in public hospitals throughout the country.

### **Relief assistance**

1990 relief targets were principally people who had been displaced or made homeless because of the violence, and security detainees and their families. In the first group, orphans and families whose

homes had been destroyed or damaged accounted for a large proportion of the beneficiaries, while in the second group assistance was directed at newly-released security detainees with no means of self-support, as well as those still interned and living under difficult conditions engendered by the critical economic situation in the country. In all, assistance was provided to over 19,000 persons.

Assistance came in many forms such as blankets, second-hand clothes, shoes, mattresses, canvas, kerosene, cleaning products, kitchen sets, tools and food. A special project in Peru involved providing meals in school canteens for over 2,000 children who were affected by the disturbances, most of whom had been orphaned as a result of the violence in the country, particularly in Ayacucho and in Abancay.

### **Cooperation with the National Society**

Working with some of the National Society's branches throughout the country was effective during the whole year. In particular, in December after the flooding of the River Shullcas which runs through the town of Huancayo, the ICRC provided vehicles and material aid to the local branch of the Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) to help it to cope with the damage. Other aid for 1990 came in the form of material assistance for social programmes run by the PRC in emergency zones, and in the form of HF radios to link up the National Society's headquarters with local branches.

### **Dissemination**

In 1990 special efforts were made to widen people's understanding of the movement and of international humanitarian law in remote areas previously inaccessible to the ICRC. Presentations were made both inside and outside the emergency zones



to audiences including high-ranking members of the armed forces and police and academics. In addition, interviews were given in the press, on radio and on television. Puppet theatres were also used to spread information among more than 5,000 school children aged 14 to 17 last year in schools in Lima and in the emergency zones.

## REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

**SAN JOSÉ** — (*Costa Rica, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, the Lesser Antilles*)

**HAITI** — The National Society received technical and financial assistance from the ICRC which enabled it to continue its programme of dissemination to members of its individual branches within the country, as well as to other sectors of the population, especially law students.

**MEXICO** — The President of the ICRC visited Mexico on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Mexican Red Cross. While there, he met with the highest authorities and discussed with them the question of opening a regional delegation in Mexico. The ICRC President met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and with the Minister of the Navy and raised questions related to the Additional Protocols with them.

**PANAMA** — In 1990, two series of visits were carried out to 52 detainees in Panama, and four prisoners of war (POWs) incarcerated in the United States, at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre in Miami (Florida), all being held for reasons related to the events of December 1989. In January and February 1990 ICRC delegates visited 1,021 POWs and

331 civilian internees under United States administration in Panama, in accordance with the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions.

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** — The ICRC took steps to obtain access to persons being held in connection with the attempted *coup d'état* of 27 July, carrying out two missions to discuss this matter with the authorities, in July and again in September. However, by the end of the year, access had still not been obtained.

**BOGOTÁ:** (*Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela*)

**ECUADOR** — On 24-26 April delegates visited 13 detainees in two detention centres in Quito. This was followed by a visit to a further two detainees in Guayaquil. Eight of these security detainees were registered for the first time, and some medical and material assistance was given to all 15.

An agreement between the Ecuadorean Red Cross and the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior and the Police, which was signed in 1989, was fully implemented in 1990. The agreement established a formal link between the National Society and the above-mentioned bodies, and allowed the ICRC to lend its support to a specific programme of courses and conferences aimed at members of the police and armed forces. Seventeen such courses were given by ICRC delegates to audiences totalling 775, mostly made up of army and naval officers, as well as air-force cadets and other groups.

**SURINAME** — Missions were carried out in April, July, September and November to Suriname from the regional delegation in Bogotá to evaluate the situation and

needs of civilians affected by the violence in the region along the borders with Brazil and French Guyana. The isolation of many small pockets of Amerindians and their increasingly limited access to medical care and other supplies was a major preoccupation of the governments of countries concerned.

It was decided that the situation in the region did not meet the ICRC's criteria for intervention, although it was also made clear that the ICRC would continue to survey the situation by sending a delegate from Bogotá at regular intervals.

***BUENOS AIRES: (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay)***

In addition to keeping very close contact with authorities of the countries it covers, and pursuing both intensive and important dissemination work, the regional delegation put a considerable amount of time and effort into preparations for projects in 1991, including the opening of the regional delegation in Brasilia.

At the joint request of the British and Argentine governments, the ICRC, in its capacity as a neutral humanitarian institution, carried out a mission to the Falkland Islands from 26 to 30 August. The purpose of this mission was to study practical arrangements for visits by Argentine families to the graves of members of the armed forces buried there according to the Geneva Conventions, the two governments intending to entrust this mandate to the ICRC. In a joint press release issued on 15 February 1990 in Madrid, the two governments expressed their wish for the visits to take place under ICRC auspices.

***BRAZIL*** — At the invitation of the Brazilian government, an ICRC delegate made a visit in November to the Brazilian Indian reserve along the border with Suriname, where 503 Surinamese Indians had taken refuge after violent clashes in southern Suriname. The situation of these people, who were being taken care of by the Brazilian authorities, did not require ICRC assistance.

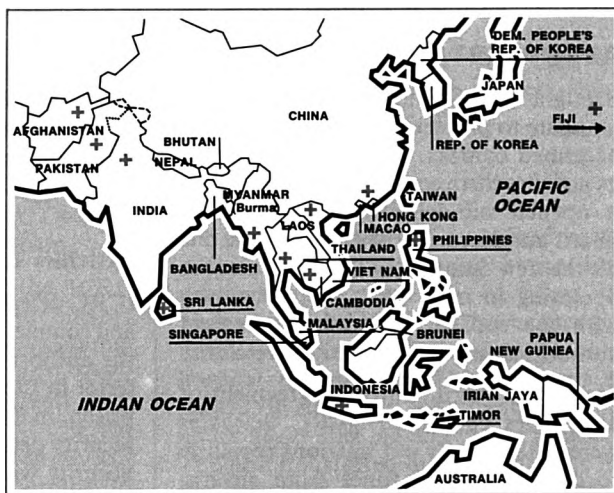
**RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1990**  
***LATIN AMERICA***

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Medical assistance	Relief		Total
	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	(Tonnes)	Sw. fr.
Chile .....	26,200	851,204	258	877,404
Colombia .....	33,913	14,477	4.2	48,390
El Salvador .....	760,102	278,788	106.9	1,038,890
Haiti .....	1,260			1,260
Honduras .....		97,324	30.6	97,324
Nicaragua .....	123,477	1,316,514	786.5	1,439,991
Panama .....		10,147	0.6	10,147
Paraguay .....		430,715	40	430,715
Peru .....	147,509	449,201	94.9	596,710
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>1,092,461</b>	<b>3,448,370</b>	<b>1,321.7</b>	<b>4,540,831</b>



## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

*ICRC action in Asia and the Pacific in 1990 adapted to the rapid succession of events in the different political contexts during the year. The ICRC was able to further develop detention-linked activities in many of the continent's countries: ICRC delegates visited security detainees in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and the Philippines. President Sommaruga's mission to Phnom Penh led the ICRC to hope that it would be able to visit security detainees in Cambodia. This*



*hope was not fulfilled in 1990. Visits should have taken place in Malaysia in 1990, but were postponed by the authorities. Visits to the remaining Vietnamese prisoners of war in China were also postponed. Discussions of the possibility of detention-related ICRC work in Viet Nam went on. As required by its mandate, the ICRC also continued to provide specific medical care for conflict victims, including war surgery, to cover their needs. It continued running its hospitals in Kabul, Peshawar, Quetta, and Khao-I-Dang (Thailand), and had teams working at the government hospitals of Pursat, Kampot and Mongkol Borei in Cambodia. Orthopaedic projects were kept up or introduced in Peshawar, Kabul, Mazar-I-Sharif, Yangon, Mandalay and Ho Chi Minh City. In the course of many missions ICRC representatives maintained and intensified negotiations with governments and National Societies in Asia and the Pacific to promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law and encourage ratification of the Geneva Conventions and/or their Additional Protocols.*

*At the end of 1990, the ICRC had 323 expatriate personnel (including medical and administrative personnel and staff seconded by National Societies) and more than 2,100 locally recruited employees working in six delegations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines. There were also the four regional delegations of New Delhi, Hong Kong, Hanoi and Jakarta, to which a fifth one was added later in the year in Suva.*

*To finance all its activities in Asia and the Pacific in 1990, the ICRC made a regional fund-raising appeal for 108,416,500 Swiss francs, which took into account donations in kind and the balance brought forward from 1989. It also made an appeal for further*

*funds following an extension of its budget for the operation in Cambodia/Thailand, prompted by an expansion of ICRC activities there. Total expenditure for the region in 1990 was 76,526,800 francs.*

## AFGHAN CONFLICT

### AFGHANISTAN

Brought to Afghanistan in 1987 by its mandate to protect and assist the victims of armed conflict, the ICRC developed its activities there considerably. As a result, it opened sub-delegations in Mazar-I-Sharif and Herat in 1989 and became one of the few humanitarian organizations operating in most parts of the country with the consent of both government authorities and opposition movements.

Starting in April, with the agreement of all parties concerned, ICRC delegates were able to carry out missions regularly to opposition-held zones from government-controlled towns and areas. During such missions, they treated war-wounded and evacuated the most serious cases to the surgical hospital in Kabul. After treatment the wounded were brought back across the lines from where they had been evacuated. Another significant step forward was made in April/May, when the first of a number of "joint missions", which were to become an almost regular feature of ICRC activities, took place. This meant that one group of delegates, coming from Peshawar or Quetta in Pakistan, met up with another team, coming from Kabul, and both groups together administered emergency medical assistance to war-wounded. Several other joint missions took place throughout the year, and ICRC activities also included visits to detainees held by various opposition groups.

The number of field missions from Herat and Mazar-I-Sharif multiplied during the year.

The delegation in Kabul and the two sub-delegations had nearly 700 Afghan employees and over 100 expatriate staff, some two-thirds of whom were medical staff. Most of the medical personnel were sent from the National Societies of various European countries, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

### Activities for detainees

ICRC delegates carried out tracing visits and complete visits to detainees held under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior in Blocks 3 and 4 at Pul-i-Charkhi prison, in Kabul. Access to non-sentenced security detainees held by the Ministry of Security was granted in August, but the visits had to be suspended as they could not be carried out according to ICRC standard criteria. The ICRC immediately took measures to renegotiate access. The question was also raised, among others, during a working meeting between President Najibullah and ICRC President Sommaruga at Geneva headquarters in November, but remained unresolved.

The visits to Blocks 3 and 4 of Pul-i-Charkhi prison took place in November and December. Visits also took place to Dar-ul-Tadib detention centre in Kabul (run by the Ministry of State Security) in May, and to provincial prisons under the Ministry of the Interior in Mazar-I-Sharif in April and October and in Herat in May and November. Since delegates were permanently based at the sub-delegations in those two cities, the ICRC was able to make *ad hoc* intermediary visits to both prisons on Tracing Agency matters, as they also did twice monthly to Blocks 3 and 4 of Pul-i-Charkhi prison in the

capital. In the course of missions outside Kabul, the ICRC extended its activities by visiting the following prisons under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior for the first time: Baghlan provincial prison in Pul-i-Khumri, Charikar prison (Parwan province), Jalalabad prison (Nangarhar province), Kunduz prison (Kunduz province), Maimana prison (Faryab provincial jail) and Samangan provincial prison in Aibak. They also visited the following prisons which had already been visited in previous years: Faizabad prison, Farah prison, Quala-I-Nau prison and Shibirgan prison.

During their prison visits, the ICRC delegates regularly distributed one-off assistance to the detainees, amounting to 61,451 Swiss francs' worth of food, clothing, blankets and other items, half of which was distributed at Pul-I-Charkhi prison. All ICRC visits to Afghan government prisons took place according to customary ICRC criteria, and confidential reports on all of them were sent to the detaining authorities.

In 1990, for the first time, delegates based in government-controlled territory were able to visit people held by opposition forces. Delegates from the Mazar-I-Sharif sub-delegation visited people detained by two opposition groups in May and July.

Other visits to persons detained by the Afghan opposition were conducted from Pakistan and are listed under that heading.

### Tracing Agency

Tracing delegates forwarded Red Cross messages between Kabul and Pakistan, where many people have sought refuge from the conflict, and enabled prisoners and their families, in Kabul or in different provinces, to exchange messages.

Altogether 7,968 Red Cross messages were distributed in Afghanistan in 1990.

The ICRC also brought 18 ex-detainees, including a Saudi and an Afghan national, released from Pul-i-Charkhi prison, to Peshawar. Some 266 tracing enquiries were opened, and tracing requests submitted to the Ministry of Security received the first positive replies. Ninety-eight tracing requests were solved.

### Medical programme

On 6 March 1990, an attempted *coup d'état* took place, causing about 100 deaths and 300 casualties, of whom 46 were admitted to the ICRC's war surgery hospital in Kabul. Admissions to this hospital reached a record high of over 500 patients in August, when the capital came under heavy shelling and rocket attacks. The hospital started out with 50 beds in October 1988, and by the end of 1990, had increased the number to 280. March 1990 saw the arrival of a third surgical team, which, in view of rocket raids on Kabul and intensive combat around the capital, was followed by a fourth team in June.

Between January and December 1990, the ICRC hospital in Kabul admitted 4,088 patients. The medical teams carried out 8,724 surgical interventions, gave 7,189 consultations for out-patients, and collected 2,321 blood units during the reporting period.

From March 1989, with the authorization of both the Afghan and the Pakistani Ministries of Foreign Affairs, an ICRC aircraft carried out flights between Peshawar and Kabul twice weekly to keep the ICRC hospital in the capital supplied with medical supplies. As from November 1989 these flights included Herat and Mazar-I-Sharif. The aircraft, based in Kabul, was also used occasionally to

evacuate war-wounded or disabled persons to the Afghan capital. Thus, on average 15 amputees were flown from Mazar-I-Sharif and Herat to Kabul each month to be fitted with artificial limbs as part of the ICRC's rehabilitation programme.

Starting in February 1990, ICRC delegates increased their field trips from Herat and Mazar-I-Sharif, and later also from Kabul, to areas controlled by the opposition. War-wounded patients encountered during these missions were evacuated by ambulance or occasionally by air. The ICRC opened two more first-aid posts, north and south of Kabul respectively. At these posts, the wounded received immediate treatment or, if necessary, were evacuated to the surgical hospital in Kabul. Other first-aid posts were in the process of being made operational.

The ICRC's surgical dispensary in Herat gave 304 consultations for war-wounded and about 3,000 for other patients since opening on 24 October 1989.

On the basis of an agreement concluded with the Afghan Red Crescent Society in April 1989, the ICRC continued to support the 10 Afghan Red Crescent dispensaries in Kabul, where six expatriate nurses were working regularly, and dispensaries run by the Afghan Red Crescent in Herat and Mazar-I-Sharif. Where necessary, the ICRC provided medical assistance for civilian hospitals and the Afghan Red Crescent hospital in the capital, as well as in several provinces.

The orthopaedic centre in Kabul, operational since 1988, produced 3,682 pairs of crutches, 1,333 prostheses, and fitted 1,213 new patients in 1990. It also continued to train local orthopaedic technicians and physiotherapists. The construction of a larger orthopaedic centre to replace the existing one was begun, with

a view to enabling ICRC and local staff to meet growing needs. An orthopaedic field unit was set up in Mazar-I-Sharif, where each month 20 to 40 amputees were fitted or had artificial limbs repaired.

Throughout 1990, the ICRC continued its efforts to help develop the National Society. Thus, the dispensaries programme received sizeable support. The ICRC took part in reconstructing the Red Crescent administrative centre which had been damaged by a rocket. National Society dispensaries were made operational in Herat and Mazar-I-Sharif. The Red Crescent received four vehicles (two of them given by the Netherlands Red Cross) to help upgrade its logistic capacity and develop its ambulance service, and received other medical assistance.

### **Dissemination**

Within the framework of their extended cooperation with the delegation in Pakistan, the delegates in Afghanistan focused their dissemination activities in Kabul and further afield on local ICRC employees, Afghan Red Crescent (ARCS) staff, beneficiaries of ICRC activities (patients and their families at ICRC and ARCS medical facilities in Kabul and in the field), schools and universities (international humanitarian law having been part of the syllabus since autumn 1990), representatives of government ministries, and officers and members of the government armed forces. The programme also reached combatants in opposition-controlled areas.

Dissemination work, which grew considerably in 1990, included talks and conferences for various audiences, presentation of ICRC films translated into local languages, and preparation and distribution of printed matter and other visual material.



## PAKISTAN

### Field missions

In 1990, as in the previous year, ICRC delegates based in Pakistan carried out missions across the border into Afghanistan. They reached the provinces of Paktia, Paktika, Ghazni, Wardak, Logar, Badakhshan, Takhar, Parwan, Kapisa, Helmand, Uruzgan, Kandahar, Nimroz, and Zabul. They also carried out joint missions with delegates from Afghanistan (*see under Afghanistan*). In June, they managed, for the first time, to enter the city of Kandahar, where they established contacts, took stock of humanitarian needs and brought support for the local medical infrastructure. Later in the year, following other missions, they also opened a first-aid post in the city for evacuation of wounded civilians to the ICRC hospital in Quetta (since the civilian hospital in Kandahar had been destroyed).

### Activities for detainees

As in the past, ICRC delegates carried out visits to Afghan nationals detained for security reasons by Pakistani authorities in central jails in North West Frontier Province and in Baluchistan. During field and cross-border missions, delegates visited prisoners held by different factions of the Afghan opposition in Pakistan or Afghanistan. As in the past, regular talks were held with Pakistan government officials, to whom the ICRC gave a full account of its activities in the Afghan conflict and of whom it requested support for its major concern of gaining access to all those detained because of the conflict.

### Tracing Agency

By visiting detainees ICRC delegates managed to give them some protection, improve their living conditions, and pro-

vide news to and from their families. Hundreds were thus informed of the fate of their imprisoned relatives, and detainees were able to communicate with each other and with the outside world.

The delegates distributed 3,369 Red Cross messages in Pakistan in 1990, more than twice as many as in 1989. The Tracing Agency handled 141 tracing requests, carried out 28 repatriations and one family reunification. The delegates made 181 money transfers on behalf of detainees and issued 342 travel documents, on the basis of UNHCR files, enabling refugees to depart once they had received a visa from a country of resettlement.

### Medical activities

Compared with previous years, especially the peak year of 1989, medical activities remained at a stable level.

### *ICRC hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta*

At the ICRC hospital in Peshawar, which had opened in 1981 and had reached a capacity of 390 patients, medical activities remained at a stable level. The hospital in Quetta, operative since 1983 and equipped with 150 beds (which could be increased to 250), had to recruit on a temporary basis a third emergency surgical team to cope with the rising number of war casualties at the end of the year. An ICRC physiotherapist was permanently present.

A total of 2,545 patients were admitted to the hospital in Peshawar and 2,017 in Quetta in 1990. The two teams permanently based in Peshawar carried out 4,013 operations and saw 8,139 out-patients in consultations, the three in Quetta performed 4,446 operations and treated 9,904 out-patients.

### *First-aid posts and evacuation facilities*

Between 1981 and 1988, ten first-aid posts were opened, situated as closely as possi-

ble to the border, near the combat zones. At these posts, first aid was administered to war-wounded, who were, if necessary, evacuated to the ICRC hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta. Occasionally, former hospital patients received outpatient treatment there.

In 1990, seven of the 10 first-aid posts existing in Pakistan in 1989 were left, staffed by Pakistan Red Crescent workers and financed and coordinated by the ICRC. The three others were reopened on Afghan territory, so that there were altogether six advanced first-aid posts operating in Afghanistan (the most recent one in the city of Kandahar in December 1990).

These evacuation structures had to remain flexible as they were constantly adapted to changing needs, and required a maximum of coordination between the ICRC delegations in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

First-aid posts moreover served the purpose of dissemination, reaching not only those treated there, but also many other Afghans who came to attend specially organized first-aid courses.

### ***Orthopaedic centre***

The centre, open since 1981, was structurally improved so that the monthly production of prostheses in 1990 rose from 60 to 100. The centre also manufactured 283 orthoses, and fitted 692 new patients.

### ***Paraplegic centre***

This centre was first opened in 1981 in Peshawar, then moved to Hyatabad on the outskirts of Peshawar and enlarged to 100 beds in 1984. The centre was taken over by the Pakistan Red Crescent in 1986, but continued to be financed and supported by the ICRC. Half of the patients were Pakistanis.

In 1990, 282 patients were admitted; 294 wheelchairs, 372 orthoses/callipers, and 46 pairs of crutches were produced; and 183 patients were fitted with orthoses for the first time.

### **Dissemination/first-aid**

The ICRC delegations in Pakistan continued to hold two types of first-aid courses for Afghans going to war-torn areas: one-month courses with strict selection of the participants, and two-day courses open to everyone. These courses taught participants how to administer first aid and prepare patients for transportation to a hospital, as well as the fundamental Red Cross and Red Crescent principles, particularly respect for the emblem, and the treatment and respect due to prisoners, wounded and civilians.

The delegates also helped the Pakistan Red Crescent to organize first-aid courses in Peshawar and Quetta in connection with the United Nations de-mining programme. In February 1990, delegates started holding first-aid courses during cross-border missions in Afghanistan.

In 1990, for the first time, a seminar on war surgery and international humanitarian law was held at Rawalpindi for officers and doctors of the armed forces.

## **CONFLICT IN CAMBODIA**

The tragic situation of displaced persons in camps on the Thai/Cambodian border and civilians living inside Cambodia continued unresolved in 1990. International efforts to find a lasting solution that would guarantee peace, as well as satisfy the requirements of the four Cambodian parties to the conflict, failed to bring decisive results.

At the end of July, an ICRC representative held high-level talks with representatives of three of the four factions involved in the conflict, who had come to Paris for a conference on Cambodia.

In November, the ICRC sent delegates to participate in the Jakarta conference on Cambodia, attended by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the Cambodian factions and most of the countries in the region. During the conference, the delegates submitted to the participants a paper summing up the ICRC's concerns about the situation of displaced people in the border region, calling on their governments to intervene to ensure that conditions of asylum be respected.

Fighting went on, moving away from the border region further into Cambodia. Consequently, the number of war-wounded admitted to the ICRC's hospital in Khao-I-Dang remained lower than in 1989. The shift of the battle scene also resulted in tens of thousands of displaced persons in Cambodia and ensuing new humanitarian needs. At the same time, a number of civilians (at least 80,000) living in camps on the western border under Khmer Rouge control had disappeared. It was questionable whether they had left of their own free will. The result was that they could not be protected and assisted by international organizations. These camp populations had to face harsh conditions in their new environment, were exposed to the dangers of malaria and land mines, and lacked adequate food and medical care.

At the beginning of September 1990, after a series of high-level negotiations, the ICRC was allowed to establish a permanent presence in western Cambodia, at the hospital of Mongkol Borei where a surgical team immediately took up work, and in Battambang, where a logistics base was to be set up.

## **CAMBODIA**

### **Activities for people affected by the conflict**

Although the Cambodian authorities announced, during an official visit to Phnom Penh by the ICRC President in September, that, in principle, the ICRC would have access to detainees arrested in connection with the situation in the country, the conditions for such visits were still being discussed at the end of the year.

The tracing service set up by the local Red Cross in Cambodia showed increased strength and efficiency in 1990. The tracing missions carried out in the provinces continued to help build up a nationwide tracing network. In 1990, the delegation received 5,428 tracing enquiries concerning persons in Cambodia and in the border area. Some 4,200 of them had been located by the end of the year.

### **Medical assistance**

The extension of ICRC activities to western Cambodia greatly increased the possibility of responding to the needs of the war-wounded and people displaced within the country. The number of expatriate doctors and nurses rose to 20. These included a blood bank technician in Phnom Penh, a general practitioner and a ward nurse in Mongkol Borei, and a field nurse working for displaced people in camps near the city of Sisophon.

Throughout the year, the ICRC kept up its medical assistance to several hospitals in Phnom Penh and in the provinces, and provided logistic and administrative support for four Red Cross teams working in Cambodia, namely from the Swedish, Australian, Swiss and French National Societies. Beginning on 31 August, evaluations were made regularly in the

camps for displaced people in the Sisophon region.

A team comprising two doctors, three nurses and a sanitation engineer visited the military and the provincial hospitals in Battambang during a mission in January.

In May, the head of delegation and the medical coordinator took part in a United Nations mission in the provinces of Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pursat to assess the situation in the event of a repatriation.

The ICRC took charge of rehabilitating the government hospitals of Kampot and Pursat. At the end of August, the ICRC started surgical work in the provincial hospital of Mongkol Borei. An ICRC nurse based in Pursat gave a first-aid course in December for about 100 local health workers in the district. The Ministry of Health agreed to support the ICRC's plan to revive the National Blood Transfusion Centre in order to overcome problems caused by the chronic blood shortage.

Each of the three hospitals where the ICRC was active in Cambodia in 1990 recorded about 1,000 admissions and performed 2,000 operations.

A seminar on war surgery took place in Phnom Penh in June, with the participation of medical personnel, the local Red Cross and the ICRC. It was attended by 150 doctors.

In October, for the first time since 1980, an ICRC-chartered aircraft brought 4.7 tonnes of medical supplies in two journeys directly from Bangkok to Phnom Penh.

### **Dissemination**

Various ICRC productions were broadcast on national television. For the first time since 1974, the local Red Cross held

an event on the occasion of 8 May (International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day). Two officers of the Cambodian armed forces were the first among their group to participate in the annual course on the law of war in San Remo.

## **THAILAND**

The delegates concentrated particularly on monitoring living conditions of the people whom the various resistance factions had brought back into Cambodia, and, as in the past, concerned themselves with the situation in the camps for displaced people. The ICRC noted signs, especially towards the end of the year, that more of the camp populations accessible to international and non-governmental organizations were at risk of being forcibly shifted to Cambodia.

Contact between the Thai government and the ICRC in 1990 included a mission by the ICRC President to Thailand, and a visit of General Chatichai Choonhavan, the country's Prime Minister, to the institution's headquarters in Geneva. Among the topics discussed on those occasions were the dangers inherent in any premature small- or large-scale repatriation of Khmer displaced people. The possibility of visits to persons detained by the Thai authorities in connection with the Cambodian conflict was also discussed.

### **Activities for displaced people**

In view of various plans to speed up the repatriation of displaced people to Cambodia, the ICRC reminded the Thai and Khmer authorities that:

- ☐ such a repatriation should not take place before safety guarantees for the civilians were given by all parties;
- ☐ displaced persons should be given a free choice as to whether they wanted

to return to Cambodia, and where they wanted to settle. There was no genuine freedom of choice unless every camp dweller was presented with clear alternatives, and could make his or her choice without any form of outside pressure;

- ☐ basic health conditions should be provided for these voluntary returnees.

Other questions worrying the ICRC at the end of 1990 were:

- ☐ the Thai authorities continued refusal to accept at the Khao-I-Dang camp people who, for reasons of protection, needed to be transferred there from other border camps;
- ☐ Khmer camp administrators' refusal to allow a number of border camp inmates to be reunited with their families in Cambodia.

### Tracing Agency

In Thailand, the question of ICRC access to Khmers and Vietnamese detained in camps on the border or interned by the Thai authorities remained an unresolved issue, in spite of some encouraging signs given by the Thai Prime Minister during a visit to ICRC headquarters in the autumn. Tracing activities in the camps for displaced people along the Thai border were conducted as before, and activities in Cambodia grew significantly in 1990. It was thus possible to ensure a continuous flow of Red Cross messages between those living on the border and their families in the country. About 4,000 messages were exchanged in 1990.

The Tracing Agency handled tracing requests concerning 14,978 Khmers. As usual, tracing work took place in various camps on the Thai/Cambodian border (a new office was opened at Site K), inside Cambodia and abroad through the

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the countries concerned. ICRC tracing staff were able to locate 8,150 Khmers in camps, in Cambodia and abroad, i.e. 55 per cent of the almost 15,000 Khmers it was looking for.

### Mailing

The ICRC, the only official channel for inter-camp mail at the disposal of Khmers, continued to provide a mailing service in the camps, mainly for internal purposes, but also for mail abroad.

Thanks to this service, families were able to keep in touch. In 1990, 17,895 letters and family messages were distributed to the Khmers.

### Transfers/family reunifications

With the consent of the Thai authorities, the ICRC was able to transfer 201 Khmers from one camp to another. All in all, the ICRC reunited 230 Khmers (93 families) with their relatives in 1990.

### Medical activities

The ICRC hospital at Khao-I-Dang remained the only hospital along the border to provide emergency surgical services for the 300,000 displaced Khmer and Vietnamese living in the area. The hospital was manned by three surgical teams. October had the lowest admission rate of war-wounded in 1990 (25 cases). This was due to a let-up in fighting because of the rainy season. At the same time, the number of other patients admitted reached the annual peak of 182. In 1990, 2,797 patients (war-wounded and others) were admitted, 5,110 operations performed, and 5,768 consultations, including post-operative care, given.

The Khao-I-Dang blood bank, the only one in the region, went on supplying

blood units to the hospitals on the border. Blood collection programmes took place regularly in the camps. In May 1990, a blood donation centre opened at the Khao-I-Dang hospital. On average, 470 blood units were collected each month.

The ambulance service continued to operate all year, carrying out evacuations from anywhere along the 800-km border to the Khao-I-Dang hospital.

### ***Kab Cherng first-aid station***

This station remained an important link in the evacuation chain from remote but accessible camps in the north (Otrao, Site B) to the ICRC hospital in Khao-I-Dang. Up to 50 per cent of the war-wounded transferred to the hospital transited through it.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

The ICRC continued to cooperate with the Thai Red Cross in spreading knowledge of fundamental Red Cross principles and international humanitarian law, emphasizing the importance of respect for human dignity to various military and civilian audiences, both Khmer and Thai.

Owing to the shift of fighting further into Cambodia, the situation of Thai villages located close to the border improved considerably in 1990. The ICRC continued assisting the Thai Red Cross in its activities for these villagers.

## **PHILIPPINES**

The need for direct overall ICRC involvement in the Philippines was found to have lessened, as training and development acquired through the operation increasingly allowed the Philippine National Red

Cross (PNRC) to act independently and raise its efficiency.

In 1990, an ICRC expatriate and a PNRC worker were murdered by gunmen in Buldon (Mindanao). This tragic event underscored the importance of dissemination activities and the need to spread knowledge about the Red Cross and its work and purpose as widely as possible in order to increase the safety of humanitarian missions.

### **Activities for detainees**

The delegates concentrated on protection work for detainees and civilians in the field, continuing to monitor cases of alleged violations of international humanitarian law, checking allegations of ill-treatment with both the government's armed forces and the New People's Army (NPA), and pressing for stricter observance of basic principles applicable to armed conflicts.

ICRC delegates kept on providing protection for security detainees in Manila and the provinces, including those held in connection with the coup attempt in December 1989, by making frequent visits. Between September 1989 and December 1990, they visited 1,651 detainees, of whom 1,189 were newly registered, whose cases they followed up in visits to 155 places of detention. Regional Disaster Action Team nurses assisted ICRC delegates in carrying out medical follow-up visits to places of detention. The delegates also visited persons held by the NPA, and these visits were held in accordance with ICRC standard criteria for such activities.

### **Tracing Agency**

The Tracing Agency in Manila went on collecting, processing and filing information concerning detainees and people allegedly detained.

Together with the National Society, the ICRC financed and organized family visits to relatives in detention. In 1990, this programme enabled 106 beneficiaries to receive family visits.

### **Assistance for displaced persons**

In 1990 more responsibility and the major share of the workload connected with the Philippine National Red Cross/ICRC Joint Relief Operation was handed over to 12 Regional Disaster Action Teams. By the end of the year, this had proved to be a step towards increasing National Society self-sufficiency.

In addition to their relief work, the regional teams, along with the administrators of National Society branches, played an important part as an information network throughout the Philippines. They pointed out to the delegation cases of families displaced because of insurgency-related incidents wherever they encountered them in their field work. By the end of 1990, 79 such cases had been reported. The ICRC donated nine radio-equipped pick-up trucks and provided three it had previously given with radios, so that all regional teams had radio-equipped cars, which made for easier communication in emergencies.

### **Field distributions**

In 1990, distributions took place mostly in Mindanao and Luzon/Visayas. About 53,400 people, including detainees and persons displaced by fighting between government troops and the NPA and other disturbances, received 308 tonnes of rice, oil (or sardines) and soap. Altogether 1,100 blankets were provided during occasional distributions throughout the year.

### **Medical assistance**

The ICRC medical team intervened in cases of displaced persons, and whenever necessary assisted the war-wounded and the hospitals where they were treated.

### **Dissemination**

Throughout the year, increasing emphasis was laid on dissemination activities carried out not by expatriates, but by Filipinos. Local employees in the field received basic training, and a PNRC worker took over from the expatriate coordinator of the delegation's dissemination unit.

The armed forces began to introduce international humanitarian law in their instruction courses for high-ranking officers. The delegation held lectures and seminars on the subject for police, army, navy and air force services, and in the case of high-ranking commanders also explained how it should be taught to the troops.

ICRC and National Red Cross representatives, along with 80 journalists, took part in a round table discussion in Manila at the end of June. The topic was "journalists and international humanitarian law", and the event was part of the World Campaign for the Protection of Victims of War.

### **Cooperation with the National Society**

Following several major natural disasters, the ICRC, in agreement with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which was not represented in the Philippines, provided some immediate logistic and relief support to the National Red Cross in its efforts to help the many people affected.

## **SRI LANKA**

Following the opening of its delegation in Colombo in October 1989, the ICRC concentrated on protection work in the centre and south-west of the country for detainees suspected of belonging to the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP).

In mid-June 1990, tension between the Sri Lanka government armed forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) sparked off a new armed confrontation in the north and east of the island. The ICRC immediately extended its operation to include protection and assistance for detainees, displaced people and civilians in isolated areas. Within only a few weeks, the ICRC was present in almost all of the country with nearly 60 delegates. About half of this workforce engaged in activities in the north-east or shuttling between Colombo and the ICRC's various offices in the region. The other half carried out ongoing detention-related work in the south.

The ICRC opened sub-delegations in Kandy, Jaffna, Batticaloa, and Colombo-South, as well as offices in Trincomalee, Ampara, Mannar, Matara and Anuradhapura.

### **Activities for detainees**

ICRC delegates carried on visiting persons detained in connection with the JVP-insurrection and with LTTE activities in the north and east, where numerous civilians had been arrested. It obtained access to a number of detainees held by the government in the context of the conflict there. Delegates also visited 15 policemen, captured in June by the LTTE and held in Jaffna. They were later released by the LTTE into the care of the ICRC to be handed over to the Sri Lanka police authorities.

From the beginning of its detention-related work in November 1989 up to the end of 1990, the ICRC registered 20,655 people in over 400 places of detention in the country. Allegations of ill-treatment, the disappearance of people following arrest, and summary executions remained sources of considerable concern in 1990.

Despite fairly wide access to many places of detention and the high level of cooperation noted on the part of the authorities concerned, the ICRC was very concerned about the relatively high number of disappearances among civilians arrested by the armed forces in the east and similar problems persisting in the south, albeit involving a smaller number of cases. The institution was equally concerned at the constant difficulty it faced when trying to visit and protect civilians and combatants allegedly detained by the LTTE.

### **Tracing Agency**

The Tracing Agency continued its activities in connection with the JVP insurrection in the south while endeavouring to meet the pressing needs in the north-east. It received more than 16,000 tracing requests during the year mainly concerning the south, some of which it submitted to the authorities.

In the south, delegates carried on registering persons in detention. A total of 590 detainees were able to resume contact with their families through the ICRC.

In the north-east, owing to the large number of displaced persons and separated Tamil families, the delegates laid emphasis on restoring links between dispersed family members in Sri Lanka and abroad. As basic postal services were not working in most areas in the eastern provinces and on the Jaffna Peninsula, the ICRC on many occasions transported mail bags of the Sri Lankan postal ser-



vices to and from several destinations in the north-east.

In addition, during the last six months of 1990, the ICRC received 4,200 tracing requests, and distributed 3,300 *Anxious-for-News* and Red Cross messages. It also evacuated 136 foreign nationals, mostly expatriate Tamils visiting the country when the fighting broke out, by boat from Jaffna to Colombo, where they were handed over to their respective embassies.

Tracing activities in the field proved to be extremely difficult on account of the conflict situation and population movements. By the end of the year the Tracing Agency had registered information concerning 314 people detained in connection with the conflict in the north-east.

### **Medical activities**

Throughout the heavy shelling and fighting around Jaffna Fort from July to September, which led to the closing of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital, the ICRC extended protection to the Manipay hospital in Jaffna. Once the Jaffna Teaching Hospital had been re-opened, the ICRC put it under its protection as well. The hospital was soon able to restore its capacity to 600 beds (of its usual 1,000 beds). At the end of the year, repair work was still going on. With the re-opening of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital, the ICRC established close cooperation with the Medical Association of Jaffna so as to help with any problems encountered in running the hospital and keeping it supplied.

The ICRC laid in emergency stocks of medical supplies in Jaffna, and made them available to health care facilities in need. It assisted the Ministry of Health by conveying medical supplies to places which had become inaccessible by or-

dinary means of transport. When necessary, the ICRC lent support to the mobile health units the National Society operates on the Jaffna Peninsula and Ampara.

During curfews in Jaffna, the ICRC helped to transport hospital and National Society personnel to protect them on their way to and from work so that the hospital could continue to function.

### **Assistance to the affected population**

Following the total interruption of regular public and commercial transport towards and within the northern part of Sri Lanka the ICRC played a key part in protecting government-sponsored road or sea relief convoys by conferring neutral status on them. In this way, food, other essential goods, and mail reached hundreds of thousands of civilians affected by the fighting, especially in the Jaffna peninsula, where there are over one million people.

Initially, several hundred tonnes of goods were sent to the Jaffna Peninsula by road. Land convoys were then abandoned because of security problems and because they could transport only small amounts of goods, whereas the population's needs were estimated at 8,000 to 10,000 tonnes per month. Instead, relief goods were carried by sea. Between late July and the end of the year, about 30,000 tonnes of goods were shipped under ICRC protection to Jaffna.

In December, however, an ICRC road convoy of 18 lorries managed to reach Kilinochchi, bringing 160 tonnes of essential goods, mainly food, for the resident population in and around Kilinochchi and for displaced people. The goods were then distributed by the local branch of the National Red Cross Society. This was a precedent for further road convoys to be

carried out to specific problem areas in the north-east.

In close cooperation with the National Society, the ICRC financed and participated in the purchase and construction of traditional temporary shelters (cadjans) for about 4,000 particularly hard-hit families (between 20,000 and 30,000 people). It also assisted the National Red Cross in providing food parcels and clothing as needed.

At the end of the year, the ICRC also sent a relief specialist to Sri Lanka to cooperate with the National Society and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which was active in the other non-conflict areas.

### **Dissemination**

While carrying out its activities in the north-east, south and centre of Sri Lanka, the ICRC also endeavoured to spread knowledge of basic humanitarian principles among officers and soldiers as well as LTTE combatants and their leadership.

Sessions on the law of war were held in all districts for members of the Sri Lanka armed forces. Furthermore, the ICRC produced dissemination material in English, Sinhalese and Tamil, which it distributed as widely as possible.

## **REGIONAL DELEGATIONS**

**NEW DELHI:** (*Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, India, the Maldives, Nepal*)

**BANGLADESH** — Negotiations with the country's authorities concerning a possible joint ICRC/League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies/National Society survey in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were at a standstill.

**BHUTAN** — Following a first ICRC mission to Bhutan and contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the government decided to accede to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

**MYANMAR** — Persistent problems requiring humanitarian assistance and the ongoing conflict on the country's eastern borders raised ICRC concern, as in previous years. No headway was made regarding the situation of security detainees, despite the institution's continuing representations with a view to obtaining permission for protection visits.

Following the signature of an agreement with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Defence and the National Society, the ICRC continued its activities aimed at helping to develop orthopaedic programmes in progress (manufacturing artificial limbs, training local staff). Its work focused on civilian amputees in four orthopaedic centres in Myanmar. At these centres 1,149 patients were fitted with prostheses for the first time, and 292 with orthoses. The centres also manufactured 1,232 prostheses, 297 orthoses and 1,047 pairs of crutches.

**INDIA** — The ICRC continued to help the Indian Red Cross with the development of a nationwide tracing network and dissemination activities. It monitored the situation in different parts of the country to obtain a clearer picture of medical, relief and protection needs, particularly in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, and to be prepared in case ICRC intervention was required.

**NEPAL** — The ICRC maintained its dialogue with the government about questions concerning the protection of those detained under emergency regulations. During several ICRC missions following the disturbances in Kathmandu in April,

delegates evaluated the general and medical situation, and handed emergency medical supplies over to the National Society. Together with the Nepal Red Cross Society, the ICRC organized a dissemination meeting in Dharan, in the south-east of the country, which was attended by National Society members and representatives of various ministries.

**JAKARTA:** (*Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore*).

**INDONESIA** — ICRC delegates carried out a series of visits to 39 detainees arrested in connection with the events of 30 September 1965 (ex-G 30 S/PKI) in 11 places of detention. In March, the ICRC had made a written protest against the execution of four of these detainees the previous month. The ICRC undertook steps to obtain the authorization for an evaluation mission to be carried out in the province of Aceh, where disturbances had been reported. The ICRC maintained financial and technical support for the Indonesian Red Cross Society in its activities on behalf of Vietnamese boat people, as part of the Tracing and Mailing Service coordinated by the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

**Irian Jaya** — ICRC delegates made registration and follow-up visits to security detainees in seven places of detention, during which they also distributed medical and material assistance. Of 52 detainees visited, 44 were newly registered.

For the first time, six security detainees held at Kalisosok prison in Surabaya (Java) were able to receive family visits from Irian Jaya (a distance of almost 3,000 kilometres). The ICRC organized and financed these visits.

During registration visits to "returnees", the ICRC distributed material assistance

to 553 people who had made their way back to Irian Jaya from places in Papua New Guinea where they had sought refuge. Their situation after their return continued to be monitored through regular follow-up visits.

### **EAST TIMOR**

An ICRC nurse and a delegate had been present in Dili since 1988 and March 1989, respectively. In 1990, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received an ICRC report on the situation of the civilian population and of detainees, and on ICRC activities in East Timor as well as the problems the institution had encountered in its work there in 1989.

Registration and follow-up visits to persons detained in relation with events in East Timor took place all year round. A series of complete visits was carried out in three places of detention in Jakarta and Dili. In all, 148 detainees were visited, of whom 99 were newly registered. Among those prisoners were six who had previously been transferred to prisons in Jakarta, far from their families. They received family visits in January, with the ICRC covering the cost of the air transport for family members.

In the framework of the ICRC's sanitation programme, launched in 1989 to improve water supply and sanitary conditions in isolated villages, a sanitation engineer carried out a four-month mission in East Timor.

The ICRC repatriated 147 Timorese to Portugal. Of these, 28 were former Portuguese civil servants, and 119 hardship and family reunification cases. Six of those cases were transferred to Australia.

**MALAYSIA** — According to an agreement negotiated with the Malaysian authorities in 1989, the ICRC began car-

rying out a new series of visits to people detained under the Internal Security Act, thus following up visits made in 1988. However, the visits had to be suspended in May as they could not be conducted in accordance with ICRC criteria and the aforementioned agreement. The ICRC proceeded to clarify the conditions for ICRC visits to detainees with the Malaysian authorities so as to be able to resume its detention-related activities in the country. No progress was registered.

**FIJI** — The ICRC discussed the opening of a regional delegation in Suva (Fiji) and a dissemination programme with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Fiji and the National Society, respectively. At the end of the year the headquarters agreement necessary for the opening of the delegation was awaiting signature by the authorities. The regional delegation was to cover Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, and autonomous States, territories and colonies in the Pacific.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** — In 1990, the ICRC regional delegate undertook three missions to Papua New Guinea in connection with the rapidly deteriorating situation on Bougainville. The ICRC made efforts to monitor the developments so as to be able to intervene if humanitarian needs required. The ICRC also visited several camps for refugees from Irian Jaya. A dissemination programme for the armed forces and other audiences was set up in cooperation with the National Society. In the framework of this programme, a delegate conducted a mission from April to August in Port Moresby, during which she trained a National Society member in dissemination work.

## **HANOI: (Viet Nam, Laos)**

**VIET NAM** — At the invitation of the Vietnamese Red Cross, the ICRC President had meetings with the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the President of the Council of Ministers, and the Prime Minister. He received the agreement in principle that the ICRC would have access to security detainees and those detained in re-education camps, a matter which the ICRC discussed further with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior throughout the year, along with various tracing requests.

Activities continued at the workshop producing orthopaedic components in the rehabilitation centre of Ho Chi Minh City, set up in December 1988 in cooperation with the ministry responsible for labour and the war-disabled. While the Vietnamese Red Cross was in charge of identifying and transporting patients, the ICRC took care of managing the centre, and producing and fitting orthopaedic devices. Between 31 August and 31 December 1990, the workshop produced 683 prostheses.

In cooperation with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Vietnamese Red Cross, the first dissemination courses were held for representatives of various ministries.

Through the Tracing and Mailing Services for Vietnamese boat people in four countries, namely Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, and Hong Kong, 748,494 letters were distributed. The service was coordinated and financed by the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva, and implemented by the National Societies concerned. Some 8,500 tracing requests involving boat people were also handled, of which 3,481 were solved.

**LAOS** — In 1990, the ICRC on several occasions held talks with National Society and government representatives about detention-related topics and tracing agency matters.

**HONG KONG:** (*China mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong/Macao, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea* and since September 1990, *Mongolia*)

**CHINA/TAIWAN** — The regional delegate in Hong Kong carried out several missions to mainland China and Taiwan. In January, he travelled to the Sino-Vietnamese border to participate in the simultaneous repatriation of five Chinese prisoners of war (liberated by the Hanoi authorities) and 17 Vietnamese prisoners of war formerly held by the Chinese authorities. The delegate was able to talk freely without witnesses with the Vietnamese POWs before their repatriation. Later on in Beijing, he discussed the situation of the remaining Vietnamese POWs with representatives of the armed forces and various ministries. With the Red Cross in Taipei, he raised repatriation issues (concerning people from mainland China who had entered Taiwan illegally).

Tracing activities concerned mainly families separated during the events of 1949. The ICRC received tens of thousands of tracing requests from both mainland China and Taiwan, which it then, as required by its mandate as a neutral intermediary, transmitted to Beijing and Taipei. In 1990, it received 4,337 tracing enquiries from mainland China and Taiwan. In December 1990, the Chinese National Society and the Red Cross in Taipei resumed direct contact so that the majority of tracing files were treated without ICRC involvement.

**HONG KONG**— The Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross continued to receive technical and financial support for its activities on behalf of Vietnamese boat people, as part of the Tracing and Mailing Service coordinated by the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

**JAPAN** — During missions in February, May and December, the regional delegate met with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Defence Agency and the National Society. The variety of topics discussed included dissemination among executive officers of the National Defence Agency, ratification of the Additional Protocols and the ICRC's observer status in the United Nations General Assembly.

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA** — The regional delegate went on a mission to Pyongyang, where he met representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Society. Together with a dissemination delegate from Geneva and in cooperation with the National Society he organized a dissemination seminar for 25 Red Cross representatives, the first of its kind to be held in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA** — The regional delegate met representatives of the National Society and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Korea, with whom he exchanged views about dissemination, visits to security detainees, and the north-south dialogue. He also gave a presentation on the ICRC to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

**RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1990**  
*ASIA AND THE PACIFIC*

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Medical assistance	Relief		Total
	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	(Tonnes)	Sw. fr.
Afghanistan .....	1,713,445	531,831	320.5	2,245,276
Cambodia .....	1,420,085	59,194	20	1,479,279
Indonesia .....	3,071	16,570	8.5	19,641
Myanmar .....	95,413			95,413
Nepal .....	9,050			9,050
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan)	1,355,373	199,141	151	1,554,514
Philippines .....	203,042	268,804	307.9	471,846
Sri Lanka .....	217,617	48,382	6.7	265,999
Thailand (conflict in Cambodia)	708,949	57,829	8	766,778
Viet Nam .....	86,985			86,985
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>5,813,030</b>	<b>1,181,751</b>	<b>822.6</b>	<b>6,994,781</b>

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

*1990 was a particularly eventful year in Europe. The successive upheavals in a number of central and eastern European countries had direct consequences for its work. In purely operational terms, the most immediate response was required for Romania.*

*Increasing openness in countries such as Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, the USSR and Yugoslavia allowed the ICRC to strengthen the relations that it had long maintained with both the National Societies and the governments of those countries.*

*The ICRC was thus able to organize a number of meetings and seminars to promote understanding of the principles of international humanitarian law and make its work better known. These contacts also enabled the institution to set up projects for cooperation with National Societies that were in many cases endeavouring to redefine their activities and set new priorities in the light of recent developments.*

*Advanced seminars made it possible to establish useful and promising contacts with government and academic circles and with senior officers in the armed forces of several countries.*

*An ICRC delegation remained in Bucharest throughout the year. Its 34-member team was gradually cut back to two delegates as the situation changed. Other activities in Europe were carried out from headquarters.*

*The ICRC's 1990 budget for Europe came to 35,305,400 Swiss francs and expenditure amounted to 37,394,500 francs.*



## **ALBANIA**

In December 1990, contacts were re-established for the first time in 43 years with the National Society and government officials in Albania. The ICRC then decided to launch a programme of material assistance for the Albanian Red Cross.

## **BULGARIA**

Following the visit of an ICRC delegation in November, the ICRC launched a programme contributing to the development of the operational capacity of the Bulgarian Red Cross and set up several projects to promote international humanitarian law.

## **ROMANIA**

On 22 December 1989, after the outbreak of events in Bucharest, ICRC delegates quickly arrived on the spot to provide protection for hundreds of civilians and medical care for the wounded. By 28 December, 34 ICRC delegates and 28 expatriates from National Societies were posted in Romania, working in close cooperation with volunteers from the Romanian Red Cross. On the same date, around 4,500 tonnes of relief goods had arrived or were on their way. During the emergency period, which lasted until the end of the year, the ICRC made repeated radio broadcasts in an attempt to ensure respect for the Red Cross emblem. In the midst of the fighting the emblem had been frequently disregarded. Once the initial emergency phase was over, there was an urgent need for various forms of ICRC humanitarian assistance, particularly in the areas of protection and medical assistance.

The alarming situation of abandoned children, handicapped people and the elderly became evident after ICRC delegates carried out thorough surveys in various parts of the country. The purpose of the surveys was to identify groups most in need of urgent assistance, and to determine what kind of assistance the Red Cross could provide.

At a working meeting convened by the ICRC in Bucharest on 20-21 January 1990, representatives of the ICRC, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and various National Societies defined the outlines of a rehabilitation programme. The task of coordinating assistance activities was handed over to the League, while the ICRC concentrated on its traditional activities, as determined by its mandate, as well as on implementing a special programme for surgical units.

### **Visits to people detained in connection with the events**

Between January and April 1990, ICRC delegates had access to persons detained in connection with the events of December 1989, including prisoners already sentenced. In all, 143 people were visited in 18 places of detention during the above-mentioned period. Visits came to a halt on April 17, however, as ICRC standard criteria for such visits were not respected.

Immediately after a renewed surge of violence in Bucharest from June 13 to 15, the ICRC made continuous attempts to gain access to persons subsequently detained. Its efforts were finally rewarded on 25 June, when visits started to 62 detainees in two places of detention.

Between January and September 1990, ICRC delegates visited detainees in 27 places, including 9 penitentiaries, 14 remand centres, 1 military garrison and 3 hospitals. In all, 376 detainees were seen.



## **Tracing Agency**

As soon as the violence broke out in December 1989, communications in the country became extremely difficult. By opening a tracing office, the ICRC enabled separated families to exchange news. Communication links were re-established fairly soon, which meant that the number of tracing requests did not rise as the year progressed.

## **Programme of surgical activities**

A Programme for Surgical Units was set up in February 1990 by the ICRC, with technical support from National Society specialists. The aim was to supply all hospitals carrying out surgical activities in Romania with standardized units of basic medical supplies, the composition of the units having been decided upon after ICRC evaluations in hospitals all over the country. The number of units to be made available to each province was directly proportional to the number of hospital beds, one unit being allocated for every 1,000 beds. In order to meet the needs of all 41 districts, including Bucharest, 302 units costing 50,000 Swiss francs each were necessary. Units were paid for by National Societies, the EEC<sup>1</sup> and the ICRC.

## **Dissemination**

As part of the programme to increase awareness of the principles of international humanitarian law and the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, an ICRC dissemination delegate was posted to Romania in March 1990. In cooperation with the Romanian Red Cross Society (RRCS) and the League, the programme was elaborated to support development plans for the National Society. Information meetings for current and future members of the RRCS

were held throughout the country and training courses for RRCS officials at national and district level were organized in the second half of the year.

Over the year contacts were established with the armed forces and a seminar was held in April at the central military hospital in Bucharest, in which 170 officers and doctors participated. A number of Red Cross publications were printed in Romanian and distributed on a large scale in 1990, mostly among military personnel.

The ICRC also established regular contacts with the media and academic circles, holding regular dissemination conferences throughout the year and producing several press articles and TV programmes. From March 1990 an ICRC dissemination delegate was posted in Tirgu Mures, following the ethnic clashes witnessed there the same month.

## **Personnel**

At the beginning of 1990 there were 34 ICRC delegates and 28 National Society expatriates posted in Romania. During the course of the year, as ICRC involvement decreased, the team was gradually cut back, leaving two ICRC expatriates at the end of 1990.

# **UNITED KINGDOM**

In June the ICRC carried out a follow-up visit to 1,634 prisoners in four detention centres: Magilligan, Maghaberry, Belfast and Maze.

# **USSR**

The ICRC travelled to the Soviet Union on several occasions, in particular to Moscow, Vilnius, Minsk, Kiev, Tashkent and Boukhara. The aim of the visits was, on the one hand, to develop contacts with

<sup>1</sup> European Economic Community.

Red Cross and Red Crescent representatives and government officials, and on the other hand, to participate in seminars on international humanitarian law and human rights.

Two ICRC delegates took part in a seminar on detention matters in the USSR organized in October by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Bukhara, Uzbekistan.

In December the ICRC was invited to participate in a course on the promotion of international humanitarian law within the Soviet Armed Forces, chaired by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Soviet Army. Military Regional Commanders and army legal advisers attended this seminar.

## YUGOSLAVIA

Following negotiations begun with the Yugoslav federal authorities the previous year, an agreement was reached enabling delegates to carry out an initial series of visits to 291 sentenced security detainees held in various places of detention in all the country's republics and provinces. These visits, which took place from April to June, were conducted in accordance with standard ICRC procedures, in particular interviews without witnesses between delegates and detainees selected by them. As is customary, it was agreed that the visits would be repeated at intervals yet to be determined.

### RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1990

#### EUROPE

Country	Medical assistance	Relief		Total
	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	(Tonnes)	Sw. fr.
Romania .....	14,680,205	18,225,164	6,783.5	32,905,369

## International Tracing Service

The International Tracing Service (ITS), which has been based in Arolsen, Germany, since 1946, has the task of centralizing information on victims of National Socialist persecution in order to enable them or their rightful claimants to obtain compensation. In 1955, the ITS was placed under the supervision of a ten-country International Commission and responsibility for its day-to-day management was entrusted to the ICRC. In 1990, the number of requests made to the ITS rose again, by 14.27%, and application was made for the fourth time to the Federal German Ministry of the Interior for additional staff. As at 31 December, 398 persons were working either full-time or part-time to fill 340 posts at the ITS.

The authorities of the United States and Italy, in order to serve more effectively the interests of former victims of persecution under the National Socialist regime who are now living in their respective countries, opened offices during the year in Baltimore, Rome and Arolsen for liaison with the ITS.

The work of the ITS in 1990 can be summarized as follows:

- 126,054 enquiries were received from 40 countries, concerning 112,551 people who lacked certification on which to base their claims and therefore contacted the ITS;
- 616,787 data checks were carried out in 29 different sets of ITS documents, pursuant to these enquiries;
- 147,587 replies were sent, on the basis of the information available, compared with 131,577 in 1989. This increase was made possible by the additional posts granted by the Federal German authorities;
- 142,170 requests nevertheless remained unprocessed at the end of the year and had to be carried over into 1991.

At its annual meeting in June, the International Commission for the ITS reaffirmed its desire to step up the acquisition of documents. Over the year, 95 ITS employees thus gathered over 300 linear metres of archive documents from 170 different organizations, travelling a total of 40,000 km in order to make copies of them.



## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

*Tensions ran high in the Middle East in 1990. The year was marked by strained relations between several countries and armed conflict on the regional and international levels. While the intensity of the conflict in Lebanon diminished in the latter part of 1990, the disturbances in the territories occupied by Israel continued and, following the entry of Iraqi troops into Kuwait on 2 August and the deployment of multinational military forces in the region, the critical situation in the Middle East became a major concern. The returnees in Jordan were given*

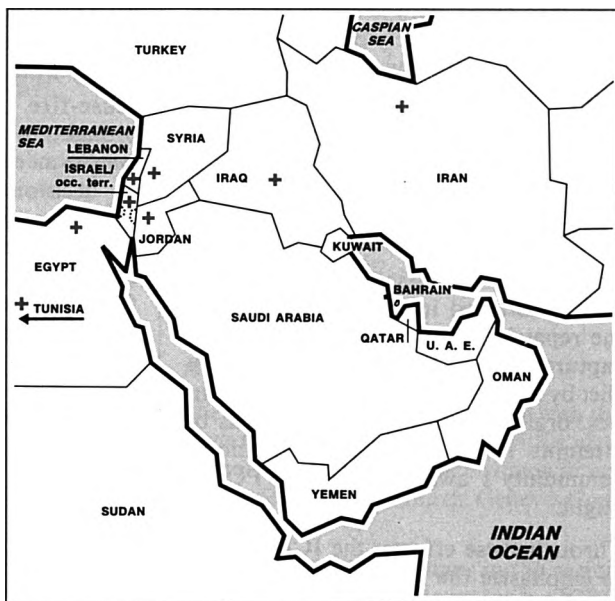
*assistance and emergency medical care in transit camps managed by the ICRC and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society while awaiting transport to their countries of origin in the Middle East or Asia.*

*1990 also saw the repatriation of more than 75,000 prisoners of war captured during the Iran/Iraq conflict.*

*Throughout the year the ICRC maintained seven delegations in the Middle East (Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Cairo, Tehran and Tel Aviv) and two regional delegations, one in Tunis covering North Africa, the other in Geneva for the countries of the Arabian peninsula.*

*In December 1990, the number of ICRC personnel present in the Middle East and North Africa was 350, of whom 83 were expatriate personnel (National Society and ICRC), and 267 were local employees.*

*The budget for this zone for 1990 was set at 73,422,900 Swiss francs. In the same year, the total income (transfers, cash, kind and services) was 54,384,100 francs and the expenditure totalled 57,229,200 francs.*



## CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ

On 20 August 1988, following Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution 598 (it will be recalled that Iraq had accepted this resolution the previous year), a cease-fire went into effect between Iran and Iraq. The ICRC immediately proposed a comprehensive repatriation procedure to both parties, based on the applicability of Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention, which is mentioned in Point 3 of Resolution 598. However, this repatriation was still not under way at the end of 1989.

Throughout the first part of 1990 the ICRC sustained its efforts to carry out the repatriation of all prisoners of war captured during the eight years of conflict by repeatedly approaching both parties, orally and in writing, as well as by attempts to heighten the international community's awareness of the POWs' plight.

Through these efforts, the ICRC aimed to emphasize the validity of Article 118 in order to remind both parties involved of their conventional obligations regarding global repatriation of prisoners of war after the cessation of hostilities.

While the ICRC delegation in Iran focused on these negotiations as well as tracing activities, the delegation in Baghdad carried out the traditional ICRC activities, including protection, tracing, medical and relief for the Iranian prisoners of war to whom they had access and for displaced or interned Iranian civilians in Iraq.

### Repatriation of prisoners of war

On 17 and 18 January, the ICRC repatriated 70 sick or wounded prisoners of war (50 Iraqis and 20 Iranians) whom

the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq decided unilaterally to release for humanitarian reasons. The ICRC reminded the international community that over 100,000 POWs were still being held in both countries, and that under the terms of the Third Geneva Convention, they should have been repatriated after the cease-fire, 17 months earlier.

On 15 August 1990, two years after the cease-fire of 20 August 1988 which brought the conflict between Iran and Iraq to an end, Iraq announced *inter alia* its decision to repatriate all prisoners of war captured during the Iran/Iraq conflict. Following this decision, the ICRC acted quickly to reinforce the four-member delegation in Iran with 25 delegates. The ICRC delegation in Iraq was increased from 21 to 41. On 17 August, the first group of Iranian POWs crossed the Iran/Iraq border under ICRC supervision. At this point in the operation, the majority of the prisoners of war were repatriated by land routes through the border post at Khanaqine/Qasr-e-Shirine. Sick and wounded POWs were airlifted.

The repatriation operation was temporarily interrupted in mid-September. At that time, a technical commission was set up by the governments of Iran and Iraq and the ICRC to organize the repatriation of the remaining prisoners of war and to settle a number of individual and special cases. Negotiations continued throughout the month of October and into November. On 21 November 1990, the repatriation process resumed on a regular basis.

The most active phase of the repatriation operation was between 17 August and 5 October 1990, when 37,861 Iranian prisoners of war and 40,960 Iraqi prisoners of war returned home. The operation was still continuing at the end of the period covered by this report.

In accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, the ICRC pursued efforts to negotiate a long-term solution for the civilians displaced or interned during the Iran/Iraq conflict. The ICRC delegation in Baghdad continued regular visits to Iranian civilians interned in Iraq and provided them with tracing services as well as medical and relief assistance.

### **Activities for prisoners of war**

Before the major repatriation operation began, the ICRC carried out the following activities for prisoners of war:

**In Iraq:** Regular visits were made in 1990 by ICRC delegates and doctors to 18,000 Iranian POWs in Iraq and relief items were distributed (clothing, personal hygiene products, books and sports equipment).

After the severe earthquake in Iran, ICRC delegates made a special visit to Iranian POWs in camps in Iraq to distribute forms enabling prisoners to request news of their families. Over 1,700 "Anxious for News" messages from prisoners to family members living in the stricken areas of Gilan and Zanzan were collected in the Mosul, Salaheddine and Ramadi camps.

**In Iran:** The ICRC reminded the Iranian authorities of the ICRC's mandate vis-à-vis prisoners of war and worked to resume visits to Iraqis held in Iran as provided for by the Geneva Conventions.

### **Settlement of cases of POWs who refused repatriation**

Following the major repatriation operation, ICRC delegates held interviews without witnesses with Iraqi POWs in Iran who had expressed to Iranian authorities their unwillingness to be repatriated.

In Iraq, ICRC delegates held second interviews with the Iranian POWs who had refused repatriation. Some of the POWs in question changed their minds and opted to return home.

A final settlement was sought for all POWs who remained firm in their refusal to be repatriated.

### **Tracing Agency**

The ICRC reaffirmed its readiness to assist the two parties in resolving the cases of those missing in action.

The Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC handled a total of 848,220 Red Cross messages for POWs and their families in 1990.

### **Activities for civilians**

The ICRC continued negotiations with the governments of Iran and Iraq with a view to the settlement of these civilians in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Access to detained civilians in the region has been a source of concern for the ICRC for a number of years. However, in Iraq, regular visits were made to Iranian civilians interned in the Al Tash and Shomeli camps and to displaced families from Khuzestan. Medical, nutritional and sanitation surveys were carried out regularly and supplies were provided as needed.

## **EGYPT**

Tracing activities continued for families separated because of the different conflicts in the Middle East, past and present. In 1990, 120 Red Cross messages were exchanged.

In coordination with other Middle East delegations, the delegation in Cairo worked on dissemination projects designed especially for the Arab world. The ICRC continued its dissemination activities in universities, military and police academies, and with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society.

## **IRAQ/KUWAIT**

Kuwait became the focus of worldwide attention when Iraqi troops entered the country on 2 August 1990. The ICRC responded the same day by stating the applicability of the Geneva Conventions and by reminding both countries of their obligations in armed conflict as States party to the Geneva Conventions. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the international community, the ICRC requested authorization to take action to protect and assist all those in need.

The ICRC's objective was to carry out protection and assistance activities in behalf of Kuwaiti civilians. Foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, Kuwaiti prisoners, and Iraqi civilians were also offered protection and assistance. To this end, the ICRC sent a note verbale to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry on 23 August requesting permission to carry out its mandate in Iraq and Kuwait. The institution offered its services to secure authorization to transport food and medicine into Kuwait and Iraq despite the embargo, to help transfer foreign nationals from Iraq or Kuwait to other countries, and to provide communications between foreigners still in Iraq or Kuwait and their families.

During the period August-December 1990, the ICRC maintained regular contact with representatives of the international community as well as government representatives in Baghdad and Kuwaiti

government representatives in exile in Taif (Saudi Arabia). As a last resort, the ICRC President visited Amman, Baghdad and Tehran in September, but no agreement permitting the ICRC to fulfil its mandate in connection with the conflict in Kuwait could be reached with the Iraqi authorities.

As the coalition forces were deployed in the region in November, the ICRC intensified contacts with all of the parties concerned in order to ensure compliance with the four Geneva Conventions.

Among the 12 resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council between August and December 1990, resolution 666 of 13 September stipulated the conditions of humanitarian aid to the civilian population in Iraq and Kuwait, as well as a supply of essential foodstuffs, which would be sent to the region and distributed under ICRC supervision, or the supervision of other appropriate humanitarian organizations.

On 14 December, the ICRC sent a note verbale to the 164 States party to the Geneva Conventions reminding them of their obligation to respect the provisions of international humanitarian law regarding the protection of the sick, wounded and shipwrecked, of medical units and establishments, prisoners of war and civilians. The same day, the ICRC President addressed ambassadors and representatives of the States party to the Geneva Conventions at the institution's headquarters in Geneva. The President once again reminded the States of their obligations in the event of armed conflict between States. He informed representatives of the measures taken by the ICRC to fulfil its mandate in Kuwait.

Despite the ICRC's sustained efforts to carry out its humanitarian mandate in Iraq and Kuwait, no agreement was



reached with Iraqi authorities for such action by the end of 1990.

Beginning in October, the ICRC increased the number of its staff in the region, and on 27 December a Task Force was organized at ICRC headquarters to deal with the crisis. Delegates already present in the Middle East prepared for possible intervention and more than 50 delegates remained ready in Geneva for departure to the region on short notice. With the cooperation of various National Societies, equipment and material assistance was mobilized and stored in Europe. The ICRC prepared for the rapid construction of refugee camps which would each hold 30,000 persons and transit camps, each with a capacity of 5,000 in any area in the region. (See also *Jordan below*).

The Central Tracing Agency contacted the parties with armed forces in the region and their National Information Bureaux in order to facilitate the tracing of missing persons using technical procedures developed by the Central Tracing Agency.

## ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

In the conflict between Israel and the Arab states, the ICRC considers that the conditions for the application of the Fourth Convention, which prohibits an occupying power from settling its civilians in the occupied territory, destroying the homes of the people living there or expelling them from it, are fulfilled in all of the occupied territories (the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Golan and East Jerusalem). The principles that the rights of persons who are in occupied territory are inviolable is expressed in Article 47 of the Fourth Convention. 4

The Israeli authorities consider that in view of the *sui generis* status of the occupied territories, the *de jure* applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to these areas is doubtful. Israel prefers to leave aside the legal question of the status of these areas and has decided, since 1967, to act *de facto* in accordance with the humanitarian provisions of that Convention. [ ]

The disturbances in the territories occupied by Israel which began in December 1987 had a serious impact on the civilian population there. Many homes were walled up or demolished by the army. A marked decline in economic activity in the occupied territories over the year was accentuated in the second half by the conflict in the Middle East. The inter-Palestinian killings of alleged collaborators remained a source of concern for the ICRC in 1990.

In the period 1987-1990, the yearly total of persons detained by the Israeli forces increased from 4,000 to more than 16,000. Through the sustained presence of its delegates in the field, the ICRC endeavoured to carry out its protection and assistance mandate in behalf of protected persons in the territories that have been occupied since 1967.

From December 1987 through 1990, the number of ICRC expatriate staff in the area tripled. In 1990 there were more than 40 ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories.

Protection activities increased as the number of persons detained went up. Tracing services were extended to keep track of the arrests, transfers and release of detainees in more than 40 places of detention. Medical assistance increased for detainees and for civilians wounded in the clashes. Relief assistance to detainees and their families was also stepped up.

→ Ht. 67

### **Activities for detainees**

In 1990, the ICRC carried out regular visits to protected persons held in prisons and police stations, and to security and administrative detainees held in military detention centres and a prison hospital.

The Qeziot military detention centre, situated in the Negev desert on Israeli soil and thus, contrary to the provisions of the Fourth Convention, outside the occupied territories, remained a major source of concern for the ICRC. About half of those detained in military camps are held at Qeziot, where they still could not receive family visits at the end of the period covered by this report. After a series of partial visits, the first complete visit to this camp was conducted in September.

ICRC delegates obtained access to places within the military governorates used for temporary detention for the first time in the early part of the year. Regular visits were conducted in 1990 by Arabic-speaking delegates to prisoners captured on the high seas or in southern Lebanon and transferred to Israel. The ICRC saw more than 21,000 security and administrative detainees in 1990; of this number, 14,990 were seen for the first time. Bi-weekly visits were made to prisoners under interrogation.

An ICRC doctor accompanied the delegates on visits to monitor the detainees' health and to evaluate medical facilities at the detention centres. Assistance was provided to the places of detention regularly visited by the ICRC.

The ICRC continued negotiations to obtain access to all detainees under interrogation, in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the ICRC and the Israeli authorities. In southern Lebanon, the ICRC tried to obtain access to individuals detained within the so-called

"security zone". The ICRC pursued its efforts to secure family visits for detainees. Monthly visits by bus were organized to places of detention for the families of detained persons.

### **Protection of the civilian population**

Since the beginning of the civil disturbances in 1987, the ICRC maintained a regular presence in the territories occupied by Israel, particularly in camps and villages under curfew, so as to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention by the occupying power. On 9 October, after a sharp rise in the number of dead and wounded in the territories occupied by Israel, the ICRC urgently appealed to the Israeli authorities to put an end to the use of live ammunition against civilians. In December, the ICRC appealed again to the Israeli authorities to treat the civilian population in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The ICRC conducted on-the-spot investigations and reports were submitted to the Israeli authorities whenever there was evidence of a violation of international humanitarian law (expulsion of residents from the occupied territories, destruction or sealing of homes, settlements constructed within the occupied territories, absence of legal guarantees).

As a neutral intermediary, the ICRC acted whenever possible to ensure the protection of the civilian population by evacuating the wounded and guaranteeing the immunity of hospitals and dispensaries.

### **Tracing Agency**

The ICRC carried out tracing activities connected with protection: registering detainees, checking lists received from the Israeli authorities (about 1,000 new ar-

rests per month), opening and updating files, locating detainees (which involves a monthly update by the Tracing Agency of about 1,000 transfers from prison to prison), and issuing detention certificates.

The Tracing Agency also facilitated the exchange of messages between people in the territories occupied by Israel and their relatives living abroad, particularly in Arab countries.

In 1990, 18,872 arrests were communicated to the ICRC by families, and 18,642 cases were confirmed by the authorities, as well as by ICRC registration. A total of 28,234 certificates of detention were issued to family members in 1990 by the ICRC.

The number of Red Cross messages handled by the ICRC grew from 10,604 in 1987 to 24,367 in 1988, 74,567 in 1989 and 78,144 in 1990.

### Medical activities

ICRC medical staff made regular evaluations of hospitals and dispensaries in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. They distributed medicines and other stocks of medical supplies when necessary, evacuated the wounded from areas affected by the disturbances, monitored their treatment in hospital and provided support when hospitals were overburdened.

The ICRC promoted and supervised training courses given by the Magen David Adom Society on the evacuation of wounded persons for ambulance staff from Red Crescent Societies. The ICRC also encouraged the professional development of existing mobile medical teams in order to improve the care given to conflict victims and the sick and wounded under curfew conditions.

During the last quarter of the year, the Netherlands Red Cross Society and the

ICRC made a joint study of the needs in hospitals in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in order to provide temporary financial assistance for running costs.

### Relief

In 1990, the ICRC provided assistance in the form of blankets and tents for temporary shelter to 400 families whose homes were demolished or walled up by the Israeli armed forces.

### Dissemination

In spite of the many years of ICRC presence in the region, in 1990 there was still a great need for spreading information about the ICRC, why it was in Israel and the territories occupied by Israel, and how the organization worked.

In 1990 the ICRC set up, developed and maintained a systematic dissemination programme for the Israeli armed forces operating in the occupied territories.

A dissemination programme was also set up for the Palestinian population, including members of the local Red Crescent branches.

## JORDAN

The work of the ICRC delegation in Jordan included activities related to the situation in Kuwait, Lebanon and the territories occupied by Israel, dissemination of information on the work of the Red Cross, and cooperation with National Societies.

The amount of tracing work carried out by the delegation increased continuously following the *intifada* in the territories occupied by Israel. Thousands of detention certificates were issued, and the ICRC organized transportation of sick people

jointly with the Jordanian Red Crescent. Furthermore, thousands of family messages — over 28,000 in 1990 — were transmitted (often by VHF).

### **Activities for detainees**

The ICRC delegation visited security detainees and detainees under interrogation. The delegates made 40 visits to six places of detention, where they saw 697 prisoners; of this number, 289 were seen for the first time. The ICRC conducted regular visits and provided relief assistance throughout the year to security detainees in Jordan, including security detainees under interrogation. In the first part of 1990, the ICRC delegation in Amman monitored the release of the security detainees granted amnesty in November 1989. ICRC visits to prisoners who did not benefit from these measures continued. The delegates also visited persons detained after the disturbances in May 1990.

### **Activities for civilians in transit**

In August, following the entry of Iraqi troops into Kuwait, thousands of third-party nationals leaving Kuwait and Iraq were evacuated through Jordan. At the request of the Jordanian authorities, the ICRC, with the cooperation of the Jordan Red Crescent, took action on behalf of the persons stranded at Ruweshid in the no-man's-land between the Jordanian and Iraqi border posts. The Ruweshid transit centre was not designed to accommodate a large number of people for a long period of time. However, most of the returnees did not have the means to travel on. With hot desert conditions and the constant mass influx of evacuees, the centre was soon dangerously overcrowded and conditions deteriorated alarmingly.

### ***Azraq 1 camp***

ICRC delegates, doctors and nurses as well as 30 volunteers from the German Red Cross were immediately sent in to assist with the operation. Relief supplies, including tents, blankets and medical material, were transported by air from Geneva to Amman.

A transit camp with a capacity of 30,000 persons was set up in six days near Azraq, an oasis 100 kilometres from Amman. The tents were laid out in sections, each with a capacity for 500 persons. The camp opened on 12 September. There was an infrastructure for water supply, food distribution, medical care and sanitation facilities. People who arrived received blankets, kitchen sets and stoves. Basic foodstuffs were distributed each day.

More than 66,000 returnees (daily average: 10,300 persons) were sheltered at Azraq 1 during the first 27 days the camp was open (12 September — 10 October). More than 270,000 daily rations of rice, lentils, oil, curry bread, milk, fresh vegetables and fruit were distributed. Baby food was also supplied for infants. Returnees stayed an average of four days at Azraq before leaving Jordan for their homeland. The return journeys were organized and financed by either the International Organization for Migrations or the country of origin of the persons concerned.

On 8 November, the camps again began receiving returnees, and 3,892 people were sheltered for a week.

On 15 November, the Azraq camp was turned over to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to be run jointly with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society.

### ***Transit camp T 1/28***

A new transit camp, T 1/28, was set up 50 kilometres from the border and went

into operation on 1 October, replacing the emergency centre at Ruwesheid.

In addition to relief and medical assistance, ICRC delegates gave protection to returnees by acting as a liaison with their diplomatic representatives and international governmental or non-governmental organizations.

The ICRC retained responsibility for the T 1/28 camp at the end of the year.

## LEBANON

Deteriorating relations between the different factions and widespread fighting displaced many families in 1990 and increased the social and economic disruption in the country. For some periods, Beirut came under daily shelling and civilians left the city and its suburbs *en masse* for safer areas, in particular southern Lebanon. The heavy loss of life and resources weakened the already fragile economic and social structures.

Between March and the end of June, the ICRC assisted approximately 500,000 people in a special operation financed by the European Community.

Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, the two ICRC orthopaedic technicians abducted in Sidon on 6 October 1989, were released on 8 and 13 August respectively. Following their release, the ICRC reassessed the situation and decided to remain in Lebanon but to reduce its expatriate staff and increase security measures.

In October, the political structure of the country changed and the militia groups withdrew from greater Beirut, creating conditions favourable to the continuation of the ICRC's work. On several occasions the ICRC evacuated civilians and removed bodies during intense inter-Shiite fighting

in the Iklim el Touffah region. The AMAL and Hezbollah signed an agreement in November which reduced hostilities between the two groups there. At the end of the year the weight of the conflict shifted to the southern part of the country where there was an escalation in the conflict between various factions and Israeli troops.

### Activities for detainees

In spite of the widespread conflict in Lebanon and a reduction in ICRC staff, ICRC delegates and doctors visited prisoners held by government forces in Beirut and by the different militias in Lebanon where authorized. On the other hand, Khiam prison, situated within the "security zone", remained closed to the ICRC, despite repeated requests made to the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) and to the Israeli authorities. In addition, family visits for detainees in Khiam prison, authorized until February 1988, remained suspended during 1990. However, ICRC delegates maintained contact with the Khiam centre, as well as other centres where access was not authorized, transmitted messages to families, and distributed medicines and personal items when permitted. In 1990, the ICRC visited 1,879 detainees of whom 1,779 were registered for the first time.

In early December, subsequent to the agreement signed by the AMAL and the Hezbollah in the Iklim el Touffah region, a quadripartite committee of the Hezbollah, the AMAL and the Syrian and Iranian Governments was formed. The ICRC was invited to be the neutral and independent intermediary in two exchanges of prisoners; seven prisoners were released in the first exchange and 93 in the second.

Detainees and families of detainees received 26.9 tonnes of assistance.

### **Activities for the civilian population**

Despite the decrease in ICRC expatriate staff, the delegation pursued its protection, tracing, medical and relief activities in behalf of the civilian population in Lebanon, largely due to the delegation of work to locally-employed staff.

A regular ICRC presence was maintained throughout Lebanon, particularly in the regions most likely to suffer directly from armed clashes. The ICRC maintained and developed contacts with all parties to the conflict in order to permit an ongoing evaluation of the situation in Lebanon. People fleeing the fighting found few calm areas, many were displaced, thousands left Lebanon and many civilians were killed or wounded.

### **Tracing Agency**

In 1990, the ICRC had nine tracing offices in the following places: Beirut, Jounieh, Tripoli, Ksara, Baalbek, Beit-ed-Dine, Sidon, Jezzine and Tyre. These offices gathered and processed information concerning detainees and civilians affected by the conflict.

The increase in the number of displaced civilians in 1990 meant more requests for information from family members. The volume of family messages rose, both within Lebanon and abroad. The ICRC received 1,045 tracing requests for missing persons, facilitated 83 family reunifications and forwarded more than 26,660 Red Cross messages from families without news of their relatives in Lebanon or abroad.

### **Medical activities**

Owing to the danger for ICRC expatriates, which resulted in reductions in ICRC expatriate staff, the mobile clinics did not function as usual and there was limited assessment of medical centres.

ICRC medical activities in Lebanon included evacuating the dead and wounded from the conflict areas, assisting hospitals, managing two orthopaedic centres and providing medical and nutritional assistance for displaced persons. The ICRC maintained stocks of medical material and medicines in Lebanon. ICRC sanitation teams assessed and, where necessary, improved water facilities in conflict zones and areas where displaced persons were located.

The orthopaedic centre in Sidon, which had closed in 1989 following the abduction of two ICRC orthopaedic technicians, reopened in December 1990 with Lebanese staff. The centre coordinated consultations in Jezzine. The ICRC also provided support for the orthopaedic centre in Beit-Chebab.

### **Relief**

A total of 2,436 tonnes of assistance, including 99,314 food parcels, 751 kitchen sets and 107,027 blankets, was distributed to 607,513 beneficiaries in 1990. Relief assistance was provided in northern Lebanon and the Bekaa valley, Beirut and the Chouf mountains, and southern Lebanon.

### **Cooperation with the National Society**

The different departments of the Lebanese Red Cross are responsible for medical and social work, first aid, pharmacy, the blood bank and information/dissemination. The ICRC continued to provide financial and material support to the National Society and acted as advisor, together with the League, in the effort by the Lebanese Red Cross to reorganize its components.

Relief assistance to the Lebanese Red Cross in 1990 totalled 730 tonnes.

## SYRIA

In 1990, the delegation based in Damascus was mainly concerned with activities related to the regional conflicts in the Middle East, specifically the hostilities in the territories occupied by Israel and in Lebanon. The ICRC continued to assist the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society with a nutritional programme for children.

The delegation provided tracing services in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent primarily for separated families living in Syria and the territories occupied by Israel. A total of 2,320 Red Cross messages were handled by the delegation and 21 families were reunited in 1990.

The ICRC provided technical support for the Doummar orthopaedic centre in Damascus.

## *North Africa*

### WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT

Up to the end of the period covered by this report, the ICRC continued working for the repatriation on humanitarian grounds of 200 Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front. No date had been set for the repatriation by year's end.

The ICRC continued parallel discussions with the Polisario Front and the Moroccan government.

With the Polisario Front, the ICRC discussed visits to the Moroccan prisoners.

Talks held with the Moroccan government centred on the notification of capture which would enable prisoners to be visited.

The ICRC handled 1,540 Red Cross messages between Moroccan prisoners of war and their families.

The ICRC regional delegate for the Arabian Peninsula was based in Geneva. Nevertheless, since 2 August 1990 the delegate in charge was present in the region. (*For further details see Iraq/Kuwait above*).

In addition, this regional delegation was responsible for visits to detainees in the Republic of Yemen.

**TUNIS:** (*Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Western Sahara*).

The delegation continued to develop contacts with the authorities and the National Societies of the respective countries in the region.

**MAURITANIA** — Between 26 October and 21 November, an ICRC team, including a medical doctor, visited 765 prisoners, 140 of them security detainees, in 13 places of detention. Reports on the visits were submitted to the authorities.

This was the second such series of visits made by the ICRC in Mauritania.

In cooperation with the Mauritanian Red Crescent, the delegation continued tracing activities, such as the exchange of family news, in behalf of victims of the

### REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

**ARABIAN PENINSULA:** (*Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Republic of Yemen, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates*).

conflict between Mauritania and Senegal. A total of 2,876 Red Cross messages were handled by the delegation in 1990.

*LIBYA* — Throughout the year, the delegation participated in negotiations in behalf of Libyan prisoners of war held in detention centres in Chad. (*See also Central and West Africa*).

In December, 433 Libyan POWs were released when the government changed in N'Djamena. The regional delegate met with Libyan authorities in Tunis to discuss plans to visit the former POWs. Following their repatriation, the ICRC interviewed the former prisoners of war to determine whether they had returned voluntarily to Libya.



**RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1990**  
**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH ARFICA**

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Medical assistance	Relief		Total
	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	(Tonnes)	Sw. fr.
Iraq .....	211,936	808,012	35.2	1,019,948
Iran .....	6,792			6,792
Israel and the occupied territories	394,712	1,665,803	297.7	2,060,515
Jordan .....	137,943	6,339,971	1,074.7	6,477,914
Lebanon .....	1,190,785	4,267,734	3,192.3	5,458,519
Mauritania .....	1,305			1,305
Western Sahara (conflict in) .....		200,923	12.5	200,923
Syria .....	21,561	256,846	84	278,407
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>1,965,034</b>	<b>13,539,289</b>	<b>4,696.4</b>	<b>15,504,323</b>

**RELIEF SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC AND INVENTORIED IN THE FIELD IN 1990**  
*(Geographical distribution by recipient country)*

COUNTRY (in French alphabetical order)	CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND		ICRC PURCHASES		TOTAL	
	(Sw. fr.)	(Tonnes)	(Sw. fr.)	(Tonnes)	(Sw. fr.)	(Tonnes)
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>13,162,361</b>	<b>20,668</b>	<b>17,200,369</b>	<b>9,616</b>	<b>30,362,730</b>	<b>30,284</b>
South Africa .....			365,362	216	365,362	216
Angola .....	4,162,914	7,922	3,398,548	2,836	7,561,462	10,758
Angola (south-east) .....	253,009	24	1,832,540	1,797	2,085,549	1,821
Benin .....			6,500	6	6,500	6
Burundi .....	220		7,448	3	7,668	3
Djibouti .....			2,718		2,718	
Ethiopia .....	848,198	8	1,043,313	5	1,891,511	13
Ethiopia (Eritrea, via Sudan) .....	323,673	35	178,333	41	502,006	76
Gambia .....			20,410	8	20,410	8
Liberia .....	205,052	22	423,780	146	628,832	168
Mali .....			10,820		10,820	
Mozambique .....	519,476	83	1,201,282	1,354	1,720,758	1,437
Namibia .....			70,040	65	70,040	65
Uganda .....	1,506,682	4,602	2,067,395	1,181	3,574,077	5,783
Rwanda .....	570		64,605	13	65,175	13
Senegal .....			29,002	12	29,002	12
Somalia .....	2,808,606	5,435	2,331,109	397	5,139,715	5,832
Sudan .....	1,097,268	2,025	1,653,240	366	2,750,508	2,391
Sudan (conflict in southern Sudan, via Kenya) .....	1,383,937	511	2,241,333	1,012	3,625,270	1,523
Swaziland .....			26,178	2	26,178	2
Togo .....			7,639	1	7,639	1
Zaire .....			69,907	45	69,907	45
Zambia .....	36,200	1	79,493	54	115,693	55
Zimbabwe .....	16,556		69,374	56	85,930	56
<b>LATIN AMERICA</b>	<b>1,347,826</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>1,776,189</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>3,124,015</b>	<b>654</b>
Chile .....	363,837	110	136,997	40	500,834	150
Colombia .....			48,390	4	48,390	4
El Salvador .....			1,080,574	47	1,080,574	47
Haiti .....			1,260		1,260	
Honduras .....	93,158	30			93,158	30
Nicaragua .....	189,468	200	167,866	76	357,334	276
Panama .....			10,147	1	10,147	1
Paraguay .....	419,095	40			419,095	40
Peru .....	282,268	32	330,955	74	613,223	106
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>148,870</b>		<b>6,653,369</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>6,802,239</b>	<b>532</b>
Afghanistan .....	5,900		2,041,107	314	2,047,007	314
Cambodia .....	59,775		1,464,191	20	1,523,966	20
Indonesia .....			19,641	8	19,641	8
Myanmar .....			95,413		95,413	
Nepal .....			9,050		9,050	
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan) ..			1,564,885	151	1,564,885	151
Philippines .....			216,948	24	216,948	24
Sri Lanka .....	62,915		408,258	7	471,173	7
Thailand (conflict in Cambodia) .....	20,280		746,891	8	767,171	8
Viet Nam .....			86,985		86,985	
<b>EUROPE (Romania)</b>	<b>29,588,384</b>	<b>6,668</b>	<b>5,810,453</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>35,398,837</b>	<b>6,688</b>
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b>	<b>6,207,421</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>11,643,311</b>	<b>2,909</b>	<b>17,850,732</b>	<b>4,884</b>
Iraq .....	32,449	5	782,848	19	815,297	24
Iran .....			6,792		6,792	
Israel and the occupied territories ...	298,589	12	1,606,109	269	1,904,698	281
Jordan .....	3,056,088	384	4,634,958	1,376	7,691,046	1,760
Lebanon .....	2,086,686	1,433	2,285,905	936	4,372,591	2,369
Mauritania .....			1,305		1,305	
Western Sahara (conflict in) .....	165,209	8	35,714	4	200,923	12
Syria .....	257,356	84	12,321		269,677	84
"Gulf" emergency stock .....	311,044	49	2,277,359	305	2,588,403	354
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,454,862</b>	<b>29,723</b>	<b>43,083,691</b>	<b>13,319</b>	<b>93,538,553</b>	<b>43,042</b>

# CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC AND INVENTORIED IN THE FIELD IN 1990

*Listed by donor*

DONORS (in French alphabetical order)	TOTAL RELIEF SUPPLIES (Sw. fr.)	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (Sw. fr.)	OVERALL TOTAL (Sw. fr.)
<b>NATIONAL SOCIETIES</b>	<b>22,452,287</b>	<b>12,397,958</b>	<b>34,850,245</b>
Germany (Democratic Republic) .....	2,050,000		2,050,000
Germany (Federal Republic) .....	413,489	1,612,717	2,026,206
Australia .....		20,280	20,280
Austria .....	1,715,000	1,400,000	3,115,000
Belgium .....	4,046,802	40,971	4,087,773
Bulgaria .....	20,588		20,588
Denmark .....	1,226,511	473,591	1,700,102
Spain .....	33,500	126,619	160,119
Finland .....	831,517	472,483	1,304,000
France .....	214,797		214,797
Greece .....	280,000	570,000	850,000
Iran .....	59,040	25,880	84,920
Ireland .....		100,000	100,000
Italy .....	5,013,455	2,602,800	7,616,255
Luxembourg .....	661,800		661,800
Norway .....	251,664	1,009,763	1,261,427
Netherlands .....	793,170	775,914	1,569,084
Poland .....	634,000		634,000
Portugal .....	31,700		31,700
United Kingdom .....	426,983	939,060	1,366,043
Sweden .....	1,299,112	674,957	1,974,069
Switzerland .....	655,430	959,650	1,615,080
Czechoslovakia .....	1,668,000		1,668,000
USSR .....	20,000		20,000
Yugoslavia .....	80,889	591,817	672,706
Other National Societies <sup>1</sup> .....	24,840	1,456	26,296
<b>GOVERNMENTS</b>	<b>7,485,719</b>	<b>614,434</b>	<b>8,100,153</b>
United States of America .....	1,830,717		1,830,717
Finland .....	1,420,188	614,434	2,034,622
India .....	58,480		58,480
Norway .....	892,000		892,000
Sweden .....	1,331,813		1,331,813
Switzerland .....	1,952,521		1,952,521
<b>OTHER DONORS</b>	<b>7,495,130</b>	<b>9,334</b>	<b>7,504,464</b>
EEC .....	5,587,901		5,587,901
UN (WFP, UNHCR, etc.) .....	1,349,575		1,349,575
Others .....	557,654	9,334	566,988
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>37,433,136</b>	<b>13,021,726</b>	<b>50,454,862</b>
<b>ICRC PURCHASES (non-earmarked)</b>	<b>10,207,027</b>	<b>15,699,683</b>	<b>25,906,710</b>
<b>ICRC PURCHASES (earmarked)</b>	<b>14,509,801</b>	<b>2,667,180</b>	<b>17,176,981</b>
<b>TOTAL ICRC PURCHASES</b>	<b>24,716,828</b>	<b>18,366,863</b>	<b>43,083,691</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62,149,964</b>	<b>31,388,589</b>	<b>93,538,553</b>

<sup>1</sup> National Societies which contributed less than 20,000 Swiss francs.

# THE LAW AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

In accordance with its mandate, the ICRC continued to monitor respect for and full implementation of international humanitarian law and to work to promote and develop that body of law in the year under review.

Although international humanitarian law requires further adaptation and development, it remains one of the most complete branches of international law. The ICRC's primary concern in 1990 was therefore to ensure acceptance of and respect for all its provisions by all parties concerned.

Alongside its field operations, the ICRC pursued the following objectives:

- ☐ to promote the treaties of humanitarian law, particularly the Additional Protocols of 1977, in order to bring about their acceptance throughout the world;
- ☐ to persuade States to enact domestic legislation or adopt practical measures to implement international humanitarian law and ensure its application;
- ☐ to foster greater knowledge and understanding of international humanitarian law through teaching and dissemination;
- ☐ and to contribute to its development in order to remedy any omissions and adapt it to new requirements.

## Promotion of the Conventions and Protocols

### Ratifications and accessions

In 1990, the following States became party to the Protocols:<sup>1</sup> Barbados, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Paraguay, Romania, Ukrainian SSR and Yemen.

The President of the ICRC regularly broached the subject of ratification of the Protocols, both in discussions with visitors to Geneva and during his own visits elsewhere. The ICRC also often approached the authorities of the countries in which it has a delegation and its legal adviser responsible for the matter in Geneva continued to encourage those States not yet party to the Protocols to ratify or accede to them.

### International Fact-Finding Commission

On 20 November 1990, the optional declaration provided for by Article 90 of Additional Protocol I of 1977 was made by the twentieth State<sup>2</sup> recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. With this declaration, the conditions for establishment of the Commission have been fulfilled.

The Commission will be competent to enquire into any facts alleged to be a grave breach as defined in the Geneva Conventions and Protocol I or other serious violation of the Conventions or that Protocol, and to facilitate, through its good offices, the restoration of an attitude of respect for the Conventions and Protocol I.

As the depositary State for the Geneva Conventions, Switzerland has the task of convening a meeting of representatives of the States that have made this declara-

<sup>1</sup> The complete list of States party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 appears at the end of this Report.

<sup>2</sup> The 20 States that have now recognized the Commission under Article 90 are Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukrainian SSR, Uruguay and USSR.

tion, for the purpose of electing, by secret ballot, the fifteen members of the Commission. Those members, who must possess the necessary qualifications and be of high moral standing and acknowledged impartiality, will serve in their personal capacity.

### **Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons**

The year under review marked the 10th anniversary of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. This Convention, with its three Protocols, prohibits weapons whose primary purpose is to cause injury by non-detectable fragments (Protocol I) and restricts the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices (Protocol II) and of incendiary weapons (Protocol III). These texts contain detailed provisions relating to specific weapons and thus serve as an elaboration of the general rules, set forth in Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit weapons and methods of warfare of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering or to have indiscriminate effects. The 1980 Convention restates the principle reaffirmed by Additional Protocol I that the right of the parties to a conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited.

The ICRC addressed the forty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly to stress the Convention's importance in terms of international humanitarian law and to appeal to those States which had not yet done so to become party to it.<sup>3</sup>

Attention was also drawn to this Convention during activities to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law.

## **Respect for international humanitarian law**

### **Implementation measures at the national level**

Resolution V of the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross (Geneva, 1986) asked the ICRC to gather and assess information on legislation and other measures, either already taken or being considered, to implement international humanitarian law.

The ICRC continued to urge the States party to the Geneva Conventions and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to take the necessary measures and to provide it with all relevant information. To this end the ICRC, together with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law and the Bulgarian Red Cross, held a regional seminar in Sofia from 20 to 22 September. This seminar — the first of its kind — was attended by over 50 representatives of governments, academic circles and the Red Cross from 11 European countries. The ICRC presented the results of its efforts hitherto and exchanged views with the experts present as to the future course of action to be adopted. The seminar, which the participants found very productive, will be repeated in other regions.

### **Consultation of experts**

As it has done since 1984, the ICRC once again benefited from the advice of out-

<sup>3</sup> As at 31 December 1990, the following States had ratified (or acceded to) the Convention: Australia, Austria, Benin, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France (the first two Protocols), German Democratic Republic, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Japan, Laos, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukrainian SSR, USSR and Yugoslavia.

side experts, of various nationalities, who have agreed to take part in the institution's deliberations in a personal capacity and who meet twice a year in Geneva in a working group. In 1990, they met on 14, 15 and 16 May, and on 26, 27 and 28 November.

## Development of international humanitarian law

In its Resolution III, the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross asked the ICRC to continue its work to improve identification of medical transports and to keep it informed of developments.

In accordance with this request, and pursuant to Article 98 of Additional Protocol I, the ICRC continued to work on revision of the Protocol's Annex I (Regulations Concerning Identification) and convened a meeting of technical experts in Geneva on 20-24 August 1990, attended by over 110 experts and government observers representing 60 States party to Protocol I or only to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as observers from specialized international organizations (in particular ICAO, IMO and ITU).<sup>4</sup> The meeting of experts made it possible to study in detail the present provisions of Annex I and to prepare the necessary amendments incorporating the technical rules adopted since 1977 by the specialized international organizations. It was likewise an opportunity to clarify and update some of the existing provisions.

As stipulated in Article 98(2) of Protocol I, any amendments must be ratified by a diplomatic conference that Switzerland, as depositary State for the 1949 Conven-

tions and their Additional Protocols, said it was prepared to convene.

The ICRC also continued discussions with the aforesaid specialized organizations on problems relating to the marking and identification of medical transports in armed conflicts. These organizations have always been most helpful and cooperative. IMO, for example, has granted the ICRC observer status.

### New weapons

In accordance with Resolution VII (B) of the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross, the ICRC continued to follow weapons development, in particular that of small-calibre bullets, and new weapons technology.

ICRC lawyers and the institution's technical adviser attended meetings, both in Switzerland and abroad, on small-calibre bullets and new infantry weapons under development. They reminded the participants of the relevant rules of international humanitarian law and stressed the need to standardize tests in order to identify, before they go into production, bullets that fragment too easily.

Further to recommendations made by the round table on battleground laser weapons, held by the ICRC in June 1989, the institution convened two specialized working groups that met from 31 May to 1 June and from 5 to 7 November 1990 respectively. The first meeting dealt with technical and medical aspects of the use of such weapons. The second studied the inevitable psychological and social problems that would be caused by laser weapons whose principal effect would be the permanent blinding of soldiers. A study was made comparing those effects with other wounds and disabilities caused by war. The results of these meetings will enable a larger conference in 1991 to con-

---

<sup>4</sup> International Civil Aviation Organization, International Maritime Organization, International Telecommunication Union.

sider the advisability of some kind of regulation to prohibit or limit weapons whose principal effect is to irreversibly blind combatants.

### **The law of war at sea**

The ICRC took an active part in the round table of experts on international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflict at sea. The meeting was held in Toulon, France, and was organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in conjunction with the Mediterranean Institute of Strategic Studies and the French Red Cross. It was the second of a series of meetings under the plan of action adopted in Madrid in 1988, which provides for the drafting of a document indicating the present state of treaty and customary law and, where appropriate, some proposals for its amendment and development. The Toulon meeting discussed methods and means of combat in naval warfare. This included both general principles and specific rules relating to the use of sea mines and long-distance weapons, precautions that must be taken in the event of attack, the use of blockades and the establishment of special zones.

The ICRC also took part in a symposium on the law of naval warfare which was held by the Naval War College in Newport, USA, from 1 to 3 February 1990. The meeting, which discussed the targeting of merchant shipping, had 62 participants, half of whom were US Navy officers. The other participants were academics or military personnel from the USA and a few other States.

### **Humanitarian assistance**

The development of international law in the area of assistance to the victims of natural and technological disasters continued to be of keen interest to the ICRC.

The institution, whose mandate primarily concerns armed conflict, made a point of stressing that humanitarian assistance in such situations is governed by detailed provisions of international humanitarian law. By laying down the relevant procedures, those provisions establish the principle that civilians who lack the basic necessities for their survival must be enabled to receive impartial humanitarian assistance.

### **Relations with other institutions in the realm of international humanitarian law**

The ICRC kept in close touch with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, and, as in previous years, helped in the preparation and running of several courses and seminars organized by the Institute. Thus, it was closely involved in the *15th Round Table on current problems of international humanitarian law* (4-8 September 1990) which brought together over 150 people representing governments, the academic world, international organizations and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The meeting examined specific means of improving respect for international humanitarian law and discussed topics such as:

- the contents and scope of the obligation to ensure respect for the law (Article 1 common to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol I of 1977);
- the role of the future International Fact-Finding Commission (Article 90 of Protocol I);
- the usefulness of a system of periodic reports on the application of international humanitarian law;
- the role of the United Nations in implementing that body of law.

The meeting ended with a day of discussions, organized jointly by the Institute and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), on the subject "Refugees — a continuing challenge for humanity: for a realistic approach in asylum policy".

As usual, the round table was followed by a Red Cross and Red Crescent symposium, this time devoted to "National laws and policy as a factor in the development of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies".

The ICRC was also involved in a number of courses, conferences and seminars organized by institutions and associations concerned with international humanitarian law, such as the *American Society of International Law* (Washington, 28-31 March), the *International Institute of Human Rights* in Strasbourg, France, the *Inter-American Institute of Human Rights* in San José, Costa Rica, and the *United Nations Institute for Training and Research*, which held a series of courses in The Hague in July.

## **Relations with other international and regional organizations**

The high point of 1990 came when the ICRC was granted observer status with the United Nations General Assembly (resolution 45/6 adopted by consensus on 16 October). Until then, the ICRC had had consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council; this did not reflect the institution's specific character nor its growing cooperation with UN bodies in New York.

The new status takes due account of the ICRC's specific nature and of the mandate conferred on it by the 1949 Geneva Conventions; it also means that the institution will henceforth have access to

all UN meetings and to the documents relative thereto.

The ICRC started making representations to bring about the change in July 1990. Delegates in New York and in Geneva called on about one hundred Permanent Missions, and the institution's field delegations contacted many governments, at the same time enhancing awareness of the ICRC, its mandate and activities and its specific role in today's world.

Observer status having been obtained, delegates from the ICRC's International Organizations Division adopted a new approach at the forty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly, making the ICRC's position better known on a number of questions, such as the new international humanitarian order, the United Nations Decade of International Law, and the United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons. The delegates emphasized the need to strengthen compliance with existing rules rather than to supplement them, reminding those concerned that the ICRC stood ready to work towards that end. They also encouraged States to ratify the Additional Protocols and stressed that the ICRC attached great importance, in peacetime as well as in war, to dissemination of knowledge of the rules of international humanitarian law.

As an observer, the ICRC was able to attend sessions of the UN Security Council, which met to discuss issues such as the situation in the Middle East. In addition, the ICRC again attended meetings organized by the UN on human rights issues, questions concerning refugees and displaced and repatriated persons, and detention matters. In the latter field, the Eighth Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, organized by the UN from 27 August to



7 September in Havana, recognized that ICRC visits to places of detention contributed to the struggle against torture and disappearances and often resulted in a general improvement in detainees' material and psychological conditions of detention.

The ICRC stepped up its contacts with the UN Centre for Human Rights, in particular in the areas of training and dissemination, as had been recommended in resolutions adopted by the UN Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly. Talks on international humanitarian law were given in seminars and workshops organized by the UN, especially in Latin America.

The ICRC also had the opportunity to exchange views on its operational activities with participants in different inter-agency meetings — both in New York and in the field — which dealt more specifically with the situation in the Horn of Africa and in southern Africa.

As in the past, the International Organizations Division participated in many international meetings (Organization of African Unity, Council of Europe, Organization of the Islamic Conference, League of Arab States, Inter-Parliamentary Union, to name but a few), each of which provided an opportunity for the ICRC to lend an attentive ear to the concerns of the international community and to express the humanitarian point of view.

## **Dissemination**

Dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is always one of the ICRC's primary objectives. Through such activities the ICRC seeks to promote respect for international humanitarian law and prevent violations of it; to increase the

effectiveness and safety of humanitarian action; and to strengthen the Movement's identity and cohesion whilst making the specific role of each of its components (ICRC, League, National Societies) better known.

The ICRC's efforts in this respect are based on the particular responsibility for dissemination assigned to it by the Movement's Statutes. The ICRC is also helping, along with the League and the National Societies, to achieve the objectives of the Third Programme of Action which was launched for a four-year period by the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross in 1986.

The Programme had four objectives: to encourage States to ratify or accede to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions; to analyse the legal and practical consequences of provisions of the Additional Protocols; to disseminate and encourage the dissemination of international humanitarian law; and to integrate the dissemination of the principles and ideals of the Movement in all its activities.

With the Third Programme of Action drawing to a close, the ICRC decided in 1990 to review its own dissemination policy in the light of its experience over the past 10 years. It was found that, of the eight target groups identified by the Movement for dissemination,<sup>5</sup> the ICRC should henceforth focus to a greater extent on five of them: the armed forces, National Societies, government authorities, academic circles and the media — without, of course, neglecting the others. Experience has shown that it is always necessary to adapt dissemination methods to local cultural, political and other con-

<sup>5</sup> Armed forces, National Societies, government authorities, universities, schools, medical circles, the media and the general public.

ditions. It is therefore very important to identify people, in particular within the armed forces and the National Societies, who are in a position to relay and spread the humanitarian message effectively.

Dissemination does much to underpin ICRC operations in countries beset by armed conflict, but it is also a necessary activity in countries spared that kind of violence, for if humanitarian rules are understood and accepted in peacetime they will be more readily respected should war occur. Most ICRC delegations therefore work closely with the National Societies to carry out dissemination programmes.

As part of its efforts in this direction, the ICRC offers traineeships in Geneva for people whose work involves promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Movement's principles and ideals. In 1990, 24 lawyers, academics and National Society representatives from all over the world took part in such programmes.

### New publications

As part of its work in Colombia, the ICRC cooperated with the Colombian Red Cross to produce publications informing the general public about the basic rules of humanitarian law and the protection to which they are entitled in the event of disturbances or internal conflict. Some 15,000 copies were distributed over the year.

After the Gulf crisis arose in the Middle East, the ICRC published a new version of "Rules for Behaviour in Combat" for the coalition and Iraqi armed forces. This combined Arabic-English version of the manual, entitled "Code of Conduct for Combatants", was adapted to the particular situation in the Gulf and, in addition to humanitarian rules, contained

first-aid information. Some 100,000 copies were printed.

### Courses and seminars

For dissemination purposes the ICRC works closely with the League, the National Societies, the Henry Dunant Institute and organizations outside the Movement. The courses and seminars held in 1990 were largely intended for the armed forces, National Societies, government authorities and academic circles.<sup>6</sup>

#### — for the armed forces

Although the main responsibility for dissemination to this target group lies with the States party to the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC joins in by setting up programmes to encourage instruction in international humanitarian law as part of military training. It passes on its experience to future instructors and legal advisers, helps to produce teaching material and engages in dialogue as a way of fostering understanding of its humanitarian work.

To this end, as in previous years, the ICRC organized the following courses for members of the armed forces:

- ☐ centralized courses for senior officers from all countries, held since 1976 in conjunction with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy;
- ☐ decentralized courses organized jointly with national armed forces in their respective countries and held since 1984 for senior officers holding command posts.

<sup>6</sup> Readers interested in details of the various dissemination seminars, courses and lectures will find them in the corresponding issues of *Dissemination* magazine, which they may order from the ICRC, 19 avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

In 1990 three centralized courses, attended by a total of 129 officers from 55 countries, were held in San Remo. A course in Geneva for medical officers was attended by 18 participants from 12 countries. In addition, the ICRC for the first time organized a special course for commanders of military academies and those responsible for armed forces training. Likewise for the first time, seminars on international humanitarian law were held in Romania and the USSR; they were attended by 250 and 330 officers respectively. In the USSR the course was led by the Soviet Army Chief of Staff and attended by regional military commanders and legal advisers.

In the field, ICRC delegates to the armed forces gave 15 courses (11 national and 4 regional), attended by 447 officers and covering 38 countries. Nine of the 15 courses took place in Africa and were attended by servicemen from 29 countries. For the first time, these courses were organized on a regional basis, an innovation that met with a very favourable response.

Finally, ICRC delegations made an ongoing contribution to dissemination in the armed forces through lectures, seminars and other contacts.

#### *— for the National Societies*

The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have a role to play in spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Movement. Their help in putting programmes of action into effect is therefore important, as is the appropriate training for their staff. If asked, the ICRC provides support and advice and, with the League, gives courses at the regional and national levels for officials who will be responsible for future National Society dissemination programmes.

The 1990 Dissemination Award was given by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo to Pedro Ramón Varela Aparicio, head of dissemination at the Salvadoran Red Cross, for 10 years of faithful work. Mr. Varela Aparicio was one of the first members of a Latin American National Society to attend a regional ICRC-League dissemination course.

#### *— for government and diplomatic circles*

The ICRC regularly reminds governments of their obligation under the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols to make those texts widely known in order to ensure their application, and accordingly gave courses and lectures at meetings for diplomats and government officials, in particular in New York, The Hague and Great Britain.

#### *— for universities*

The academic world is of twofold interest to the ICRC, which seeks to promote international humanitarian law by encouraging teaching and research, and also to give future national leaders a heightened awareness of that body of law and of humanitarian work in general.

In the period under review, the ICRC continued its efforts to this end, in particular by working with National Societies to organize courses and seminars in Poland, in Switzerland and at a number of universities in Europe, the United States and Egypt.

#### **Paul Reuter Prize**

On 15 November 1990, the deadline for nominations for the 1991 Paul Reuter Prize, there were 10 candidates. The prize of 2,000 Swiss francs is awarded in recognition of particularly deserving work in the area of international humanitarian law.

# COOPERATION WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

## The work of the statutory bodies

### *STANDING COMMISSION*

In 1990 the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, composed of two representatives from the ICRC, two from the League and five from the National Societies, the latter elected by the International Conference, met on 1 May, 30 July and 22 October. It was chaired by Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura, President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society.

The Standing Commission devoted most of its time to preparations for the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

At its first meeting of the year, the Commission took note of the decision by the Colombian Red Cross not to organize the next International Conference. The Commission decided to send a circular to the National Societies informing them of the Colombian Society's withdrawal and asking whether they wished to host the 1991 Conference.

After considering the offers received, the Commission decided at its July meeting to accept that of the Hungarian Red Cross to host the Conference in Budapest in November-December 1991. The Commission also began drawing up the Conference's agenda and reviewing general preparations.

### *Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace*

The Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace, set up by the Council of Delegates in 1977, met twice in 1990 (30 April and 16 October) in Geneva

under the chairmanship of Mr. Alexandre Hay.

It is composed of representatives of the League, the ICRC, the Henry Dunant Institute and 14 National Societies.<sup>1</sup> During its meetings the Commission was informed of the initial work carried out by the Ad hoc Group which it had set up to reactivate the Plan of Action against Racism and Racial Discrimination (*see below*).

It also took note of the progress made in preparations for the World Campaign for the Protection of Victims of War and the interim report of the International Promotion Bureau<sup>2</sup> in charge of the Campaign. The Commission reviewed the Campaign's goals, the various programmes involved and the means of carrying them out.

The Commission also discussed its future activities. Noting that major changes on the international scene had given rise to new humanitarian needs, it felt duty-bound to reassess some of its priorities and widen the future scope of its concerns.

### *Ad hoc Group against Racism and Racial Discrimination*

The Ad hoc Group on the Reactivation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Plan of Action against Racism and Racial Discrimination was set up by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace in October 1989 in accordance with Decision 3 of the 1985 Council of

<sup>1</sup> The Red Cross Societies of Australia, Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia and Sweden, and the Red Crescent Societies of Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania and Yemen.

<sup>2</sup> A joint ICRC/League body.

Delegates. It met on 30 April and 15 October 1990 in Geneva under the chairmanship of Dr. Dawit Zawde (Ethiopian Red Cross Society).

The Group, composed of representatives from the ICRC, the League and three National Societies (Ethiopia, Sweden and Yugoslavia), worked to define its mandate and determine what action it could invite the National Societies, the League and the ICRC to take in order to encourage the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. It concluded that it should confine its investigations and proposals to situations involving the work of the Movement's components.

The Group sent a circular letter to the National Societies asking them to identify racist practices or behaviour based on racial discrimination and state what they were doing to counter them. On the basis of the replies, the Group was able to provide the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace with a detailed report. The Commission stressed the magnitude of racism and discrimination and the need for National Societies to intensify their work against such practices.

## **Relations with the components of the Movement**

### ***NATIONAL SOCIETIES***

#### **Dialogue and contacts**

Convinced of the need to strengthen its relations with the National Societies and increase its own particular contribution to their development, the ICRC continued to establish and maintain direct contact with many National Society leaders to promote mutual understanding and cooperation.

To this end, the ICRC President and members of the Committee regularly visit

the National Societies, in particular to mark anniversaries and commemorations. In 1990, such missions were carried out by several members of the Committee: Mr. Claudio Caratsch, ICRC Vice-President, went to Norway; Mr. Max Daetwyler and Mr. André Ghelfi attended two Swiss Red Cross commemoration ceremonies; Mr. Marco Mumenthaler went to the Republic of Korea; and Mrs. Anne Petitpierre went to Poland.

President Cornelio Sommaruga himself went to Austria in January, the Netherlands in February, Belgium in February and June, Mexico in February, Liechtenstein in May, Czechoslovakia in June, Iceland in July, Iraq, Iran and Jordan in September in connection with the Gulf crisis, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Thailand in September and October, and Italy and Denmark in October. On each of his visits, President Sommaruga made a point of meeting many National Society and government leaders.

#### **Development of National Societies**

In the year under review, the ICRC continued its efforts to strengthen the Movement as a whole by increasing cooperation in its own specific areas with a number of National Societies. The ICRC's programme included strengthening the National Societies' operational capacity in, and preparedness for, emergency situations (armed conflict); providing technical and legal assistance in founding or reorganizing National Societies; promoting and supporting National Society information services and projects to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles; giving assistance in implementing the Geneva Conventions and especially the regulations on the use of the red cross and red crescent emblem; and training National Society officials for their

responsibilities in the event of armed conflict and National Society staff about to go on mission for the ICRC.

Many missions were carried out from Geneva and ICRC regional delegations to meet National Society leaders, ascertain their activities and needs, and take part in national or regional meetings and seminars.

In order to help National Societies in regions exposed to armed conflict and other disturbances to strengthen their operational capacity, the ICRC circulated among them a study entitled "ICRC contribution to the development of National Societies" (adopted on 5 July 1990).

### **Empress Shōken Fund**

This Fund was created in 1912 by a gift from the Empress Shōken of Japan to promote the development of National Society activities in peacetime. Since then the Fund has received several gifts from the Japanese Imperial family, the government and public of Japan, and the Japanese Red Cross.

The Joint League/ICRC Commission for the distribution of income from the Empress Shōken Fund met in Geneva on 28 March 1990 under the chairmanship of Mr. Maurice Aubert, ICRC Vice-President, and in the presence of Japan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva.

In accordance with the criteria it has set itself, the Commission decided to carry out the 69th distribution of income among the National Societies of the following countries; Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Chile, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Lesotho, Mongolia, Peru, Somalia and Western Samoa. The money will be used to purchase ambulances and other vehicles, training material and rehabilitation and first-aid equipment.<sup>3</sup>

### **LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

In order to maintain and promote unity and solidarity within the Movement, the ICRC and the League consult each other in detail on a regular basis about operational matters and any questions relating to the work of the Movement's statutory bodies.

The ICRC was accordingly invited to attend as an observer the XXVth and XXVIth sessions of the League Executive Council, which were held in Geneva on 3-4 May and 23-24 October respectively.

In addition, the League President and Secretary General attended the ICRC Assembly of 31 January and the League Secretary General also attended the ICRC Executive Board meeting of 13 September.

### **Joint League/ICRC meetings**

In addition to the above-mentioned regular contacts, formal joint meetings of ICRC and League representatives were held to discuss matters of mutual interest. These meetings took place on 26 March, 28 June, 3 October and 29 November 1990. They dealt in particular with questions relating to the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, preparations for the other statutory meetings of the Movement and the progress of various joint studies, publications and other projects; information was also exchanged about other current activities and missions of joint interest were discussed.

---

<sup>3</sup> Details of the 69th distribution may be found in the *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 277, July-August 1990.

### **Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes**

The Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes met six times in 1990, on 13 February, 23 April, 5 July, 12 September, 31 October and 11 December.

In accordance with Resolutions VI of the 22nd International Conference and XX of the 24th International Conference, the Commission examined draft amendments to their statutes submitted by 10 National Societies. It also followed the development of nine emergent National Societies or Societies that had applied for recognition. In addition the Commission stood by to help several National Societies facing internal problems or seeking support from the two international institutions.

### **Henry Dunant Institute**

The ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross are members of the Henry Dunant Institute and take it in turns to supply a Chairman for the Institute for a two-year term of office. Since October 1989, the Chairman has been Mr. Hubert Bucher, Secretary General of the Swiss Red Cross.

The ICRC joins in certain studies undertaken by the Institute, for example on international humanitarian law. As in the

past, the ICRC provided instructors for a number of seminars, in particular:

- ☐ the fifteenth introductory course on the international activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, for National Society leaders and volunteers (Geneva, 4-13 June), held in Spanish and attended by 24 representatives of 20 National Societies;
- ☐ the Latin American seminar for heads of penitentiary administrations (San José, Costa Rica, 14-18 May), attended by 22 officials from 18 Latin American countries to discuss common difficulties and practical ways of improving the treatment of detainees and the administration of justice in general;
- ☐ the seminar for the heads of penitentiary administrations in French-speaking Africa (Bujumbura, Burundi, 24-28 September), at which 40 officials from 16 countries discussed their experiences and concerns in order to improve not only the conditions of detention but also dialogue and cooperation between different prison systems.

Together with the League and the Swiss Red Cross, the ICRC also followed the preparation and progress of studies on the Movement's development and the latter's role in general in this respect.

# COMMUNICATIONS

For the Communications Department as for the rest of the institution, 1990 was a year for emergency action, especially in connection with events in the Middle East. In the first half of the year, a particular effort was made by the Press Division to respond to the media's urgent requests for news about the abduction of Elio Erriquez and Emanuel Christen, the two ICRC orthopaedic technicians working in Sidon, Lebanon. Starting in August, events gathered pace with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, then the release, one after the other, of the two delegates and, finally, the beginning of the operation to repatriate all prisoners of war between Iran and Iraq. Each time, a great many requests for interviews from journalists around the world converged on the press attachés and spokesmen at the Press Division in Geneva and in the delegations in the field.

## Relations with the press

From the beginning of the Gulf crisis, calls from the international media flooded into the Press Division. During the same period, the ICRC delegate based in Cairo and one of the ICRC delegates in New York devoted most of their time to meeting journalists and relaying information. This was part of a strategy of regionalization aimed at improving contacts with journalists in the countries where the ICRC works. In addition, a press attaché was sent to Amman, Jordan, in September to cover the work in the reception and transit camps set up at short notice to assist the thousands of foreign nationals fleeing Iraq and Kuwait.

The events in the Gulf region demonstrated the risks taken by journalists covering conflicts. In its contacts with various journalists' organizations and

editors, the ICRC explained how its "Hot Line"<sup>1</sup> works.

## Seminar for Asian journalists

The ICRC organized a seminar entitled "Focus on the media and the ICRC" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for 19 journalists from six Asian countries (India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) and Hong Kong. Representatives of the Communications Department, the regional delegates based in Jakarta and Hong Kong and the head of the Philippines delegation also took part in the seminar, which was held from 13 to 15 November 1990. This was the last in a series of six regional seminars which have been held since 1986, thanks to financing made available to the Communications Department by the Aga Khan Foundation for a training programme involving both ICRC headquarters staff and the media in countries where the ICRC works.

The seminar's programme covered various aspects of the ICRC's role and activities, in particular in Asia, and included discussion of the institution's rule of discretion, which the media often fail to understand, the occasional use for political purposes of information on humanitarian activities, and protection for journalists on dangerous missions during armed conflicts.

## Dispatches and news magazines

Some 50 press releases and communications to the press were issued concerning

---

<sup>1</sup> Special telephone line that can be used by professional associations and editors should journalists disappear, be arrested or otherwise be in danger.



events of direct topicality. Special newsletters were sent to the information bureaux of the National Societies.

As in previous years, the ICRC published its monthly *Bulletin* and continued its editorial and administrative cooperation in producing the Movement's magazine *Red Cross/Red Crescent* which is published three times a year.

### Missions and co-productions

In 1990, the main emphasis in on-the-spot reporting was placed on co-productions with photo agencies and television networks to cover ICRC field operations as quickly and effectively as possible, and particularly to ensure that the resulting coverage was distributed through professional channels and rapidly reached the public.

Ten such reports were produced in 1990, either by ICRC staff alone or in conjunction with photo agencies or TV networks; missions for this purpose took place in Romania (text and photos in January), Cambodia (text and photos in March), four Latin American countries (text and photos in April/May), Liberia (co-production with the French news agency TV CAPA in June and video production by the ICRC in July), Jordan (ICRC video production in October), Afghanistan (co-production with Swiss German-language television in October, text and photos in December) and Angola (text and photos in November). Two photo reports were produced in 1990, one in Iran to cover the repatriation of prisoners of war, and the other in Afghanistan.

The team that went to Afghanistan was incidentally the first to film in Mazar-i-Sharif, in the north of the country where no other television network had ever been able to go before, whilst the two press attachés who went on mission to Angola

took part in the first relief convoys since the beginning of the civil war, leaving from Luanda and Windhoek respectively, to reach the Planalto across national borders and lines dividing the warring parties.

The ICRC has also obtained distribution rights within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to one of the six short films of a series entitled "How are the kids?" on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The sixth film, made by the Swiss director Jean-Luc Godard, deals with "the right to education and the right not to be involved in war", subjects of great concern to the ICRC.

### RCBS radio programmes

ICRC radio programmes, beamed by the Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) twice a month in six languages to Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Middle East, totalled some 100 hours in 1990. They are transmitted free of charge by the Swiss Postal and Telecommunications Administration (PTT), with support from Swiss Radio International (RSI).

RCBS programmes focus mainly on current events and ICRC operations in the field. Key transmissions in 1990 dealt with Liberia, Romania, Sri Lanka, southern Sudan, and many subjects relating to the Middle East (Lebanon, Iran/Iraq and the Kuwait crisis).

In addition, recorded programmes are regularly sent to over 50 National Societies and to national broadcasting services. Special programmes are also prepared in Portuguese for 10 different radio stations and in German for a station in New York.

A programme on the territories occupied by Israel was co-produced with Radio France Internationale (RFI) and sent to RFI's 50 broadcasting partners and to 40

National Societies. Two programmes were co-produced with Swiss Radio International: one in Arabic on ICRC activities in the Middle East (sent to 17 National Societies) and another in English on the emergency operation in Jordan.

### **Publications**

The ICRC continued to promote its publications as widely as possible. Most of them are in Arabic, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Last year, particular importance was attached to the publication of brochures in Bulgarian, Romanian and Russian, a development brought about by the extension of ICRC activities in Eastern Europe.<sup>2</sup>

In 1990, the ICRC once again took part in the Geneva Press and Book Fair and the Paris Book Fair, where it presented its periodicals and other publications. Such events are also an opportunity to inform visitors about ICRC activities worldwide and the work of its delegates.

The ICRC's public library, abundantly stocked with some 15,000 books on subjects ranging from humanitarian law to current events in international politics, registered 13% more books borrowed than in the previous year. This rise can doubtless be explained in large part by the computerization of the library's card file (begun in 1988 and carried out in close conjunction with the library of the Henry Dunant Institute) which has facilitated access to the books and consultation by people outside the ICRC.

<sup>2</sup> A catalogue of publications may be obtained by writing to the Publishing and Documentation Service, International Committee of the Red Cross, 19, av. de la Paix, 1202 Geneva.

### **International Review of the Red Cross**

As in previous years, the *International Review of the Red Cross*, which is the ICRC's official publication serving the entire Movement, published six issues containing a great many articles dealing with topics relating to international humanitarian law. Two special issues were also published, one with contributions from several National Societies, the ICRC and the League on communication within the Movement, and the other to mark the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons. The latter included articles on the problem of excessively injurious or indiscriminate weapons and the development of new anti-personnel weapons.

### **Public relations**

An official presentation of the travelling exhibition entitled "Humanity in the midst of war" was held at the Swiss Federal Archives in Bern on 12 January. It was attended by Mr. Flavio Cotti, Head of the Federal Department of Internal Affairs, Mr. Karl Kennel, President of the Swiss Red Cross, and ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga. The exhibition, which deals with the protection afforded by international humanitarian law to the victims of armed conflict, had been inaugurated at the United Nations headquarters in New York in November 1989.

It later went on show at the United Nations Office in Geneva to coincide with the work of the Commission on Human Rights, before going on to Berlin and Dresden in June and July, to Bucharest in October and Vienna in November.

### **Public Support Group (PSG)**

In accordance with Resolution IV of the 1989 Council of Delegates, the ICRC and

the League set up the Public Support Group that same year to coordinate communication within the Movement and increase the capacity of the National Societies' information services.

The members of the Public Support Group come from the ICRC, the League, eight National Societies and the International Promotion Bureau, a joint ICRC/League body. They met twice in 1990, in Geneva in March and October,

to encourage and oversee the various activities to implement the Movement's information policy as adopted by the Council of Delegates in October 1989. They gave particular attention to such subjects as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, the World Campaign for the Protection of Victims of War and the drawing up of a "Communicator's Guide" for information experts within the Movement.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

The emergency operation in Romania at the beginning of the year, and the start in August of the Gulf crisis, had the ICRC meeting a record demand for personnel. Besides recruiting delegates from outside, the institution sent many headquarters staff, men and women, on brief missions to back up field staff. In 1990, the institution employed a total of 653 expatriate staff in 50 delegations worldwide; they were backed by 4,620 locally-recruited employees. In addition, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of 23 countries seconded medical, paramedical and technical staff for ICRC field operations, a total of 561 people for 155 posts, bringing to 808 the number of expatriates working for the ICRC in the field during the year.

In Geneva, 647 people provided direct support for operational activities, and administrative, legal and communication services.

The Recruitment Division hired 300 people in 1990, 232 of them for field missions (71 delegates, 25 doctors, 53 paramedical specialists, 25 administrators, 33 secretaries and 25 technicians).

Numerous courses were organized for ICRC personnel, both by the institution itself and by outside concerns, to provide basic training, advanced knowledge or continued instruction in various fields. In addition the rules of the ICRC Pension Fund were revised. Men and women now enjoy equal rights and are entitled to retire any time between 62 and 65 years of age.

# ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Department of Organization and Information Systems manages the technical resources used to handle information and oversees the institution's working methods. It has four divisions (archives, information and document systems, computer and telecommunications) and an Organization Service.

The ICRC adopted an archive policy on 10 May 1990 whereby decentralization is to result in restructured activities in the coming 10 years.

The Archives Division's 1990 achievements are perhaps best expressed in figures: new material from headquarters and the delegations totalled 165 linear metres (up 4.4%), while 37 linear metres of material no longer of any use were destroyed. Also, 75 organizations and individuals from outside the ICRC applied for permission to consult the archives.

Work progressed throughout the year on a dozen data banks started in 1988 on internal matters (official decisions, policy documents and questions of law, contacts with the outside, etc.) and external information (library and audiovisual resources, texts on international humanitarian law, ICRC public statements, etc.).

In 1990, routine organization tasks were maintained, and, in an effort to rationalize, a summarized collection was drawn up of different procedures and guidelines used at headquarters. New computer applications were also implemented for the treatment of operational data, and in particular a standardized application was introduced for the Central Tracing Agency. Finally,

a pilot local network was set up at the Computer Division, to pave the way for the installation in 1991 of similar networks both at headquarters and in the field.

## Telecommunications network

The ICRC's shortwave telecommunications network — one of the most extensive non-governmental networks in the world — provides headquarters in Geneva and the delegations and sub-delegations in the field with an efficient and reliable means of communication. Entirely independent of commercial channels, the network enables radio contact to be maintained round-the-clock in situations where, more often than not, official channels have been disrupted or no longer function.

In 1990, the ICRC had 103 HF stations, 33 in contact with Geneva and 70 as part of local networks in the field. Six bases were opened during the year, in south-eastern Angola (Jamba), Cambodia (Phnom Penh), Honduras (Tegucigalpa), Liberia (Monrovia), Nigeria (Lagos) and Peru (Lima). A total of 143,818 messages were transmitted (43,817 by radio), an increase of 31.6% over 1989.

Finally, since October 1990 the ICRC has been using the INMARSAT satellite telecommunications system, which allows direct communication and the exchange of telephone, telex and telefax messages via a coast earth station. This new technology is invaluable in an emergency, as was the case in the Middle East, and functions as a back-up for the ICRC's traditional radio network.

# FINANCE

With a total of 441.3 million Swiss francs, the ICRC's overall budget expenditure for 1990 showed a slight drop (-4%) as against the previous year (458.9

million). These figures include the value of contributions in kind and services received and used by the ICRC (66.1 million francs).

<b>Expenditure and charges</b> <i>(including contributions in kind and services)</i>	<b>1990                      1989</b> <i>(in millions of Swiss francs)</i>	
Headquarters' financial structure	98.8	91.0
Field financial structure	342.5	367.9
Total:	441.3	458.9

## Expenditure by region

*(Figure 1, p. 109)*

There was a marked reduction (-26%) in ICRC expenditure for Africa compared with the previous year (152.2 million Swiss francs as against 204.9 million in 1989). This was the result less of an improvement in the situation there — though there had been a real improvement in several countries — than of obstacles encountered in some major operations such as in southern Sudan.

There was a sharp rise (+61%) in expenditure for Europe, due largely to the ICRC's operation in Romania. ICRC activities in Asia also increased (+6%) in comparison with 1989, as a result of its operation in Sri Lanka and an upsurge in the volume of ICRC work in Afghanistan and Cambodia.

Events in the Middle East — particularly in the Gulf region following the entry of Iraqi troops into Kuwait on 2 August 1990 — caused ICRC operations in the area to be stepped up considerably. At the same time, additional staff had to be deployed in Iran and Iraq to handle the repatriation of prisoners of war between the two countries. Finally, ICRC activities

in the territories occupied by Israel also increased in 1990.

In Latin America, on the other hand, the total volume of ICRC operations declined by more than 20% as a result of the peace process in countries such as Nicaragua (-50%), El Salvador (-27%) and Chile (-20%).

## Expenditure according to type of activity

*(Figure 2, p. 110)*

The obstacles encountered by the ICRC in its relief operations — in particular in southern Sudan — account for the perceptible reduction in this activity (131 million Swiss francs in 1990 as against 178 million in 1989). There was, however, a 17% increase (from 78.7 million francs in 1989 to 92.3 million in 1990) in expenditure for protection and Central Tracing Agency activities (visits and other activities in behalf of prisoners of war, displaced persons and internees).

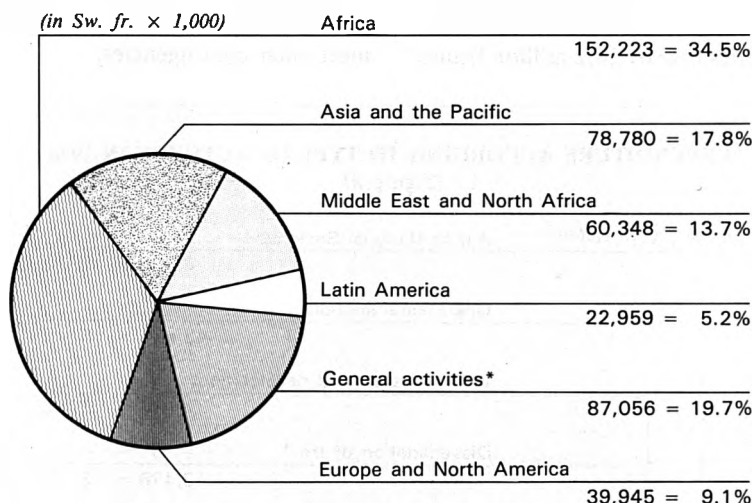
The ICRC's work to promote and disseminate international humanitarian law continued at the same level as in 1989 (18.4 million francs).

Total expenditure for support and management activities (24 million and

# EXPENDITURE BY REGION IN 1990

(including contributions in kind and services)

(Figure 1)



**Total: 441.3 million Sw. fr.**

\* This heading includes all the following activities when carried out at or from ICRC headquarters:

- ☐ protection activities for victims of conflicts (Detention Division), Central Tracing Agency work;
- ☐ medical and material assistance, aid to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- ☐ promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law, communications;
- ☐ operational management, support and management activities for ICRC work at headquarters and in the field, special extrabudgetary expenses.

14.2 million francs respectively) was up by 9% over 1989, largely attributable to the Middle East crisis. These two items, which represent 39% of total expenditure within the headquarters' financial structure, were, like all other items in that structure, affected by inflation which reached 6% in Switzerland in 1990. However, a freeze on staff levels and a paring of expenditure in other areas made

it possible to limit the growth of overall expenditure to 1% (i.e. 102 million francs as against 100.6 million in 1989).

The balance sheet for ICRC activities in the field was distinctly more favourable than in the previous year since the net deficit of 12.7 million francs for 1989 was down to 3.3 million at the end of 1990: an overall requirement for 289.2 million

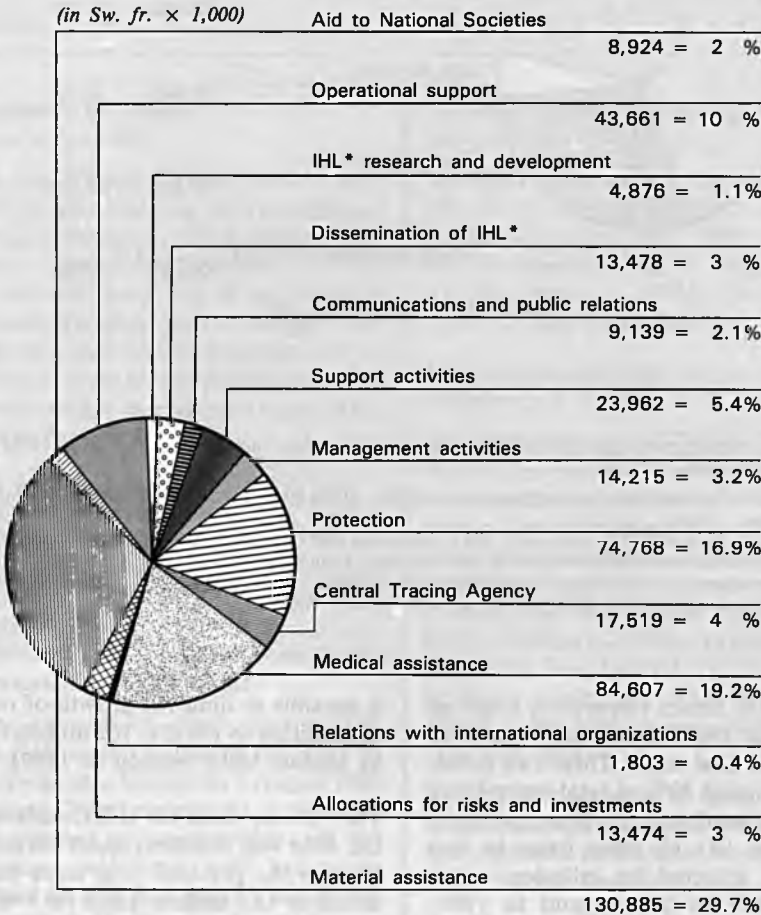
francs (276.5 million for activities carried out in 1990 plus the deficit of 12.7 million brought forward from 1989) was in fact almost counterbalanced by income totalling 285.9 million francs, including 3 million transferred from the headquarters' structure. Support from donors for ICRC field activities rose by 26.2 million francs

in 1990, i.e. by more than 10%.

Still, the ICRC's financial equilibrium remains at the mercy of sudden, drastic increases in expenditure for emergency operations and it is therefore as essential as ever to maintain sufficient reserves to meet such contingencies.

**EXPENDITURE ACCORDING TO TYPE OF ACTIVITY IN 1990**  
(Figure 2)

(in Sw. fr. × 1,000)



\* International humanitarian law

**Total: 441.3 million Sw. fr.**





**STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949  
AND TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS OF 8 JUNE 1977**

Situation as at 31 December 1990

COUNTRY	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I				PROTOCOL II			
	A, R, S <sup>1</sup>	Reservations/ Declarations	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>1</sup>	Reservations/ Declarations	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>1</sup>	Reservations/ Declarations	Date
Afghanistan . . . . .	R		26.09.56								
Albania . . . . .	R	X	27.05.57								
Algeria . . . . .	A		20.06.60		A <sup>2</sup>	X	16.08.89		A		16.08.89
Angola . . . . .	A	X	20.09.84		A	X	20.09.84				
Antigua and Barbuda . . . . .	S		06.10.86		A		06.10.86		A		06.10.86
Argentina . . . . .	R		18.09.56		A	X	26.11.86		A	X	26.11.86
Australia . . . . .	R		14.10.58	X				X			
Austria . . . . .	R		27.08.53	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	13.08.82	X	R	X	13.08.82
Bahamas . . . . .	S		11.07.75		A		10.04.80		A		10.04.80
Bahrain . . . . .	A		30.11.71		A		30.10.86		A		30.10.86
Bangladesh . . . . .	S		04.04.72		A		08.09.80		A		08.09.80
Barbados . . . . .	S		10.09.68		A		19.02.90		A		19.02.90
Belgium . . . . .	R		03.09.52	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	20.05.86	X	R		20.05.86
Belize . . . . .	A		29.06.84		A		29.06.84		A		29.06.84
Benin . . . . .	S		14.12.61		A		28.05.86		A		28.05.86
Bhutan . . . . .											
Bolivia . . . . .	R		10.12.76		A		08.12.83		A		08.12.83
Botswana . . . . .	A		29.03.68		A		23.05.79		A		23.05.79
Brazil . . . . .	R		29.06.57								
Brunei . . . . .											
Bulgaria . . . . .	R	X	22.07.54	X	R		26.09.89	X	R		26.09.89
Burkina Faso . . . . .	S		07.11.61	X	R		20.10.87	X	R		20.10.87
Burundi . . . . .	S		27.12.71								
Byelorussia (SSR) . . . . .	R	X	03.08.54	X	R <sup>2</sup>		23.10.89	X	R		23.10.89
Cambodia . . . . .	A		08.12.58								
Cameroon . . . . .	S		16.09.63		A		16.03.84		A		16.03.84
Canada . . . . .	R		14.05.65	X	R <sup>2</sup>		20.11.90	X	R		20.11.90

Cape Verde . . . . .	A		11.05.84							
Central African Republic . . .	S		01.08.66		A		17.07.84		A	17.07.84
Chad . . . . .	A		05.08.70							
Chile . . . . .	R		12.10.50	X				X		
China . . . . .	R	X	28.12.56		A	X	14.09.83		A	14.09.83
Colombia . . . . .	R		08.11.61							
Comoros . . . . .	A		21.11.85		A		21.11.85		A	21.11.85
Congo . . . . .	S		30.01.67		A		10.11.83		A	10.11.83
Costa Rica . . . . .	A		15.10.69		A		15.12.83		A	15.12.83
Côte d'Ivoire . . . . .	S		28.12.61	X	R		20.09.89	X	R	20.09.89
Cuba . . . . .	R		15.04.54		A		25.11.82			
Cyprus . . . . .	A		23.05.62	X	R		01.06.79			
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	R	X	19.12.50	X	R		14.02.90	X	R	14.02.90
Denmark . . . . .	R		27.06.51	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	17.06.82	X	R	17.06.82
Djibouti . . . . .	S		06.03.78 <sup>3</sup>							
Dominica . . . . .	S		28.09.81							
Dominican Republic . . . . .	A		22.01.58							
Ecuador . . . . .	R		11.08.54	X	R		10.04.79	X	R	10.04.79
Egypt . . . . .	R		10.11.52	X				X		
El Salvador . . . . .	R		17.06.53	X	R		23.11.78	X	R	23.11.78
Equatorial Guinea . . . . .	A		24.07.86		A		24.07.86		A	24.07.86
Ethiopia . . . . .	R		02.10.69							
Fiji . . . . .	S		09.08.71							
Finland . . . . .	R		22.02.55	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	07.08.80	X	R	07.08.80
France . . . . .	R		28.06.51						A	24.02.84
Gabon . . . . .	S		26.02.65		A		08.04.80		A	08.04.80
Gambia . . . . .	S		20.10.66		A		12.01.89		A	12.01.89
Germany (Fed. Rep.) . . . . .	A		03.09.54	X				X		
Ghana . . . . .	A		02.08.58	X	R		28.02.78	X	R	28.02.78
Greece . . . . .	R		05.06.56	X	R		31.03.89			
Grenada . . . . .	S		13.04.81							
Guatemala . . . . .	R		14.05.52	X	R		19.10.87	X	R	19.10.87

<sup>1</sup> A = accession; R = ratification; S = declaration of succession.

<sup>2</sup> States which made the declaration regarding preliminary acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, as provided for in Article 90 of Protocol I. Belgium's declaration of acceptance was made on 27.03.87.

<sup>3</sup> Djibouti's declaration of succession to the First Convention was dated 26.01.78 and not 06.03.78 as for the other three Conventions.

<sup>4</sup> On accession to Protocol II, France made a declaration concerning Protocol I.

**STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949  
AND TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS OF 8 JUNE 1977**

Situation as at 31 December 1990

COUNTRY	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I				PROTOCOL II			
	A, R, S <sup>1</sup>	Reservations/ Declarations	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>1</sup>	Reservations/ Declarations	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>1</sup>	Reservations/ Declarations	Date
Guinea . . . . .	A		11.07.84		A		11.07.84		A		11.07.84
Guinea-Bissau . . . . .	A	X	21.02.74		A		21.10.86		A		21.10.86
Guyana . . . . .	S		22.07.68		A		18.01.88		A		18.01.88
Haiti . . . . .	A		11.04.57								
Holy See . . . . .	R		22.02.51	X	R	X	21.11.85	X	R	X	21.11.85
Honduras . . . . .	A		31.12.65	X				X			
Hungary . . . . .	R	X	03.08.54	X	R		12.04.89	X	R		12.04.89
Iceland . . . . .	A		10.08.65	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	10.04.87	X	R		10.04.87
India . . . . .	R		09.11.50								
Indonesia . . . . .	A		30.09.58								
Iran . . . . .	R		20.02.57	X				X			
Iraq . . . . .	A		14.02.56								
Ireland . . . . .	R		27.09.62	X				X			
Israel . . . . .	R	X	06.07.51								
Italy . . . . .	R		17.12.51	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	27.02.86	X	R		27.02.86
Jamaica . . . . .	S		17.07.64		A		29.07.86		A		29.07.86
Japan . . . . .	A		21.04.53								
Jordan . . . . .	A		29.05.51	X	R		01.05.79	X	R		01.05.79
Kenya . . . . .	A		20.09.66								
Kiribati . . . . .	S		05.01.89								
Korea (Rep.) . . . . .	A	X	16.08.66 <sup>1</sup>	X	R	X	15.01.82	X	R		15.01.82
Korea (Dem. People's Rep.) . . . . .	A	X	27.08.57		A		09.03.88				
Kuwait . . . . .	A		02.09.67		A		17.01.85		A		17.01.85
Laos . . . . .	A		29.10.56	X	R		18.11.80	X	R		18.11.80
Lebanon . . . . .	R		10.04.51								

Lesotho . . . . .	S		20.05.68								
Liberia . . . . .	A		29.03.54		A		30.06.88	A		30.06.88	
Libya . . . . .	A		22.05.56		A		07.06.78	A		07.06.78	
Liechtenstein . . . . .	R		21.09.50	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	10.08.89	R	X	10.08.89	
Luxembourg . . . . .	R		01.07.53	X	R		29.08.89	X		29.08.89	
Madagascar . . . . .	S		13.07.63	X				X			
Malawi . . . . .	A		05.01.68								
Malaysia . . . . .	A		24.08.62								
Maldives . . . . .											
Mali . . . . .	A		24.05.65		A		08.02.89	A		08.02.89	
Malta . . . . .	S		22.08.68		A <sup>2</sup>	X	17.04.89	A	X	17.04.89	
Mauritania . . . . .	S		27.10.62		A		14.03.80	A		14.03.80	
Mauritius . . . . .	S		18.08.70		A		22.03.82	A		22.03.82	
Mexico . . . . .	R		29.10.52		A		10.03.83				
Monaco . . . . .	R		05.07.50								
Mongolia . . . . .	A		20.12.58	X				X			
Morocco . . . . .	A		26.07.56	X				X			
Mozambique . . . . .	A		14.03.83		A		14.03.83				
Myanmar (ex-Burma) . . . . .											
Namibia <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	A		18.10.83		A		18.10.83	A		18.10.83	
Nauru . . . . .											
Nepal . . . . .	A		07.02.64								
Netherlands . . . . .	R		03.08.54	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	26.06.87	X	R	26.06.87	
New Zealand . . . . .	R		02.05.59	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	08.02.88	X	R	08.02.88	
Nicaragua . . . . .	R		17.12.53	X				X			
Niger . . . . .	S		16.04.64	X	R		08.06.79	X	R	08.06.79	
Nigeria . . . . .	S		09.06.61		A		10.10.88	A		10.10.88	
Norway . . . . .	R		03.08.51	X	R <sup>2</sup>		14.12.81	X	R	14.12.81	
Oman . . . . .	A		31.01.74		A	X	29.03.84	A	X	29.03.84	
Pakistan . . . . .	R	X	12.06.51	X				X			
Panama . . . . .	A		10.02.56	X				X			
Papua New Guinea . . . . .	S		26.05.76								
Paraguay . . . . .	R		23.10.61		A		30.11.90	A		30.11.90	
Peru . . . . .	R		15.02.56	X	R		14.07.89	X	R	14.07.89	

<sup>1</sup> A = accession; R = ratification; S = declaration of succession.

<sup>2</sup> States which made the declaration regarding preliminary acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, as provided for in Article 90 of Protocol I.

<sup>3</sup> Entry into force on 23.09.66, Korea having invoked Arts. 62/61/141/157 (immediate effect).

<sup>4</sup> Instruments of accession deposited by the United Nations Council for Namibia

**STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949  
AND TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS OF 8 JUNE 1977**

Situation as at 31 December 1990

COUNTRY	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I				PROTOCOL II			
	A, R, S <sup>1</sup>	Reservations/ Declarations	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>1</sup>	Reservations/ Declarations	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>1</sup>	Reservations/ Declarations	Date
Philippines . . . . .	R		06.10.52 <sup>1</sup>	X					A		11.12.86
Poland . . . . .	R	X	26.11.54	X				X			
Portugal . . . . .	R	X	14.03.61	X				X			
Qatar . . . . .	A	X	15.10.75		A	X	05.04.88				
Romania . . . . .	R	X	01.06.54	X	R		21.06.90	X	R		21.06.90
Rwanda . . . . .	S		21.03.64		A		19.11.84		A		19.11.84
Saint Kitts and Nevis . .	S		14.02.86		A		14.02.86		A		14.02.86
Saint Lucia . . . . .	S		18.09.81		A		07.10.82		A		07.10.82
Saint Vincent & Grenadines .	A		01.04.81		A		08.04.83		A		08.04.83
Samoa . . . . .	S		23.08.84		A		23.08.84		A		23.08.84
San Marino . . . . .	A		29.08.53	X				X			
Sao Tome and Principe . . . .	A		21.05.76								
Saudi Arabia . . . . .	A		18.05.63		A	X	21.08.87				
Senegal . . . . .	S		23.04.63	X	R		07.05.85	X	R		07.05.85
Seychelles . . . . .	A		08.11.84		A		08.11.84		A		08.11.84
Sierra Leone . . . . .	S		31.05.65		A		21.10.86		A		21.10.86
Singapore . . . . .	A		27.04.73								
Solomon Is. . . . .	S		06.07.81		A		19.09.88		A		19.09.88
Somalia . . . . .	A		12.07.62								
South Africa . . . . .	A		31.03.52								
Spain . . . . .	R		04.08.52	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	21.04.89	X	R		21.04.89
Sri Lanka . . . . .	R		28.02.59 <sup>4</sup>								
Sudan . . . . .	A		23.09.57								
Suriname . . . . .	S	X	13.10.76		A		16.12.85		A		16.12.85
Swaziland . . . . .	A		28.06.73								

Sweden . . . . .	R		28.12.53	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	31.08.79	X	R		31.08.79
Switzerland . . . . .	R		31.03.50	X	R <sup>2</sup>	X	17.02.82	X	R		17.02.82
Syria . . . . .	R		02.11.53		A	X	14.11.83				
Tanzania . . . . .	S		12.12.62		A		15.02.83		A		15.02.83
Thailand . . . . .	A		29.12.54								
Togo . . . . .	S		06.01.62	X	R		21.06.84	X	R		21.06.84
Tonga . . . . .	S		13.04.78								
Trinidad & Tobago . . . . .	A		24.09.63 <sup>1</sup>								
Tunisia . . . . .	A		04.05.57	X	R		09.08.79	X	R		09.08.79
Turkey . . . . .	R		10.02.54								
Tuvalu . . . . .	S		19.02.81								
Uganda . . . . .	A		18.05.64								
Ukraine (SSR) . . . . .	R	X	03.08.54	X	R <sup>2</sup>		25.01.90	X	R		25.01.90
USSR . . . . .	R	X	10.05.54	X	R <sup>2</sup>		29.09.89	X	R		29.09.89
United Arab Emirates . . . . .	A		10.05.72		A	X	09.03.83		A	X	09.03.83
United Kingdom . . . . .	R		23.09.57	X				X			
United States . . . . .	R	X	02.08.55	X				X			
Uruguay . . . . .	R	X	05.03.69		A <sup>2</sup>		13.12.85		A		13.12.85
Vanuatu . . . . .	A		27.10.82		A		28.02.85		A		28.02.85
Venezuela . . . . .	R		13.02.56								
Viet Nam . . . . .	A	X	28.06.57	X	R		19.10.81				
Yemen (Rep.) . . . . .	A		16.07.70	X	R		17.04.90	X	R		17.04.90
Yugoslavia . . . . .	R	X	21.04.50	X	R	X	11.06.79	X	R		11.06.79
Zaire . . . . .	S		20.02.61		A		03.06.82				
Zambia . . . . .	A		19.10.66								
Zimbabwe . . . . .	A		07.03.83								

<sup>1</sup> A = accession; R = ratification; S = declaration of succession.

<sup>2</sup> States which made the declaration regarding preliminary acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, as provided for in Article 90 of Protocol I.

<sup>3</sup> With the exception of the First Convention, which the Philippines ratified on 07.03.51.

<sup>4</sup> With the exception of the Fourth Convention, to which Sri Lanka acceded on 23.02.59. (Sri Lanka signed only the First, Second and Third Conventions).

<sup>5</sup> Trinidad and Tobago's accession to the First Convention was on 17.05.63 and not on 24.09.63 as for the other three Conventions.







The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of disturbances and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.

CICR BIBLIOTHEQUE



30155





**ICRC**  
**PUBLICATIONS**

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS/GENEVA