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INTRODUCTION

The outbreaks of conflicts in Asia, the intensification of others in Africa, disturbances in Latin America, recurrent outbursts of violence in some countries of the Middle East: throughout 1979 these disaster-fraught situations created many difficult tasks for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), whose mission was often further complicated by obstacles stemming from incomprehension on the part of individuals and nations.

When carrying out its humanitarian duties, the ICRC does not always enjoy the facilities it is entitled to expect from the authorities. While it is true that ignorance of the principles underlying its mission is conducive at best to indifference and at worst to hostility, there can be no possible excuse for any misapprehension of the ICRC’s role as a neutral institution operating in time of war, civil war and domestic disturbances or tensions and endeavouring to relieve the suffering of the victims of such conflicts by affording them protection and assistance. This is not only the ICRC’s duty but also a right conferred upon it and solemnly recognized by almost all States in the world, i.e. those which are signatories to the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC is frequently the only organization given permission to cross frontiers in order to assist the wounded, both civilian and military, to comfort prisoners and detainees, and distribute food and medical supplies. While it is true that these activities are carried out with the consent of the authorities in the countries concerned, it is equally true that the ICRC cannot suffer any transgression of its principles. In the interests of the independence which it has guarded so jealously for more than a century on behalf of the victims, it is oblivious of all political considerations and recognizes no frontiers, be they geographical, racial, religious, social or political.

A lot, but not enough

Despite the difficulties it encountered the ICRC did a lot, but at the same time not enough, in 1979 to give balm to both physical and moral wounds, to feed the hungry, house the victims of disasters and bring cheer to separated families.

A lot, in so far as the assistance it provided in 45 countries amounted to 30,040 tons of relief worth 55 million Swiss francs, as against 17,400 tons worth 40 millions francs in 1978. A lot, too, because in order to tackle all the tasks arising from the extension of its activities, the ICRC’s staff at headquarters in Geneva and in the field increased from 390 in January to 562 in December, an increase of more than 44 per cent, not counting the very large number of medical and paramedical personnel made available by National Red Cross Societies, particularly in Thailand.
Not enough, however, in so far as the ICRC was not always able to extend the assistance and, above all, the protection it would have wished to those in need. In Rhodesia, for example, it was sometimes forbidden to intervene in specific regions and the gates of certain prisons remained closed to it. In 1979 visits to “political” detainees benefited some 7,100 prisoners—a respectable figure, but lower than that for the previous year (over 28,700). However, it should be noted that this activity is carried out on the fringe of international humanitarian law and that in 1979 the ICRC was obliged to concentrate most of its strength and financial resources on situations of armed conflict covered by the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Constraints, obstacles and difficulties were not able to prevent the ICRC from taking action in some fifty countries in 1979, through either its permanent delegations or itinerant missions by delegates. This Report outlines the work performed in the field and at headquarters, and the main features are summarized below.

Activities throughout the world

AFRICA

The intensification of armed conflicts in Africa led the ICRC to expand its activities, even though the scope of its action remained the same as in 1978. With regard to the Rhodesian conflict, work was undertaken in Rhodesia itself and in the “front line” countries (Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia), where tens of thousands of Rhodesian nationals had taken refuge after leaving their country because of events there. When the situation worsened at the beginning of the year, the ICRC launched a particularly vigorous appeal, denouncing the outrages committed by both sides, drawing attention to the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and the respect due to captured civilians and combatants and emphasizing how necessary it was for ICRC delegates to be able to perform their protection and assistance work unhindered. The material aid provided by the ICRC during the year amounted to 3,108 tons worth 2,783,869 Swiss francs. Medical relief totalled 230,456 Swiss francs. Medical teams carried out 24,000 consultations, 29,900 vaccinations and 771 surgical operations.

In Zambia, the ICRC focused its efforts on providing both medical and material assistance to refugees in ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People’s Union) camps. In Botswana, most of its work on behalf of refugees consisted in medical assistance to the Dukwe, Selebi Pikwe and Francistown camps. In Mozambique, medical assistance to ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) war amputees was continued and the state hospital structure was given material support to help it tackle the extra work generated by the Rhodesian conflict. In the three countries, the ICRC provided 1,132 tons of relief material worth 3,685,633 Swiss francs and medical assistance worth 518,462 Swiss francs.

In Angola, the ICRC gave its attention to the situation of displaced persons in the central and southern provinces where armed opposition movements were operating. Some emergency relief was distributed while a more extensive assistance programme was set on foot with the help of the Angolan Red Cross. The medical work of a team of specialists sent in August to the Bomba Alta centre for war amputees in the province of Huambo enabled some 30 persons to be fitted with a prosthesis by the end of the year. Medical supplies worth 278,300 Swiss francs were provided to the centre.

In South Africa, the ICRC continued its protective work on behalf of sentenced security prisoners and persons held in preventive detention under section 10 of the Internal Security Amendment Act. At the same time it continued its endeavours to obtain access to other categories of persons imprisoned for political or security reasons in South Africa and Namibia/South-West Africa by the South African authorities. However, no progress was achieved in this respect in 1979.

Substantial protective action was undertaken in connexion with the conflict between Uganda and Tanzania. In Uganda, ICRC delegates visited some 4,500 detainees in 18 detention centres between May and the end of December. Material assistance activities were also carried out on behalf of displaced persons in camps on the Tanzanian border and in various hospitals. In
addition, 52.5 tons of medicaments and medical supplies worth 1,429,000 Swiss francs were provided to hospitals and dispensaries. In Tanzania, 482 wounded Tanzanian combatants and 795 prisoners of war, including 741 Ugandans, were visited by ICRC delegates during two series of visits in June and August. Assistance work was also undertaken on behalf of displaced persons.

In Ethiopia, the ICRC continued to assist the victims of the armed conflicts in Eritrea and Ogaden by distributing medical and material relief in collaboration with the Ethiopian Red Cross and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. Assistance was also granted to the population of the Tigre and Gondar provinces. All in all, 1,366 tons of relief worth 2,143,000 Swiss francs were distributed. Furthermore, in accordance with the commitments it had made in 1978, the ICRC carried out a project for the establishment of a prosthesis and physiotherapy workshop for war invalids at the Debre Zeit centre near Addis Ababa. A team of five specialists was made available to the centre, a workshop for the manufacture of prosthetic equipment was set up and local personnel were trained. The ICRC’s financial involvement amounted to some 320,000 francs. In Somalia, despite its efforts throughout the year, the ICRC was unable to visit Ethiopian prisoners of war, except in one specific case. In Sudan, activities were pursued on behalf of the victims of the hostilities in Eritrea. In particular, medical assistance was provided to the Kassala hospital, where the ICRC took charge of medical activities in collaboration with the Swiss Red Cross and with the agreement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR), and to the Port Sudan rehabilitation centre for paraplegics, hemiplegics and war casualties.

In 1978 the ICRC had started to concern itself with the internal conflict in Chad, where two delegations were opened (at N’Djamena and Faya-Largeau). In 1979 protective action was continued in favour of prisoners in the hands of FROLINAT and those detained by the Chad authorities, and extended to prisoners taken following the fighting in the capital and various parts of the country. In the BET (Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti) provinces, delegates carried out some sixty visits to more than 1,200 prisoners of war. At N’Djamena, about 40 prisoners were seen during some ten visits to three places of detention. The ICRC also made arrangements for the release of civilians held in detention by the FAN (Northern Armed Forces) at Abeché and by the FROLINAT in the BET provinces. In all, some 2,150 persons benefited from these operations, 1,096 tons of various kinds of relief worth 1,465,500 Swiss francs being distributed; of the total, 399 tons, worth 734,500 francs, went to prisoners of war in the BET. In addition, 23 tons of medicaments worth about 785,000 francs were distributed, including 2.3 tons, worth 128,500 francs, to prisoners of war in the BET.

In Zaire the ICRC concentrated mainly on stepping up its protection activities. After visiting the places of detention in Shaba (almost 2,900 detainees were visited in 60 such places), efforts were made to extend such action to other provinces. By the end of the year the Zaire authorities had agreed in principle that the ICRC might visit all civil and military prisons and police stations. Only access to the places of detention run by the National Documentation Centre (security services) had not then been obtained.

Finally, the ICRC continued to follow developments in the Western Sahara conflict and to maintain contact with all the parties concerned with a view to discharging its treaty obligations towards the victims of the conflict, particularly prisoners of war. However, despite repeated approaches, progress was made only in Mauritania where a further visit was made in July to the Polisario Front prisoners held by the Mauritanian armed forces.

Latin America

In Latin America the ICRC was very active in connexion with the Nicaraguan conflict, mainly in Nicaragua but also in neighbouring countries (Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala) where Nicaraguan nationals had taken refuge.

In Nicaragua itself, traditional protective action was taken both during the fighting which preceded the change of régime and after the National Reconstruction Junta had taken over. During the transitional period, delegates went to the main prisons of Managua in order to ensure that the release of detainees imprisoned under
the previous régime was not accompanied by acts of violence. In collaboration with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, reception areas were organized in the main towns, for the benefit of members of the National Guard who had laid down their arms, for their families and other civilians. In short, 82 visits were made to 24 places where 748 persons were detained under the old régime, while 248 visits to 109 places of detention enabled some 6,400 detainees to be seen after the change of government. At the same time, a large-scale programme of assistance to the civilian population was launched. Road convoys were organized in collaboration with the National Society in order to transport foodstuffs and medicaments to the places affected by the fighting. Between January and May, 989 tons of various kinds of relief (including 600 tons of foodstuffs donated by the European Economic Community) worth 1,187,697 Swiss francs were distributed. Later, in order to cater for ever-increasing needs and because of the difficulties involved in supplying the city of Managua overland, the ICRC organized an airlift which, from 19 June to 16 August, conveyed 2,082 tons of relief on 114 flights. As safety improved, the airlift was replaced by road and sea convoys. All in all, over 7,400 tons of relief worth 7,500,000 Swiss francs reached Nicaragua during the emergency months of June, July and August. As to medical activities, over and above the distribution of medicaments and sundry supplies, the ICRC made arrangements to evacuate the wounded from the combat areas in collaboration with the Nicaraguan Red Cross and other assistance bodies. Medical assistance worth 884,728 Swiss francs was provided. The total value of donations of medical relief is estimated at over 1,030,000 francs.

The ICRC also followed developments in El Salvador and Bolivia, both of which countries were the scene of disturbances. The Bolivian Red Cross was granted financial assistance in the order of 66,000 Swiss francs for the purchase of medical supplies. A plan for increasing the operational capacity of the Salvadorean Red Cross was drawn up in collaboration with the League.

Protective action was continued in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and El Salvador on behalf of persons detained for security reasons. Furthermore, the ICRC obtained permission from the government at Montevideo to start protection activities in Uruguay in 1980. In Argentina, ICRC delegates carried out 38 visits to 25 places of detention where some 2,200 persons were being held. In Colombia, 45 visits to 26 places of detention enabled some 550 detainees to be seen. In El Salvador, following the change of régime in October, delegates visited almost all civilian and military places of detention and were given access to persons who were being held under interrogation, who were awaiting trial or who had been sentenced. Visits were also made to places of detention in Chile and Paraguay. In addition, the ICRC took action on behalf of persons declared missing in Argentina and Chile by submitting lists of names to the authorities for inquiry.

**ASIA**

In Asia, the year 1979 was characterized by a significant increase of ICRC involvement, because of two conflicts in particular: that between the People's Republic of China and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and that in Kampuchea.

ICRC delegates went to both China and Viet Nam, and visited prisoners of war in the hands of both parties. After the hostilities were over, five operations for the repatriation of Vietnamese and Chinese prisoners of war took place between 21 May and 21 June under the auspices of the National Society of each country and in the presence of ICRC delegates. Furthermore, displaced persons in the six Vietnamese provinces most seriously affected by the fighting received medical assistance from the ICRC (256,500 Swiss francs) as well as food aid from the EEC (approximately 6,925,000 Swiss francs) forwarded through the ICRC.

The conflict in Kampuchea led the ICRC to set on foot, together with UNICEF, a very extensive programme of material and medical assistance in both Kampuchea and Thailand, where tens of thousands of Kampucheans had sought refuge. The related activities, which started on 9 August with the despatch of an initial consignment of medicaments and medical supplies to Phnom Penh, were stepped up considerably from October onwards, on the basis of a joint programme.
submitted to the authorities of the People’s Republic of Kampuchea by the ICRC and UNICEF. By the end of December, 37,428 tons of relief (including 34,000 tons of foodstuffs) worth about 16 million dollars had been forwarded to Kampuchea. Most of the foodstuffs (some 30,000 tons) were made available by the World Food Programme (WFP). Of the 37,428 tons of relief, 36,290 tons were transported by aircraft and ships chartered exclusively under the joint programme. Transport of the remaining 1,138 tons was organized by the donors themselves. Medicaments and medical equipment worth 669,000 Swiss francs were forwarded to Kampuchea through ICRC channels.

In Thailand the ICRC and UNICEF together started in October, at the request of the authorities, to dispense food and medical assistance at the frontier; at the same time the ICRC co-ordinated medical work in the camps run by the HCR, in collaboration with voluntary agencies. By the end of December 20,070 tons of relief, including 19,500 tons of foodstuffs, had been forwarded to the frontier; of the total, 13,220 tons were provided by the WFP. It is estimated that some 350,000 persons benefited from this relief, the total value of which was 5,628,000 dollars. Medical work, which entailed a sizeable increase of both personnel and equipment, was carried out both in the camps and along the frontier. Two 1,000-bed hospitals were set up at Khao I Dang. Mobile teams were stationed along the frontier to pick up the sick and wounded and transfer them to hospital. This task would not have been possible without the massive support of the National Red Cross Societies and voluntary agencies which made medical and para-medical personnel available to the ICRC. Medical assistance in Thailand, including the frontier area, amounted to 5,552,000 Swiss francs at the end of the year, of which 3,269,000 francs corresponded to donations in kind from National Societies and other sources.

In another sphere, the plight of refugees and displaced persons in South-East Asia was a matter of deep concern to the ICRC, which proposed plans of action and offered its services to the international community in collaboration with the League and the HCR. Three appeals were launched, on 12 January, 15 June and 28 June. At the Geneva conference held on 20-21 July, the ICRC also announced that it was willing to help with registrations, the search for missing persons and the exchange of news, through its Central Tracing Agency (CTA). Furthermore, the ICRC and the League set up a “task force” of the International Red Cross for the purpose of harmonizing their respective activities in South-East Asia. In order to finance their joint programme, the two institutions launched an appeal for funds of the order of 22,751,500 Swiss francs, of which 1,475,500 francs were intended to cover the CTA’s technical and material support while the remainder was earmarked for the work of the National Societies concerned.

In 1979 the ICRC was also involved in a number of other activities in the Far East. In Viet Nam, arrangements were made to repatriate foreign residents with no diplomatic representatives in the country. In Malaysia and Indonesia, protection activities were continued and efforts made to extend them to further categories of “political detainees”. In the Philippines, the National Red Cross received support for its work on behalf of displaced persons on Mindanao. In East Timor, an emergency programme of food and medical assistance for some 60,000 displaced persons was undertaken in collaboration with the Indonesian Red Cross.

In the Indian sub-continent, the ICRC supported the assistance work being carried out by the Pakistan Red Crescent for some 3,000 Afghan refugees in the north of Pakistan. Technical assistance was also provided in connexion with the repatriation of Biharis from Bangladesh to Pakistan. Following the changes in Afghanistan, the ICRC offered its services four times to the authorities at Kabul.

MIDDLE EAST

The action taken by the ICRC in the Middle East was concerned mainly with the conflict between Israel and the Arab States and the internal conflict in Lebanon. In Israel and the occupied territories, visits were continued to detainees under interrogation and other categories of detainees (those who had been sentenced, those awaiting trial and persons in administrative detention). Delegates were given access to 1,176 detainees in the former category and some 3,100 in the other categories. The
assistance afforded to them and their families totalled 376,600 Swiss francs. The ICRC also organized the passage of students, pilgrims, people being reunited with their families and released detainees across the demarcation lines between the occupied territories and the neighbouring Arab countries. Activities were carried out pursuant to the Third Convention to mitigate the after-effects of the Israeli intervention in southern Lebanon in March 1978. Arrangements were made for the repatriation to Lebanon of 14 persons who had been captured by the Israeli armed forces and held in administrative custody. An Israeli prisoner of war held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) was visited. With the consent of both parties (the PFLP-GC and the Israeli authorities), arrangements were made for the simultaneous release of the Israeli soldier and 76 Arab civilian detainees under ICRC auspices.

Since the situation in Lebanon remained relatively calm in 1979, the ICRC was not called upon to take action on a large scale. A small amount of medical work was undertaken, mainly in connexion with the situation in the south, which had been the scene of several Israeli armed interventions as well as internal fighting between various parties. Medicaments and medical supplies worth 570,035 Swiss francs were forwarded to Lebanon in 1979. Material assistance, which consisted largely in the distribution of relief to communities and families particularly affected by the events, totalled 283 tons (including 205 tons of foodstuffs) worth 1,424,052 Swiss francs.

In Jordan, the ICRC received permission from the authorities to carry out two series of visits to places of detention, one in February and one in October.

In Iran, under the old régime, the ICRC intervened on behalf of political detainees or persons arrested under martial law. After the change which came about in February, it took action on behalf of persons arrested in connexion with the events.

In the Yemen Arab Republic, assistance activities were undertaken on behalf of some 45,000 displaced persons following disturbances in the vicinity of the frontier with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Headquarters activities

The activities carried out by the ICRC in the field would not be possible without a headquarters structure and services capable of planning, supporting and monitoring them. There are five departments at headquarters: Operations, Principles and Law, Central Tracing Agency, Personnel and Finance and Administration.

Essentially, the task of the Operations Department is to conduct the operations which the ICRC undertakes in the field pursuant to decisions of the Assembly and, more generally, of the Executive Board. The Department is divided into five geographical zones and also comprises the Relief Division, the Medical Division, the Detention Service and the Telecommunication Service. A further support service, which handles liaison with National Red Cross Societies and governments, was created in 1979.

The role of the Department of Principles and Law is to defend the cause of mankind on the juridical plane. To this end it gives constant attention to the development, reaffirmation and dissemination of international humanitarian law, adapted to constantly changing world conditions. It encourages States to become parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Protocols, participates in international meetings concerned with the development of international public law, particularly international humanitarian law, organizes regional seminars on dissemination and brings out publications for teachers, the armed forces, young people and the general public. It also maintains close contact with other International Red Cross bodies, the League and the National Societies, and assists in the dissemination of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross. It comprises three divisions: the National Societies and Principles Division, the Legal Division and the Documentation and Dissemination Division.

The Central Tracing Agency comprises various services which correspond to the geographical zones of the Operations Department: the Europe zone deals with the sequels of the First and Second World Wars, whereas the other four keep abreast of developments in close collaboration with delegates in the field. In 1979 the
number of cases handled by the CTA increased substantially. Almost 88,000 mail items were received or despatched as against 82,000 in 1978, i.e. an increase of 7.5 per cent. In addition, 125,000 names were registered and recorded on index cards (90,000 in 1978) and over 500,000 names of South-East Asian refugees were transmitted to the CTA for processing as and when inquiries were made. This increase of the workload led the CTA to adopt modern techniques such as data processing and microfilm.

In the field of information and public relations, the Press and Information Division not only pursued its regular activities in 1979 but also stepped up its work in the field, particularly in Kampuchea and Nicaragua. It also continued the information campaign launched in southern Africa at the end of 1978.

As in previous years, the delegate to international organizations followed the work of the United Nations General Assembly and made a number of contacts in New York in connexion with the joint ICRC/UNICEF operation in Kampuchea and Thailand.

The management of ICRC staff both at headquarters and in the field was the task of the Personnel Department, which was restructured in 1979 when two divisions were set up to deal, respectively, with recruitment and training and with personnel administration.

The ICRC’s work taken as a whole raises acute financial problems which have to be solved if that work is to continue. The Finance and Administration Department has the unenviable task of seeking the funds required to finance activities. The results achieved in this regard in 1979 were encouraging, if not entirely satisfactory. Not all governments and National Societies realize how much the ICRC needs regular contributions that are tailored to its activities throughout the world. In the connexion, it is worth mentioning that the Swiss Confederation again made the highest contribution to receipts, namely 14.5 million Swiss francs of a total of 30.4 million (excluding ad hoc financing of large-scale operations).

* * *

No record of humanitarian work, however comprehensive, can fully reflect reality. Words and figures will always be powerless to describe the suffering of a wounded man waiting for help, the dull eyes of a starving child, the tears of a mother weeping for her son—or a mother’s joy on learning that the loved ones she presumed dead are alive, thousands of miles away. The ICRC lives these moments every day of the year through its delegates and is thus spurred forward in its mission despite the disproportion which exists between the humanitarian tasks facing it and the meagre resources available for their performances.

The ICRC is aware that whatever touch of humanness it has been able to inject into the horrors of war is due to the support of the international community and the world of the Red Cross. In conveying its gratitude, it also expresses the hope that it will continue to enjoy the support that enables it to discharge its obligations towards the hundreds of thousands of victims of disasters that are of man’s making.
I. ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

AFRICA

ICRC activities in Africa increased in 1979 owing to the intensification of the armed conflicts which have been raging in that continent for several years, a trend which caused the ICRC to strengthen its field staff even though its area of intervention remained the same as in 1978. The conflicts in Rhodesia and Chad and the one between Uganda and Tanzania were the focal points of ICRC intervention although protective action was also taken in Zaire.

The ICRC kept delegates permanently in the following countries to deal with developments in the situation: Angola, Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Rhodesia, South Africa, Sudan, Zaire and Zambia. It also opened a delegation in Uganda and closed the one in Somalia. In addition, delegates carried out itinerant missions in Algeria, Congo, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia/South-West Africa, Somalia and Tanzania.

To cover its activities in Africa, the ICRC made a worldwide appeal on 31 May for more than 35 million Swiss francs for the period from 1 June to 31 December 1979. Like its two predecessors in 1978, this appeal was accompanied by overall situation reports giving an account of the programmes under way and the budgets established for continuing them. The attention of donors—governments and National Red Cross Societies—was also drawn to the ICRC's need of funds not specifically earmarked for given countries, to enable it to act swiftly in response to humanitarian emergencies and meet the requirements of victims.

Following this appeal, the ICRC had by 31 December 1979 received contributions totalling 25,554,644 Swiss francs (see Table VII, pages 94-95).

Southern Africa

ICRC activities in southern Africa centred largely around the Rhodesian conflict, although the ICRC also continued to concern itself with the situations in South Africa, Namibia/South-West Africa and Angola.

In May, Mr. Jacob Burckhardt, a member of the Committee, travelled to South Africa and Rhodesia. In South Africa he attended one of the meetings which the heads of southern African delegations regularly hold to survey ICRC activities and discuss problems encountered. In Rhodesia he had interviews with the authorities and visited one of the many "protected villages" receiving ICRC medical assistance, and Seke camp which the ICRC had fitted out in the outskirts of Salisbury to receive persons displaced from rural areas.

The Rhodesian conflict

The name Rhodesia is used in this Report for the sake of simplicity and clarity, the country having changed its name several times in keeping with political developments throughout the year.

Within the context of the conflict in Rhodesia, the ICRC was active in the protection and assistance fields and through the Central Tracing Agency (CTA: see page 65), not only in Rhodesia itself but also in Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia, in which there were many Rhodesian refugees.

Although the main events which marked the political development of the country and therefore of the conflict had no profound impact on ICRC action, they certainly led to frequent changes as regards the people with whom the ICRC had to deal.

ICRC appeal

The ICRC was keenly concerned about the worsening of the situation in the early months of 1979: guerrilla activity became increasingly widespread in urban as well as rural areas, and both repressive measures and expeditions into neighbouring countries were stepped up accordingly. Martial law was extended throughout almost the entire country except in a few corridors between Salisbury and the major towns. The chief victim of this mounting violence was the civilian population.

On 19 March, therefore, the ICRC decided to appeal to all parties to the conflict to remember the basic principles of international humanitarian law and their obligations towards both civilians and captured or wounded combatants.

On the one hand, the appeal denounced the general deterioration in the situation and the widespread intimidation of civilians, stressed the ICRC's concern about the failure to apply the basic principles of international humanitarian law and called for steps to remedy the situation; on the other, it dwelt on the need for the ICRC to be allowed to carry out its protection and assistance activities freely in accordance with the mandate assigned to it by the international community (the Rhodesian authorities having sometimes banned ICRC work in certain regions) and for its personnel to be respected. The appeal included specific requests addressed both to the
Salisbury authorities and to the two “Patriotic Front” liberation movements, namely, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People’s Union (ZAPU).

Besides the main parties concerned, i.e. the Salisbury Government, ZANU and ZAPU, the appeal was addressed to the “front line” countries (Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia), some of which declared their readiness to support ICRC efforts. The appeal was also sent to the United Nations Secretary-General who upheld it in a public statement, to the Chairman of the United Nations Security Council, to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and to the 145 States signatories to the Geneva Conventions, including Great Britain. It was also the subject of a press conference given in Geneva by the President of the ICRC on 20 March and was widely disseminated by the international media.

The appeal was subsequently handed to the participants at the 22nd Commonwealth Conference, held in Lusaka in August 1979, accompanied by a note to the effect that no specific results had so far been achieved.

Safety of delegates and respect for the red cross emblem

As a result of the worsening situation and the intensification of fighting, particularly guerrilla raids, the ICRC became extremely worried about the safety of delegates and respect for the red cross emblem, a problem raised, inter alia, in the appeal of 19 March. ICRC field activities had to be suspended on several occasions because security conditions were deemed inadequate. Travel outside the urban areas was completely interrupted during the electoral period in April.

The ICRC made several approaches to the authorities in Salisbury and the front line countries and to the Patriotic Front leaders with a view to making life safer for its delegates.

At the practical level, it sought to improve its aircraft marking system and it prepared for the liberation movements maps showing where its medical teams and delegates were operating in Rhodesia. Moreover, all the parties to the conflict were given notice of every ICRC flight.

The Zambian authorities accorded the ICRC the right to notify the Salisbury authorities orally as to where its delegates were heading on their humanitarian missions, and all ICRC clinics in the camps in Botswana were marked with the red cross emblem.

Lastly, and still in connexion with the problem of safety, the ICRC continued the information campaign it had launched in the countries of southern Africa during the second half of 1978 (see Annual Report 1978, p. 10 and, in this Report, the chapter on “Information and Public Relations”).

Activities in Rhodesia

Protection

PROTECTION OF DETAINERS. — In June and December of 1979, ICRC delegates, including a doctor, visited Wha Wha prison; in June they visited Chikurubi prison where the three detainees interviewed were subsequently released (see below). During their visits, the delegates had private interviews with 234 persons detained without trial under the Emergency Power Regulations, of whom 141 were subsequently released by the Muzorewa Government (138 from Wha Wha and 3 from Chikurubi). Reports on the visits were sent to the authorities.

In spite of repeated approaches to the successive competent authorities in Rhodesia, both by headquarters in Geneva and by the Salisbury delegation, the ICRC was unable to get permission to visit other places or extend its protection work to other categories of person arrested in connexion with the Rhodesian conflict (persons arrested under martial law, nationalist combatants captured during the fighting, persons serving prison sentences for security reasons, etc.).

One such step worthy of special mention was the meeting on 21 August between Mr. Frank Schmidt, the delegate-general for Africa, and Bishop Muzorewa, the Prime Minister in Salisbury to discuss a formal request for access to all persons detained in virtue of the hostilities.

Following the arrival of Lord Soames in Salisbury, the ICRC made contact with various British Government representatives; on 12 December, for instance, the President of the ICRC met the Ambassador of Britain’s Permanent Mission at Geneva and a verbal note was handed over summarizing the ICRC’s concern as regards protection.

On 27 December, the ICRC delegates at Salisbury took up the same problem with the British Governor who at all times maintained a position of reserve vis-à-vis the ICRC’s request to visit all those arrested in connexion with the Rhodesian conflict, contending that it was for the future Salisbury Government to take such a decision.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN POPULATION. — The ICRC’s chief intervention in this respect took the form of an appeal on 19 March urging the parties to the conflict to respect the basic principles of international humanitarian law (see above).

This problem was also raised regularly by the Salisbury delegation during its frequent meetings with the Rhodesian authorities. For instance, it gave them lists of villages that had been burned during military operations and drew their attention to specific instances of ill-treatment. The delegate-general for Africa also discussed the matter with Prime Minister Muzorewa, to whom he handed a copy of the appeal of 19 March.
**Material assistance**

**ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.** — The ICRC continued supplying material assistance to those displaced by the fighting in the provinces of Mashonaland, Manicaland, Matabeleland, the Midlands and Victoria and in Salisbury.

Relief was distributed to the rural population herded into "protected villages" by the Salisbury authorities or crowding into the main townships to flee the fighting. Distributions were made regularly or once only, depending on need and on the situation prevailing in each region. An average of 70,000 persons a month benefited from ICRC material assistance.

The civilian population in rural areas also received relief through missions which the ICRC supplied according to need.

Then again, the ICRC pursued its special programme of assistance to children by distributing milk and proteinized biscuits. Relief materials were also supplied, to a lesser extent, to the local Red Cross and various charity organizations.

With regard to townships, the ICRC, in collaboration with the local authorities, continued to build dry-brick shelters to house needy families at Seke, in the outskirts of Salisbury. By the end of the year, 452 families (i.e. roughly 2,260 persons) selected according to ICRC criteria were installed in the camp.

**ASSISTANCE TO DETAINNEES.** — In addition to its protection work, the ICRC brought material assistance to detainees by supplying them periodically with various relief materials (foodstuffs, recreational goods, educational matter, clothing and soap). Since the ICRC had no access to persons detained under martial law, it had aid delivered to them by priests.

The families of detainees were provided with free transport for visiting their relatives in captivity: 5,775 persons were thus able to pay visits to Wha Wha prison thanks to a bus service organized and financed by the ICRC.

In 1979, material assistance (excluding medical supplies) amounted to 3,108 tons (including 2,947 tons of foodstuffs, blankets, household equipment, clothing and soap) worth a total of 2,783,869 Swiss francs.

**Medical assistance**

As in 1978, the ICRC continued to play a major role in this field because the worsening of the general situation hit the local medical infrastructure hard, particularly in rural areas. The ICRC developed its medical assistance to the civilian population throughout the country insofar as security conditions permitted.

By the end of the year the ICRC was financially supporting 33 clinics (25 in 1978), most of them in the "protected villages". Medical teams visited the clinics to treat difficult cases, evacuate serious cases to hospital and deliver medicaments. They also visited mission hospitals to distribute medicaments and carry out surgical operations.

In addition, a nutrition specialist seconded from the League conducted a survey mission among the "protected villages" tended by the ICRC, travelling extensively in southern Manicaland, Victoria Province, Central Mashonaland and Matabeleland, etc., where the nutritional situation was particularly disturbing. Examinations of children between one and nine years revealed that 30 per cent were suffering from a shortage of energy elements. The nutritionist's conclusions and recommendations were transmitted to the authorities. For its own part, the ICRC stepped up its relief supplies to children suffering from malnutrition. A locally-recruited nurse followed up the survey and conducted a second.

Under the responsibility of a medical co-ordinator, the ICRC medical assistance in Rhodesia was dispensed by two teams each consisting of a medical delegate and two nurses, one of whom was engaged locally, and by about 15 medical assistance and 44 volunteers from the local Red Cross. The Red Cross Societies of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden helped in this work by making doctors and nurses available.

Altogether, the ICRC medical teams conducted 24,000 consultations, gave 29,900 vaccinations and performed 771 surgical operations in 1979. 230,456 Swiss francs-worth of medical supplies were distributed during the year.

**Central Tracing Agency**

The tracing office within the Salisbury delegation set about registering information on the detainees visited. It also enquired into the whereabouts of missing persons and passed on family news. Some 440 such enquiries were opened in 1979 and, by the end of the year, 261 of them had been completed, including 207 with positive results. In addition, seven repatriation operations took place under ICRC auspices between Rhodesia and the front line countries.

**ORGANIZATION.** — Throughout the year, the ICRC had in Rhodesia some 20 delegates, including medical personnel, plus 185 locally-recruited employees.

Besides its Salisbury delegation, the ICRC had regional offices at Bulawayo, Umtali, Gwelo and Fort Victoria, each managed by a delegate with the assistance of local employees.

The ICRC had the use of three aircraft to enable delegates to travel and relief to be transported: two Piper Cherokees and, from May onwards, an Islander aircraft of greater capacity.

**Activities in Zambia**

In Zambia, the ICRC concentrated on medical and material aid to refugees in the camps run by the ZAPU wing of the Patriotic Front. Apart from this regular assistance work, it intervened on behalf of those wounded at the camps following Rhodesian military raids.

**Material assistance**

Assistance activities were centred mainly on three camps: the "girls'" camp at Lusaka, the "boys'" camp of about
10,000 youths which was transferred from Lusaka to Solwezi in the north of the country, and Shilenda camp, formerly the Nampundwe camp, also at Solwezi, where the ICRC delegates had counted about 2,500 people. At the Solwezi “boys” camp, to which no other organization had been providing relief, the ICRC housed almost all the refugees in tents and organized daily deliveries of milk.

Relief was procured on the basis of ZAPU requests after the ICRC delegates had evaluated the needs. ZAPU was usually responsible for distribution, although delegates made frequent inspection calls at the camps.

Emergency relief was also supplied to the University Hospital at Lusaka and to Solwezi hospital which took in ZAPU refugees wounded in Rhodesian attacks, as well as to stricken camps. ZAPU also received bedding for the medical centres at which its sick and handicapped were gathered.

In 1979, 268 tons of relief (i.e. 1,325 tents, 48,620 blankets, 13 tons of clothing, 107 tons of foodstuffs consisting largely of powdered milk and babyfood, and 34 tons of soap) worth 1,335,737 Swiss francs was distributed in Zambia. To this must be added a further 70,303 francs-worth of building materials for improving the sanitation facilities in certain camps. The ICRC also gave the Zambian Red Cross 50,000 Swiss francs-worth of financial backing for the construction and fitting of warehouses. The European Economic Community (EEC) and the Finnish Red Cross gave donations to help the ICRC in its action.

In order to co-ordinate assistance to refugees, the ICRC delegates kept in touch with representatives of other organizations such as the World Lutheran Federation (which maintained a permanent presence at the “boys” camp where it set up a medical team), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the EEC, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and Caritas, etc.

**Medical assistance**

The ICRC’s role in this respect was to pursue the implementation of public health, first-aid and medicament-distribution projects and to continue studying a “prosthesis” project. These projects had been prepared in July 1978 by Dr. Rémi Russbach, the ICRC’s Chief Medical Officer (see Annual Report 1978, p. 14), in agreement with the President of ZAPU and the Zambian authorities.

As part of the public health project, the ICRC financed the construction of latrines and drilling operations to supply the “girls” camp with drinking water. The sanitary engineer made available by WHO, who had already been in Zambia in 1978, carried out another mission to the country for the ICRC to verify the application of the practical recommendations made during his previous visit and advise the refugees and ZAPU officials in matters of hygiene and public health.

The ICRC continued to organize and finance transport for refugees attending the first-aid courses organized by the Zambian Red Cross, provide them with meal allowances and make teaching material available to the National Society.

Lastly, the ICRC delivered 38,500 Swiss francs-worth of orthopaedic equipment as well as sundry bedding to the Prosthesis Centre at Lusaka University Hospital, where ZAPU amputees were treated.

After Rhodesian attacks on ZAPU camps, ICRC delegates took several emergency measures to deliver medicaments to Lusaka and Solwezi Hospitals and sometimes to help evacuate the wounded. This work was done in close collaboration with the competent authorities and the Zambian Red Cross.

In 1979, the ICRC distributed in Zambia medicaments and medical and paramedical equipment worth 192,095 Swiss francs, as well as supplying an ambulance to Meheba Camp for the evacuation of the Angolan refugees there.

**Central Tracing Agency**

The Tracing Office opened in the Lusaka delegation towards the end of 1978 to cover Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana and Malawi set itself to tracing persons missing or separated from their families, usually as a result of the Rhodesian conflict, to passing on family news, issuing travel documents and organizing repatriation to Rhodesia and other countries of the region.

The ICRC received over 279 applications for enquiries or repatriation since December 1978. Of the 118 cases closed by the end of 1979, 82 had been settled satisfactorily.

The ICRC strove to obtain from ZAPU permission to arrange for exchanges of messages between refugees in Zambia and their families left behind in Rhodesia. Late in December, ZAPU for the first time passed on a reply to a family message received from Rhodesia.

**Protection**

During their various contacts with the Zambian authorities, the ICRC delegates kept open a dialogue on the possibility of resuming protection work in Zambia (visits to persons arrested for illegal entry into the country and to those detained under article 31 of the Internal Security Act) but no progress had been made in this respect by the end of 1979.

**ORGANIZATION.** — In 1979, the regional delegation at Lusaka had a strength of seven delegates and 13 employees recruited locally.

**Activities in Botswana**

The ICRC’s activities in Botswana were largely connected with the problem of Rhodesian refugees there. Throughout the year the ICRC maintained a representative at the three camps of Francistown, Dukwe and Selebi Pikwe, which by the end of 1979 had a total population of about 20,000. As in 1978, the assistance given was primarily medical.
In order to carry out its activities, the ICRC kept in close touch with UNHCR, the World Lutheran Federation and WFP—organizations which were also supporting the Botswana Government’s efforts on behalf of the refugees—as well as with the Botswana authorities themselves.

Medical assistance

All three camps had a dispensary built by the Botswana Council for Refugees and were regularly visited once or twice a week by an ICRC medical team (one doctor and two nurses) whose job it was to organize the camp health service and treat difficult cases. Medical assistance being provided in the interval by nurses engaged locally by the ICRC (nine persons altogether). In view of the steady rise in the refugee population, emphasis was also placed on hygiene and the prevention of disease. To this end, the medical team trained in each camp a number of refugees (about 50 persons) in first aid and hygiene. During a further mission in April, incidentally, the WHO sanitary engineer (see also page 16) noted that progress had been made as regards sanitation at the Dukwe and Francistown camps; he also indicated what further measures should be taken, particularly as regards supplies of drinking water, and organized a number of courses for the refugees on the basic principles of hygiene and the use of disinfectants.

From the end of March to late December, Francistown Hospital to which refugees requiring in-patient treatment were brought was reinforced by a laboratory assistant provided by the ICRC. Moreover, like the hospital at Selebi Pikwe, it received frequent visits from the ICRC medical delegate.

The ICRC also took action following the appearance of several cases of malnutrition among children, particularly at Dukwe where vitamins were distributed to all youngsters. Towards the end of the year a nutrition specialist made available to the ICRC by the Swedish Red Cross carried out a survey in all three refugee camps and, after thoroughly examining all the children there, found that the situation had improved. Incidentally, the ICRC was not responsible for food aid to the refugees in Botswana.

Medicaments worth 159,282 Swiss francs were distributed among the refugee camps in 1979 and medical equipment donated by UNICEF was supplied to the two hospitals mentioned above.

Lastly, the National Societies of the Netherlands, Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany made medical personnel available to the ICRC.

Material assistance

Besides medical relief, the ICRC distributed tents, blankets, cloth, baby garments and second-hand clothing, etc. in the three Botswana refugee camps, as well as foodstuffs mainly in the form of powdered milk donated by the EEC. Aid was also given to the reception centre at Bobonang, one of the arrival points for refugees entering Botswana.

During 1979, the ICRC provided 14 tons of relief materials (including medical relief) worth 1,161,263 Swiss francs. Apart from the EEC and UNICEF, ICRC action was helped by gifts in kind from the Swedish Red Cross, the British High Commissioner, the Netherlands Embassy, the Finnish Refugee Council, the British Council of Churches, the British Government and various local donors.

Lastly, the ICRC gave financial support worth 30,000 Swiss francs to the Botswana Red Cross for the purchase of vehicles intended for its local branches at Francistown and Selebi Pikwe.

Central Tracing Agency

The CTA delegate based at Lusaka made frequent missions to Botswana, where the Agency’s office was permanently attended by a local employee. The office’s main activity was to register children aged under 16 years living at Dukwe camp. From the time this action started in November 1978 until the end of 1979, their number had risen to 4,038.

Several approaches were made to try to persuade ZAPU officials to authorize exchanges of family messages between refugee children and their families who had stayed behind in Rhodesia, but these efforts were in vain.

Lastly, the ICRC delegates lent a hand whenever people were transferred between Rhodesia and Zambia.

Protection

The ICRC continued its protection efforts on behalf of aliens without diplomatic protection being detained in prisons or at police stations. Visits were made to ten places of detention at Gaborone, Lobatse, Francistown, Selebi Pikwe, Kasane, Maun and Ghanzi. The ICRC regularly requested lists of such detainees and received the first one in December.

ORGANIZATION. — The ICRC kept two offices in Botswana, one at Gaborone and the other at Francistown, and had on average about half-a-dozen delegates there.

Activities in Mozambique

In Mozambique, the ICRC was mainly concerned with the fate of victims of the Rhodesian conflict: Rhodesian refugees under ZANU control, wounded ZANU combatants and persons displaced by the fighting. It also granted material support for the Mozambique Government’s hospitals to help cope with their increasing tasks arising out of the fighting in the neighbouring country.

To do its job properly, the ICRC maintained close contacts with the Mozambique authorities, particularly the Ministry of Health and the official body responsible for refugees, known as the “Núcleo de apoio aos refugiados e movimentos de libertação” (NARML), as well as with the Patriotic Front (ZANU) and UNHCR which were partly responsible for the distribution of relief.
Mission by the Director of the Operations Department

At the end of February, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of the Operations Department, accompanied by Mr. Michel Veuthey, the delegate to international organizations, carried out a mission to Mozambique to plan and control ICRC action there.

Among other leading figures, Mr. Hocké and Mr. Veuthey met Dr. Helder Martins, the Minister of Health, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Veira, Director of the Central Bank of Mozambique and Mr. Robert Mugabe, the President of ZANU.

This mission made it possible, inter alia, to develop contacts with ZANU and specify the scope of ICRC intervention. The Director of Operations confirmed that the ICRC was prepared to consider, in collaboration with ZANU, a programme of emergency medical aid to civilians and military personnel and another to provide supplementary food aid to the refugees in Mozambique, especially for women and children. Assistance for displaced persons in certain ZANU-controlled areas of Rhodesia was also envisaged, provided that ICRC delegates could assess requirements and control distribution.

An agreement setting out the terms of ICRC-ZANU co-operation was signed at the end of February. It provided for ICRC intervention in four fields:

— continued medical assistance to ZANU war amputees;
— the supply of medicaments according to ZANU requirements;
— assistance in training by making available typewriters and sewing machines to foster the social reintegration of war amputees;
— the granting of material aid for refugees.

For its part, ZANU was required to supply precise information so that these projects could be more thoroughly prepared and implemented, to permit visits locally and provide accurate reports on how the relief was being utilized.

As will emerge later, by the end of 1979 the ICRC had started or was continuing to provide aid in the first three fields; its material assistance to refugees and displaced persons was still confined to a few refugee camps in Mozambique and could not be extended to the ZANU-controlled areas of Rhodesia because ZANU had not submitted any projects to the ICRC.

Medical assistance

The medical action initiated in April 1978 on behalf of ZANU war amputees continued throughout the year. The ICRC not only contributed financially to the treatment and fitting of such persons but also sent prostheses and physiotherapeutic equipment from Geneva. In addition, it provided the Centre housing the amputees with sundry relief including foodstuffs and bedding.

The ICRC also worked out a project for restoring the buildings of the ZANU Invalid Centre at Machava. The work had hardly started when it had to be abandoned because the Mozambique Government decided to transfer all the patients in the Centre to the refugee camp at Merotte in Nampula Province.

The ICRC then paid three visits to Merotte, delivering medical kits, 145 mattresses, 3 tents, 20 sewing machines and typewriters to the NARML for use in the camp. ZANU amputees were examined by an ICRC medical delegate who made proposals to the authorities concerned for improving health conditions within the camp.

By the end of 1979, some fifty ZANU war amputees had been fitted since the ICRC began its action in 1978.

Two projects were carried out for supplying medicaments and medical equipment: one involved a gift of 12 emergency medical kits to government hospitals at Tete, Chimoio, Chokwe, Beira, Maputo and Gaza, and the other a donation of 30 basic medical kits to ZANU combatants.

The Mozambique Government also received two ambulances and medicaments to combat a cholera epidemic which broke out in February 1979, while ZANU received a gift of 600 first aid kits from the Finnish Red Cross, as well as two vehicles.

In 1979, the ICRC supplied medicaments and medical equipment worth 167,085 Swiss francs.

Material assistance

As mentioned earlier, the beneficiaries of ICRC medical assistance occasionally received non-medical relief, too. In addition, 500 tons of rice and 100 tons of powdered milk from the EEC together with used clothing donated by the Swedish Red Cross and footwear given by the National Red Cross Society of Finland, were distributed among refugees and displaced persons.

Altogether, ICRC assistance, including purchases and donations, amounted to roughly 650 tons of relief (medicaments, foodstuffs, clothing, tents, mattresses, vehicles and sundry mechanical equipment) worth a total of 1,188,633 Swiss francs.

Protection

The ICRC continued to refer to ZANU cases of mostly Rhodesian civilians who had been reported missing and were presumed to be in ZANU hands, in order to establish whether they had been captured and, if so, to visit them. Although no replies were received, ZANU did release during the year a few persons on whose behalf the ICRC had interceded.

The ICRC also played a neutral intermediary role between Mozambique and Rhodesia by intervening, at the request of the Rhodesian Government, which wished to return to Mozambique a Bulgarian engineer who had been working there and had been arrested in September by Rhodesian security forces during a military operation against ZANU. With Mozambique’s agreement, the Bulgarian was transferred from Rhodesia to Mozambique via South Africa on 21 September under the auspices of the ICRC.

At its own request, ZANU was handed a memorandum on the application of international humanitarian law in the
Rhodesian conflict, during the mission by the Director of ICRC Operations.

**ORGANIZATION.** — From the end of May onwards, the regional delegate responsible for Mozambique and Angola was seconded by a new delegate based permanently at Maputo.

**Angola**

In 1979, ICRC activities in Angola related both to the Namibian conflict on the Angolan border between the South African armed forces and combatants of the South-West African People’s Organization (SWAPO) and to the aftermath of the 1975-1976 conflict in Angola, where armed opposition movements were still active, especially in the centre and south of the country.

**Protection**

**SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONERS DETAINED BY SWAPO.** — The ICRC continued its visits to the South African prisoner of war detained by SWAPO in Angola since February 1978 (see Annual Report 1978, page 16). Although two visits were made, the ICRC delegate was unable to conduct private interviews or inspect the place of detention. The prisoner was given sundry relief during these visits.

The ICRC also intervened on behalf of a South African civilian captured by SWAPO in November 1978 but could not get permission to visit him during his detention. After his release in late August 1979, however, the prisoner was handed over to the ICRC and repatriated to South Africa via Zambia. The delegate responsible for Angola and the delegations at Pretoria and Lusaka all lent a hand in this operation.

**ANGOLAN NATIONALS DETAINED IN NAMIBIA/SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.** — As the result of a navigational error, an Angolan aircraft made a forced landing in Namibia/South-West Africa on 15 July 1979 and the pilot and his four passengers were detained.

Having no diplomatic relations with South Africa, the Angolan Government asked the ICRC to negotiate the repatriation of the passengers and the aircraft. The Government in Pretoria responded favourably but pointed out that a South African aircraft had been in Angolan hands since April 1979. The ICRC declared its willingness, in view of the humanitarian aspects involved, to see to the repatriation of the persons in question; as to the exchange of aircraft, it offered to act as an intermediary between the Governments. The delegate responsible for Angola and the regional delegate based at Pretoria made several approaches before the repatriation operation was effected on 16 December. The four Angolan passengers were repatriated under ICRC auspices. At the same time, a pilot and a mechanic from South Africa went to Angola to check the state of the South African aircraft and fly it home. The aircraft were exchanged and the Angolan pilot repatriated on 22 December in the presence of Angolan and South African government representatives.

**Assistance to displaced persons**

The tense domestic situation in the centre and south of the country where armed opposition movements were operating led to major displacements of population. In response to a formal request for aid made in April by the Angolan Government, the ICRC dispatched early in June a relief specialist and a nutrition expert made available by the Swedish Red Cross to Huambo and Benguela Provinces to determine more accurately the nature and magnitude of the local needs. An identical mission was made at the end of September in the province of Bié after the Angolan authorities had indicated severe shortages there.

During their missions, the ICRC delegates found that the conflict raging in those provinces was creating major food, medical and clothing shortages, that the situation was particularly grave in Bié Province and that the Angolan Government had neither the staff nor the material facilities needed to deal with the problem on its own, thus justifying ICRC intervention.

As a first step, the ICRC made a limited emergency distribution of some 40 tons of foodstuffs donated by the Swedish Red Cross; the beneficiaries were displaced persons who had recently arrived in the provinces visited and not yet found a livelihood, and the poorer members of the local population, particularly orphans. Distributions were effected in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary of State for Social Affairs and the Angolan Red Cross.

Before engaging in broader assistance work, the ICRC approached the Angolan authorities at the end of August with a view to solving the important questions of safety and of freedom of travel and action in the regions affected, previous missions having encountered difficulties in this respect. The leaders of UNITA, the main opposition movement, were approached at the same time.

At the beginning of November, the ICRC submitted to the Angolan Red Cross—its partner in this action—a draft agreement on relief action for displaced persons. This draft, which was also transmitted to the Angolan authorities for information, set out the terms of ICRC intervention and was approved by the Angolan Red Cross. A technical operations plan was to be drawn up later.

By the end of 1979, 61 tons of foodstuffs donated by the Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies to a value of 88,178 Swiss francs had been forwarded to Angola, the transport costs (amounting to 212,859 Swiss francs) being borne by the ICRC.

**Medical assistance**

As tentatively planned in 1978 during the mission by the ICRC’s Chief Medical Officer (see Annual Report 1978, page 16), the ICRC set about initiating, with the approval of the
Angolan authorities, medical assistance action for war amputees in Huambo Province. A physiotherapist was sent out early in January to assess the situation of war amputees in Angola and make an appraisal of the treatment facilities available locally, for the ICRC wanted all the human and material resources it could get locally for producing and maintaining prostheses. The Angolan authorities for their part undertook to place at the ICRC's disposal a building, the Bomba Alta Centre at Huambo.

As a result of this mission, an agreement was signed between the ICRC and the Angolan Red Cross and came into force early in August 1979 for an initial period of two years. The ICRC undertook to send out a team of prosthesis and physiotherapy technicians, supply both the orthopaedic equipment needed for starting the action and the plant required for producing that equipment locally and, lastly, to train supervisory staff. For its part the Angolan Red Cross undertook to facilitate the ICRC's task.

The ICRC team was on the spot by 2 August: it consisted of five persons (three physiotherapists and two prosthetists) but was later augmented by two more. The action got under way with a consignment of goods including various tools, vehicles, medicaments and food. A second consignment was sent in mid-October to increase the working capacity of the orthopaedic centre at Bomba Alta. Altogether, these two consignments were worth 278,300 Swiss francs.

Some 30 people had been fitted with prostheses by the end of the year.

South Africa and Namibia/South-West Africa

Protection

The ICRC continued its protection work on behalf of security prisoners sentenced in South Africa and persons detained under section 10 of the Internal Security Amendment Act, the two categories to whom it had access in South Africa. At the same time it took further steps to gain access to other
categories of political and security detainees imprisoned in South Africa or Namibia/South-West Africa by the South African authorities. For instance, this question was raised by Mr. Alexandre Hay, the President of ICRC, during an interview he had on 8 March with Mr. R.F. Botha, the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was passing through Switzerland. The ICRC regional delegate based in Pretoria also made three visits to Namibia/South-West Africa to meet local authorities, including the General Administrator of the territory. Unfortunately, none of these approaches bore any fruit in 1979.

**PERSONS IMPRISONED BECAUSE OF THE INTERNAL SITUATION.** — The South African authorities authorized only one series of visits by the ICRC to persons imprisoned because of the internal situation. These visits took place in August, when four ICRC delegates—including the delegate-general for Africa and a medical delegate—travelled to six detention centres holding 488 sentenced security prisoners. At the time of the visit there was nobody detained under section 10 of the Internal Security Amendment Act.

**ANGOLAN NATIONALS DETAINED IN NAMIBIA/SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.** — The ICRC delegate at Pretoria visited five Angolan nationals temporarily detained in Namibia/South-West Africa after their aircraft had made a forced landing there. He was instrumental in having them repatriated (see page 19).

**Assistance**

The ICRC developed a programme of assistance for detainees, their families and former detainees. Prisoners were also brought relief following the August visit.

With regard to the families of detainees and to former detainees, which had been approved in principle by the Minister of Justice, contact was established with the South African Council of Churches (SACC)—another organization active in this field—with a view to co-ordinating the actions of both institutions. The ICRC agreed to bear the transport costs of the second annual family visit to the detainees, the first one being financed by the SACC. The ICRC also supplied food aid to the poorer families and former detainees. This assistance effort involved a financial commitment of 13,100 Swiss francs.

**Other activities**

In liaison with the ICRC delegation at Nairobi and the South African Red Cross, the delegation at Pretoria collaborated in the repatriation of South African and Namibian nationals from Kenya.

The delegate based at Pretoria also took part in the Seminar on the Dissemination of Knowledge of International Humanitarian Law, organized by the South African Red Cross late in October (see page 72).

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**East Africa**

**Conflict between Uganda and Tanzania**

In October 1978 the ICRC had offered its services to both the Governments of Tanzania and Uganda when Ugandan troops had occupied the Kagera region in the extreme north of Tanzania during the initial stages of the conflict between the two countries. In response to a request by the Tanzanian Red Cross, the ICRC had started in November to assist displaced persons in the region. It had not been asked to intervene in Uganda at that stage, but there was an agreement that the Ugandan Red Cross would call for assistance if the need arose.

Following a flare-up of the hostilities early in 1979, the ICRC again offered its services to both parties to the conflict on 27 January. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania acknowledged receipt of the offer on 31 January, stating that the ICRC would be called in if the need were felt.

The fighting continued until the end of the first half of 1979—the troops of the Ugandan National Liberation Front having joined forces with the Tanzanian troops in the second half of March—and resulted in the fall of Kampala and Arua, in April and June respectively.

In view of the violence of the combats, the President of the ICRC sent a message to the Prime Minister of Tanzania on 5 April at the request of the President of the Ugandan Red Cross and national religious authorities, drawing attention to the obligations to be fulfilled under the Geneva Conventions, to which Tanzania became a party on 12 December 1962, and also requesting the Tanzanian authorities to spare civilian installations (hospitals, dispensaries, schools, churches, etc.) in the combat areas. In addition, the ICRC decided to send a delegation to Uganda: it comprised a head of delegation, an administrator and a Central Tracing Agency delegate and it arrived at Kampala on 4 May.

**Uganda**

Early in February the Ugandan Red Cross transmitted to the ICRC a request for medical assistance to the displaced population in the southern part of the country together with permission from the Ugandan Ministry of Health to visit the camps where the victims were living.

The regional delegate for East Africa based at Nairobi therefore went to Uganda, accompanied by a medical delegate, from 24 February to 8 March in order to seek permission to visit Tanzanian prisoners of war as well as to assess the needs of the displaced persons. As a result of this mission, the ICRC decided to carry out a relief operation in the Ibuga camp, which was among those visited and housed mainly Tanzanian civilians. On the other hand, the question of visits to Tanzanian prisoners of war could not be discussed with the competent authorities.
Protection

When the Lule Government came into power, the head of the Kampala delegation broached the subject of protection with the authorities and obtained permission to visit the members of the previous regime who were held in detention.

Visits to detainees started at Luzira prison on 25 May and continued throughout the year, the Binaisa Government having renewed the authorizations delivered by its predecessor. Delegates concentrated their efforts on the Kampala and Jinja prisons, which housed most of the detainees. However, visits were also carried out to provincial prisons, in particular Tororo (in the east of the country), where Ugandan refugees from the Kakamega camp in Kenya, which had been evacuated early in July under an agreement concluded between the Ugandan and Kenyan Governments, were being held temporarily.

Between May and December 1979 some 4,500 detainees in 18 detention centres were visited by the delegates in accordance with the conditions laid down by the ICRC. A list was also compiled of detainees in all the Kampala prisons.

Material assistance

In order to cater for the emergency requirements of the civilian population fleeing north and west from the capital of medicaments and relief material to proceed smoothly.

In order to cater for the emergency requirements of the civilian population fleeing north and west from the capital, the ICRC distributed foodstuffs to almost 5,000 displaced persons in camps near the Tanzanian frontier. Relief material was also delivered to various hospitals.

However, the ICRC did not wish to become involved in long-term assistance work once the emergency was over and it had explained its position to the Ugandan authorities and Red Cross in May. The League decided to support the National Society and it was agreed to share the work as follows: the ICRC would continue its protection and emergency medical assistance work, while the League would help the Ugandan Red Cross with its relief programme. Agreement was also reached between the League and the ICRC as to the ways and means in which the National Society would be helped to resume and expand its activities.

Apart from a little relief work limited to the purchase of clothing and blankets, ICRC direct assistance was focused largely on forwarding essential equipment and goods (beds, mattresses, blankets, soap, etc.) to hospitals and dispensaries, as part of the League-ICRC joint effort with the active participation of the National Red Cross. The ICRC provided the logistical support (vehicles) which enabled the distribution of medicaments and relief material to proceed smoothly.

The ICRC also supplied some relief material to prisons in order to improve living conditions for the detainees.

Material assistance provided by the ICRC in 1979 amounted to 78 tons of relief supplies worth 363,000 Swiss francs.

Medical assistance

Following the intensification of the fighting during the second quarter of the year, visits to the principal medical centres and dispensaries both at Kampala and in the surrounding areas had revealed a general need for medicaments of all kinds. The ICRC therefore decided to carry out an emergency medical assistance operation in collaboration with the National Society. In the first half of May an initial consignment of medicaments was forwarded to Kampala and distributions were started in the southern and north-eastern parts of the country with the help of Ugandan Red Cross volunteers. Later on, medical assistance was stepped up and extended to all regions where medical requirements had been seen to be urgent. Because of logistic difficulties (shortage of vehicles and interruption of communications), the ICRC purchased two trucks and four Land Rovers in order to carry out its distributions.

At the end of July the ICRC had approached the Ugandan Red Cross and the League on the subject of handing over responsibility for medical assistance, as had been done for relief work. Both the Ugandan Government and the National Society indicated their willingness to take charge of the distribution of medicaments and medical supplies, and the ICRC started to phase out its activities in October. However, it continued to help in organizing distributions by providing logistic support until the end of the year, in view of the scant means of transport at the Government's disposal.

Between May and December, ICRC delegates visited a number of medical centres (hospitals, dispensaries), where they distributed 52.5 tons of medicaments and medical supplies worth about 1,429,000 Swiss francs.

Central Tracing Agency

The Central Tracing Agency started its work at the beginning of May in difficult conditions. Until September, when a tracing office was opened at the delegation, steps were taken to set up a card-index filing system, register detainees, pass messages between them and their families and conduct a number of family enquiries. In view of the results obtained, it was decided in the second half of October to step up these activities, particularly the tracing of missing persons and the exchange of family messages.

ORGANIZATION. — On 1 August the Kampala delegation comprised six persons. Taking into account the workload, the ICRC decided to keep the entire team on the spot, and it was augmented by one person at the end of the year. In addition, the Ugandan Red Cross made available 20 volunteers and field officers whose assistance was invaluable.

Tanzania

Protection

Following the Tanzanian Government's reply to the offer of service made on 27 January by the ICRC (see page 21), the delegate responsible for Tanzania in Geneva and the delegate-
general for Africa visited Dar-es-Salaam, in February and March respectively, to seek permission to visit Ugandan prisoners of war in Tanzanian hands. As the delegate-general was not able to meet the competent authorities, he transmitted to the Prime Minister a note enumerating Tanzania’s obligations as a party to the Geneva Conventions and reiterating that the ICRC hoped to be allowed to visit the prisoners of war as soon as possible.

On 2 April the First Secretary of the Defence Ministry informed the ICRC delegate at Dar-es-Salaam that the Tanzanian Government considered it premature to discuss questions relating to protection. A letter sent on the same day from the Prime Minister’s office in reply to the delegate-general’s note confirmed that statement.

On 5 April the President of the ICRC sent a message to the Prime Minister of Tanzania, drawing attention to that State’s treaty obligations and expressing the ICRC’s surprise at the arguments presented to it.

As a result of further representations by a member of the Committee, Mr. Victor Umbricht, at Dar-es-Salaam in May, the ICRC was given permission to visit the prisoners of war in Tanzanian hands. On 22 May the regional delegate for East Africa went to Dar-es-Salaam and, on 29 May, formal permission to start the visits was received from the Minister of Defence.

From 2 to 20 June the regional delegate for East Africa, accompanied from 8 June onwards by a medical delegate, carried out the first series of visits, which were made in accordance with the conditions laid down by the ICRC, including private talks and the distribution of sundry relief. The National Society and Prison Administration facilitated these visits.

In the second fortnight of August another series of visits was made, again in accordance with normal ICRC criteria. In addition to 15 Ugandan children, and 482 wounded Tanzanian combatants, 795 prisoners of war were visited, including 741 Ugandans, 52 Libyans, one Pakistani and one national of the Seychelles.

**Assistance to displaced persons**

The assistance activities initiated by the ICRC in November 1978 on behalf of 15,000 displaced persons in the Kagera region (see page 21) lasted until March, because some of the relief material was held up in the capital.

The relief delegate from the regional delegation for East Africa supervised the distributions in collaboration with the National Society. This was to have been the last of the ICRC’s assistance activities in Tanzania. In the first week of August however, at the request of the Secretary-General of the Tanzanian Red Cross and following a visit by ICRC delegates to the Umbwayo camp for displaced persons, a mission was sent to the camps in the Kagera area in order to assess the requirements of the displaced persons there. The mission was led by the medical delegate who had taken part in the second series of visits to prisoners of war.

On the basis of the information collected, the ICRC decided to launch a final assistance effort worth 115,500 Swiss francs, thus bringing the total amount of assistance to displaced persons in Tanzania to 347,000 Swiss francs for 1979. The relief material was provided by the ICRC, the Swedish Red Cross and the Swiss Government.

**Assistance to South African refugees**

Relief worth 7,840 Swiss francs was distributed to South African refugees through the Tanzanian Red Cross.

**Central Tracing Agency**

The activities of the Central Tracing Agency consisted mainly in registering prisoners and exchanging messages with their families.

**Ethiopia**

In 1979 the ICRC continued to assist the victims of the armed conflicts in Eritrea and Ogaden. At the same time, it made further representations to the Ethiopian authorities, through the head of delegation at Addis Ababa, seeking permission to perform protection work, extend its assistance activities to Ethiopian territory as a whole and open a CTA tracing office. At the beginning of April, it addressed a memorandum to Lieutenant-Colonel Demissié, member of the Central Committee for Social Affairs of the Provisional Administrative Military Council (DERG), describing the ICRC’s role and general scope of action, outlining its past activities in Ethiopia and indicating the action it now wished to be allowed to take. No reply had been received by the end of the year and very little progress made with regard to ICRC activities which continued to be confined, in Eritrea and Ogaden, essentially to assistance.

The uneasy situation in the provinces of Tigre and Gondar led the ICRC to extend its aid to the populations of these areas as well.

**Ogaden**

**Protection**

As in 1978, the ICRC repeatedly approached the authorities during the year with a view to obtaining access to the combatants of the adverse party captured by the Ethiopian armed forces. Eventually, on the occasion of a survey mission in October to the province of Harrarghe with the Secretary-General of the Ethiopian Red Cross, the head of the ICRC delegation at Addis Ababa was able to visit, on 25 and 26 October, the 17 Somali prisoners of war interned in a military camp at Harrar who had previously been seen on 6 March 1978. The ICRC delegate was able to talk privately with them and give them capture cards.
After this visit, which was the subject of a report sent by the ICRC to the detaining Power and to the prisoners’ own government, sundry relief material was forwarded to the prisoners through the Ethiopian Red Cross.

**Material assistance**

In 1979 the ICRC continued to assist displaced persons in the three provinces of Harrarghe, Bale and Sidamo, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Red Cross and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC).

Following two survey missions, to the provinces of Sidamo (15-17 February) and Bale and Harrarghe (October), the ICRC decided to continue its relief work in the region.

**Medical assistance**

In order to cater for the medical requirements of displaced persons in the provinces of Bale and Sidamo, two mobile medical teams went there in July.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Health provided the personnel for these teams, whereas the medicaments, vehicles and operational costs were financed jointly by the Ethiopian Red Cross and the ICRC.

**Eritrea**

The continuation of hostilities in Eritrea during 1979, and in particular the Ethiopian army’s winter offensive, resulted in further displacements of population.

The ICRC repeated its representations to the Ethiopian authorities to be allowed to perform its traditional work on behalf of all the victims of the Eritrean conflict, wherever they might be. On the Ethiopian side, it continued to provide assistance to displaced persons in the regions of Asmara and Mekele, but it was not able to gain access to the other side of the front from Addis Ababa.

**Assistance**

In order to identify the needs of the civilian population in the war-stricken areas under Ethiopian control and assess the relief programmes being carried out by the RRC, the Eritrean Regional Affairs Special Commission (ERASC) and the Social Welfare Centre (SWC), the head of the ICRC delegation at Addis Ababa, accompanied by a representative of the RRC, visited Asmara in the first fortnight of April.

On the basis of the delegate’s conclusions, the ICRC decided to continue to distribute foodstuffs and medicaments to displaced persons, victims of the Eritrean conflict.

**Debre Zeit rehabilitation centre**

The project to establish a prosthesis and physiotherapy workshop for the war disabled at the Debre Zeit centre near Addis Ababa was carried out by the ICRC in accordance with the undertaking it had made in 1978 (see Annual Report 1978, page 18).

By virtue of the agreement which was concluded between the Ethiopian Government and the ICRC and formally signed on 4 April 1979, the ICRC sent a team of five specialists (three orthopaedists and two physiotherapists) to the centre. It set up a workshop for the manufacture of prostheses, trained local staff, imported prostheses for an initial period and met the costs incurred during the first year.

In January 1979 the first two members of the ICRC’s medical team arrived at Debre Zeit and by February the material and equipment had been installed.

Two surveys of the centre’s work were conducted at Debre Zeit, one in the first fortnight of May by a physiotherapist from Geneva and the other by the ICRC Chief Medical Officer. The second mission, which took place from 25 August to 9 September, also provided an opportunity to settle the question of task-sharing between the ICRC and a medical team sent out by the Yugoslav Government in response to the appeal launched by the Ethiopian authorities at the beginning of the year.

The workshop project derives its originality from the emphasis it places on manufacturing prostheses from materials available locally, using technology adapted to local conditions, and on active participation by the amputees themselves in the manufacturing process.

In view of the increase in the number of patients, the administrator of the centre submitted an official request for more assistance on 26 May. The ICRC responded by sending additional specialists to the centre, whose activities were expanded to include the manufacture of wheel-chairs.

At the end of the year the medical team at the centre consisted of four orthopaedists, three physiotherapists and a nurse for paraplegics. The local staff comprised 36 Ethiopians, half of them amputees. On 20 November they started a 13-month training course at the end of which they will sit an examination. By December, 40 prostheses, 20 orthoses for artificial legs, 80 pairs of crutches and 15 wheel-chairs were being produced each month.

ICRC medical assistance (medical and paramedical equipment, medicaments) to the centre totalled some 320,000 Swiss francs. The centre has been a great success; it is regarded as a pilot project by the Addis Ababa Government and has been visited by several high Ethiopian officials.

**Summary of relief in Ethiopia**

In 1979 the ICRC provided Ethiopia with 1,336 tons of relief material (foodstuffs, blankets, tents, medical assistance, etc.) worth 2,143,000 Swiss francs, including:
- some 286 tons, worth 364,000 Swiss francs, for the victims of the conflict in Eritrea;
- 623.5 tons, worth 1,218,500 Swiss francs, for the victims of the conflict in Ogaden (provinces of Bale, Sidamo, Harrarghe and Arusi);
- 125 tons, worth 109,000 Swiss francs, for the population of Gondar;
- 298 tons, worth 336,000 Swiss francs, for the population of Tigre.
Central Tracing Agency

Sixteen family messages from Somali prisoners of war were forwarded to Somalia and the replies returned to Ethiopia. In addition, about 100 requests for enquiries were registered by the delegation and transmitted to the CTA in Geneva.

ORGANIZATION. — Apart from the medical team at the Debre Zeit centre, ICRC representation in Ethiopia in 1979 was confined to a head of delegation.

Somalia

Protection

Despite repeated approaches by delegates throughout the year, the ICRC was not able to visit Ethiopian prisoners of war held in Somalia.

Following the visit of Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, Vice-President, to Mogadishu in August 1978 (see Annual Report 1978, page 19), the ICRC gave the Permanent Representative of Somalia in Geneva a letter addressed to the President of the Republic, Mr. Syad Barré, drawing attention to the Somali Government’s responsibilities under the Geneva Conventions and reiterating the ICRC’s desire to afford protection and assistance to the Ethiopian prisoners of war detained on Somali territory and for whom, consequently, the Somali authorities were responsible.

In an attempt to solve these protection problems, the delegate-general for Africa, M. F. Schmidt, went to Mogadishu in the last week of April. His visit was unsuccessful as he was not able to meet any member of the Somali Government. A few days later an ICRC delegate managed to converse with a representative of the Western Somalia Liberation Front (WSLF) and obtained permission to visit a Cuban prisoner of war in the hands of the movement. The visit was carried out on 5 May in accordance with the conditions laid down by the ICRC.

While in the Somali capital from 2 to 6 July for the Eleventh Conference of Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the delegate-general for the Middle East, Mr. Jean Hoefliger, and the regional delegate for North Africa, the Arab Peninsula and Iran were able to talk with representatives of the Somali Red Crescent and with leaders of both the WSLF and the “ABBO Liberation Front”. The latter handed the delegates a statement of intended compliance with the humanitarian principles embodied in the Geneva Conventions. The leaders of both fronts also undertook to provide to the ICRC, through the President of the Somali Red Crescent, with lists of the prisoners of war in their hands together with the number of places of detention and the dates on which visits might commence.

Unfortunately the President of the Somali Red Crescent had no list of prisoners of war to hand to the ICRC when he came to Geneva on 4 October for a meeting of the League Executive Council.

Central Tracing Agency

At the end of 1979, 200 requests for enquiries into the whereabouts of missing persons had been registered by the tracing office at the regional delegation at Nairobi.

Sudan

Since the ICRC was not given permission to visit from Addis Ababa the territories controlled by the Eritrean movements, it pursued its objective of assisting victims of the conflict on both sides of the front by continuing to send relief material via Sudan.

At the same time it intervened on behalf of Eritrean refugees on Sudanese territory.

Material assistance

In 1979, ICRC assistance to the civilian population and to Ethiopian prisoners in the hands of the Eritrean movements amounted to 2,527 tons (2,356 tons of foodstuffs, 29 tons of medical relief and 142 tons of sundry material), worth some 6,032,000 Swiss francs.

The EEC provided 94.5 per cent of the foodstuffs.

The relief was forwarded in part (1,679 tons) to the Eritrean Relief Association (ERA), the assistance body of the Eritrean People’s Liberation Front (EPLF), and in part (848 tons) to the Eritrean Red Cross and Crescent Society (ERCCS), the assistance body of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF).

Medical assistance

Medical assistance was concentrated mainly on the Kassala hospital, where the ICRC took over the supervision of medical activities, and the Port Sudan rehabilitation centre.

KASSALA HOSPITAL. — At the beginning of the year and with the agreement of the HCR, the ICRC in collaboration with the Swiss Red Cross took charge of medical activities at the Kassala hospital, which had previously been under the supervision of the HCR. The Swiss medical teams working at the hospital and in the neighbouring refugee camps had been made available to the HCR by the Swiss Disaster Aid Volunteer Corps and their mission had ended with 1978.

The new medical team, comprising four persons including a surgeon, was made available by the Swiss Red Cross which also kept the hospital supplied with medical equipment and medicaments.

The team’s principal task was to dispense treatment to all the victims of the Eritrean conflict but, in view of the inadequate medical infrastructure in the region, the local population also benefited from its services. In addition, the team made regular visits to the HCR’s refugee camp at Kashm el Girba (80 km from Kassala) and supplied both that camp’s dispensary and the one at Kassala with medicaments.
About 20,900 Swiss francs of expenditure was incurred by the ICRC in 1979 for this operation.

PORT SUDAN REHABILITATION CENTRE. — Following a survey by the ICRC’s Deputy Chief Medical Officer in the first half of May, the ICRC decided to implement a programme of medical assistance to paraplegic and hemiplegic victims of the Eritrean conflict, in collaboration with the ERA.

In accordance with the agreement concluded between the partners, under which the ICRC was to provide the necessary personnel, equipment and medicaments, a rehabilitation centre for paraplegics, hemiplegics and war casualties was opened in July at Port Sudan.

The ICRC prepared a rehabilitation programme in which provision was made for training Eritreans to run the centre. It despatched the equipment required and provided a medical team consisting of three physiotherapists and a nurse specializing in the treatment of paraplegics.

By 31 December, medicaments and medical equipment worth 63,500 Swiss francs had been made available by the ICRC for about 160 patients.

In addition, medicaments and medical supplies were delivered to the Port Sudan dispensary and various medical centres.

Central Tracing Agency

In November 1979 the CTA sent a delegate to Khartoum to set up a tracing office at the delegation for the following purposes:

— to organize the registration of prisoners;
— to re-establish contacts between refugees in camps and their families (enquiries, family reuniting, etc.);
— to seek missing persons.

ORGANIZATION. — The ICRC delegation at Khartoum had opened in October 1978 with a head of delegation and two relief delegates. By the end of 1979, its personnel had increased to six (excluding the Port Sudan medical team).

Kenya

In 1979 the activities of the regional delegation for East Africa based at Nairobi (Kenya) related mainly to the conflict between Uganda and Tanzania, for prior to April the ICRC had no permanent delegation at either Kampala or Dar-es-Salaam.

With regard to CTA work, the regional delegation organized the repatriation of some South African and Namibian nationals (see also page 21). With a view to studying the prospects for stepping up tracing activities in the countries covered by the regional delegation, a CTA delegate went to Kenya in the second half of October. His visit enabled the role of the tracing office at the Nairobi delegation to be clarified: it was to be responsible for centralizing information concerning

Other conflicts and countries

Chad

Immediately after the fighting broke out on 12 February at N’Djamena between the Chad National Army (CNA) favourable to the President of the Republic, Félix Malloum, and the Northern Armed Forces (NAF) of Prime Minister Hissen Habré, the ICRC broadcast an appeal to the combatants to respect basic humanitarian principles, reminding them that protection must be granted to casualties, women, children, hospitals, ambulances and vehicles of the Red Cross, so that the latter could carry out its mission unhindered and afford speedy assistance to victims.

Despite successive cease-fires, the fighting continued for over a month in the capital, which was split into an eastern and a western zone controlled, respectively, by the NAF and the Chad Armed Forces (CAF), known previously as CNA.

At the same time, negotiations started between the parties to the conflict, in the presence of government representatives from five neighbouring countries (Cameroon, Libya, Niger, Nigeria and Sudan). An agreement which was signed on 17 March at Kano and came into force on 23 March made provision, inter alia, for a cease-fire throughout the national territory. A provisional caretaker committee, presided by Mr. Goukouni Oueddei, President of the FROLINAT (Chad National Liberation Front) revolutionary council, was set up to discharge governmental duties until a transitional government of national unity could be formed. The release of prisoners of war seemed to have been agreed, but the practical arrangements were left for the future government to make.

A second conference, held also at Kano, resulted in the formation of a government of national unity headed by Mr. Lol Mohamed Choua on 29 April. It soon became apparent that this government was torn between the various factions represented in it: fighting broke out in the south of the country at the end of May and skirmishes took place at N’Djamena at the beginning of June between FROLINAT and CPLM (Chad People’s Liberation Movement).

An agreement which appeared to give practical expression to the desire for national reconciliation was concluded on 21 August at Lagos, and the eleven Chad factions who signed it agreed to return prisoners of war to their own part of the country, in particular those held in the provinces of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti (BET, the northern part of the country). On 24 November a government of national unity set up on 10 November and headed by Mr. Goukouni Oueddei confirmed its agreement to the projects of releasing prisoners of war, and on 17 December instructed a committee to study the question.
The ICRC, which had been involved in the internal conflict in Chad since 1978 and had opened two delegations there (see Annual Report 1978, page 20), deployed its efforts in a number of fields in 1979: protection, medical assistance, relief and CTA work in the entire territory.

Protection

The ICRC continued its work on behalf of prisoners of war in the hands of FROLINAT and FROLINAT prisoners in the hands of the Chad authorities, and extended its activities to prisoners taken as a result of the fighting in the capital and in other parts of the country.

**FAYA DELEGATION.** — Prisoners of war in the hands of FROLINAT were visited regularly in the BET during the year, except for an interruption from the end of June to the beginning of August caused by the refusal of the detention authorities to allow interviews without witnesses. ICRC delegates carried out about 60 visits to more than 1,200 Chad prisoners of war in camps and at the Faya prison. In general, they were able to conduct private interviews.

**N'DJAMENA DELEGATION.** — As soon as hostilities broke out at N'Djamena in February and disturbances arose in the region of Abéché, the ICRC delegates organized two convoys in the capital and two return flights from N'Djamena to Abéché in order to evacuate wounded to the central hospital and transport essential medicaments.

The delegates also approached both the CAF and the NAF with a view to securing the release of civilians captured during the combat.

The NAF decided to release civilians interned at Abéché and the ICRC, whose aid had been solicited by the CAF, was able to make logistical arrangements for their return home, which took place between 25 and 31 May. Almost 1,500 persons were transferred from Abéché to N'Djamena under ICRC auspices, in trucks and aircraft made available by the French forces; at N'Djamena they were taken to four reception centres run by the Catholic mission. By mid-June all these civilian prisoners had returned to the southern provinces where their homes had originally been. This operation was carried out with ICRC support.

During the events in March which affected the Muslim population in the south, the ICRC helped to evacuate Libyan and Sudanese nationals to N'Djamena in aircraft made available by France.

The ICRC encountered many difficulties in carrying out its protection activities on behalf of those taken prisoner as a result of the fighting. It was obliged, on each occasion, to negotiate with the political-military groups concerned in order to obtain permission to visit the prisoners in their hands. Consequently, complete lists of prisoners of war and civilian detainees could not be compiled and visits were carried out on a limited basis, as and when permission was received. Only the Kanem region, controlled by FROLINAT, could be visited regularly.

At N'Djamena itself the delegates made about ten visits to some forty prisoners at three places of detention.

**Return home of civilian prisoners in the hands of FROLINAT in the BET**

During his mission to N'Djamena at the beginning of May, the delegate responsible for Chad at ICRC Headquarters in Geneva raised with FROLINAT ministers the question of returning to their homes the civilian prisoners detained by FROLINAT in the BET. The FROLINAT leaders with whom the matter was again discussed by the head of the ICRC Faya delegation were willing to release the prisoners immediately. Following negotiations between the parties concerned, the criteria for selecting the persons to be returned to their homes were agreed by the ICRC and FROLINAT. On 6 June the Chad authorities accepted the arrangements proposed by the ICRC.

The transfers, which were due to begin in the first half of June, were postponed as a result of the fighting that broke out at N'Djamena. Eventually they took place from 2 to 21 August under ICRC auspices; five operations were organized, enabling 643 civilian prisoners to go to Moundou, Sahr and N'Djamena. The first three operations were carried out using aircraft provided by France and the other using a DC-4 belonging to Chad.

**For the release of prisoners of war**

In March the ICRC delegates broached the subject of releasing prisoners of war with the authorities, but to no avail. After the conclusion of the Lagos agreement, they raised the question again with the new government, which confirmed that release and return home would take place as soon as possible and invited the ICRC to help in making the practical arrangements. On 27 December the delegates, as advisers and observers, attended a meeting of the governmental committee responsible for the question. The committee decided that all prisoners (prisoners of war, civilians, political prisoners and hostages) would be released; however, that decision had to be ratified by the Council of Ministers, which was also to approve the arrangements for release.

**Medical assistance**

**IN THE BET,** the ICRC medical team continued to visit prison camps in order to assess medical needs, organize distributions and dispense treatment to the inhabitants of the camps. The team, which was based at Faya-Largeau, performed the same work in the medical centres and hospitals of that town.

**AT N’DJAMENA,** a doctor and a nurse who had been made available by the Coopération technique suisse became part of the delegation as soon as the fighting broke out. In mid-March a surgical team arrived from Geneva to cater for the many needs of the N'Djamena Central Hospital, where it remained
Material assistance

**FAYA DELEGATION.** — Although the delegates had asked FROLINAT at the beginning of the year progressively to take charge of assistance to prisoners of war in the BET, the ICRC was obliged to continue to cater for those prisoners’ needs (see Annual Report 1978, page 21). Although FROLINAT agreed in principle to take charge and to transport goods from Faya through the BET, it soon encountered logistical difficulties which compelled the ICRC to continue to distribute foodstuffs in the camps.

**N’DJAMENA DELEGATION.** — Following the February fighting, the ICRC provided assistance to victims and refugees at N’Djamena and in the provinces. Difficult access and lack of security nevertheless limited the scope of these relief activities. In particular, the ICRC was not allowed into the south from the end of March to September. Even so, after the events affecting the Muslim population of the southern towns in March, the ICRC was able to assist persons belonging to that population who had sought refuge in centres placed under the protection of the authorities.

In October the ICRC started to phase out its involvement, and only a few activities at N’Djamena were kept up until the end of the year.

In 1979 the ICRC distributed 1,096 tons of relief material (including 1,082 tons of foodstuffs) worth 1,465,500 Swiss francs in Chad; of this total, 399 tons, worth 734,000 Swiss francs, went to prisoners of war in the BET.

Central Tracing Agency

The work of the tracing offices at N’Djamena and Faya-Largeau was mainly the registering of prisoners, the exchange of family messages between the north and the south, and the transfer and tracing of persons. In order to offset the difficulties encountered in transmitting family messages, two CTA outposts were installed in the south. In 1979 almost 900 enquiries were initiated, 2,200 persons transferred and several tens of thousands of family messages exchanged between north and south.

**ORGANIZATION.** — In 1979 the ICRC maintained a sizeable organization at Faya-Largeau. The N’Djamena organization was reinforced in March and reduced again at the end of August.

Some 50 ICRC workers travelled to Chad in 1979 (heads of delegation; delegates to visit prisoners, for relief work, for tasks related to the CTA and for administrations; doctors, nurses and technical personnel), not counting air crews and locally engaged staff.

**LOGISTICS.** — During the year a Piper-Aztec based at N’Djamena carried delegates and relief material to the BET provinces. In view of the transport difficulties encountered by the N’Djamena delegates, the ICRC sent a second Aztec aircraft to Chad at the end of March.

Zaire

In 1979 the ICRC focused attention on expanding its protection activities in Zaire.

Protection

Permission to visit all the places of detention is Shaba had been granted orally in December 1978 and the first series of visits to the province was carried out in January 1979.

Subsequently, visits were made periodically; between 20 April and the end of August delegates covered the entire southern part of Shaba, visiting 56 places of detention where they saw 2,563 detainees. During these visits 3.8 tons of sundry relief was distributed, worth approximately 21,100 Swiss francs.

The ICRC then sought to extend its activity to other provinces where it wished to gain access to all places of detention, be they civilian, military or run by the National Documentation Centre (security services). Representations made to the Zaire authorities with this end in view were successful, inasmuch as the principle of across-the-board permission to visit all civilian places of detention in the country as well as certain military centres was accepted and confirmed in writing at the end of November. On 7 December General Babia Zongbi Majobia, co-ordinator of the Zaire armed forces, advised the ICRC delegates that the President of the Republic, General Mobutu, had agreed to allow the ICRC to visit all military and police prisons.

At the end of 1979 the ICRC had therefore obtained an agreement in principle regarding visits to all civilian, military and police prisons. Only to places of detention run by the National Documentation Centre (security services). Representations made to the Zaire authorities with this end in view were successful, inasmuch as the principle of across-the-board permission to visit all civilian places of detention in the country as well as certain military centres was accepted and confirmed in writing at the end of November. On 7 December General Babia Zongbi Majobia, co-ordinator of the Zaire armed forces, advised the ICRC delegates that the President of the Republic, General Mobutu, had agreed to allow the ICRC to visit all military and police prisons.

The Government of Zaire also adopted a series of measures designed to improve conditions of imprisonment and speed up legal proceedings. In addition, it released a number of “political” and other prisoners.

In the last quarter of the year the ICRC delegates endeavoured to visit places of detention in the Kinshasa region to which they had not previously had access.

In 1979 some 2,900 detainees were visited in 64 places of detention in Shaba. The relief material distributed during these visits and to the families of detainees amounted to 9.2 tons (blankets, soap, foodstuffs, clothing, medicaments), worth about 60,600 Swiss francs.
ORGANIZATION. — In view of the encouraging results achieved, the ICRC decided to keep a delegation at Kinshasa permanently. The Lubumbashi office, which had been opened in May in order to step up humanitarian operations in the Shaba province, was closed in October.

Central Tracing Agency

A few family messages were exchanged between detainees and their families in Zaire, Angola and Congo.

Congo

The head of the Kinshasa delegation carried out three missions to Congo in 1979, to inform the authorities and the leaders of the Congolese Red Cross about the ICRC's activities, especially in the field of protection. The National Society was particularly interested by the ICRC's work on behalf of detainees and took steps to facilitate interviews between the delegate and the Ministers of Health and the Interior, both of whom stated that they were prepared to allow the ICRC to visit prisons if it so requested. It was agreed that a trial visit would be organized at a later date. This visit was carried out on 25 and 26 November to the Brazzaville prison, and the authorities expressed the hope that it would be repeated.

Western Sahara

The ICRC continued to follow developments in the conflict in the Western Sahara, as it had been doing since 1975. Contacts were maintained with all the parties concerned, with a view to enabling the ICRC to perform its traditional functions on behalf of all victims, particularly prisoners of war. However, the many efforts deployed produced tangible results only in Mauritania.

Prisoners in Mauritanian hands

In July, two ICRC delegates including a doctor again carried out a visit, in accordance with normal ICRC specifications, to all the Polisario Front prisoners detained by the Mauritanian armed forces, namely, 152 persons (150 of whom were detained at Nouakchott and 2 at Aioun El Atrous). The Mauritanian Red Crescent gave the ICRC a list of 50 persons who had been released since the previous visit in November 1978.

Medicaments and medical supplies (1.3 tons), 50 spectacles, school supplies and blankets worth 38,190 Swiss francs were delivered to the Mauritanian Red Crescent for prisoners and families victims of the conflict in the Western Sahara.

Prisoners in Moroccan hands

During a visit to Morocco at the end of February, ICRC delegates requested permission to pay another visit to the 99 Algerian prisoners who had been visited several times since 1976. The Moroccan authorities replied that the question would be studied. The request was repeated in November. The last visit paid by the ICRC to the Algerian prisoners of war took place in April 1978; on that occasion the delegates had also visited Polisario Front members or combatants taken prisoner by the Moroccan armed forces.

Despite ICRC overtures, no visits to prisoners on Moroccan territory were allowed in 1979.

Nevertheless, the Central Tracing Agency passed mail, parcels and money between the Algerian prisoners and their families, through the Moroccan and Algerian Red Crescent Societies (872 letters were forwarded to families, and 914 letters and 66 parcels were forwarded to the Moroccan Red Crescent for the prisoners of war).

Prisoners in the hands of the Polisario Front

The ICRC, which had not been able to visit Mauritanian and Moroccan prisoners of war in the hands of the Polisario Front since 1976, continued to make representations to the leaders of the movement, drawing attention to the agreement of principle reached in 1978. It also maintained contact with the Algerian authorities in both Geneva and Algiers. Two missions, including one by the delegate-general for the Middle East, were carried out to Algeria, in April and October. Furthermore, a letter by the President of the ICRC was sent to the Secretary-General of the Polisario Front in October.

These efforts did not provoke any reaction from the Polisario Front indicating that a breakthrough might be possible. The obstacles encountered by the ICRC relate mainly to the principles of access to all detainees and private interviews. Adequate guarantees have not yet been forthcoming in either respect. Consequently, no visits could be made in 1979.

Assistance to displaced persons in the Tindouf region (Algeria)

In response to a request for assistance from the “Sahrawi Red Crescent”, the ICRC launched a small-scale operation on behalf of displaced persons victims of the torrential rains which had fallen in the Tindouf region (Algeria) early in September.

Relief material worth 73,840 Swiss francs (8,065 blankets) was purchased for needy persons, mainly women and children.
In 1979 the ICRC considerably developed its activities in Nicaragua. It also carried out a programme of protection for persons detained in several Latin American countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and El Salvador (see pp. 59 on ICRC activities for “political” detainees). It continued its efforts to obtain from the Government of Uruguay permission to resume its visits to persons detained on security grounds. Finally, on 21 December, an agreement was signed under the terms of which the Uruguayan Government authorized the ICRC to visit all places of detention in accordance with its traditional practice.

The ICRC maintained a permanent delegation at Managua and a regional delegation at Buenos Aires. It was obliged to reduce its regional delegation for Central America and the Caribbean, based at Guatemala City, to a state of suspended animation, in view of its demanding commitments in Nicaragua. The office of the regional delegation for the Andean countries was similarly left vacant.

A new delegate-general for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. André Pasquier, was appointed on 1 February.

**Missions by the President and other members of the ICRC**

President Hay, accompanied by Mr. Serge Nessi, former delegate-general for Latin America, was in Cuba from 11 to 16 February for a mission during which he conferred with the Head of State, President Fidel Castro, and with other notables, including Dr. José Gutierrez Muniz, Minister of Health and President of the National Red Cross Society; Mr. Isidoro Malmierca, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Dr. Carlos Rafañ Benitez Rodriguez, Vice-President of the State Council and of the Council of Ministers. Mr. Hay discussed particularly the eventuality of ICRC visits to persons detained on security grounds. Subsequently a memorandum was sent to the Cuban Government giving details of the objectives and procedures of ICRC visits to such detainees. The Government pointed out that it was in the process of releasing certain categories of detainees and said that it would examine the ICRC offer when the process was completed.

Following that mission, the ICRC decided to assist the Cuban Red Cross by remitting it 20,000 Swiss francs for the purchase of medical material for the National Society’s first-aiders.

From 31 May to 2 June the ICRC President was in Paraguay where he had an interview with the President of the Republic, General Alfredo Stroessner, and various senior government officials, to discuss ICRC protection for detainees in Paraguay. In addition, accompanied by the leading members of the National Society, he visited the Asuncion regions which had been ravaged by floods when the Rio Paraguay was in spate. A gift of ten tons of milk powder from the Swiss Confederation was given to the Paraguayan Red Cross which was in charge of relief work for the flood victims.

From 3 to 8 June President Hay took part in the Eleventh Inter-American Red Cross Conference in Rio de Janeiro and launched a clamant appeal to the parties to the Nicaragua conflict to observe the fundamental humanitarian rules applicable to non-international armed conflicts, particularly rules demanding respect of persons not involved in the fighting, such as women, children, the elderly, as well as the wounded and the prisoners of war. In addition, the Inter-American Conference urged that the personnel of the humanitarian organizations working in Nicaragua (the ICRC and the Nicaraguan Red Cross) be respected and given every facility for the accomplishment of their tasks.

Indeed, the safety of its delegates and of the Nicaraguan Red Cross personnel was one of the ICRC’s constant concerns. It made several overtures to the authorities of both parties, and after the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America contacted the members of the provisional Nicaraguan government in Costa Rica the ICRC delegates were issued with safe-conducts requesting commanding officers of the forces of the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FSLN) to respect them and facilitate their work.

The ICRC was active in four fields in Nicaragua during 1979: apart from its traditional protective function it developed relief and medical assistance, and action in the sphere of the Central Tracing Agency immediately after the end of the conflict.

In view of the extent of its activities in Nicaragua, the ICRC maintained a permanent delegation in the country and also

**Nicaragua**

The ICRC kept a close watch on the situation in Nicaragua. On several occasions it expressed its alarm at the worsening hostilities and violence. On 5 June the ICRC, the League and 22 National Societies of the Americas and Caribbean met in Rio de Janeiro for the Eleventh Inter-American Red Cross Conference, and launched a clamant appeal to the parties to the Nicaragua conflict to observe the fundamental humanitarian rules applicable to non-international armed conflicts, particularly rules demanding respect of persons not involved in the fighting, such as women, children, the elderly, as well as the wounded and the prisoners of war. In addition, the Inter-American Conference urged that the personnel of the humanitarian organizations working in Nicaragua (the ICRC and the Nicaraguan Red Cross) be respected and given every facility for the accomplishment of their tasks.

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sent many missions from headquarters. One of these was carried out by Mr. Jäckli, a member of the Committee. He went twice to Nicaragua where he had talks on the subject of ICRC operations with the President of Nicaragua, General Anastasio Somoza Debayle, the President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, Mr. Ismaël Reyès, and others.

The relief activities, the medical assistance and, to some extent, the work of the CTA, was carried out in close co-operation with the Nicaraguan Red Cross. The National Society was the only organization still operational when local infrastructure in Nicaragua was disrupted. It accomplished a herculean task, and it was with profound distress that the ICRC learned of the death by violence of several members of the Nicaraguan Red Cross in the discharge of their humanitarian mission: from the autumn of 1978 to July 1979, seventeen relief workers lost their lives in the hostilities.

Protection

ICRC protective action in Nicaragua was in two phases: the first during the conflict and the second after the take-over by the Junta de reconstrucción nacional on 19 July.

UNDER THE FORMER RÉGIME. — During the first three months of the year ICRC delegates went to places of detention (prisons, National Guard centres and hospitals where detainees were being treated) in the capital and the provinces in order to visit, in accordance with standard practice, persons detained for political reasons or in connection with the events.

As usual, reports on the places visited were sent to the government. Delegates discussed detention problems with the highest officials of the former régime, including President Somoza whom they met on three occasions.

While the conflict grew worse from April onwards, visits continued insofar as they were not precluded by the danger involved in travel, in the capital and the rest of the country. By mid-May this protective action had noticeably declined, as fighting made it impossible to reach many places of detention inside the barracks of the National Guard.

The ICRC delegates were also concerned for the welfare of prisoners taken by the FSLN, some of whom they visited at Jinotepe. In addition, the FSLN, intending to release captured members of the National Guard in Panama, asked the ICRC to mediate and gave it a list of some thirty such prisoners. The ICRC transmitted the list to the Government but the operation was not carried out because the Government insisted on the prisoners' release in Nicaragua, to which the FSLN would not agree.

UNDER THE NEW RÉGIME. — In the days following the change of government, the ICRC delegates went to the main prisons of Managua to see that the release of persons incarcerated by the former régime did not give rise to acts of violence; the detainees of the Central de policía and of the Cárcel Modelo were thus released without incident under ICRC control.

To avoid further bloodshed during the days of transition, the ICRC and the Nicaraguan Red Cross organized in the main towns reception areas where National Guards who had laid down their arms and others, with their families, could seek refuge.

Refugees in Managua and nearby Granada who so wished were grouped in one place in Managua, so that it would be easier to assist them. On 23 July the new authorities decided to arrest them, stating they would consider them as prisoners of war. The forces of the FSLN then proceeded to take all the males to prison in Managua and the provinces. The ICRC and the Nicaraguan Red Cross looked after the women and children, first housing them in the Managua Catholic seminary before organizing their return home when conditions permitted. Finally the ICRC was able to transfer to Costa Rica fourteen Costa-Rican lorry drivers who had been caught up in the events.

The day after the fall of the Somoza régime the ICRC delegates contacted the new authorities to obtain the necessary authorizations to continue their work of protection, but this time for the benefit of military and civilian supporters of the old régime (National Guards, senior officials of the Somoza Government, etc.) arrested during the fighting or during the take-over.

On 30 July the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Thomas Borge, authorized the ICRC to visit as it wished all places of detention and all persons in the hands of the FSLN. He gave his assurance that humanitarian principles would be respected.

On the strength of that authorization, ICRC teams of delegates, each including a doctor, began visiting places of detention in Managua and the provinces and registering new detainees. In the provinces this work continued until the end of the year in all areas which had been affected by the fighting; in December it was extended to the north-east region of the country which had been spared.

Things were different in three places of detention in Managua (except the hospitals) where there were some 3,000 people, including a large number of former National Guards. Towards the end of August the ICRC delegates were meeting many difficulties in the discharge of their tasks, especially caused by the refusal of some military commanders to admit them into the prisons in spite of the authorizations received from the new Government. In the face of this opposition, a number of overtures were made by the delegation to the Government and FSLN representatives. The delegate-general undertook two missions to seek a solution to the problem. In addition the President of the ICRC wrote to the Junta de reconstrucción nacional and to the Ministers of the Interior and Foreign Affairs. As a result it was possible to resume normal visits from 21 November onwards to the Cárcel Modelo, the Central de Policía and the Zona Franca, and the visits have continued at regular intervals ever since.

As customary, confidential reports on the visits were sent to the new authorities.

During their visits the delegates systematically recorded the prisoners' details, which enabled them to see that sometimes prisoners present during a previous visit were no longer in the
place of detention. Much concerned at this situation, the ICRC drew up a list of more than 1,250 names which it submitted to the Minister of the Interior for investigation.

The ICRC protective activities in Nicaragua may be summarized as follows: under the former régime, 82 visits to 24 places (including 6 hospitals) in which there were 748 detainees; after the change of government, i.e. from 19 July to the end of the year, 248 visits to 109 places of detention holding some 6,400 people.

Material assistance

Material and medical assistance needs made two financial appeals necessary: the first, in mid-June, was for 2.7 million Swiss francs; the second, at the end of August, was for 1 million Swiss francs.

ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIAN POPULATION. — During the early months of 1979, when the situation was relatively calm, the ICRC distributed relief supplies which had been ordered in 1978 and had arrived at the beginning of the year, mainly foodstuffs. Distribution, with the co-operation of the Nicaraguan Red Cross and other charitable institutions, was mainly to the inhabitants of the poorer districts of Managua and other main towns who had been particularly affected by the consequences of the fighting during the previous fall, and to a number of detainees’ families.

From mid-April the assistance action involved a new operation. When hostilities broke out afresh the ICRC and the Nicaraguan Red Cross organized lorry convoys to convey food and medicaments to localities hit by the fighting and to support the work of various charitable organizations in those localities.

From January to May 989 tons of various relief goods (including 600 tons of food donated by the EEC) was distributed, to a value of 1,187,697 Swiss francs.

ICRC stocks were soon depleted, the situation and the general strike which started in May making it impossible to buy supplies locally, and the encirclement of Managua making it difficult to bring provisions into the town by land. To meet the increasing needs, in the provinces as well as in the capital, the ICRC began an air-lift which operated from 19 June to 16 August, except for two days during a short period of confusion in the course of the take-over by the new government, when one of the ICRC aircraft on arrival from Guatemala was commandeered by members of the National Guard trying to flee the country.

The ICRC chartered three aircraft from an American company, two DC-8’s and one DC-6. The Spanish and British Governments each lent an aircraft for a short time. Other Red Cross Societies also organized flights. From the end of July only one plane was still operating on the services.

The ICRC planes flew to Managua from Miami, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Colombia and Guatemala, and a DC-3 chartered by the ICRC flew between Costa Rica and Leon. In all, 114 ICRC flights brought in 2,082 tons of relief (2,012 tons of food, 50 tons of medical supplies and various other articles). All medical supplies were provided by the ICRC, and the food by other relief organizations and Red Cross Societies.

Supplies were distributed by the Nicaraguan Red Cross and other charitable institutions such as CEPAD, CRISOL, CONFOR and CARITAS, the ICRC delegates supervising the transfer from the airport to the National Society’s warehouses and to localities elsewhere in the country. The air-lift required the presence of ICRC delegates in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama, where temporary logistic bases were set up with the help of the National Societies.

After the hostilities, when it was considered safe to do so, the ICRC replaced the air-lift by lorry convoys (5 from Costa Rica and one from Panama) and by sea transport. From 29 July to 22 August, forty-eight lorries delivered 980 tons of food and other relief. In August and September two ships chartered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) unloaded at the Nicaraguan port of Corinto 1,925 tons of food donated by that Agency.

In all, more than 7,400 tons of relief, valued at 7.5 million Swiss francs, reached Nicaragua in the June, July and August emergency. Donors to the relief action for that period were the Red Cross Societies of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Federal Republic of Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, USA and Venezuela, and the following organizations: Catholic Relief Services, Comité Evangélico para Ayuda al Desarrollo (CEPAD), Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE), CARITAS and USAID.

The new government having announced that it would take over assistance operations, the ICRC began to phase out in August. On 15 September it ceased its assistance to the population, continuing only its work for detainees.

The ICRC undertook to help the families of some former members of the National Guard—522 persons—after the establishment of the new government. Not only did it provide them, through the Nicaraguan Red Cross, with food during their several weeks of asylum in the Catholic seminary; to the poorest among them it gave financial aid and a month’s supply of food to help them to resettle.

Various relief (mattresses, blankets, clothing and medicaments) were provided to people who had sought refuge in embassies.

Further relief supplies totalling 729 tons (of which 697 tons was donated by the EEC) arrived from September to December, some of which—213 tons of food and miscellaneous articles valued at 271,659 Swiss francs—was distributed to prisons, the Ocon hospital, embassies and the Catholic seminary.

ASSISTANCE TO DETAINEES. — During the final weeks of the conflict ICRC delegates had easier access to the Central de Policía than to other places of detention and, on 18 June, at the request of the Government, they started a food and medical assistance programme for the detainees there, some 800 persons who were hard-hit by the food shortage in the
country. The delegates personally distributed food to the prisoners every other day until the change of government.

Upon the cessation of the fighting, this action was extended to almost all places of detention in Nicaragua. The ICRC delivered enough food to enable each detainee to have two meals a day. Medicaments and personal objects were also distributed and, at Christmas, some 7,500 parcels, to detainees in prisons and in the Ocon hospital.

Medical assistance

UNDER THE FORMER RÉGIME. — In the relatively calm period at the beginning of the year, ICRC medical delegates visited detainees in prisons and hospitals, and Nicaraguan nationals who had sought refuge in embassies. Medicaments were provided as needed.

With the resumption of hostilities the ICRC stepped up its medical assistance and supported Nicaraguan Red Cross efforts by providing medical supplies and blood to the local branches in the regions visited, together with other relief, by means of special convoys organized jointly with the National Society. With the Nicaraguan Red Cross and CEPAD it also organized the transport of severely injured casualties to the capital.

When accompanying the relief convoys the ICRC delegates contacted the hospital authorities in the localities receiving help, in order to assess needs and make suitable provision to meet them, as they were doing for the hospitals in the capital. Moreover, the FSLN field hospitals at Esteli, Matagalpa and Sébaco also received aid from the ICRC during the combats.

The air-lift from mid-June onwards made it possible to increase medical assistance in Nicaragua, and at the beginning of July a four-man surgical team was sent to assist the medical personnel of the provincial hospitals at Trinidad near Esteli, at Leon and at the Jinotepe regional hospital where there were a great many casualties.

UNDER THE NEW RÉGIME. — In the days of the transition to the new régime the ICRC delegates saw to the functioning of the Managua military hospital which had previously been run by medical officers of the former régime. The ICRC surgical team, on its return from the provinces, was assigned to the military hospital until it was taken in hand by the new authorities. Later, the ICRC arranged for the war-wounded of the former régime to be transferred to the Ocon hospital, the new government having decided that only FSLN wounded should go to the Managua military hospital. The ICRC had to bring back into operation the long-disused Ocon hospital and to supply it with medicaments and food. The Guatemala Red Cross lent an operating unit. The former staff of the military hospital was also transferred to the Ocon hospital. For a short time the ICRC made available the services of an anaesthetist to work with the local surgical team.

After hostilities the ICRC continued providing medical equipment and medicaments to hospitals and to Nicaraguan Red Cross dispensaries, until the new Government took over their provisioning in mid-September. It also supplied the Nicaraguan Red Cross blood bank with funds and equipment to enable it to keep going.

From mid-September the ICRC gave medical assistance only to people in prison and those who had sought refuge in embassies, and, to a lesser extent, to the families of former National Guardsmen in the Catholic seminary of Managua.

Medicaments, medical supplies and blood-bank equipment provided by the ICRC in 1979 was valued at 884,728 Swiss francs. Donated medical relief was estimated at more than 1,030,000 Swiss francs.

Central Tracing Agency

In mid-July the ICRC opened a Central Tracing Agency office in Managua.

The main function of the Agency delegate was to record and centralize all information on detainees who had been visited, both for their protection and for communication to their families. He also listed the 2,015 persons sheltering in embassies according to information given by the embassies, the 6,173 refugees in neighbouring countries according to information gleaned during missions to those countries, and persons reported missing.

The Agency’s Managua office handled 1,021 requests for enquiries into the whereabouts of missing persons and for family news. These requests came from abroad as well as from people in Nicaragua itself. Successful enquiries resulted in 258 replies to these requests.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross contributed with information to enable replies to be sent to requests for investigation or news about civilians. The National Societies of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador assisted in the recording of Nicaraguan refugees in those countries.

A dozen persons recruited in Managua were trained to assist the ICRC delegate.

ORGANIZATION. — From four or five delegates in the first quarter of the year, the staff strength was substantially increased in mid-July when travel was not impeded by danger. At the end of July the ICRC staff strength in Nicaragua and the adjoining countries reached a peak of 16 delegates.

Nicaraguan refugees in Central America

As in 1978, the ICRC was concerned about the plight of the many Nicaraguan refugees in other Central American countries.

Surveys were carried out in Honduras and Costa Rica, before and after the change of government in Nicaragua, and also in Guatemala and El Salvador after the change.

The main ICRC aim was to provide protection by registering the refugees so far as circumstances permitted. In contrast, the responsibility for assistance was shared with the National Society and the League.
HONDURAS

The number of Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras grew constantly during the Somoza régime, and by the end of May exceeded 10,000. The ICRC continued the assistance it had begun for their benefit in 1978, drawing on its stocks in Nicaragua. From 1 January to 30 April it sent to Honduras 340 tons of food valued at 445,370 Swiss francs, all of which had been distributed by the end of July, by the Honduran Red Cross. ICRC delegates carried out several missions in the camps to supervise distribution; this enabled them to keep a close watch on how conditions for the refugees developed, and to settle problems with the authorities of Honduras and with officials of the Red Cross.

After the fall of the Somoza régime the ICRC sent several missions to Honduras to appraise the situation of the new refugees (supporters of the former régime, ex-National Guardsmen, etc.) who flowed into the country, and to register their presence in the various camps.

The unspent balance of the funds which the ICRC had given the Honduran Red Cross for the benefit of refugees in 1978 was used to purchase relief for these new refugees (see 1978 Annual Report, p. 40).

COSTA RICA

In this country the work for Nicaraguan refugees was coordinated by the government in co-operation with the Costa Rica Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations. The return of the refugees to Nicaragua after the change of régime was organized by the Costa Rica Red Cross and the HCR.

The ICRC did not act directly for these people but provided the National Society with 25,000 dollars towards its medical activities for Nicaraguan refugees. The CTA delegate at Managua went to Costa Rica to co-ordinate with the local Red Cross the work of registering refugees, seeking missing persons and forwarding family messages.

During the Somoza government rule, many family messages passed between Nicaragua and Costa Rica with the co-operation of the Costa Rica Red Cross, either by radio or by the ICRC air-lift.

EL SALVADOR

The ICRC gave the Santa Tecla branch of the El Salvador Red Cross financial support to help the Nicaraguan refugees in El Salvador after the change of government (about 150 people, most of them women and children).

A mission to Santa Tecla at the end of October found that almost all the refugees were solving their personal situations by settling in El Salvador or in some other country. ICRC action, therefore, was no longer required.

GUATEMALA

In September an ICRC delegate while on a mission to Guatemala conferred with the Guatemalan Red Cross on the

number, plight of, and status granted to, Nicaraguan refugees from the old and new régimes. ICRC action proved to be unnecessary: to the former the Guatemalan Government had granted permission to stay and work if they wished; the number of the latter, which varied with the course of events, never exceeded 250.

Bolivia

Following the coup d'Etat on 1 November and the many violent incidents which then occurred, an ICRC delegate went to Bolivia to assess the situation and to respond, inter alia, to a request from the Bolivian Red Cross for assistance. The ICRC provided the National Society with 66,000 Swiss francs for the purchase of medical and other equipment. It also donated an ambulance. The total cost of the assistance was 100,500 Swiss francs.

The protection work contemplated was not put into effect, all persons arrested at the time of the coup d'Etat being released immediately power was restored to a civilian government.

Argentina

Throughout the year the ICRC continued its efforts to protect persons detained on security grounds, by visiting them in the places of detention and by providing them and their families with material assistance. It also continued its endeavours to trace missing persons. These activities were discussed with General Albana Harguindeguy, the Minister of the Interior, Dr. Rodriguez Varela, the Minister of Justice, and with other people.

Visits to places of detention

Visits to the main places of detention in Argentina were resumed after an interruption of several weeks from December 1978 to the end of February 1979. The interruption had been requested by the Argentine Government for an examination of detention problems and, especially, of ICRC proposals following its visits to places of detention in 1978. Several overtures were made to the Argentine Government, including a letter from the ICRC President to the Minister of the Interior, urging that the interruption be not unduly prolonged.

In the course of the year ICRC delegates and medical delegates made 38 visits to 25 places of detention in which, at the end of the year, 2,200 persons were being held on security grounds. Two of the main prisons, Rawson and La Plata, were visited three times, and five, Villa Devoto, the New Caseros prison—both in Buenos Aires—Coronda, Resistencia and Cordoba, twice. All visits were carried out in accordance with ICRC requirements and were the subjects of confidential reports which were delivered to the President of the Republic and to the Minister of the Interior.
In April 1979 the practical arrangements for prison visits, agreed upon by the Argentine Government and the ICRC in 1977, were slightly changed. The ICRC was given authority to visit all persons arrested on security grounds, including those under military control in officially recognized places of detention.

In the same month the Government issued a decree introducing regulations on detention conditions for persons arrested for security reasons, and authorizing them to work, study, engage in sports, etc. In the course of their many visits the ICRC delegates found that the regulations were not uniformly applied in all prisons. In various approaches the ICRC delegation brought this to the attention of the President of the Republic, the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Justice. In addition, tables describing conditions of detention in the main prisons of the country were handed to the authorities, who then revised the regulations concerned: the new provisions should be known in 1980.

Lastly, the ICRC intervened in favour of detainees who, having neither family nor friends, encountered difficulties in attending to requisite administrative formalities.

Persons reported missing

As in the past, the ICRC delegation in Buenos Aires delivered to the Argentine authorities lists of missing persons drawn up on the basis of statements made by their kin. The two lists delivered in 1979, containing several hundred names, brought to about 2,500 the number of cases which the ICRC had referred to the authorities since 1977.

The ICRC also made known its profound concern about a law issued by the Government and according to which any person missing could be considered dead after a certain time. The Government gave the ICRC a number of assurances that that law would not be a bar to the ICRC’s requests for investigation, which would continue to receive the attention of the competent authorities.

Nevertheless, by the end of the year, no information of value was forthcoming concerning the lists of missing persons submitted.

Assistance

The ICRC assisted the most needy families of detainees. As in 1978, about 900 families in the whole country received a monthly food parcel. The poorest of them were also given clothing, medicaments, transport tickets, etc.

To detainees the ICRC gave clothing, articles for leisure-time activities, medical supplies and, to some, transport tickets upon their release. It financed some special medical treatment and to impecunious detainees it gave money for purchases at the prison canteen.

In 1979 the value of ICRC assistance to detainees and their families amounted to 527,835 Swiss francs. Most relief supplies were purchased locally. A donation of 25 tons of milk from the Swiss Confederation made it possible to increase the aid.

At the request of the Argentine authorities, the ICRC stated that it was prepared to examine, in co-operation with the National Red Cross Society, ways and means of assisting families who had been the victims of actions qualified as terrorist or subversive. However, it later became apparent that such families were either helped by official social welfare organizations or had sufficient financial resources to make ICRC intervention unnecessary.

Central Tracing Agency

There was an Agency delegate permanently at the Buenos Aires delegation. His main functions were to collect and process information on detainees and missing persons. Such information makes it possible to give more effective protection to detainees and replies to family requests for news. In 1979, the Agency office in Buenos Aires handled about 3,000 requests for enquiries, news and various interventions.

In addition, 82 ICRC travel documents were issued to refugees from various Latin American countries who wished to leave Argentina.

Chile

Although the ICRC closed its Santiago delegation in 1978 (see Annual Report 1978, p. 43) it continued its protection. In 1979 the regional delegate based in Buenos Aires went five times to Chile to visit persons still detained and newly arrested persons, and to enquire into the whereabouts of missing persons.

He carried out eleven visits to seven places, having access to about a hundred detainees in the capital and in the provinces, to whom some relief was given from the stocks kept in Chile.

The ICRC also continued its approaches to the Chilean authorities to obtain information on the 620 missing persons mentioned on the list which had been handed to the Chilean Government in May 1978. The 620 persons had been reported as missing to the ICRC by their families. The ICRC intervened in particular after human bones had been discovered in a mine near Talagante towards the end of 1978. The Chilean authorities promised to inform the ICRC of the results of investigation as soon as they were published. At the end of 1979 the ICRC had still not received the information it had asked for.

Colombia

The ICRC carried out three series of visits to persons detained on security grounds. As it had no delegation in Colombia, delegates were sent from headquarters or from
Latin American delegations in other countries. A medical delegate took part in each visit. The ICRC visited, in accordance with its standard procedure, civilian places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and those under the Ministry of Defence: the ICRC had not had access to military places of detention since 1970. In all, the delegates made 45 visits to 26 places of detention in which there were about 550 persons detained on security grounds, for interrogation, in preventive detention, or convicted. Confidential reports on the visits were sent to the Colombian authorities.

The ICRC developed a programme—linked to its protection—to assist the detainees visited. Medicaments, some from the stocks left over from 1978, were delivered to prison dispensaries through the Colombian Red Cross. The detainees also received some articles for leisure activities.

These activities were the subject of discussion between the President of the ICRC and the President of the Republic, Mr. Julio Caesar Turbay Ayala, when the latter visited Switzerland on 16 June.

El Salvador

The ICRC several times offered its services to the authorities of El Salvador and approached the Government many times to obtain access to places of detention. Many detainees were released at the beginning of the year after the repeal of the law restricting individual freedom and authorizing detention without proof of guilt (ley de defensa y garantía del orden público), and the Government replied favourably to the ICRC’s requests.

On 21 August the head of the ICRC delegation in Nicaragua was received by the President of El Salvador, General Carlos Humberto Romero, who authorized the ICRC to visit all prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and all places of detention under the Security authorities and in military barracks. This agreement was confirmed in a letter to the President of the ICRC, who then wrote to the Salvadorean authorities, stating the objectives of visits (protection of detainees and not the verification of the presence or absence of “political” detainees), and the procedure of such visits. The El Salvador Government and the ICRC agreed that the visits should start in October, and two delegates went to El Salvador for that purpose.

However, in mid-October, after the overthrow of President Romero and the take-over by a military junta, the delegate-general for Latin America had to go to El Salvador in an endeavour to induce the new authorities not to prevent ICRC action for political and security detainees. The authorities accepted the ICRC offer of services and the visits began on 26 October.

By 1 December 1979 the ICRC delegates had visited 92 places, i.e. 41 security units, 5 garrisons, 2 Customs Police stations, 6 municipal prisons, 4 hospitals, 2 centres for minors and 32 places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. In eleven of these 32 places of detention there were 22 persons detained on security or political grounds. In these visits the ICRC delegates covered almost all civilian and military places of detention in the country and had access to persons detained for interrogation, on remand or after conviction.

Moreover, the frequent missions from headquarters or from the Nicaragua delegation permitted a watch to be kept on how the general situation in El Salvador, which was tense throughout the year, was developing, and to assess the El Salvador Red Cross Society’s ability to take action should conflict break out. To give support to the National Society, which had acted with efficiency during various demonstrations and troubles which had affected the country, the delegate-general and the Society prepared a plan to increase its operational capacity. The plan was later discussed with the League, which appealed to ten National Societies for about 200,000 Swiss francs.

The ICRC was also called upon to concern itself for hostages held by various opposition movements after other mediation attempts had failed and the ICRC was the only remaining possibility.

The ICRC appealed to the parties holding the hostages to treat them with humanity and stated that it was prepared to visit the hostages purely for humanitarian reasons (to see the conditions of detention, to provide medical assistance, and to comfort the hostages and their families). It made it clear that such visits would in no way affect the negotiations for release. An ICRC medical delegate was allowed to visit three hostages, two of them British and one Japanese.

Paraguay

ICRC delegates twice visited 12 persons detained on security or political grounds in seven places. Three of the detainees were released in 1979.

In addition, the ICRC delegates submitted to the Paraguayan authorities a list of 24 persons reported missing. By the end of the year the ICRC had received no reply concerning these people.

Five detainees’ families were helped by the ICRC.
The year 1979 was marked by a substantial increase in ICRC commitments in Asia, especially in the south-east region.

The Sino-Vietnamese conflict led the ICRC to undertake protection activities both in China and Viet Nam, while fighting in Kampuchea called for large scale assistance for the Kampuchean people, both in Kampuchea itself and in Thailand. It was in this context that a delegation was established in Kampuchea, at Phnom Penh, and three sub-delegations in Thailand.

The Central Tracing Agency (CTA) carried out substantial activities in south-east Asia for refugees. Several of its delegates were seconded to the National Societies of the ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) to help them establish the structure called for by the growing needs of the ever-increasing number of refugees.

The ICRC also continued its traditional activities in the countries of the Far East and, in co-operation with the Indonesian Red Cross, undertook an assistance action in East Timor.

The ICRC offered its services on various occasions to the Afghan authorities and continued to provide technical assistance in the repatriation of non-Bengalis from Bangladesh to Pakistan.

Sino-Vietnamese conflict

Offers of services by the ICRC

On the basis of official statements about the fighting between the armed forces of the People’s Republic of China and those of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the ICRC, on 19 February, addressed itself to the parties to the conflict, to call their attention to the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and to offer them its services.

In its reply on 26 March the Vietnamese Government asked the ICRC to send a mission to Viet Nam as soon as possible to put into effect proposals contained in the ICRC offer of services.

On 1 March the ICRC repeated its offer to the People’s Republic of China, through its Permanent Mission in Geneva. The Permanent Mission, on 5 April, transmitted its Government’s invitation to send an ICRC mission to Beijing.

Missions to Viet Nam

An ICRC mission in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam from 5 to 14 April had two objectives: to carry out activities of protection for military and civilian prisoners under the terms of the Geneva Conventions and to evaluate the needs of civilians in the affected zones for assistance and relief.

The two delegates from Geneva were accompanied during their brief stay in Viet Nam by the head of the ICRC delegation in Hanoi and by two doctors. They had several interviews with officials in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and with representatives of the Red Cross of Viet Nam. No agreement could be reached, however, on the procedures whereby the ICRC would exercise its protection activities, and it was agreed to reconsider the question later.

In the course of this mission, the ICRC delegates were able to go to the provinces of Lang Son and Cao Bang and visit the provincial capitals and adjacent areas. On the basis of estimates made in these two provinces, the ICRC gave the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam relief valued at about 6,925,000 Swiss francs for the benefit of displaced persons in six provinces most seriously affected by the fighting. The greater part of this relief, 1,300 tons of food worth about 6,668,500 francs, was a gift from the EEC. The ICRC itself supplied medicaments valued at about 256,500 francs.

Subsequently, an agreement was reached between the Vietnamese authorities and the ICRC on procedures to be followed in visits to Chinese prisoners of war. A second mission, from 24 to 31 May consisted of the head of the Hanoi delegation and two delegates from Geneva. Its primary objective was to develop protective action in conformity with the Geneva Conventions, for the benefit of Chinese prisoners of war captured by Vietnamese armed forces. Secondly, the delegates were instructed to continue to consult with the Vietnamese authorities on the question of assistance to civilian victims of the conflict.

On 26 May, the delegates went to the Tai Nguyen camp, 90 kilometers north-east of Hanoi, where they visited 187 Chinese soldiers and had interviews with them without witnesses. On the day of the visit, 10 prisoners were away from the camp. On 28 May the delegates visited at Lang Son the provincial centre of the Red Cross, where the ICRC medical relief had been delivered and stored, and a provincial dispensary where they noted that the medicaments sent by the ICRC as a result of the April mission had arrived and were being distributed.

The ICRC delegates also turned over to the Director of External Services of the Red Cross of Viet Nam 600 family messages written by Vietnamese prisoners in Chinese hands and which had been gathered by ICRC delegates who had visited them in the People’s Republic of China (see below). A list of 551 names, drawn up on the basis of these messages, was also delivered to the Red Cross of Viet Nam.
Mission to the People’s Republic of China

The mission to the People’s Republic of China, from 24 April to 9 May, was one of particular importance, inasmuch as the last previous visit by the ICRC to that country had been in 1971.

The mission, headed by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, former President of the ICRC and a member of the Committee, had two primary objectives: to carry out, as stipulated in treaty agreements, the activities of protection for the benefit of Vietnamese prisoners and to resume a dialogue with the Chinese authorities and Red Cross. Talks took place with various officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, including one of the Vice-Ministers, the Vice-President of the Permanent Committee of the National People’s Congress, and leaders of the Chinese Red Cross.

The ICRC delegates visited, in conformity with customary criteria, 1,621 prisoners in six camps in the autonomous region of Guangxi and the province of Yunnan and a hospital in the southern part of the country. They distributed family message forms which were filled out by 600 prisoners.

Contacts with representatives of the Chinese Red Cross made it clear that that National Society wished to develop cooperation with the international Red Cross, and especially with the ICRC.

Repatriation of prisoners of war

Pursuant to an agreement reached between the authorities of the People’s Republic of China and those of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, a simultaneous operation for the repatriation of 120 Vietnamese prisoners and 43 Chinese prisoners took place on 21 May under the auspices of the Chinese and Vietnamese Red Cross Societies, in the presence of the ICRC delegates.

The Chinese and Vietnamese Governments reached an agreement on 26 May to repatriate all the prisoners of war who were still being detained and they exchanged complete lists of the prisoners they were holding. Accordingly, four further repatriation operations took place, on 28 May and on 5, 13 and 21 June, affecting 1,516 Vietnamese and 195 Chinese prisoners of war.

Conflict in Kampuchea

The early days of the year were marked by a resumption of fighting between the armed forces of Democratic Kampuchea, on one side, and those of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and of the Front uni de Salut national du Kampuchea on the other side. On 7 January, Phnom Penh was captured and a new government, the “People’s Revolutionary Council of the People’s Republic of Kampuchea” was established.

In its effort to assist the civilian and military victims, the ICRC, on 4 January, appealed to all the parties to the conflict to apply the Geneva Conventions. At the same time it renewed the offer of its services. Several simultaneous approaches were made; in New York to Vietnamese representatives and spokesmen for Democratic Kampuchea; in Geneva to the Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and in Hanoi to the Vietnamese authorities and representatives of the People’s Republic of Kampuchea.

At the beginning of March, the Vietnamese authorities officially informed the ICRC delegation in Hanoi that all the Democratic Kampuchea prisoners who had been in captivity in Viet Nam had been turned over to the People’s Republic of Kampuchea.

Following negotiations with representatives of the People’s Republic of Kampuchea in Hanoi, the ICRC was officially invited, on 4 July, to send a mission to Phnom Penh. A similar invitation was sent to UNICEF. After three joint evaluation missions during the summer of 1979, the ICRC and UNICEF, on 23 September, were authorized, respectively, to open a delegation and an office in Phnom Penh, thus making it possible to start a joint ICRC-UNICEF assistance action for the benefit of the Kampuchean population.

Because the situation in Kampuchea had forced tens of thousands of Kampucheans to flee toward the frontier of Thailand, the ICRC undertook as well, in October, to institute a large-scale operation of material aid and medical care, based in Thailand. This action was carried out jointly with UNICEF as was the one inside Kampuchea, in close co-operation with other international organizations and voluntary agencies. In addition, the ICRC was entrusted by the Thai Government with the co-ordination of medical action in Thailand in camps run by the UNHCR.

Financing the action

Since the operation for the benefit of the Kampuchean people at the border with Thailand was an extension of that inside Kampuchea, a single budget was adopted.

A preliminary appeal, based on a project worked out jointly by the ICRC, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP), was sent simultaneously from Geneva and New York, on 16 October, to representatives of 18 donor governments. The National Societies in these countries were also contacted.

On 19 October a joint ICRC-UNICEF appeal for 111 million dollars for a period of 6 months was announced in New York by Mr. Henry Labouisse, Executive Director of UNICEF. On 5 November, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, presided over a “pledging conference” composed of representatives of 76 countries and the EEC. The ICRC, UNICEF and the UNHCR were present as observers.

At this conference, the international community was asked to contribute some 250 million dollars to finance the programmes of the ICRC, UNICEF and the WFP for the civilian population of Kampuchea for the ensuing 12 months. In addition to the 111 million dollars required to finance operations for the first 6 months, 140 millions were sought to continue and develop these programmes during the latter part of 1980.
In addition, the UNHCR needed 60 million dollars to finance its action for refugees in Thailand.

The total of contribution announced at this conference amounted to about 210 million dollars. As of 31 December, the ICRC had received 21,951,500 dollars (34,665,700 Swiss francs) and had spent 14,145,270 dollars (23,339,700 Swiss francs) in its assistance programmes for victims of the conflict in Kampuchea.

Activities in Kampuchea

Survey missions

The ICRC had three objectives in sending a mission to Kampuchea in the summer of 1979:
— to find out the measures required to evaluate the needs of the civilian populations affected by the events and to plan an assistance action;
— to determine the best ways and means of delivering relief to these populations;
— to discuss with the authorities of the People’s Republic of Kampuchea the prospects for a protection action in conformity with the Geneva Conventions.

During the first, exploratory, mission to Phnom Penh, from 17 to 19 July, the Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Kampuchea asked the ICRC and UNICEF to develop a programme of assistance to the population of Kampuchea. In that short visit the delegates went to Phnom Penh and Kompong Speu and interviewed government authorities and officials of the Red Cross. They found that there was an enormous need of food and medicine. On the basis of these observations, the ICRC and UNICEF agreed to carry out an assistance programme according to procedures to be negotiated.

The second mission, from 9 to 16 August, was sent to examine these procedures. The plane chartered by the ICRC and UNICEF which brought the two delegates of the joint mission to Phnom Penh from Ho Chi Minh City also carried 4.4 tons of urgently needed drugs and medical equipment. The representatives of the ICRC and UNICEF had various talks with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Health, Education and Trade, to whom they submitted proposals for a general assistance programme. They also met technical officials and representatives of the local Red Cross.

These discussions had two concrete results: the joint mission was authorized to arrange direct flights between Bangkok and Phnom Penh and an ICRC doctor and a UNICEF specialist in logistics were permitted to accompany the two delegates on their next mission.

A third mission, from 29 August to 30 September had the objective of continuing the negotiations and finalizing the practical procedures for the ICRC-UNICEF assistance programme. Accordingly, on 29 August, a plane carrying 30 tons of relief landed at Phnom Penh with a representative of UNICEF and an ICRC delegate and medical delegate aboard.

On 23 September, the Minister of the Economy informed the delegates of the agreement of the Government of the People’s Republic of Kampuchea to the opening of an ICRC delegation and a UNICEF office. This agreement was confirmed on 26 September by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Joint ICRC-UNICEF assistance programme

The assistance action which had begun on a limited basis on 9 August with an initial shipment of drugs and medical equipment developed from October onwards in conformity with the programme submitted on the 20th of that month to the authorities of the People’s Republic of Kampuchea.

Due to difficulties, which were mainly of a logistic character, encountered by the joint mission in the distribution of relief, Mr. Labouisse, Executive Director of UNICEF, and Mr. de Courten, ICRC delegate-general for Asia, went to Phnom Penh on 4 November.

Following their talks with President Heng Samrin and various ministers, distributions on a larger scale were permitted. The authorities also announced the setting up of an interministerial committee for the reception of humanitarian assistance, and for the preparation and carrying out of distribution programmes in co-operation with the ICRC and UNICEF.

On 17 November, the Minister for Foreign Affairs notified the ICRC and UNICEF that the Government of the People’s Republic of Kampuchea was in agreement with the joint assistance programme which had been presented on 20 October. The Minister also announced on that occasion that his Government favoured the proposal of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR to send a medical team to work in the joint ICRC-UNICEF programme. On the basis of the assurances received, the joint mission decided to speed up the delivery of the vehicles necessary for the distributions.

Mr. Hocké, Director of the Department of Operations, was in Kampuchea from 6 to 10 December. The authorities confirmed to him their agreement with the logistic measures designed to expedite distributions. After completing this mission, Mr. Hocké went to New York from 18 to 20 December to review the joint action with UNICEF, assess its future possibilities and establish the basis for its continuance in 1980 both in Kampuchea and in Thailand. On that occasion he had talks with Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General, and with other United Nations officials.

Material assistance

Between 9 August and 31 December, 37,428 tons of relief supplies (including 34,000 tons of food) worth about 16 million dollars, were delivered to Kampuchea as part of the joint ICRC-UNICEF action. Most of the food, about 30,000 tons, was supplied by the WFP.

Of these 37,428 tons of relief supplies, 36,290 tons were carried by chartered planes and ships as described below.
Transport of the remaining 1,138 tons was organized by the donors themselves.

**DELIVERIES BY AIR.**—About 4,000 tons were transported by air, in 14 flights from Europe, Australia and Viet Nam, from 9 August to mid-November, and 193 shuttle flights between Bangkok and Phnom Penh and between Singapore and Phnom Penh. These shuttle flights were possible because of the assistance of the British, Australian, French and American Governments and of the Netherlands Red Cross, which made aircraft available.

**DELIVERIES BY SEA.**—Deliveries by ships and barges started on 13 October. Food supplies came mainly by way of Bangkok and Singapore. Trucks sent from Japan, Italy and Great Britain were landed at Singapore and forwarded by plane to Phnom Penh or by ship to Kompong Som.

By the end of December, fourteen ships had delivered to Kompong Som 30,500 tons of relief, consisting of 30,000 tons of food and 500 tons of vehicles, mostly trucks. In addition, two ships carrying 2,000 tons of relief, including 1,000 tons of food and 100 tons of vehicles, went up the Mekong River to Phnom Penh. The total value of the ships’ cargoes amounted to 9.36 million dollars.

Other organizations, including the World Council of Churches and OXFAM, delivered 13,455 tons of relief to Kampuchea. Of the twelve vessels used, six discharged at Kompong Som and the other six at Phnom Penh.

**Medical assistance**

From 29 August to 31 December, the joint mission maintained a doctor in Phnom Penh. On 9 August, he was joined by a nurse. In view of the great destruction of hospitals both in Phnom Penh and in the provinces, reconstruction of a minimal medical infrastructure was a priority task. Medical equipment and basic drugs were therefore distributed to three hospitals, fourteen dispensaries and two orphans in Phnom Penh and to eighteen hospitals, fourteen dispensaries, an infirmary and an orphanage elsewhere in the country. These distributions were made in co-operation with the local Red Cross.

In view of the shortage of qualified medical personnel, the joint mission started discussions with the authorities to seek approval for the entry of foreign personnel. The admission of a medical team offered by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR was approved by the Government and the team was expected to arrive in Kampuchea at the beginning of 1980.

From the start of the action up to 31 December 1979, drugs and medical equipment valued at 669,000 Swiss francs were delivered to Kampuchea through the intermediary of the ICRC.

**LOGISTICS.**—In order to speed up the distribution of relief, taking into account the existing infrastructure, the joint mission decided to import vehicles and attempt to develop water, air and land transport. Up to the end of the year, UNICEF and the ICRC had seen to the importation of 162 trucks, 18 Land-Rovers, 51 motorcycles and a number of bicycles.

Since the railway between Kompong Som and Phnom Penh could bring in no more than 200 to 300 tons of relief per day, the joint mission asked for the right to utilize the Mekong River route. The authorities gave their approval on 13 November.

Negotiations were also instituted to obtain permission to use a more direct air corridor between Bangkok and Phnom Penh and to make flights within Kampuchea. These negotiations had not been concluded at the end of the year.

**ORGANIZATION.**—At the end of September, the ICRC delegation in Phnom Penh consisted of a head of delegation, a doctor and a relief delegate. In mid-October, they were joined by three more delegates. At the end of the year, there were seven ICRC delegates and the entire delegation staff numbered thirteen persons.

**Activities in Thailand**

The events in Kampuchea led to the flight of thousands of civilians to the frontier and to Thailand. Starting on 7 January, the ICRC delegation in Bangkok, in co-operation with the UNHCR, the Red Cross and authorities of Thailand, sought to work out an assistance and protection programme for their benefit.

From 4 to 12 May, the ICRC Director of Operations was in Thailand to discuss with the authorities the possibilities for action for civilians who had fled from Kampuchea. After the Thai Government had agreed, the ICRC President, on 21 May, wrote to Mr. Kriangsak Chamanand, Prime Minister of Thailand, expressing the hope that the ICRC would be able to develop such an assistance programme rapidly. An appeal for funds was launched on the same day, to obtain the contributions needed for the programme. As a result the Bangkok delegation was able to act for the benefit of some 40,000 persons. At the beginning of June, however, the Thai authorities suddenly decided to send these persons back to Kampuchea. The ICRC President immediately sent a new message to Mr. Kriangsak Chamanand expressing his consternation at this situation and asking that the expulsion be delayed.

In view of the deteriorating plight of refugees in south-east Asia, two appeals were made to the international community on 15 and 28 June: the first by the ICRC alone and the second jointly with the League (see page 43).

The purpose of these two appeals was to alert governments and public opinion, and ask the countries of first asylum to permit the ICRC to act for the benefit of the refugees on their territories.

The appeals produced no immediate result. In Thailand in particular the ICRC was obliged to suspend its assistance and protection at the frontier with Kampuchea.
In September, while the number of Kampuchean civilians massed at the border, intending to seek refuge in Thailand, continued to increase, the Thai authorities contacted the ICRC and various other organizations to make certain of their support for a programme they were considering for the reception of refugees. The proposed project was confirmed on 17 October by the Prime Minister, who announced that Thailand was ready to accept these new refugees. Accordingly the ICRC, UNICEF, UNHCR and other specialized agencies of the United Nations and numerous voluntary agencies were once again in a position to engage in a major assistance effort.

The Thai authorities asked the ICRC and UNICEF to develop a food and medical assistance programme at the frontier and, in co-operation with voluntary agencies, to coordinate medical action in the camps under the control of the UNHCR.

The assistance action soon assumed considerable proportions. To deal with the increase in work the ICRC organization in Thailand had to be restructured and reinforced in every respect: operations, administration, Agency activities and information.

Development of the assistance action

After the decision by the Thai Government to entrust the ICRC and UNICEF with responsibility for co-ordinating relief work at the frontier, the joint medical and material action was developed under conditions comparable to those carried out on Kampuchean territory, with the World Food Programme closely associated. The Thai authorities transferred some of these refugees at the frontier to camps or so-called “holding centres” inside the country, which were under the charge of the UNHCR. The ICRC co-ordinated medical activities.

In addition to the assistance given for the Kampuchean people, the ICRC and UNICEF provided backing to the Thai Red Cross as part of its action for Thai frontier populations displaced because of the events.

Material assistance

This relief action, consisting mainly of food, took place at various points along the frontier for people on Kampuchean territory.

The constant movement of refugees along and across the frontier made it impossible to carry out any accurate census. It was estimated that an average of about 350,000 persons, from October to November, benefited from the international relief effort, receiving a standard daily ration of 550 g of food, including 450 g of rice.

From the beginning of October to the end of the year, 20,070 tons of relief including 19,500 tons of food were delivered to the frontier zone. The greater part of this, 13,220 tons, was supplied by the WFP. All relief distributed in this period, food, blankets, water tanks, tents, etc., represented a total value of 5,628,000 dollars.

Medical assistance

In October, a Red Cross task force including the ICRC, the League and the Thai Red Cross was set up in Bangkok under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the Thai Red Cross to co-ordinate all medical operations. Dr. Rémi Russbach, chief medical officer at the ICRC, was designated as “medical co-ordinator” and served in this capacity from 23 October to 24 November. He was replaced on 12 December by Dr. Marcel Dubouloz, his deputy at the ICRC.

Medical assistance was provided in two phases, the first being the setting up of medical structures at the Sakéo, Kamput and Khao-I-Dang camps and the second the provision of medical facilities at the frontier.

**CAMPS OPERATED BY THE UNHCR.** — On 24 October, 31,000 Kampuchean were transferred to Sakéo. At the time of their arrival, the camp had no medical infrastructure, although many doctors and nurses from voluntary agencies were already at work there, under very difficult material conditions. The ICRC, in four days, set up a 1,000-bed hospital to which several medical teams were assigned. The hospital consisted of five wards: surgery, general medicine, special feeding, pediatrics and obstetrics. It was equipped with a pharmaceutical storehouse. Medical teams set to work to screen the camp population to detect serious diseases and bring the sick to the hospital. After ten days, the medical system was operating in a satisfactory manner. Within a few weeks, there was a substantial drop in mortality. A similar medical infrastructure was set up at the Kamput camp.

On 21 November, the day of the opening of the Khao-I-Dang transit camp, about 100,000 persons were brought in. A 1,000-bed hospital was set up, in which two surgical units were included, with doctors working around the clock. A second hospital, also with 1,000 beds, was installed at the end of the year, as the first could not meet the demands made upon it.

**AT THE FRONTIER.** — Mobile medical teams were deployed along the frontier to meet the sick and wounded and transfer them to hospitals. From five to eight such teams were at work every day. Security made it necessary, however, to limit this action.

Medical installations were also set up in camps along the frontier, including two hospitals, one at Samet and the other at Makmun, and five dispensaries. Because of the changing situation at the frontier, these installations often had to be moved, as new needs arose.

**Medical personnel**

On 26 October, the ICRC and the League communicated with a number of National Societies in an effort to recruit 120 doctors and nurses for the Red Cross medical action in
Thailand. With the constant arrival of new refugees at the frontier, however, a further appeal had to be made on 18 November. As a result of these appeals, the medical and paramedical personnel provided by 19 National Societies amounted to 354 persons at the end of the year. The ICRC itself sent 25 persons.

The efforts of all the volunteers and the splendid team spirit among them made it possible to save thousands of lives. Note should also be taken of the excellent co-operation among the organizations engaged in this action.

The cost of medical assistance in Thailand, including that along the frontier, had amounted by the end of the year to 5,552,000 Swiss francs, of which 3,269,000 francs represented donations in kind from National Societies and other donors.

LOGISTICS. — The relief operations in Thailand presented major logistic problems, especially with regard to the delivery of supplies. These problems were finally overcome, thanks both to an infrastructure which was strengthened in equipment and personnel and to the support and assistance of the Thai Red Cross and authorities.

For example, 85 vehicles were made available for the movements of medical personnel and delegates. Another 31 vehicles were rented or otherwise provided to the ICRC. A workshop for servicing and repairs was set up at Watthana Nakhon.

In the field of housing, a great contribution was made by the construction of huts, particularly for the medical teams. About fifteen such units were built in Thailand. In addition, the Swiss Disaster Relief Corps financed the building of 200 huts. At the end of the year, 100 of these were under construction and orders had been given for 100 more.

Central Tracing Agency

There was a great increase in 1979 in the work of the Agency bureau which was integrated with the delegation in Bangkok. Since the “newly arrived persons”—“illegal immigrants” in the terminology of Thailand—did not have refugee status, the Agency had to devote itself first of all to the task of identification. At the beginning of the year, it concentrated on recording the names of Kampucheans who had come to Thailand. This information enabled it to reply to hundreds of tracing requests which it received. From October onward, after the government had authorized the admission of these new refugees, the Agency undertook a more systematic programme of activities, in three phases:

— arranging initial contact between the new refugees and their relatives abroad through the organization of a “postal” service through which 20,000 letters were exchanged;

— searches for the addresses of relatives abroad, in cooperation with National Societies, and searches for persons living in the camps, for which there were some 1,500 requests, 20% of which led to positive results;

— listing of the “newly arrived” Kampucheans in the “holding centres” at Sakéo, Khao-I-Dang and Kamput, of whom there were about 150,000. This information was passed on to the UNHCR in Bangkok with a view to arranging transfers to other countries.

To accomplish this work, the Bangkok bureau of the Agency had to increase its personnel from 16 to 56 persons. It employed modern means, including a computer, for the rapid processing of information.

ORGANIZATION. — The staff of the ICRC delegation in Thailand, consisting of five delegates at the beginning of the year, eventually totalled some 60 persons, not including the medical teams, at the Bangkok headquarters and the three sub-delegations at Aranyaprathep, Sakéo and Chanthaburi.

In addition, the services of about 20 persons were contributed by National Societies, including administrators, information delegates, etc.

Refugees in South-East Asia

In the past four years several hundred thousand Indochinese refugees have poured into various south-east Asian countries. At the beginning of 1979, the migration was on such a scale that some countries which had proved hospitable at the outset began to turn away the new arrivals. The story of the “boat people” was so dramatically presented by the mass media that it again became a matter of great concern to the public.

Confronted by this tragic situation, the ICRC, in cooperation with the League and the UNHCR, intervened:

— by proposing plans of action and by offering its services to the international community in appeals and international conferences;

— by participating in the development and application of an action programme for the benefit of the refugees.

Appeals to the international community

Three appeals to the international community to help the refugees were launched on 12 January, 15 June and 28 June.

In their first joint appeal, the League and the ICRC pointed out that the international Red Cross had always worked for the welfare of refugees; but they also emphasized the responsibility of governments whose duty it was to grant asylum.

With the increase in the number of refugees, the deterioration of the situation and the rejection of refugees by some countries, the ICRC on 15 June again appealed to the community of nations to face up to the magnitude of the tragedy, urging them to devote themselves immediately and with determination to finding solutions on the political level, even to the causes of the disaster. Further, it proposed the development of an overall emergency plan, conceived and
sustained by States, as the only means for stopping the alarming degeneration of the situation.

This plan should have for its objectives:
— to supply provisions to civilian populations which might be driven either by the fighting or famine to leave their countries of origin or residence;
— to institute, in the places of first asylum to which the refugees had already fled, programmes of economic development which would be of benefit to the native populations as well as to the refugees;
— to obtain from the countries of final asylum the granting of more entry visas, so as to share more equitably with the countries of first asylum the very heavy burden of helping these hundreds of thousands of persons.

Taking into consideration both the extension of the practice of driving away refugees, and the failures of earlier representations, the ICRC and the League, supported by certain National Societies, launched a third appeal on 28 June, for immediate and urgent steps to save the very lives of these refugees.

While stressing the impossibility of bringing its own aid to the refugees, the international Red Cross pleaded with governments in the region to stop driving them away and with countries of final asylum to commit themselves quickly to accepting more refugees for final settlement.

The ICRC was invited to attend the Conference on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia convened in Geneva by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 20 and 21 July. At this conference, the ICRC suggested that concrete measures by adopted for the benefit of the refugees, assured the participants of its own availability, offering in particular the assistance of its Central Tracing Agency for the tracing of persons, the transmission of mail, and so forth. The ICRC had already offered such services at a meeting of the heads of the National Societies of the ASEAN countries in Manila from 2 to 5 April.

Meeting of the leaders of National Societies in ASEAN countries

At the invitation of the Philippine Red Cross, the ICRC was represented at the meeting of the heads of the National Societies in ASEAN countries at Manila from 2 to 5 April by the delegate-general for Asia, the Deputy Director of the Central Tracing Agency and the regional delegate for south-east Asia.

The ICRC described its possibilities for action in three fields: tracing persons, protection and assistance. With regard to tracing, it expressed its readiness to take responsibility and to co-ordinate tracing activities in all the countries receiving refugees from south-east Asia.

Geneva Conference on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia

The Conference on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia, called by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, met in Geneva on 20 and 21 July, with some 60 countries and the UNHCR attending. The ICRC and the League were also represented.

Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, drew the attention of the conference and the international community as a whole to the role which the ICRC was prepared to play, particularly in listing persons, tracing the missing, exchanging messages between members of separated families and reuniting families. He also reminded the conference of what he had stated in his appeal of 15 June, that massive assistance should be accorded to the countries of origin of the refugees, whose populations still suffered the consequences of the conflicts which had afflicted the region for so many years. It was in this spirit, he said, that the ICRC wished to provide its assistance also to the people of Viet Nam. He emphasized that the carrying out of the proposed activities had to have all the support which the governments were willing to give to the ICRC.

Development of an action programme in co-operation with the League and the UNHCR

Following various talks between representatives of the UNHCR and the ICRC both in Geneva and in the field, a memorandum defining the respective functions of the two organizations for the benefit of refugees in south-east Asia was signed in Geneva on 5 September.

Under its terms, the UNHCR agreed to supply the ICRC with data on registered refugees, as it was the task of the ICRC to centralize all such information and to deal with all tracing requests received by either organization. The UNHCR would continue to be responsible for the registration and resettlement of refugees and for the assistance they needed.

In addition, pursuant to the decisions taken by the 20-21 July Conference in Geneva, the League and the ICRC invited seventeen National Societies, including the five in the ASEAN countries, to meet for a discussion of the action programme for the refugees in south-east Asia. This meeting, which took place on 31 July and 1 August in Geneva, agreed on the major lines of future action by the League, the ICRC and the National Societies, as compared to those of the UNHCR. The international Red Cross assumed responsibility for providing food and medical assistance supplementary to that of the UNHCR in the fields of nutrition and medical care, and for giving aid to the civilian populations in the vicinity of refugee camps. The ICRC had already put into effect the programme outlined by the Central Tracing Agency. The National Societies of the donor countries—Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and USA—declared that they were prepared to cover the budget proposed on the basis of the action programmes put forward by the National Societies of the ASEAN countries.

Pursuant to the decisions reached, the special adviser to the Secretary-General of the League for questions of relief and development went to Indonesia, the Philippines, Hong Kong,
Macao and Thailand, to study in detail, from 4 to 28 August, the relief programmes of the National Societies in the "countries of first asylum". In addition, the ICRC sent Agency delegates to the Philippines, Indonesia and Hong Kong to make an initial inventory of needs for message services and tracing. Lastly, at the end of September, the ICRC and the League set up an International Red Cross "intervention group" to co-ordinate their respective activities in south-east Asia.

Technical seminar at Kuala Lumpur

Following the meeting of National Societies on 30 July and 1 August, the ICRC and the Malaysian Red Crescent organized a technical seminar at Kuala Lumpur. This was held on 6 and 7 September and was attended by representatives of the League and the National Societies of Hong Kong, Indonesia, Macao, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The ICRC was represented by its delegate-general for Asia, its two regional delegates for south-east Asia and five Agency delegates.

The purpose of the seminar was to discuss the programme for tracing missing persons and for the transmission of messages for the refugees in south-east Asia. It was also necessary to determine the respective tasks of the Agency in Geneva and of the National Societies of the ASEAN countries. The meeting had the following results:

— a co-ordination system was established and centralization and co-ordination by the Agency was accepted;
— Agency delegates were sent to serve as advisers to the National Societies in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Macao and the Philippines.

Financing the League-ICRC programme

To finance their joint programme, the League and the ICRC, on 12 September, launched an appeal for 22,751,500 Swiss francs to cover the period from 1 August to 31 December. Of this amount, 1,475,500 francs was to cover technical and material support for the Agency, while the balance was to finance the activities of the National Societies involved.

This appeal to governments and National Societies in 126 countries was covered to the extent of 68% by 31 December 1979.

Other activities in the Far East

Thailand

Persons detained for illegal entry into Thailand

In addition to its assistance action for Kampuchean people massed along the frontier with Thailand (see page 41), the ICRC continued to intervene on behalf of persons arrested for illegal entry into Thailand, from Kampuchea and from Laos.

Refugees

The ICRC continued to co-operate with the Thai Red Cross in training paramedical personnel among the refugees in camps run by the UNHCR. This programme, financed with funds provided by the British and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, permitted the training of 160 persons. Due to the increasing number of refugees, however, the ICRC agreed to a further programme proposed by the Thai Red Cross for the training of another 200 persons.

Meanwhile, the mobile ophthalmological team sent by the Swiss Red Cross in July 1978 (See Annual Report 1978, page 35) continued treating refugees under the administrative and medical direction of the ICRC. The Swiss National Society continued to finance and carry out this action. In 1979, this team gave more than 5,000 consultations and performed 470 operations.

Viet Nam

Repatriation of foreign residents

From 1975 onwards, the Agency bureau in Bangkok received many requests to help persons in Viet Nam join their families abroad. In addition, in co-operation with the ICRC delegation in Hanoi, it assisted nationals of countries which had no diplomatic representation in Viet Nam (Yemen, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia) but who lived in Viet Nam, in their efforts to be repatriated.

As part of this operation, for example, from May 1977 to November 1979, 22 flights were arranged from Ho Chi Minh City to Taipei (Taiwan) by way of Bangkok, for a total of 3,385 persons.

The ICRC delegate in Hanoi was responsible for presenting these applications to the Vietnamese authorities and arranging for the departures of those leaving. For this purpose, he was authorized to go to Ho Chi Minh City and remain there for the duration of the operation. This activity diminished with the passing of time and the departure of many people. Six flights in 1979 permitted the repatriation of 565 persons.

The ICRC delegate also intervened with the Vietnamese authorities on several occasions, with a view to visiting some foreigners whose countries had no diplomatic presence in Viet Nam and who were under detention. By the end of 1979, none of these overtures had been successful.

The ICRC raised with the Vietnamese authorities the case of a U.S. national living in Viet Nam who wished to return to his country. On 22 March, after obtaining the approval of Vietnamese and American authorities, the ICRC brought this person to the United States consular representative in Bangkok. An interview without witness had preceded his departure from Viet Nam. In addition, three U.S. nationals who had entered the territorial waters of Viet Nam in a private yacht were liberated on 5 July upon the intervention and under the auspices of the ICRC.
The head of the ICRC delegation in Hanoi, at the beginning of April, went to Laos, where he had several talks with representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and of the Red Cross.

**Assistance by INDSEC**

Even though the “Indo-China bureau” (INDSEC), jointly operated by the ICRC and League to provide relief in Vietnam, Thailand and Laos, had been closed on 30 June 1978 (see Annual Report 1978, pages 34-35), the relief actions included in its programme were still being carried out in 1979.

Under this programme, 125 tons of iron bars and 1,115 tons of cement for the expansion of the Rach Gia hospital (total value 350,000 Swiss francs), and hospital equipment (25,000 francs) and four ambulances (130,000 francs) were purchased and shipped.

A refrigerator truck valued at 40,000 Swiss francs was sent by ship to the Vietnamese Red Cross, thus completing the equipment for the blood bank established by the Vietnamese Red Cross in Ho Chi Minh City, in cooperation with the Canadian Red Cross.

**Malaysia**

**Protection**

Between the end of March and the end of April, the regional delegate for south-east Asia, based at Kuala Lumpur, made visits in Malaysia to 755 persons arrested under the Internal Security Act and held in three places of detention. Following the visits a confidential report was submitted to the Malaysian authorities. The preceding visit had been in the summer of 1977.

In the final interview with the Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior, on 18 May, the regional delegate raised the question of access to all detainees held under the provisions of the Internal Security Act. The ICRC has not yet obtained authorization to visit sentenced detainees and those under interrogation.

**Central Tracing Agency**

Following a mission by the Deputy Director of the Agency at the beginning of January, a tracing bureau was established on 15 February within the National Red Crescent Society in cooperation with the UNHCR, which provided the necessary funds, and with the League, which made available two delegates from the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany to train local personnel.

This bureau, with a staff of some 20 persons, transmitted mail and parcels between refugees in the camps and their families. It was also busy tracing missing persons.

**Indonesia**

**Protection**

Since the Indonesian authorities had agreed to the continuance in 1979 of visits to political detainees with the status “G30S/PKI” (see Annual Report 1978, pages 45-46), the ICRC made approaches to the authorities at the beginning of the year, to agree upon procedures. The same procedures as those for the 1978 visits were accepted by the authorities in an interview between the head of the ICRC delegation in Jakarta and Admiral Soedamo, the head of “Kopkamtib”, on 15 March.

From 19 June to 30 August, an ICRC team consisting of two regional delegates for south-east Asia, a visitor delegate, a medical delegate and two interpreters visited 31 places of detention on the islands of Java (Western, Central and Eastern), Sulawesi and Kalimantan. The team saw 2,043 detainees with the status “G30S/PKI”, i.e. arrested following the events of 30 September 1965, of whom 524 were described as “sentenced”, 485 as being in “Category A”, 908 in “Category B”, 13 in “Category X” and 113 other detainees.

These visits took place in conformity with customary procedures, including the possibility of talking without witness with detainees chosen by the delegates and provisions for repeated visits. They concluded with interviews with the authorities in charge of the places of detention and were the subjects of reports transmitted by the ICRC to the Indonesian Government.

**Central Tracing Agency**

With the influx of refugees into the islands of Indonesia in 1979, the Indonesian Red Cross had to face an avalanche of letters and requests for the tracing of missing persons. It soon became clear that the National Society needed a bureau employing the methods of the CTA and co-ordinating its activities with those of other tracing bureaus in south-east Asia. For that purpose a CTA delegate went to Jakarta on 13 August. Her first task was to dispatch thousands of letters which had not been posted for lack of money. Secondly, she undertook a survey to refugee camps on Bintan Island, Galang and elsewhere. She found it necessary to open another tracing bureau at Tanjung-Pinang. This was done on 28 September and an Agency delegate took charge of the office in October.

The Tanjung-Pinang bureau provided for the delivery of mail to the camps and carried out investigations. Tracing work was centralized in Jakarta where files were kept, based initially on a hundred requests received in August and then on a UNHCR list coming mainly from the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) and from authorities. The mass of information grew constantly, calling for an increase in Indonesian Red Cross staff, who were trained by the Agency delegate.
East Timor

During his visit to Indonesia in November 1978, the President of the ICRC had received an agreement in principle from the authorities for a preliminary ICRC visit to East Timor in 1979 (see Annual Report, 1978, p. 45). Later, the head of the Jakarta delegation made various approaches to settle the procedures. Finally, in an interview in Geneva on 28 March between the President of the ICRC and the Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the latter confirmed his Government’s approval of the procedures proposed.

Visit to East Timor

The preliminary visit took place from 18 to 26 April. Two delegates and a doctor went to a number of villages in the interior of the island and were thus able to make the first estimate of the food and medical needs of the displaced civilian populations. The ICRC proposed an emergency assistance programme for East Timor.

The broad outlines of this programme, to be under the direction of the Indonesian Red Cross with the cooperation of the ICRC, were agreed to on 15 June by the Indonesian authorities. The procedures for cooperation between the ICRC and the National Society were specified in an agreement signed on 19 June.

Pursuant to that agreement, a relief delegate and a doctor from the ICRC, together with representatives of the Indonesian Red Cross, carried out from 21 to 28 July a survey in thirteen villages in East Timor to examine in detail the needs for the next six months. This direct contact in the field also disclosed the extent of the logistic problems involved in making deliveries of relief to the interior of the island. Of the thirteen villages visited, the eight in the greatest need were included in the programme, which thus covered about 60,000 persons.

Appeal for funds

Once the programme had been agreed upon by all parties, a detailed letter setting forth the budget for the action and calling for about 13 million Swiss francs was sent by the President of the ICRC on 21 August to National Societies and to the Governments of Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and the United Kingdom, and in addition to the European Economic Community.

In response to this appeal, by 31 December the ICRC received donations in kind valued at 3,540,000 Swiss francs and contributions in cash amounting to 9,000,000 francs.

The inception of the assistance programme

On 8 October, a Hercules aircraft delivered from Jakarta to Dili the medical relief needed for the first four months of the programme, together with enriched foodstuffs. The first relief ship, carrying 640 tons of food, four Land-Rovers and three trucks left Jakarta on 13 October and reached Dili on 20 October.

By the middle of October, medical teams from the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross had begun to make censuses of the people in the eight villages chosen. The relief distributions started on 19 October in the village of Hatolia, which was accessible by road, and ten days later at Laclubar, where deliveries had to be made by helicopter.

On 31 December, three ships from Jakarta had brought 2,680.7 tons of relief to Dili and one ship from Australia had delivered 1,315.8 tons. In addition, four Hercules aircraft delivered 49 tons. A total of nearly 4,000 tons of food, ten vehicles, drugs, blankets and soap had been brought in by the end of the year. Nearly one-third of the food had been distributed by that time.

LOGISTICS. — Only two of the eight villages chosen could be supplied by road at all times of the year, while the others had to be provisioned wholly or in part by air. These logistic difficulties obliged the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross to lease three helicopters and a “Britten Islander” aircraft to bring relief to the interior of the island. This means of transport was very costly and economies were made by setting up two logistic bases on the coast, at Laga and Beaco, to which food was brought in barges supplied by the Catholic Relief Services.

The total cost to the ICRC of logistics, spent or committed by the end of December, amounted to 1,646,000 Swiss francs.

ORGANIZATION. — In mid-September, a doctor, a nurse and a relief delegate from the ICRC were in East Timor, where they were joined by four doctors, five nurses, twenty volunteer workers and five staff members of the Indonesian Red Cross.

Personnel provided by the Indonesian Red Cross by the end of the year amounted to about 190 persons, including nine doctors, eleven nurses and 121 volunteers from East Timor.

Central Tracing Agency

FAMILY REUNITING IN PORTUGAL. — Pursuant to ICRC negotiations with both the Indonesian and Portuguese authorities, the latter agreed, in October, to the reuniting in Portugal of the first twenty-eight persons with their next-of-kin. The Portuguese authorities made only one condition, that the reuniting would be carried out through the intermediary of the ICRC and the Portuguese Red Cross. The first family reunion took place in December under the auspices of the ICRC.

Philippines

Protection

The ICRC regional delegate for south-east Asia was in the Philippines from 15 to 27 October, first to negotiate the resumption of visits to places of detention and second to assess the situation of displaced persons on Mindanao.
In interviews with various officials of the Command for the Administration of Detainees (COMCAD) and of the Ministry of Defence, the delegate obtained the list of places of detention and of detainees—except for the category designated as “sentenced”. The ICRC asked for authorization to visit the “sentenced” category also. A reply from the Philippine Government was expected early in 1980 on the occasion of a further visit to the Philippines by the ICRC regional delegate.

**Assistance on Mindanao**

During 1979, relief valued at 31,120 Swiss francs was sent by the ICRC to the Philippine Red Cross for the benefit of displaced persons on Mindanao. The regional delegate, accompanied by representatives of the Philippine Red Cross, made a visit to the island and saw that a reassessment of needs was necessary in some regions.

**Central Tracing Agency**

In October, a Central Tracing Agency delegate was sent to the Philippines to advise the National Society. Her main task was to participate in the restructuring of the National Society’s tracing service. The postal service was operating in a satisfactory manner. It was found that the assistance of the Agency would be needed after the end of December until the filing system was established and the personnel trained.

**Hong Kong**

At the end of March, the Deputy Director of the Central Tracing Agency went to Hong Kong to confer with government authorities and leaders of the local Red Cross on problems resulting from the great influx of refugees. It was agreed that all tracing activities concerning refugees arriving either by land or sea would be dealt with directly by the Hong Kong Red Cross. An index system was set up on the basis of cards which had previously been filed in Hong Kong but which concerned Macao.

**People’s Republic of China**

From 23 November to 4 December, a joint League-ICRC mission visited the People’s Republic of China in connection with the action of the International Red Cross for refugees in south-east Asia. The purpose of the ICRC representative was to study, in co-operation with the Red Cross of the People’s Republic, the problems of listing and searching for persons, arising from the presence of some 250,000 refugees from Vietnam. The League was concerned with providing medical assistance. The delegates of the League and of the ICRC visited a number of State farms in the Provinces of Fukien and Canton, where some of these refugees had been installed.

On 21 December, the League and the ICRC launched a joint appeal to National Societies for aid to the Chinese Red Cross in its relief operations for the benefit of the refugees.

**The Indian sub-continent**

A regional delegate resident in Geneva has been in charge of ICRC activities in the Indian sub-continent and only a liaison office has been maintained in New Delhi. In 1979, this delegate carried out several missions in India and Pakistan.

In India, which he visited twice, in March and June, the regional delegate was occupied in dealing with current matters at the liaison office and various practical questions with leaders of the National Society.

In Pakistan, from 14 March to 3 April, he had talks with the heads of the Pakistan Red Crescent on the situation of Afghan refugees and with government officials on the question of repatriating non-Bengalis (Biharis) from Bangladesh to Pakistan.

Following this mission the ICRC, in April, allocated assistance amounting to about 20,000 Swiss francs for the benefit of some 3,000 Afghan refugees in northern Pakistan.

The regional delegate went again to Pakistan from 23 September to 1 October to assess the situation of the Afghan refugees. On this occasion, he visited the camp at Gündaf, with nearly 1,000 persons.

On 20 December, after receiving a request from the Pakistan Red Crescent for emergency assistance, the League and the ICRC made a preliminary appeal to a number of National Societies asking for the immediate dispatch of relief consisting mainly of tents, blankets and clothing for Afghan refugees fleeing into Pakistan. They also announced that a joint League-ICRC mission would go to the country in early January to evaluate the situation in the camps, especially from the medical point of view, and to draw up an action plan in cooperation with the Pakistan Red Crescent.
Sequel to the 1971 conflict in the Indian sub-continent— repatriation of Biharis

The ICRC had agreed in the autumn of 1978 (see Annual Report 1978, p. 38) to co-operate with the UNHCR in organizing transfers of non-Bengalis (Biharis) from Bangladesh to Pakistan, on the condition that its role would be limited to technical assistance.

Accordingly, on 25 May, a Central Tracing Agency delegate went to Bangladesh where he stayed until 30 May to devise, with Bangladesh authorities and representatives of Pakistan and of the UNHCR, the practical procedures for this operation. A plan was agreed upon for repatriations by both sea and air, with ships being provided by the governments concerned while the UNHCR would provide for air travel. The respective tasks were clearly defined and the role of the ICRC was limited to providing technical assistance and serving as an intermediary between the parties. Preliminary control and the transfer of the Biharis was to be carried out by the authorities of Bangladesh while the administrative tasks were the responsibility of the Pakistani authorities. The UNHCR financed the operation.

Three ships, transporting a total of 6,172 persons, sailed from Chittagong on 22 June, 15 July and 5 August. From 14 to 26 September, fourteen flights repatriated 1,587 persons. A final sailing on 20 November with 1,489 passengers, brought to 9,248 the total number repatriated in 1979.

As agreed, the ICRC sent delegates to Dacca to observe all these operations.

Afghanistan

Alarmed by the situation in Afghanistan following the changes in that country, the ICRC, on 13 July, sent the Afghan Head of State an offer of services and proposed the sending of a delegate on a protection mission. On 1 August the Secretary-General of the Afghan Red Crescent replied that the visit would have to be postponed.

On 5 September the President of the ICRC sent President Nur Taraki a new offer of services based on Article 3, common to the four Geneva Conventions. The Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, on 29 September, sent his Government's negative reply to the offer.

The ICRC made a similar offer of services to representatives of Afghan opposition movements.

In December, following a renewal of fighting, the ICRC twice repeated the offer of its services to the Afghan authorities, on 21 December, prior to the change of government in Kabul, and again on 31 December to the new Head of State, President Babrak Karmal. The second offer was accepted by the Afghan authorities and an ICRC delegation was expected in Kabul early in 1980.
Besides continuing its work for certain victims of the 1974 conflict in Cyprus, the ICRC carried out several missions in most of the European countries and in North America to promote relations with National Societies and governments, particularly those participating in its operations all over the world, either directly, by providing personnel, or indirectly, by giving financial or material assistance. Representatives of the ICRC also took part in several seminars or meetings organized by the National Societies of these countries.

This policy of maintaining contact took the President of the ICRC twice to Great Britain—where he was received in audience by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II—to Poland, to the Federal Republic of Germany and to Belgium.

Members of the Committee also carried out other missions:
— in Poland, Dr. Jacques F. de Rougemont attended the inauguration of the hospital dedicated to child health, in memory of the young victims of the Second World War;
— in the USSR, Mrs. Marion Bovée-Rothenbach attended the primary health care seminar organized by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Soviet Union, in Frounze;
— in Czechoslovakia, Mr. Maurice Aubert took part in the 8th congress of the National Society;
— in Greece, Mr. Marcel A. Naville attended the 3rd meeting of the Balkan National Societies which was held in Athens.

The Vice-President, Mr. Pestalozzi, represented the ICRC at the Annual Assembly of Swiss Red Cross Delegates in St. Gallen.

On several such missions, the President of the ICRC and members of the Committee were accompanied by Mr. Melchior Borsinger, delegate-general for Europe and North America, or by the regional delegate for Central and Eastern Europe. Moreover the delegate-general visited Great Britain, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, and the regional delegate for Central and Eastern Europe visited Yugoslavia (twice) and Romania.

Several personalities were received at the headquarters in Geneva by the President of the ICRC. Amongst them were the Spanish Monarchs on 21 June and the President of the French Republic, on 10 December, in the presence of Mr. Hans Hürlimann, President of the Swiss Confederation.

Finally, as in every Annual Report, mention must be made of the activities of the International Tracing Service (ITS) at Arolsen, in the Federal Republic of Germany, which is under the direction and management of the ICRC (see box below).

Cyprus

From 27 May to 7 June, the delegate-general for Europe and North America, accompanied by the delegate responsible for questions concerning Cyprus at ICRC headquarters in Geneva, visited some 1,600 Greek Cypriots remaining in the north of the island, under Turkish Cypriot control, and some 200 Turkish Cypriots remaining in the south of the island.

The aim of this mission was to ascertain the situation of these people in humanitarian terms and to make any necessary approaches to the responsible authorities. The ICRC delegation held talks with the representatives of the Cyprus Government and also with the Turkish Cypriot authorities regarding the problems encountered. The ICRC delegation also contacted the United Nations representatives in Cyprus.

INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE (ITS)

The ITS, from its founding in London in 1943 by the Allied military authorities, was under the responsibility of different military or civil bodies until 1955, when its management and administration was taken over by the ICRC. Its task is to gather, classify, store and use documents relating to Germans and non-Germans who were held in the National Socialist concentration or labour camps and to non-Germans displaced as a result of the Second World War. The ITS records, though incomplete, have information on some ten million victims of the National Socialist regime. Thanks to this information the ITS can issue certificates of internment or forced labour relating to that period. However, this information is often inadequate: year after year an ever-increasing number of enquiries, for which there are no documents, are made. It must be pointed out that most concentration camp records were destroyed at the end of the Second World War. In such cases the ITS has obviously no means of tracing the missing persons in its archives.

The ITS publishes its own annual report from which the following statistics were taken: in 1979, from its archives the ITS was able to furnish 65,448 replies, including 15,282 certificates or reports of imprisonment, 5,168 certificates of forced labour during the war, 2,564 reports and certificates on periods spent in DP camps after the war, etc.
In 1979, the ICRC maintained all of its Middle East delegations, in Egypt, Israel and the occupied territories, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, its activities being connected mainly with the Israelio-Arab conflict and the internal Lebanese conflict. In addition, the ICRC conducted an assistance action in the Yemen Arab Republic. It also maintained a delegation in Iran which took action in the fields of protection and assistance in connection with the troubles occurring in that country.

Mission of the President and members of the Committee

The President of the ICRC carried out a mission in Saudi Arabia at the beginning of April, together with Mr. Jean Hoefliger, delegate-general for the Middle East, and Mr. Serge Nessi, head of the Financing Division. The principal purpose of this mission was a quest for funds. The ICRC President was received by H. M. King Khaled and high Saudi Arabian personalities.

At the invitation of the President of the Jordan Red Crescent, Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, member of the Committee and Vice-President of the ICRC, and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League, went to Jordan in March to participate in the inauguration of a new Red Crescent hospital building in Amman, a ceremony which was also attended by representatives of the Norwegian and Finnish National Societies.

Mrs. Denise Bindschedler-Robert, a member of the Committee, made a visit in October to Israel and the occupied territories during which she discussed ICRC activities with various officials.

Israel and occupied territories

In 1979, the ICRC carried out two types of activity in Israel and the occupied territories. One type is based on the Fourth Geneva Convention relating to the protection of civilian populations, with visits to Arab civilian detainees, observation of the respect given to the judicial rights of accused persons, transfer of persons and of Red Cross messages across the demarcation lines, intervention in the event of the destruction of houses, or implantations or expulsions, and assistance to protected persons. (It is to be recalled in this connection that the ICRC considers that all the conditions exist for the application of the Fourth Convention in connection with the conflict between Israel and Arab countries, whereas the Israeli authorities maintain that the Fourth Convention is not legally applicable, while putting it into effect in practice). The other type is based on the Third Convention relating to prisoners of war. (These activities dealt with the consequences of the Israeli intervention in Lebanon in March 1978 and are reported upon under that heading.)

Problems encountered by the ICRC delegates, especially in the field of protection, were taken up with Israeli authorities by the head of the ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories, in particular with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Moshe Dayan, the Minister of Defence, Mr. Ezer Weizmann, the Minister of the Interior, Dr. Yosef Burg, and the Minister of Justice, Mr. Shmuel Tamir.

Activities for detainees

Throughout 1979, the ICRC continued its protection action for the benefit of persons from the occupied territories and from Arab countries detained in Israel or in occupied territories. Its delegates had interviews without witness with security detainees under interrogation, to whom they had had access since 1978, and with other categories of detainees (sentenced prisoners, persons awaiting trial and persons in administrative detention).

DETAINEES UNDER INTERROGATION. — As stated in the preceding Annual Report, the Israeli authorities and the ICRC had held open the possibility of re-examining the arrangements provided for in the agreement of November 1977, which entered into effect on 1 January 1978. After the ICRC, in 1978, proposed modifications relating to visits to detainees under interrogation, the agreement was reconsidered by the two parties and, in amended form, took effect on 18 March 1979. The amendments dealt mainly with two points: the time elapsing before notification of an arrest and the nature of the interview with a detainee. Any arrest, under the new provisions, had to be reported to the ICRC within a maximum period of 12 days instead of 14 days, so that the first visit could in fact take place within 14 days after the arrest, as had been provided for in the agreement of November 1977. Furthermore, when detainees had been under interrogation for more than 28 days, the ICRC delegates were no longer limited to enquiring only about their health and identity.

Desiring to extend its action of protection as far as possible, the ICRC proposed further amendments in October 1979. It asked that notifications of changes in the status of detainees (such as persons awaiting trial or persons sentenced being subjected to renewed interrogation) should be provided for in the agreement and that it be permitted to visit those concerned within 7 days. It asked as well for other facilities, including the possibility for delegates to examine the conditions of detention of detainees under interrogation and the possibility of reducing the period before notification to 10 days. At the end of the year, the Israeli authorities had not replied to these proposals.
Persons in East Jerusalem who were arrested for reasons of security had still not received the benefit in 1979 of the agreement governing ICRC visits to detainees under interrogation, despite repeated requests by the ICRC. Their arrests were therefore still not reported to the ICRC, but the ICRC visited them.

From 1 September 1979, ICRC delegates were no longer authorized to use detainees as interpreters on the occasions of visits to those undergoing interrogation. In consequence, the ICRC employed some Arab-speaking delegates.

In 1979, the ICRC made 2,724 visits to 1,176 detainees under interrogation.

OTHER DETAINEES. — At the same time, the ICRC continued its visits to other detainees, for the most part persons arrested for security reasons. The delegates went to 14 places of detention in Israel and the occupied territories and saw about 3,100 detainees. Each prison was visited, as a rule, every three months. As usual reports on these visits were sent to the occupying power and to the countries of origin of the detainees.

At the end of 1979, there were 23 administrative detainees as compared to about 30 at the end of the year before. In 1979, 14 Lebanese nationals arrested by the Israeli armed forces during an operation in southern Lebanon in March 1978 and placed under administrative detention were released (see also page 54).

ASSISTANCE TO DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES. — The ICRC continued during 1979 to provide material assistance to detainees and their families. The detainees received parcels of fruit every month, along with books and magazines. They were given 2,618 parcels of summer underwear and 305 parcels of winter underwear. The neediest among them were given money to enable them to make purchases at the prison canteens. In addition, the ICRC paid for various medical devices and prostheses for 355 detainees.

Families of detainees were provided with free transport enabling them to visit their detained relatives in the places of detention. A total of 31,409 passengers benefited from this travel assistance in 1979.

Assistance to detainees and their families amounted to a total of 376,600 Swiss francs during the year.

ATTENDANCE AT TRIALS. — The ICRC also assisted protected persons in connection with judicial proceedings against them. Ever since 1973, the Israeli authorities had been notifying the ICRC of cases being brought before military courts. It had been agreed that notification should reach the ICRC at least one week before the opening of the trial and should include as a minimum the name of the defendant, designation of the court, the charge against the detainee and the date and time of the first hearing. The ICRC has repeated its request that the notification period be respected.

In 1979, the legal delegate in the ICRC delegation in Israel attended 36 sessions of security trials before military tribunals in Golan, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank of the Jordan and Lod. He maintained regular contacts with the attorneys for the detainees, the prosecutors and Israeli judicial authorities. It must nevertheless be noted that the ICRC delegate was not allowed in the courtroom of military tribunals during the important phase of the judicial procedure designated as "mishpat zuta". It is during this phase that the tribunal decides upon the admissibility of confessions by the defendant when the latter asserts that these were obtained under pressure. Formal requests were made that the legal delegate should also be present at this phase of the procedure. Such authorization had not been obtained at the end of 1979.

The ICRC also renewed its requests to the responsible authorities to the effect that statements by defendants should not have to be written in Hebrew, a language with which they were generally unfamiliar, and that the decision already taken by the Israeli authorities on this matter should actually be put into practice.

Destruction of houses

The destruction of eight houses was reported to the ICRC in 1979, and the immurement of entrances to six others. These acts took place in East Jerusalem, the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

The ICRC repeated its protests to the Israeli authorities since these acts violate Article 53 of the Fourth Convention.

Expulsions

On the basis of Article 49 of the Fourth Convention, the ICRC protested to Israeli authorities on two occasions in 1979 against the expulsion of residents of the occupied territories, i.e. a West Bank student and the mayor of Nablus. In the latter case, the expulsion order was rescinded. The ICRC was able to visit both of the persons concerned during their detention.

Israeli settlements in occupied territories

The ICRC believes that the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are incompatible with Articles 27 and 49 of the Fourth Convention.

In view of the major dimensions of these settlements, the ICRC is concerned about the humanitarian consequences for protected persons in the occupied territories. Its delegates have therefore remained in constant contact with the persons affected and have intervened with the Israeli authorities when these settlements have caused hardship.

Travel across the demarcation lines

In agreement with the responsible authorities in all the countries concerned, the ICRC delegates in the occupied territories and in the neighbouring Arab countries arranged for the travel of certain categories of persons across the demarcation lines. These included students from the occupied territories on their way to Damascus or Cairo to continue their studies or returning for holidays at home, visitors and
pilgrims, persons being reunited with their families, released detainees being returned to their countries of origin, and persons who had entered the occupied territories without authorization. As the need arose, the ICRC delegations also arranged for the transfer of vehicles across the demarcation lines.

The following operations took place under ICRC auspices in 1979:

**BETWEEN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF GAZA/ SINAÏ AND CAIRO.** — Seven operations were organized to provide for the passage of 1,381 persons from Egypt into the occupied territories and 893 persons in the opposite direction. These included 488 students coming from Cairo and 109 returning to Cairo. These operations also made possible three family reunions, with three persons from Egypt joining relatives in the Gaza Strip. Such operations took place at El Khirba up to 16 May and at El Arish after 13 June.

**BETWEEN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY OF GOLAN AND DAMASCUS.** — These operations took place at Kuneitra in the United Nations buffer zone on the Golan heights and made possible 10 family reunions (7 into Golan and 3 to Damascus). At the same time, 47 students crossed on their way to Damascus to begin or continue their studies and 47 entered Golan to spend their holidays.

**BETWEEN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY ON THE WEST BANK AND AMMAN.** — A total of 26 persons were transferred under ICRC auspices, 16 to Amman and 10 to the West Bank (consisting of detainees released after serving their sentences or freed in advance, persons who had infiltrated across the lines, mental patients, etc.). These operations took place at the Allenby Bridge.

**AT THE FRONTIER BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON.** — A total of 27 persons (released detainees and infiltrators), the body of one dead person and 6 Lebanese civilians who had been treated in Israeli hospitals following the events in southern Lebanon, were transferred from Israel to Lebanon at the frontier town of Roshanikra.

Family reuniting

Under the procedure established by the Israeli authorities, requests concerning family reunions involving the entry of persons into the occupied territories had to be made directly to the authorities by members of the families already living in the occupied territories. It was only in the event of a refusal by the Israeli authorities and at the request of the family concerned that the ICRC, under exceptional circumstances, intervened with the authorities.

In 1979, 32 such requests were made (15 for Golan, 15 for the West Bank and 2 for the Gaza Strip). Permission was given in 15 cases; 7 were refused; 7 remained without response at the end of the year and decisions were suspended in 3 other cases after visiting permission had been granted for 1 year.

For earlier cases on which decisions had been pending, 15 replies were obtained.

**Central Tracing Agency**

Central Tracing Agency investigations were conducted in the attempt to locate missing civilians and soldiers. In 1979, delegates submitted to the appropriate authorities 10 requests for information about military personnel who had disappeared during the hostilities. The Agency received 6 negative replies to these requests and 17 negative replies concerning cases submitted earlier. In addition, 134 requests for information about civilians, presumably arrested or reported missing, were submitted to the authorities. There were 65 positive replies (54 persons having been located in prisons) and 7 negative replies.

Delegates also arranged the exchange of Red Cross messages and transfer of money between members of separated families, especially between detainees and their families. In 1979, 5,350 messages were delivered to detainees and 11,360 to families in about fifteen Arab countries. All these activities were carried out in co-operation with ICRC delegations in nearby countries and with the assistance of National Societies in the countries concerned.

In 1979, the Agency transmitted 2,134 family messages between Israel and the occupied territories and Arab countries; between civilian internees in Israel or the occupied territories and their families in non-adjacent Arab countries. In addition, there were 235 requests for searches, coming mainly from civilian internees in Israel and the occupied territories who had lost all contact with their families. These were sent to the Agency in Geneva, which was able to send replies in 90% of all the cases, most of them positive.

**Help for invalids**

Since 1972, the Magen David Adom has been responsible for administering a fund established by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany to finance the purchase of prostheses for invalids in the Gaza Strip. The role of the ICRC has been both to transmit the funds to the Magen David Adom and to present cases in need of such help. In 1979, 15 invalids benefited from this action.

**Food assistance**

The ICRC continued its food assistance to needy civilians in the occupied territories and to displaced persons in Jordan and Syria who had fled the conflicts of 1967 and 1973. The food came from the European Economic Community and from the Swiss Confederation. Distributions were made under the supervision of ICRC delegates with the assistance, in the occupied territories, of the Israeli Ministry for Social Affairs and various charitable organizations and, in Syria and Jordan, of the Red Crescent Societies (see Table, page 61).
Other activities

The ICRC delegation in Israel was also active in the dissemination of knowledge of the principles of international humanitarian law, arranging conferences and giving lectures as part of the training programme for guards and officers in the prison service. The legal delegate presided over two seminars on international humanitarian law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**ORGANIZATION.** — To carry out the work described above, the ICRC maintained its structure in Israel and the occupied territories, with a delegation in Tel Aviv and two sub-delegations, one in Jerusalem and one in the Gaza Strip. A delegate based in Tel Aviv was responsible for the occupied territory in Golan. In addition, the ICRC had various offices, staffed by local personnel, in different localities on the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip, at El Arish and in the Sinai (the latter being closed at the end of May). At the end of 1979, there were 14 delegates and 38 locally recruited employees.

New relations between Israel and Egypt

Following the March 26 agreement between Egypt and Israel, various changes were made in the activities of the ICRC in relation to these two countries.

Concerned by the cessation of operations for travel between Egypt and the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai, and also by humanitarian problems which might result from the restoration of the occupied territories in the Sinai, the ICRC asked the Egyptian authorities for permission to maintain its office in El Arish after this locality was returned to Egypt. The Egyptian authorities agreed, and on 26 May the office at El Arish was placed under the control of the ICRC delegation in Cairo.

A single operation for the transfer of persons took place at El Arish. Later, when differences of view developed between Israel and Egypt on the need for the presence of a neutral intermediary to supervise these movements, several persons remained blocked in Cairo. Since they were protected persons under the terms of the Fourth Convention, the ICRC intervened repeatedly with the two governments, insisting that the transfers should be carried out. In particular, in a note delivered on 29 June to the Israeli and Egyptian authorities, the ICRC expressed its concern about the difficulties delaying the transfer of a large number of protected persons and placed itself at the disposal of the parties to seek a solution to the problem. Despite all the requests made, no further transfers took place under ICRC auspices up to the end of the year. A number of the persons affected, however, were able by their own means to return either to Egypt or to the occupied territories.

The subject of assistance to needy families in Sinai who had been receiving material aid from the Israeli Ministry of Social Affairs, was taken up with the Egyptian Government by the delegate-general during a visit to Cairo. As in previous talks between the Egyptian authorities and the Cairo delegation, the delegate-general reminded his interlocutors, in particular Mrs. Jehan Sadate, President of the Egyptian Red Crescent, and Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, that the ICRC would be glad to give the Egyptian authorities the benefit of the experience it had gained in social and medical fields in the course of its 12-year presence in the occupied Sinai and inform them of the humanitarian problems it had encountered in that region. This proposal was accepted. Accordingly, in the company of Egyptian authorities, the ICRC delegates in Cairo were able to make their first visit to the Sinai at the end of the year.

The ICRC repeatedly drew the attention both of Israeli and Egyptian authorities to the humanitarian problems which might be created for part of the civilian population by modifications in the lines of demarcation following successive Israeli withdrawals. Among these problems would be access to supplies, to water points, pastureage, etc.

Consequence of the Israeli intervention in Lebanon in March 1978

Following the Israeli intervention in southern Lebanon in March 1978 (see Annual Report for 1978, page 26), the ICRC undertook various protection activities for the benefit of:

— persons captured by the Israeli armed forces, whom it visited and some of whom had been repatriated (at the end of 1978, 14 of these persons remained in detention in Israel under the terms of an administrative decree), and
— an Israeli soldier arrested in Lebanon and held by the “People’s Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command”. The ICRC visited this detainee twice in 1978.

Following up these 1978 efforts, the ICRC made a further visit to the Israeli prisoner of war in January and renewed its representations to the parties concerned, who finally agreed to a simultaneous release of prisoners.

This operation took place in Geneva on 14 March under the auspices of the ICRC which, at the request of both parties, organized the procedure, with the assistance of the Swiss authorities. The exchange involved the Israeli prisoner of war in the hands of the “People’s Front” and 76 civilian Arab detainees in Israeli hands. All had been visited once more by the ICRC delegates before their release. While 66 of the civilian Arab detainees and the Israeli soldier were taken by plane to Geneva, the other 10 Arab detainees were released in the occupied territories and were accompanied by ICRC delegates as they returned to their families.

On 8 February, the ICRC repatriated 14 persons who had been arrested by the Israeli armed forces in southern Lebanon and were still detained in Israel.

Lebanon

The year 1979 was relatively calm for Lebanon, and the activities of the ICRC were correspondingly reduced as compared to the year before. The delegation headquarters
agreement with the Lebanese Government, signed on 1 April 1978, was ratified by the Council of Ministers and was signed on 2 March 1979 by the President of the Republic.

Protection

The ICRC continued its protection activities in Lebanon, calling to the attention of the political and military leaders of the different parties and armed groups the fundamental humanitarian principles for the treatment of prisoners. The ICRC had access to some of the prisoners or hostages in the hands of these parties. Such visits were essentially limited however to ascertaining the names of the captives, giving them moral comfort and, in certain cases, some material aid.

For example, the delegates were able to see some of the persons detained by the two opposing Christian factions. A total of 164 persons were liberated under the auspices of the ICRC. At the end of the year, however, some detainees held by each side had not been released and had not been visited by the ICRC.

Medical assistance

The ICRC undertook limited medical assistance (surveys in dispensaries and hospitals, provision of medical material, transfers of wounded persons) for victims of the conflicts between the different parties within the country and of the Israelo-Arab conflict. Most of the assistance was provided in southern Lebanon and notably in the regions of Hasbaya, Nabatiye and Saida which, in January, April, July and August, were the scenes of Israeli military operations and conflicts between Palestinian forces and Christian militias. The ICRC assistance was limited, since larger-scale intervention was not required in view of the existing infrastructure. The medical delegate visited southern Lebanon during the troubles in January and a female nurse was kept at the sub-delegation in Tyre until July.

The emergency centre opened in August 1978 at Achrafieh in East Beirut was closed on 31 January 1979 and its medical material was distributed to various dispensaries.

In between periods of combat, the ICRC made regular tours throughout the country to assess the situation in government dispensaries, sections of the Lebanese Red Cross and the “Palestinian Red Crescent”. This was not only in order to prepare for new confrontations but also to evaluate the scope of medical problems and report them to the appropriate authorities. Accordingly, the ICRC took part periodically in working sessions which brought together governmental bodies, such as the Committee for Medical Aid, and representatives of such international organizations as WHO and UNICEF. During peaceful periods, the ICRC delegates were also engaged in transferring sick and handicapped persons from one zone to another within the country.

In addition, the ICRC gave material assistance, in the form of medicines, medical equipment and financial aid both to the Lebanese Red Cross, which was somewhat short of resources after the efforts it had exerted in the autumn of 1978, and to the “Palestinian Red Crescent”.

In 1979, the value of medical aid to Lebanon, consisting of medicines, medical material and 77 wheel chairs, amounted to 570,035 Swiss francs.

Material assistance

The assistance was sealed-down towards the end of April since the criteria for intervention, especially the criterion of urgency, no longer prevailed in the greater part of the country, southern Lebanon excepted.

In Beirut and in the central and northern regions, assistance was limited to distributions, through the Office for Social Development and the Lebanese Red Cross, of blankets, milk, baby food and clothing to displaced families for children below the age of five years, and some relief for religious minority groups and foreigners (see Annual Report 1978, page 29). From the last days of May, the ICRC made only a few distributions of assistance to needy communities and families which had suffered very severely from the events.

In southern Lebanon, the ICRC undertook some actions in camps for Palestinian refugees. It also organized an operation for the benefit of some 1,800 Muslim and Christian orphans in the Marjayoun region for the holidays of Al Adha and Christmas.

At the same time, the ICRC was concerned about the situation of displaced people from the South who were taking refuge in the Saida region. Survey missions found that governmental organizations, the Lebanese Red Cross and the “Palestinian Red Crescent” could deal with the problem and the role of the ICRC was therefore limited to reporting needs.

In 1979, the ICRC distributed about 283 tons of relief goods, some of it purchased locally, worth 1,424,052 Swiss francs. The material included 205 tons of food, especially milk and baby food, 24 tons of clothing, including layettes, 24 tons of blankets and 28 tons of various other items. The material was handed over to the Lebanese Red Cross, the “Palestinian Red Crescent”, and to other charitable organizations or distributed directly. It was provided by the ICRC, the Red Cross Societies of France, Belgium, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland, the Governments of Luxembourg and Switzerland, various other organizations and a private donor.

Central Tracing Agency

The Agency bureau in Lebanon transmitted 10,448 family messages in 1979, inside the country and to delegations in other countries in the Middle East, and handled requests for information about persons who had disappeared or been arrested. In 1979, 236 investigations were undertaken, with positive results in 181 cases and negative results in 32. In addition, the bureau arranged the transfer of persons inside Lebanon or between Israel and Lebanon.

In Geneva, the Agency transmitted 131 family messages and dealt with 218 investigations relating to Lebanon. In observance of the criteria of the ICRC, it provided 15 travel
documents, thus making possible the reuniting of separated families.

ORGANIZATION. — In view of reduced activities, the number of persons in the field was cut down from 18 delegates at the beginning of the year to 11 at the end of 1979. The number of locally recruited employees was reduced from 44 to 35.

At the beginning of 1979, the ICRC had a delegation at Beirut and three bureaus at Tyre, Achrafieh and Jounieh, directed by delegates, and a bureau in Tripoli staffed by two local employees. At the end of the year, activities in Tyre and Jounieh were attended to by delegates based in Beirut.

The bureau at Achrafieh was closed for some months during the year. Its reopening, and the opening of a bureau at Saida, a region to which displaced persons from southern Lebanon were coming for safety, were decided upon because of the need to deal with the situation as a whole.

Activities of other ICRC delegations in the Middle East

CAIRO

Apart from activities relating to the Israelo-Arab conflict, which constituted the greater part of its work, the ICRC delegation in Cairo undertook various assistance actions—such as payment for medical treatments, financial support for a liberated detainee and for other needy persons. Its staff in 1979 consisted of 3 delegates and 9 locally recruited employees.

DAMASCUS

The Damascus delegation, with a head of delegation and 3 local employees, made several visits to two German nationals who had been detained in Syria after crossing the demarcation line from the occupied territory in Golan. Relief was given to them, together with Red Cross message forms enabling them to correspond with their families.

The ICRC also made approaches to the Syrian authorities seeking authorization to visit Lebanese nationals who had been arrested by the Arab peace-keeping force and subsequently detained in Syria. At the end of the year, the ICRC had not yet received a reply.

In the field of information, the head of the Damascus delegation, in co-operation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, gave several talks on the ICRC for the authorities and for local branches of the National Society.

AMMAN

Apart from the activities in connection with the Israelo-Arab conflict, the Amman delegation (consisting of a head of delegation, a radio operator and 6 locally recruited employees), undertook a protection action for the benefit of detainees in Jordan, pursuant to authorization for prison visits granted to the ICRC by the Jordanian authorities.

Two series of visits took place. The first was in February (17 places of detention) and the second in October (15 places of detention). A medical delegate took part in the first visits. The ICRC delegates were able to speak without witnesses with all the prisoners, to whom they gave various leisure articles amounting to a total value of 14,000 Swiss francs. Reports on the visits were sent to the authorities concerned.

Iran

At the beginning of the year, the ICRC continued its protection action for political detainees and persons arrested under the provisions of martial law during the reign of the Shah. After February, following the change of regime, the ICRC carried out its activities on behalf of persons arrested in connection with the events.

The ICRC also undertook a medical action in the course of the disturbances which broke out throughout the country during the change of regime.

Protection

VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION. — Prior to the change of regime, the ICRC made an additional visit in January to political detainees and other persons arrested under the provisions of martial law and held in the prison of Ghasr in Teheran. All of these persons were liberated when the regime changed.

The ICRC applied to the new civilian and religious authorities for authorization to continue its action of protection for persons arrested in connection with the events. A memorandum was accordingly submitted on 21 February to the new Prime Minister, Mr. Mehdi Bazargan, and to other high officials in the new Iranian Government. In June, the ICRC had not yet been able to resume its protection activities in a manner meeting its essential criteria. A visit to the Ghasr prison took place in March but it did not conform to the customary procedures, since the principle of interviews without witnesses was disputed during the visit. The delegate-general for the Middle East went to Teheran and had a discussion with the Prime Minister. At the end of August, the ICRC was authorized to visit, in accordance with its customary procedures, the prison of Evin in Teheran where approximately 750 persons were detained following the change of regime. A report on the visit was sent to the Iranian authorities, including the Prime Minister.
Efforts to gain access to all the places of detention in the country were rendered more difficult following the resignation of Mr. Bazargan’s government. Nevertheless, at the end of the year, the ICRC had received a reply which was positive in principle.

The ICRC was also concerned with matters of judicial procedure and intervened on several occasions with the new Iranian Government.

**AMERICAN HOSTAGES.** — When the hostages were taken at the United States Embassy in Teheran on 4 November, the ICRC did not make formal approaches to the parties concerned inasmuch as a considerable number of intermediaries had already intervened, either to obtain the release of the hostages or to seek authorization to visit them. It was only at the end of the year that the ICRC, in view of the fact that not all of the hostages had been seen by various visitors, made its own approaches for the purpose of meeting all persons detained in the embassy.

**EVENTS IN IRANIAN KURDISTAN.** — In December, a delegate went to western Azerbaijan, an Iranian province populated by Kurds, to study the possibility of providing protection for victims of the events. The delegate met various local personalities, especially Kurds, with whom he discussed problems of protection. The initiative did not lead to the desired results.

### Medical assistance

Concerned by the confrontations in various regions between the armed forces of the old regime and those opposing it, the ICRC at the beginning of January sent a medical delegate to Iran to assess the situation. In Teheran, he visited the main hospitals and medical supply stores and also made trips elsewhere, especially to Qazvin, which was particularly affected by the events. On the basis of this mission and contacts with doctors and with the Red Lion and Sun Society, it was considered that the existing infrastructure in terms of personnel and material was sufficient, at the time, to deal with the situation.

In the face of the growing magnitude of the disturbances affecting the entire country, particularly at the time of the change of regime in February, the ICRC felt it was necessary to give support to the efforts of the Iranian medical corps. Accordingly, on several occasions, it intervened with civilian and military authorities to urge that doctors and nurses be respected and that they should be able to carry out their work under normal conditions. In addition, at the request of the Iranian Medical Association, it launched an appeal for funds on 13 February which made it possible 4 days later to fly medical material, medicines and blood, donated by the ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross, to Teheran. A similar gift from the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany followed at the beginning of March. The value of this assistance action amounted to 454,700 Swiss francs, including transport.

The ICRC remained in close contact with Iranian medical circles and the Red Lion and Sun Society so as to be ready to intervene in case of need. A medical delegate was kept in Iran for this purpose during the first three months of the year.

The detainees visited in 1979 also had the benefit of ICRC medical assistance, since a medical delegate participated in the visits to the Ghasr and Evin prisons.

### Central Tracing Agency

The Agency was mainly occupied with listing the names of detainees in the prisons visited, exchanging Red Cross messages between detainees and their families and searching for missing persons.

The ICRC also received about sixty requests for family news, which were sent to various parts of the country in cooperation with the Red Lion and Sun Society. About a score of requests for assistance from the families of detainees were also submitted to the National Society.

The ICRC in addition intervened to request that an Israeli national who had been detained and subsequently liberated in October be permitted to leave the country. The person concerned received the necessary visa at the end of October.

**ORGANIZATION.** — The ICRC maintained at least one delegate in Teheran throughout the year. As the need arose, especially for visits to places of detention, two or three additional delegates were provided.

### Yemen Arab Republic

Fighting broke out at the end of February in the frontier zone between the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) and the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen), resulting in the displacement of many civilians who sought refuge in the central area of North Yemen.

Pursuant to an appeal for assistance from the Red Crescent Society of the Yemen Arab Republic to the International Red Cross, The ICRC sent to that country the head of the Khartoum delegation to examine the needs in consultation with the authorities and to organize an assistance action. Subsequently a member of the staff of the Relief Division was sent to Sana’a to purchase relief supplies and supervise the action. At the end of May, a local employee of the ICRC was left in charge of the final distributions to needy persons.

At the same time, proposals were made by the ICRC to make a visit to the People’s Democratic Republic, but without result.
Assistance

About 45,000 persons, including a large proportion of women and children, in the Sana’a orphanage, the camp at Dhamar, and in the regions of Suadia, Marib, Abas and Beida, had the benefit of ICRC assistance. Relief items, including bedding, cooking utensils, a month’s supply of supplementary food, tents and medical material, amounted to 44 tons and cost 299,553 Swiss francs. The British Government and the Finnish Red Cross contributed to the ICRC action with gifts in kind.

The assistance action was carried out in conjunction with the North Yemen Red Crescent and the Catholic Relief Service and had the support of the UNHCR. It was financed by an ad hoc appeal for funds launched on 19 March.
Protection in situations not provided for in the Conventions

For several years, the ICRC has been working actively for the benefit of “political” detainees. Its action is purely humanitarian and is outside the scope of the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols. Although article 3, common to the four Conventions of 1949 and the 1977 Protocol II apply to non-international armed conflicts, they do not cover “situations of internal disturbances and tensions”, such as riots, isolated and sporadic acts of violence and other acts of a similar nature not considered to be armed conflicts (Protocol II, art. 1, para. 2).

The state to which the ICRC offers its services under such circumstances is not bound to accept them. It is thus as a mark of confidence that a government allows or at times even invites the ICRC to undertake an action in its country.

The “internal disturbances and tensions” justifying the protection afforded by the ICRC in pursuance of its universally recognized right of initiative are described in the 1978 Annual Report (page 42).

The ICRC visits places of detention provided its delegates are authorized to:

— see and talk freely and without witness with all detainees;
— have access to all places of detention and visit them periodically;
— have the list of persons to be visited or draw up that list during the visits;
— provide, if necessary, material assistance to needy detainees and to families most affected as a result of the breadwinners’ detention.

Such visits are intended to assess and, if need be, to improve the material and psychological conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees. To ensure effective protection, the ICRC delegates, who are all Swiss citizens, ask to visit all persons detained in connection with disturbances or tensions and to have access to all places of detention, whether permanent or temporary (prisons, barracks, transit centres, police stations, “rehabilitation centres”, etc.).

After each visit the ICRC sends a confidential report solely to the government concerned. These reports, which contain practical suggestions for improving detention conditions when necessary, are not intended for publication. The ICRC only publishes the names of the places visited, the dates of the visits, the number of persons seen and states whether its delegates were able to meet the detainees in private or not. It does not publicly comment on the material or psychological conditions in the places of detention, or give its opinion—publicly or otherwise—regarding the reasons for detention.

In this Report the expression political detainees is used for simplicity and does not imply recognition by the ICRC of the status attributed by the authorities to the prisoners visited.

Some statistics

In 1979, ICRC delegates visited 223 places of detention in 11 countries, containing over 7,100 “political” detainees (see Table). As usual, they suggested improvements as required by circumstances.

The cost of material assistance provided for detainees and their families amounted to 509,550 Swiss francs (see Table, page 62). This figure does not include the value of relief provided as part of specially financed activities.
II. HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Function and structure of Operations Department

As mentioned in the 1978 Annual Report (page 47), the task of the Operations Department is essentially to conduct the operations which the ICRC undertakes in the field for victims of conflicts or of related situations, pursuant to decisions of the Assembly or, more generally, of the Executive Board. It also proposes action to the Executive Board.

A new “support service” was set up in 1979, the “Liaison with National Societies and Governments” (LNSG). The main aim of this service is to improve the exchange of information between the ICRC and the National Societies relating to current operations and the possibility of obtaining personnel and material or financial assistance from the National Societies.

Relief Division

The tables given on pages 60, 61 and 62 illustrate the ICRC relief activities in 1979. Forty-five countries received 30,040 tons of supplies to a total value of 55 million Swiss francs. This amount includes specially financed actions and material aid donated by the EEC and the Swiss Confederation.

The specially financed actions undertaken by the ICRC with the support of governments, National Societies and various organizations amounted to 33.7 million Swiss francs for a total of 22,360 tons of supplies. These were forwarded to areas concerned, either by the ICRC or by the donors themselves, under ICRC supervision.

In addition to this, aid was given by the EEC and the Swiss Confederation. Thanks to agreements concluded with them, 17 countries received food aid to a value of 21.3 million Swiss francs (i.e. 7,680 tons of supplies).

Assistance to “political” detainees and their families amounted to 509,550 Swiss francs (not including the aid given to detainees and families coming under the “specially financed actions”)

Finally, twelve National Societies received financial aid from the ICRC for a total value of 307,120 Swiss francs.

TRANSPORT

Transport organized and financed by the ICRC in 1979 was as follows:

1. Despatch by scheduled transport services

   - Sea or land .................................. 543,002 196,187
   - Air ................................................. 147,540 834,606

2. Chartered transport by air

   - Full charters 14 trips .......... 206,923 963,207
   - Large aircraft time charters
     Kampuchea Action (services rendered) ........ 2,908,361 3,979,3931
     Nicaragua Action ........ 2,086,000 1,384,3311
   - Small aircraft time charters
     Rhodesia Action, 1698 flying hours 2 ....
     Chad Action, 519 flying hours ........ 282,922
     Timor Action, 901 flying hours .......... 684,888

3. Low cost transport by air (IATA resolution 200) .... 5,225 23,732

4. Import duty .................................... 49,531 17,061

5. Insurance ........................................ 54,027

Total ..................................................... 5,946,582 8,420,354

1 Provisional figures.
2 Pro memoria: ICRC planes in Rhodesia; cost included in expenses of Southern Africa Action (see table VI, pages 92-93).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Total Sw.fr.</th>
<th>Swiss Confederation</th>
<th>European Economic Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Commodities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>1,671,550</td>
<td>172,150</td>
<td>1,499,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>220,180</td>
<td>172,150</td>
<td>50 t. sk-milk powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>172,150</td>
<td>20 t. whole-milk powder</td>
<td>172,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>827,120</td>
<td></td>
<td>100 t. sk-milk powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>452,100</td>
<td></td>
<td>500 t. rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>2,738,130</td>
<td>448,000</td>
<td>100 t. sk-milk powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>197 t. sk-milk powder</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1000 t. rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100 t. porridge oats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>220,000</td>
<td>100 t. sk-milk powder</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 t. whole-milk powder</td>
<td>220,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>197 t. sk-milk powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1000 t. rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100 t. porridge oats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100 t. sk-milk powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>342,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30 t. butter-oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>253,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>1,694,710</td>
<td>88,000</td>
<td>88,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 t. whole-milk powder</td>
<td>88,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100 t. sk-milk powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>342,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30 t. butter-oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>253,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>11,334,110</td>
<td>1,060,800</td>
<td>10,273,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>175,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,454,080</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>648,950</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>848,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>478,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,222,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,445,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountains</td>
<td>3,919,350</td>
<td>525,000</td>
<td>946,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>500 t. wheat flour</td>
<td>250 t. sk-milk powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>787,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,660,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>363,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>415,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel &amp; occupied</td>
<td>607,500</td>
<td>75 t. whole-milk powder</td>
<td>607,500</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100 t. sk-milk powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>363,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>415,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sw.fr.</td>
<td>21,340,470</td>
<td>3,103,850</td>
<td>18,236,620</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Specially Financed Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Value (Sw.fr.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>19,207,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>6,656,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Of which:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value (Sw.fr.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>608,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>1,066,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>397,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodesia</td>
<td>3,014,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>23,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>1,545,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria (Western Sahara conflict)</td>
<td>73,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia (Ogaden and Eritrea conflicts)</td>
<td>1,971,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania (Western Sahara conflict)</td>
<td>38,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>1,797,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan (Eritrea conflict)</td>
<td>6,032,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>347,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>2,250,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zaire</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Latin America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value (Sw.fr.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>307,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>357,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>8,013,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People's Republic of Kampuchea</td>
<td>212,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>342,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Timor</td>
<td>4,061,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Middle East

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value (Sw.fr.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>896,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen Arab Republic</td>
<td>305,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Aid to National Societies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Value (Sw.fr.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>37,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>7,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>121,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>100,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>17,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>31,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>31,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>102,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel (for local Red Crescent Societies in occupied territories)</td>
<td>78,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan (for various sections of population)</td>
<td>10,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria (for various sections of population, hospitals, etc.)</td>
<td>5,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1-2 These figures are only the value of relief in kind given by the ICRC. The value of relief in kind of the joint UNICEF-ICRC action is:

- for the People's Republic of Kampuchea: Sw.fr. 8,380,800
- for Thailand: Sw.fr. 4,667,200

3 Relief in kind for Vietnam was given only by the EEC. (See table page 61.)
Medical Division

The steps taken in 1978 to increase the efficiency of the Medical Division in emergency actions have born fruit, both for the despatching of medicine and the use of personnel provided by National Societies.

In 1979 the Medical Division sent 511 doctors and paramedical personnel in the field, 388 of whom were provided by the National Societies. In the ICRC depots standard packages were prepared (medicine, bandaging material, etc.) to a value of about 2 million Swiss francs and these enabled prompt action to be taken during emergencies in the field.

Action for the benefit of the war-disabled has been expanded and the pilot projects of Debré Zeit in Ethiopia (see page 24), and Humabo in Angola (see page 19), have been worthwhile experiences. They have opened new horizons in artificial limb production by a technique suited to local conditions.

Detention Service

The Detention Service maintains the central captivity records up-to-date. This is done by classifying information given by delegates after their visits to places of detention. It also collects documents from various organizations concerned with penitentiary problems. In 1979 it recorded more than 3,780 visits to persons deprived of freedom.

The Detention Service processes all reports on visits to detainees before they are sent, in strict confidence, to the respective authorities. Historical research connected with captivity carried out by this Service last year enabled it to supply information to various institutions conducting studies on detention of persons captured during the Second World War.

In 1979 the Head of the Detention Service made several surveys for and of the operations carried out in Africa. He also participated in choosing and training future delegates to visit prisons (course on the methods of visiting), and during seminars and conferences he dealt with certain problems relating to detention and the prevention of torture.
Telecommunication Service

Six new radio stations were brought into operation in 1979 by the ICRC: in Teheran on 20 February, in San Salvador on 15 October, and four in Thailand, i.e. at Bangkok on 27 October, Aranyapratheet on 29 October, Sa Kaeo on 30 October and Kamput in December.

Three local stations serving as radiotelephonic links were set up in El Arish (Egypt) in August, in Leon (Nicaragua) in July (closed down in August), and in Moundou (Chad) in October.

ICRC radio stations and planes maintained contact during operations in Chad, Rhodesia, Thailand and elsewhere.

The number of VHF connections (short range portable or fixed transmitting-receiving sets) have continued to increase. Networks have been set up in the Lebanon, Rhodesia, Israel and Thailand. Sets were operated in Chad and Zambia. By 31 December about one hundred VHF sets and 50 HF (long range transmitting-receiving sets) were in the field.

(The World Administration Radio Conference and the 1979 TELECOM exhibition are dealt with on pages 69 and 82.)

At the end of 1979 the ICRC radiocommunication network could be illustrated as follows:
Activities of the Central Tracing Agency in 1979

In 1979, the ICRC Central Tracing Agency (CTA) received or despatched nearly 88,000 mail items, i.e. an increase of 7.5% on 1978 (82,000):

— about 27,000 items or 31% relating to sequels of the Second World War;

— about 17,000 items or 19% relating to sequels of conflicts after the 1939-45 war (Middle East, Cyprus, India, Pakistan, etc.);

— about 24,000 items, or 27% relating to current conflicts, with the exception of the refugee problem of south-east Asia;

— about 20,000 items or 23% dealing with requests relating to south-east Asian refugees.

Moreover, 125,000 names were recorded and filed during the year (90,000 in 1978). More than 500,000 names of south-east Asian refugees were sent to the CTA in Geneva by various organizations or Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies. These names are to be stored in the CTA computer and will be dealt with as and when search requests are made.

These figures, which only cover the activities carried out at the headquarters, show a considerable increase in the number of cases handled compared with the previous year.

In 1979 the CTA continued its activities, its treaty obligations to conflict victims, often long after the actual hostilities had ceased. Even 35 years after the end of the Second World War, one-third of the CTA's activities are still connected with the sequels of that conflict.

Though a steady decrease has been noted in certain sectors, in others there is an increase: requests for certificates of captivity or sickness issued to former prisoners of war, reuniting of families between the Federal Republic of Germany and Eastern Europe, and the search for missing persons.

Moreover, files relating to some more recent conflicts are far from closed as far as the CTA is concerned. Whereas the ICRC operations have ended in Cyprus, India and Bangladesh, the CTA still pursues its tasks in these countries.

There are also many current operations and the CTA delegates are active in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Their activities are described in Chapter 1, "Activities Throughout the World”.

New technical systems

In order to speed up the communication of information to enquirers the CTA needed to introduce the most modern means of processing, storing and communicating information. Hence, in 1979, the microfilming of old archives and data-processing was introduced.

MICROFILMS. — The creation of a microfilming service for CTA archives helped to reduce the overcrowding and make space available for new operations. Microfilming saves 98% of the space occupied by normal paper archives. Thanks to a gift from the Swiss Confederation, microfilming of old and rarely consulted records—some 17.5 million documents relating to the two World Wars and a few more recent conflicts—was started early in 1979.

During the year, about 8 million documents were microfilmed on both sides and in duplicate. So, for the first time, the CTA has spare copies which, stored in appropriate cabinets, ensure the perenniality of its archives. American microfilmed lists relating to German prisoners of war were also put on micro index-cards.

From October 1979, 25,000 files relating to individual cases were prepared for reproduction on micro index-cards. By the end of the year, 7,000 shots corresponding to 1,500 files were taken.

DATA-PROCESSING. — To enable the CTA to handle information, a data-processing system was started in 1979 for the CTA action for south-east Asian refugees. This was the first step towards a generalized system of data-processing at the CTA. This system along with others, such as the processing and recording of documents on microfilms, will enable the CTA to better discharge the tasks entrusted to it by the international community.

By the end of 1979 the problem had been analyzed, the programming completed and the filing of card-indexes planned for the beginning of 1980.

Assistance to National Societies

The CTA continued its efforts to induce National Societies to establish tracing offices and offered them technical assistance whenever necessary.

In this way, for south-east Asian refugees, many "Tracing and Mailing Services" (TMS) were set up within various National Societies, with technical help from the CTA (see page 44).
The beginnings of the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) go back to the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. In the International Relief Agency for the Sick and Wounded, started by the ICRC in Basle, a doctor took the initiative of setting up a special information bureau for prisoners. Thanks to the lists handed over by the belligerents, this bureau was able, for the first time in history, to give news to families of prisoners in enemy hands.

After similar initiative (Trieste in 1877, Belgrade in 1912-13, Geneva in 1914-18) the ICRC founded, in 1939, at the beginning of the Second World War, the Central Prisoners of War Agency, which since then has never ceased to function. Its present title, the Central Tracing Agency, dates from 1960.

“Tracing” as used by the ICRC means its activities:
— to obtain, centralize, process and communicate information on people for whom the ICRC is concerned, whether under the Geneva Conventions or not, i.e. whether they are victims of international conflicts or situations of internal tension (prisoners of war, interned civilians, political detainees, refugees, displaced persons, etc.);
— to undertake investigations through competent authorities, Red Cross National Societies, ICRC delegations, combat colleagues of those missing or anyone able to give useful information;
— to transmit family messages when normal channels of communication are non-existent or disrupted by events;
— to issue, once a conflict is over, certificates of captivity or sickness to persons who have to prove they were imprisoned or ill during their imprisonment in order to obtain retirement benefits, aid or pensions;
— to organize family reuniting, transfers and repatriation;
— to issue travel documents to refugees, displaced persons and political exiles who have no proper identification papers and wish to go to a country willing to receive them.

Participation at meetings

In 1979 CTA collaborators took part in the following meetings:
— Session of the Danish Refugee Council at Helsingore, in Denmark, in April;
— Meeting in Sarrebruck (FRG) for the heads of tracing services of various branches of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, also in April;
— Round table on “Refugees in Orbit” organized by the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law, in Florence, in June (see page 70).
— International Red Cross Conference on south-east Asian refugees in Geneva from 31 July to 1 August (see page 44).
— Technical seminar of the International Red Cross in Kuala Lumpur, 6-7 August (see page 45).

Furthermore, the Assistant Director of the CTA and the delegate for Europe visited the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany and participated in the work of the “family reuniting” section in Hamburg, in September.
1979 was the 30th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. On that occasion, the President of the ICRC addressed a letter to the governments of some States which had not yet acceded to these international instruments, to encourage them to do so, reminding them of the object of the Geneva Conventions, which were based on the urgent need to protect the individual and his dignity in periods of armed conflict.

The attention of governments to which this letter was addressed was also called to the fact that accession to these Conventions made it possible, in addition, to accede to their 1977 Protocols, which entered into force on 7 December 1978.

Finally, the ICRC pointed out that governments, by becoming parties to the Geneva Conventions and to their Protocols, would be making their contribution to the efforts of the international community to promote the standards which had been established to relieve the suffering of victims of armed conflict, and would demonstrate their willingness to observe, regardless of circumstances, the humanitarian conduct called for by these instruments.

This same year was marked by the retirement, on 30 June, of Mr. Jean Pictet, one of the main architects of the development of international humanitarian law since World War II, and author of the “Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross”.

On the occasion of his departure, the International Review of the Red Cross, the editorial committee of which he chaired, published, in its May-June issue, several articles in his honour. Some extracts concerning his life and work are mentioned below.

Mr. Pictet had an extremely full career: philosopher, jurist, writer, professor and man of action, he joined the ICRC in 1937, took part in all the main activities of the Red Cross, and was for a long time its stimulator and guide.

Vice-President of the ICRC and member of its Executive Committee, Director of the Henry Dunant Institute, Chairman of the Legal Commission of the ICRC, he is the author of several works which have become classics, and of innumerable articles. He was also director and co-author of important collective works, such as the “Commentaries” to the Geneva Conventions or the “General Report on the Activities of the ICRC during World War II”.

Mr. Pictet took an active part—often a determining one—in diplomatic conferences, in expert groups and in many meetings. Sometimes he was in charge of their preparatory work and was often conference chairman; assignments which he carried out with an incontestable authority and sureness. Mr. Pictet devoted much of his time to the teaching of humanitarian law. Professor at the University of Geneva, he also gave courses at the Academy of International Law in The Hague and in Strasbourg, under the auspices of the Council of Europe and the University, and gave innumerable lectures.

Doctor honoris causa from the Universities of Leyden and Zurich, he obtained the respect, consideration and recognition of whoever he approached, personally or in writing, and all were struck by the attraction of his exceptional personality.

Mr. Jean Pictet remains a member of the ICRC and continues to be involved in several of its activities. Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, member of the Committee and special assistant to the President, succeeded him, on 1 July, as Vice-President of the ICRC.

Structure of the Department of Principles and Law

The Department of Principles and Law, whose responsibility is to carry out the various tasks described in the following pages, retained the same structure as in 1978.

It comprises three divisions: the Legal Division, the Documentation and Dissemination Division, and the National Societies and Principles Division.

Among the activities of the Legal Division which are not dwelt on in this Report, should be mentioned the numerous consultations which it is called on to make in response to questions of a legal type which arrive from without or within the organization, particularly from the Operations Department.

Development of international humanitarian law

SEQUELS TO THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE

Ratifications and adhesions to the 1977 Protocols

RATIFICATIONS. — In 1979 the following States deposited with the Swiss Government their instruments of ratification of Protocols I and II additional to the Geneva Conventions: Ecuador, Jordan, Niger, Sweden, Tunisia and Yugoslavia. The Republic of Cyprus ratified only Protocol I.

In accordance with articles 95 of Protocol I and 23 of Protocol II the Protocols become effective for each of these States six months after the deposit of the instruments of ratification.

ACCESSIONS. — The Republic of Botswana deposited on 23 May 1979 with the Swiss Government the instrument of its accession to the Protocols; these entered into force, for that country, on 23 November 1979.
At the end of 1979, eleven States were parties to Protocol I, and ten to Protocol II.
Resolution (34/51) on signatures and ratifications of the Protocols was adopted by consensus on 7 December 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly.

In that resolution the United Nations General Assembly reiterated the appeal made in resolution 32/44 to all States, asking them to examine, without delay, the question of ratification of or accession to the two Protocols. It also requested the Secretary-General to inform it annually of the number of ratifications of or accessions to the two Protocols, in order to enable it to examine the question later if it considered it appropriate.

THE WEAPONS QUESTION

United Nations Preparatory Conference: Second session

The second session of the Preparatory Conference of the United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects was held in Geneva from 19 March to 12 April 1979.

The purpose of that Conference was to prepare the rules of procedure for the main Conference on the same subject and to examine the items to be considered by it.

The first session not having reached agreement on the rules for deciding substantive questions during the main Conference, and on several other matters, it was necessary to hold a second session (see Annual Report, 1978, page 56). During that session, negotiations on a decision-making procedure having once again been unsuccessful, the rules of procedure finally proposed for the main Conference do not include any rule on that subject. It can be conceded, however, that a tacit agreement was reached to adopt decisions by consensus, inasmuch as the negotiating spirit remains positive.

In any case, the Conference has already broached substantive problems and a dialogue has effectively begun.

The representative of the ICRC made a statement during the final plenary session, in which he reviewed the background of the problem and the hopes expressed for the main Conference.

United Nations Conference: First session

From 10 to 28 September the United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects was held in Geneva. Eighty-one States were represented at this Conference, at which the ICRC participated as an observer and expert. Its delegation was led by a member of the Committee, Mr. Maurice Aubert.

Although some agreement has nearly been reached on certain categories of weapons, namely mines and traps, other categories, such as incendiary weapons, were the object of controversy which, notwithstanding real progress, could not be entirely overcome. Moreover, the discussion of some weapons, such as small caliber projectiles, was not undertaken, for lack of time.

In addition, despite unquestionable progress in the negotiations, no solution was found to questions concerning the kind of instrument to adopt (the Conference appeared to be heading toward a treaty containing general principles, to which several protocols would be added, each concerning the prohibition or restriction of a particular weapon), its scope, and, above all, its revision mechanisms.

It should be pointed out, however, that in the course of negotiations the delegates demonstrated a will to agree, which augurs well. Today, it can reasonably be hoped that they will reach their goal during the second session of the Conference, set for 15 September to 10 October 1980, and that one or several agreements will be concluded.

In the statement he made at the end of the Conference, Mr. Aubert expressed his satisfaction at the extent to which the 1977 Protocols to the Geneva Conventions were recognized as a solid basis in international humanitarian law, and he recalled the link existing between the Conference on Conventional Weapons and the Conference on Humanitarian Law from 1974 to 1977, which resulted in the adoption of the two Protocols.

Mr. Aubert, emphasizing the importance of providing the convention under negotiation with a mechanism for effective revision, said that it was essential for a flexible procedure to allow States to come together at regular intervals to examine, consistent with the principles underlying the Conference, questions that the Conference might leave in abeyance, for lack of time or technical information, especially questions which the appearance of new weapons would inevitably raise.

In conclusion, the representative of the ICRC stated that the work carried out by that Conference was at once modest and very important: modest, because the Conference was not trying to solve the fundamental problem of peace and disarmament, but important since it could be hoped that the work of the Conference would make it possible to avoid or reduce a large amount of suffering in wars, which, alas, were still sure to occur.
PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

World Administrative Radio Conference—WARC 79

The ICRC participated, as an observer with consultative status, in the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC 79), which took place in Geneva from 24 September to 6 December 1979.

The object of this conference was to re-examine the allocation of the electromagnetic frequency spectrum among the various users, and to revise, consequently, the Radio Regulations, which had not been revised since 1959 when the previous WARC was held in Geneva. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) then had 96 members and 5 associate members, while today there are 154. The WARC 79 was the largest conference ever organized by the ITU and constituted a turning point in the history of telecommunications.

For the international Red Cross, and especially for the ICRC, WARC 79 afforded two main subjects of interest:

— first of all, the ITU had been requested by Resolution 19, which had been addressed to it in 1977 by the Diplomatic Conference on International Humanitarian Law, to submit to WARC 79 the study of the use of radiocommunications in order to announce and identify means of medical transport protected by the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and by the 1977 Protocol I;

— further, the work of protection and assistance of all the organizations of the international Red Cross requires reliable radiocommunications. For that purpose, the preceding WARC had adopted, in 1959, Recommendation No. 34 on the basis of which the Swiss Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Administration (PTT) assigned frequencies to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its own radiocommunications. These have been used by the ICRC in 48 countries for more than 15 years. Various propositions on additional action to be taken with respect to Recommendation 34 were studied at WARC 79. The proposal presented by Switzerland aimed at adding to the Radio Regulations a clause providing for the use of radiocommunications by the ICRC and the international Red Cross.

WARC 79 finished its work on 6 December with the signature of the Final Act, to which the new Radio Regulations were annexed.

With respect to the utilization of radiocommunications for identification and radiolocalization of means of medical transport, the WARC 79 adopted new regulations, which were included in section 1A entitled “Medical Transport”, in the new article 37 of the Radio Regulations. These Regulations are of considerable importance for the safety of medical transport.

The provisions adopted in section 1A must still be the subject of regulations which will be discussed by the forthcoming world administrative conferences of aeronautic and maritime mobile services, probably in 1982 (Resolution DH of WARC 79).

For the radiocommunications of the Red Cross, WARC 79 adopted resolution AF, which recognizes the need for reliable radiocommunications for the international Red Cross, and does not change the frequency bands used until now.

In addition, WARC adopted two other resolutions of importance for the international Red Cross:

— Resolution CY1 concerning the use of radiocommunication for the safety of ships and aircraft of States not party to an armed conflict. — This resolution reaffirmed the right, in war, of neutral ships and aircraft to operate, and gives them the means of identifying themselves by radio. For that purpose, the Resolution includes a Technical Annex. Because of the advanced systems required—such as automatic radar responders—technical and scientific provisions will be decided upon by the conferences of aeronautic and maritime mobile services. This resolution concerns particularly the transport of civilians and of relief goods in war.

— Resolution BN on international use, in cases of natural disaster, of radiocommunications in the frequency bands assigned to amateur radio operators. — The interruption of communications by natural disaster is usually of short duration; it involves assigning to relief agencies radiowaves, for their radiocommunications, different from those which are used for long periods during conflict by the ICRC and other organs of the international Red Cross. The use of these frequencies in the amateur band should obviate interference in relief agency communications.

Other international meetings

Staff members of the ICRC took part in the following meetings concerned with the Geneva Conventions, the 1977 Protocols or the development of international humanitarian law and public international law in general:

— Pan-African Conference on Refugees, at Arusha, from 7 to 17 May. — The Conference on the plight of refugees in Africa was held Arusha, in Tanzania, from 7 to 17 May. A delegation from the ICRC took part as an observer. Organized on the initiative the African Conference of Churches, this pan-African meeting was a sequel to the Conference on the legal, economic and social aspects of the African refugee problem held at Addis Ababa in 1967, which led to the drawing up, in 1969, of the Convention of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on particular aspects of the African refugee problem. This conference was sponsored jointly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the OAU; other, non-governmental, organizations were associated with it as co-operating organizations.
The Conference had as its particular objective to bring to the attention of all parties concerned—governments, international and non-governmental organizations—the problems of refugees in Africa, to suggest solutions capable of resolving legal, social and economic aspects of these problems, and to obtain from the African States a stronger commitment to the 1969 OAU Convention. Its theme was “offering asylum is a peaceful and humanitarian act”.

Most of the recommendations adopted by the Conference specified the goals and principles of the 1969 OAU Convention.

— Symposium on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Arab World, in Baghdad, from 18 to 20 May. — This Conference gathered together more than one hundred participants, among them numerous jurists, specialists in human rights and humanitarian law, notably from Arab countries.

The debates were mainly concentrated on human rights in Arab countries. Also broached were the problems of the struggle against torture, conditions of detention, as well as the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

One of the recommendations adopted appealed to Arab governments to support the draft convention against torture and its optional protocol and to ratify the international agreements on human rights, the convention on refugees and the 1977 Protocols to the Geneva Conventions.

— International Conference on the Protection of Human Rights in Islamic Penal Justice, held at the International Institution of Criminology in Syracuse (Italy) from 28 to 31 May 1979. — Specialists coming both from Muslim and non-Muslim countries and representatives from international governmental and non-governmental organizations, participated in this Conference.

This was organized mainly to inform non-Muslim jurists of Islamic penal law, and to demonstrate its capability of adaptation and its compatibility with modern principles of human rights.

A resolution was adopted which spelled out the legal guarantees available to defendants, showing that these conformed with the spirit and principles of Islamic law.

— Round Table on “Refugees in Orbit”, in Florence, from 4 to 6 June. — The Round Table on “Refugees in Orbit”, organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, brought together about fifty experts on refugee law, most of them from the Western world.

This conference had as its main subject “refugees in orbit”, an expression which covers refugees who, though not sent back to a country where they risk persecution, are refused asylum by States and are sent from country to country in search of permanent asylum.

A resolution adopted by the Round Table recommended inter alia that uniform national and international criteria be adopted, in order to define the country responsible for the refugees.

— Tenth session of the International Institute of Human Rights, in Strasbourg (France), from 16 to 18 July. — A member of the ICRC, Professor Thomas Fleiner, gave a course on “the application of humanitarian law in internal conflicts”, while three staff members of the ICRC led study groups.

— Sixth Round Table on Current Problems of International Humanitarian Law, organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo from 6 to 9 September. — Nearly one hundred experts in international humanitarian law took part in this Sixth Round Table. The ICRC was represented by its President and other members of the Committee (Miss Andrée Weitzel, Mr. Maurice Aubert, Mr. Jacques Moreillon, Director, and several other staff members.

The following themes were discussed:

— the promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law;
— the draft convention on torture (proposed by Mr. J. J. Gautier);
— the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, peace and human rights;
— a guide to procedures for reuniting families.

— Sixteenth General Assembly of the World Veterans’ Federation in Florence from 13 to 16 October. — A representative of the ICRC explained the activities of the Committee and underlined the constructive role played by the WVF during the drafting of the 1977 Protocols to the Geneva Conventions. The Chief Medical Officer of the ICRC spoke about the Debré Zeit Centre in Ethiopia (see page 24). A resolution was voted inviting all member associations to promote the ratification of the 1977 Protocols by their respective governments.

— Second African Seminar on International Humanitarian Law in Yaoundé from 26 November to 7 December. — At this Seminar, jointly organized by the Henry Dunant Institute and the Cameroon Institute of International Relations, 80 participants from a score African countries took part. The representatives of the ICRC presented two papers, one concerning the teaching of international humanitarian law to the armed forces and the other on the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

Dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross

RED CROSS ACTION PROGRAMME

The ICRC and the League had adopted in 1978 a Red Cross Action Programme for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and of the Red Cross

This Action Programme comprised the following four objectives:

— to encourage States to accede to or ratify the 1977 Protocols to the Geneva Conventions;
— to analyze the legal and practical consequences of the provisions of the 1977 Protocols;
— to disseminate and encourage the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law among National Societies, governments, armed forces, universities, international organizations and other institutions and groups concerned;
— to integrate the dissemination of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross into all the Red Cross movement's activities among National Societies, young people, the public at large, and international institutions.

These four objectives are divided into three parts which are quite distinct, for they are of a different nature:

— accession to the Protocols (objective 1)
— research (objective 2)
— dissemination, education, training (objectives 3 and 4).

Under this Action Programme, and in pursuance of a resolution passed by the Executive Council of the League in its meeting of 27 and 28 October 1978, a Working Group on the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law was established to help and advise in implementing the action programme. Composed of experts from the National Societies of Czechoslovakia, Finland, Libya, Malaysia and Spain, two representatives of the ICRC, two representatives of the League, and the Director of the Henry Dunant Institute, this group drafted its work programme during its first meeting on 26 April 1979.

During its second meeting on 24 September, the participants were concerned particularly with the items in the Action Programme and with how it should be financed.

On the first objective in the Action Programme a working session was held on 28 June at the ICRC with non-governmental organizations, in order to define the contribution the latter could make to induce States to accede to the Protocols.

RELATIONS WITH UNESCO

With respect to the dissemination of knowledge of the principles of international humanitarian law, the ICRC has established fruitful collaboration with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and, in particular, with the Human Rights and Peace Division.

Already in 1974, during its 18th session, the General Conference of UNESCO had adopted a resolution on the teaching of international humanitarian law, inviting the Director-General to draw up, in close collaboration with the ICRC, a programme to intensify teaching and research in the area under consideration. In the framework of that programme, UNESCO and the ICRC, in collaboration with the Henry Dunant Institute, prepared a treatise on international humanitarian law to develop teaching of this specialty in universities. In addition, UNESCO and the ICRC are studying the possibility of creating regional institutes for the teaching of international humanitarian law and human rights. In that connection, from 19 July to 16 August 1979, Mr. Fernando Murillo, Professor of International Humanitarian Law in the Law Faculty of the University of Complutense (Madrid), undertook a mission for the ICRC and UNESCO in seven Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela) to examine existing and possible conditions for the teaching of human rights and international humanitarian law in the main universities of the continent.

All these matters were once again raised during a working meeting which brought together—on the occasion of the visit made to the ICRC on 1 March 1979 by Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of UNESCO—representatives of the Human Rights Division, the Henry Dunant Institute, the League and the ICRC.

The following subjects were also examined during this working meeting:

— the Action Programme of the Red Cross with respect to dissemination: in this connection, the League, the ICRC and the Henry Dunant Institute briefed the representatives of UNESCO on the main projects of the international Red Cross in that area;
— education for peace;
— action to be taken to follow up the Vienna Congress on the Teaching of Human Rights. It should be recalled that this conference, held in Vienna from 12 to 16 September 1978, was organized by UNESCO under the auspices of the Austrian government (see Annual Report, 1978, page 60). This Congress, in which the ICRC participated, adopted a resolution which advocated, inter alia, the drafting of a seven-year plan for the development of the teaching of human rights (also covering the teaching of international humanitarian law) and the creation of an international centre for the transmission of documentation, co-ordination of teaching and the production of teaching materials concerning "human rights". The twentieth General Conference of UNESCO, in one of its resolutions, repeated the idea of setting up an international programme for the teaching of human rights, including the teaching of international humanitarian law.

Pursuant to that resolution, UNESCO organized in Paris, from 25 to 28 June 1979, a meeting of experts to draw up a draft seven-year plan for the development of teaching of human rights and international humanitarian law. The ICRC was invited, as were about ten experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations which had participated in the Vienna Congress. During that meeting, a seven-year plan
was drawn up; it provided, notably, for the creation of an international documentation centre, as the Vienna Congress had proposed.

At the 108th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO, in August, the Director-General proposed the creation of a "Voluntary Fund for the Development of Knowledge of Human Rights through Teaching and Information". This fund would be used mainly for the founding of an international centre of documentation and information on human rights and the establishment of a system for co-ordinating teaching human rights.

In addition, replying to the invitation made by the Director-General of UNESCO during his visit to the ICRC in March 1979, President Hay, accompanied by the Vice-President, Mr. Pestalozzi, members of the Committee, Mrs. Bindschedler and Dr. Gallino, and members of the directorate, attended a meeting of the Executive Board of UNESCO in Paris on 18 October. They were welcomed by the President of the Executive Board, Mr. Chams El Dine El Wakil, representative of Egypt, and by the Director-General, Mr. M'Bow.

The President of the ICRC explained the various activities of the institution he headed and made an appeal to the members of the UNESCO Executive Board to urge their governments to support the work of ICRC in the various parts of the world.

The following day, an intersecretariat meeting was held between UNESCO and the international Red Cross, during which the following themes were raised: the protection of cultural property, action and education for peace and the teaching and dissemination of human rights and international humanitarian law. This working meeting was a sequel to that held in March in Geneva; it demonstrated that possibilities existed for effective co-operation between the ICRC and UNESCO in several areas in order to realize certain projects, especially in the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and the Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property, and in education for peace.

DISSEMINATION AMONG NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND GOVERNMENTS

Regional seminars

In 1979, two regional seminars took place, one at Bogota and the other at Tunis.

At Bogota, the first Inter-American Seminar on the Dissemination of Knowledge of International Humanitarian Law, jointly organized by the Colombian Red Cross and the ICRC, took place from 5 to 15 March 1979. — Twenty-two National Societies from Latin America took part and observers were sent from the Red Cross of Spain and the United States. The ICRC was represented by Dr. Gallino, member of the Committee, and the League by one of its Vice-Presidents, Mr de la Mata. This Seminar, like those preceding (Warsaw, Mombasa, Kuala Lumpur), aimed first to give the participants a general idea of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, then to explore with them the best ways to assure their dissemination to interested parties (armed forces, universities, schools, the general public), taking account of the particular situation in each country.

The first week of the seminar was devoted to lectures, followed by discussions, on international humanitarian law in general ("History and Nature of International Humanitarian Law", "The Law of War and the Geneva Conventions", "Protocol I and the Geneva Conventions", etc.) presented by experts from Geneva, Spain and Latin America.

During the second week, the participants were divided into two working groups. The first group examined methods of dissemination to the armed forces, higher education institutes, schools and other government institutions. It also examined staff training and the role of and possibilities and means of action for National Societies in these circles. The second group studied methods of dissemination to National Societies and the general public, and it also examined the question of staff training.

The discussions of the two working groups were summed up in the form of conclusions, which were then adopted in plenary session. These conclusions serve as an inventory of the most appropriate methods of dissemination among the sectors studied by each of the working groups.

In Tunis, from 9 to 19 October 1979, the First French-speaking African seminar took place. — This seminar was organized jointly by the ICRC and the Tunisian Red Crescent; 15 other National Societies took part. The President of the ICRC made a speech, during the inaugural session, in which he explained why the task of dissemination of international humanitarian law was necessary and difficult in a world where arbitrary action and violence still reigned.

The ICRC was also represented by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, former President and member of the Committee, Mr. J. Moreillon, and various other staff members.

This seminar followed the same pattern as that of Bogota.

Results of the regional seminars

One of the objectives of these regional seminars was to train specialists in dissemination within National Societies, so that each one, later, could organize its own national seminars. Three seminars were organized in 1979 by the National Societies of Indonesia, Colombia and South Africa.

Following the Kuala Lumpur Regional Seminar (see Annual Report, 1978, page 58), the Indonesian Red Cross organized a seminar, which took place from 18 to 22 March 1979. It brought together about 50 participants, of which more than half were representatives of different ministries; university professors and journalists were also present.

Likewise, following the Bogota Seminar, the Colombian Red Cross organized at Melgar, from 14 to 17 November, the first national seminar on the dissemination of international
humanitarian law. Representatives of each of the local sections of the Colombian Red Cross, that is, about sixty persons, took part. The ICRC was also represented.

Finally, as a sequel to the first African Red Cross and Red Crescent Seminar on the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law, which had been held in Mombasa in August 1978 (see Annual Report, 1978, page 58), the South African Red Cross organized a seminar which brought together National Societies from Bophutatswana, Botswana, Kenya and Mauritius. This seminar, held from 30 October to 2 November, had as its theme the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The ICRC was represented there by the regional delegate for South Africa.

**DISSEMINATION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE**

**International Colloquium on the Teaching of Human Rights through the Children's Press**

An international colloquium on the teaching of human rights through the children's press was held in Monaco from 1 to 16 November.

This colloquium was organized by the Monegasque National Commission for UNESCO and the World Association of Young People's Friends, at the suggestion of the Human Rights Division of UNESCO.

It resulted from one of the recommendations contained in the final document of the International Congress on the Teaching of Human Rights (Vienna, September 1978), according to which it was important to develop education in human rights also outside the school environment.

The ICRC, which planned to produce strip cartoons about the Red Cross, took part in this colloquium, in order to explore the possibility of launching such publications on the children's press market.

**School textbook**

The ICRC and the League published in 1979, together with the Cameroonian Red Cross, a "Manual for the Teacher and Red Cross Youth Leader". The first part of this manual, entitled "Knowledge about the Red Cross", is modelled on the texts and drawings of the school textbook, which appeared in 1967, and from the *Teacher's Manual*; the other chapters are devoted to the Cameroonian Red Cross, to first aid, hygiene, and finally, national and international friendship.

The manual—which links the teaching of the principles of the Red Cross and of international humanitarian law to that of hygiene and first aid—appears to meet the needs of young Africans better than the old school textbook, which does not provide any practical information on these subjects. That is why the ICRC proposed to the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAE) a project for the dissemination in 1980-81 of Cameroon style *Teacher's Manual* in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Arab countries. This project, with a budget of 260,000 Swiss francs, was accepted by the DFAE.

An African version of the school textbook in Portuguese was published in 60,000 copies. It was accompanied by 6,000 copies of an African version of the *Teacher's Manual* in Portuguese.

Following the Tunis seminar, the Arabic version of the school textbook was reprinted in 30,000 copies, and the Arabic version of the *Teacher's Manual* in 4,000 copies.

**The Red Cross Teaching Guide**

After having been translated into English, Spanish and Romanian, the *Teaching Guide* was also translated into Arabic and Italian. The full version of the *Teaching Guide* in Arabic was published by the Jordanian Red Crescent and the Lebanese Red Cross. The Italian Red Cross completed the translation into Italian.

Organized together with the ICRC and the League, the Spanish Red Cross seminar, which was held at Sitges from 1 to 4 November, brought together delegates representing youth sections from eight European National Societies. During this working meeting, the participants exchanged their experiences of use of the *Teaching Guide* in school teaching; this varied information enabled the delegates from countries not yet using the Guide in schools to launch an action programme to introduce it in their particular area and improve its dissemination.

In Tripoli, the Libyan Red Crescent and the League organized jointly, from 9 to 21 December, the Second Regional Seminar on the Training of Youth Leaders in Arab National Societies. The seminar brought together about 70 leaders, coming from a dozen countries. The ICRC was also represented at this seminar.

The Swiss Junior Red Cross organized, in Vevey, from 9 to 15 July, a European seminar for secondary school teachers. Representatives of the ICRC and the League participated in the work of this seminar, whose theme was "How to teach the fundamental principles of the Red Cross".

**DISSEMINATION IN UNIVERSITIES**

**Krakow Seminar**

Following the regional seminar held in Warsaw in 1977, the Polish Red Cross decided to organize, in collaboration with the ICRC, three additional seminars on international humanitarian law, for particular audiences. The 1978 Gdansk Seminar (see Annual Report, 1978, page 59) was addressed to young people, and the second, which is covered below, to university professors; a third, which will be held in 1980, will bring together doctors and medical staff.

The European Seminar on University Teaching of International Humanitarian Law, attended by 39 professors of international public law from 20 countries of Europe and North America, was held in Krakow from 27 August to 1 September 1979. It was organized by the Jagellonian University of Krakow, in collaboration with the Polish Red
Cross and the ICRC. The League and the Henry Dunant Institute were also represented.

The Seminar was intended to interest professors of public international law in the teaching of international humanitarian law and to develop contacts with these professors. Very high level lectures were presented by Professors Nahlik (Poland), Kalshoven (Netherlands), Herczegh (Hungary), Bothe (Federal Republic of Germany), Denise Bindschedler-Robert (member of the ICRC) and Patrnogic (League of Red Cross Societies).

All these lectures were related to the 1977 Protocols and their impact on international humanitarian law. Mr. Fleiner, member of the Committee, also represented the ICRC at this seminar.

**DISSEMINATION AMONG THE ARMED FORCES**

Desiring to augment its effort to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces, the ICRC created, in 1979, the function of “Delegate to the Armed Forces”, which it assigned to a senior Swiss army officer (a jurist and a General Staff officer). The function of delegate is backed up by a Commission of the Armed Forces, chaired by Mrs. Andrée Weitzel, member of the Committee, and composed of experts.

The general objective is to encourage and to facilitate the teaching of international humanitarian law in governmental and non-governmental armed forces. It involves, first, knowing the needs of the armed forces with respect to dissemination, and these vary according to geographic peculiarities of the various countries, then establishing a teaching programme, taking into account the needs and practical possibilities of success. Finally, it is useful to achieve a maximal “multiplier effect”, to “train the trainers” and to make the training available directly, in principle on an international scale.

As its first task, the Commission and the Delegate to the Armed Forces undertook the preparation of a standard manual which could be used directly by the armed forces, a manual-guide on the application of international humanitarian law, based on the Conventions of The Hague and Geneva, and on the 1977 Protocols. This manual-guide was drawn up in such a way as to answer the requirements of privates, commanders at the tactical level and specialists in high-level command.

A teaching manual, presenting principles and instructional methods in international humanitarian law, and giving practical advice as well as examples, will also be drawn up.

To achieve the general objective, the Delegate to the Armed Forces co-operates with specialized organizations such as the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (San Remo), the International Society of Penal Military Law and Law of War, the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy. This co-operation is particularly close with the Institute in San Remo, where the delegate conducts international courses on the law of war for officers.

**International course on the law of war at San Remo**

In 1979, the sixth course in English and the seventh in French were attended by representatives of respectively fifteen and seven countries of Africa, America, Asia and Europe.

It is appropriate to point out the increasing interest shown in these courses, which combine theoretical teaching and practical exercises, and in which the approach to the law of war is based on the needs of the armed forces; it should also be noted that the level of participants is rising, to the point that there are regularly some generals attending.

A “pilot” experiment tried in the autumn of 1979 by the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy at the Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva was the first seminar on the law of armed conflict for senior officers of armed forces medical services. It was based on the San Remo system. The experiment having been successful, this first seminar, in French, will be followed in 1980 by a second, in English.

**Newport Seminar**

This seminar, organized by the Naval War College in Newport (United States of America) from 26 to 28 November, set out to make the 1977 Protocols to the Geneva Conventions better known to the armed forces of the United States. It brought together 250 officers from the three services and the Coast Guard, and some officials of the Departments of State and Defense.

Professor H. de Saussure, who occupies the Charles H. Stockton Chair of International Law, directed the working sessions—devoted to the law of armed conflicts—during which the representatives of the ICRC were the discussion group moderators.

**PUBLICATIONS**

In 1979, the ICRC issued the following publications:

- **International Review of the Red Cross**, published every two months (English, French and Spanish, and an abridged version in German, see also page 83).

- **Report on the Round Table of Institutions which have been Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize** (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and German).

- **Fundamental Rules of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts** (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Portuguese).

- **ICRC Annual Report 1978** (English, French, Spanish and German).

- **Presenting the ICRC** (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, German and Portuguese).

- **The ICRC, the League and the Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross**, offprint from International Review of the Red Cross (English, French, Spanish).

- **Programme of Action of the Red Cross with respect to Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and of the Principles and Ideals of the Red Cross, 1978-1981** (English, French, Spanish and Arabic); joint ICRC/League publication.
Relations with Red Cross institutions and National Red Cross Societies

The ICRC is naturally called upon to maintain relationships with governments, since it is they who grant the necessary facilities for it to carry out its mission for the benefit of conflict victims. As a constituent part of the international Red Cross, it desires also to keep in close touch with all the National Societies, and with their federation, the League of Red Cross Societies. The first part of this Report has already shown the collaboration which it has established with the League in several of its assistance programmes, and the important and invaluable assistance rendered in various forms for these programmes by numerous National Societies.

RELATIONS WITH THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

As laid down in Article 8 of the Statutes of the International Red Cross, the ICRC and the League maintain contact “in order to co-ordinate their activities and avoid overlapping”... by the meeting, “at least once a month of representatives of the International Committee and the League”.

In addition, there are joint commissions of the League and the ICRC, and direct contacts between the secretariats of the two institutions permit of constant practical collaboration.

The ICRC was invited in 1979 to attend as an observer the Executive Council and the General Assembly of the League.

Joint ICRC-League Commission on National Societies Statutes

The Joint ICRC-League Commission on National Societies Statutes met on 7 February and 15 August, pursuant to Resolution VI of the Twenty-second International Red Cross Conference (Teheran, 1973).

Consistent with its mandate, the Commission studied various changes which five National Societies had made to their statutes. It also dealt with a number of cases concerning the recognition and admission to the League of some Societies which were not yet members of the international Red Cross.

The general questions examined included the updating of standard statutes for National Societies and the harmonization of procedures for recognition of new Societies and their admission to the League.

Council of Delegates

The Council of Delegates, which brings together the representatives of the ICRC, the League and National Societies, met in Geneva on 3 October 1979 under the chairmanship of Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC.

The approval of the agenda was preceded by a long discussion on the delicate problem of the representation of Kampuchea. Basing himself on the views expressed the day before by the Standing Commission, whose views had been accepted by the ICRC and the League, President Hay said that neither of the organizations claiming to be the Kampuchean Red Cross could, in the circumstances then prevailing, occupy the seat of the former Cambodian Society; neither would the two delegations be admitted with observer status. The Council of Delegates approved by vote the solution put forward by the Standing Commission.

During this meeting, five resolutions were adopted concerning the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross; ratifications and accessions to the 1977 Protocols; dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Red Cross; peace and disarmament; and the development of the work of the Henry Dunant Institute.

With reference to other items on the agenda, the Council of Delegates did not adopt any resolution; however, the results of work on some of these items should be mentioned. Inter alia, the Council took note of an interim report on the promotion of the image of the Red Cross, which recommended the creation of a joint audiovisual centre for the League and the ICRC. It also examined a document which reviewed possibilities for action by the ICRC in the struggle against torture, the legal instruments existing (Geneva Conventions, Declaration of Human Rights) and draft treaties against torture presently under study.

The President of the ICRC, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Group on the Emblem, the creation of which was decided by the Council of Delegates at Bucharest in 1977, presented an oral report. He pointed out that the Working Group had decided to consult the National Societies on the question of the emblem, by means of an ad hoc questionnaire. The Council's attention was drawn also to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination.

The Council took some decisions with respect to the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace (the report of which was adopted); its mandate was prolonged until the next International Red Cross Conference (Manila, 1981). It also dealt with the length of Council of Delegates meetings and with assistance to families of Red Cross staff members deceased while on official business.
THE RED CROSS AND PEACE

HUMANITY — This is the peace principle par excellence, since peace is one of its objectives. Concern for the suffering of others, for its prevention and relief, implies first and foremost abstention from inflicting suffering, and hence the undertaking of everything possible to avoid war.

IMPARTIALITY — This positive principle of indiscriminate help is based on the equality of mankind in distress. It is the negation of superiority, of inferiority, differences and discrimination, which are the source of so many conflicts.

NEUTRALITY — He who says war, says commitment. He who says neutrality implies keeping one’s distance from any conflict, an essential condition for any effective humanitarian action and for creating the peace reflex by non-involvement in controversy.

INDEPENDENCE — This is indispensable for respect for Red Cross principles. It enables that spirit of peace which is requisite for any true peace, to reign in the heart of those who make up the Red Cross movement.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE — All too often war seeks to take. The unselfish will to give voluntary service is a peace reflex for it involves self-sacrifice.

UNITY — War sometimes threatens a country from within. Red Cross unity in a country makes for internal peace.

UNIVERSALITY — In war the brotherhood of man is forgotten. Universality recalls it to mind and lets it not be forgotten that the enemy is a fellow man. It is a decisive contribution to peace since it demands the approval of all if it is to be a living reality.

RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Recognition of National Societies

As provided for under Article 4-b of its statutes, the ICRC has as a special role “to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition”. It was on this basis that the ICRC, on the proposal of the Joint ICRC-League Commission on National Societies Statutes, announced, on 4 April 1979, the official recognition of the Swaziland Red Cross. Established in 1932 as a branch of the British Red Cross, the new Society officially requested recognition from the International Committee on 1 August 1978. The examination of its application, jointly with the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, resulted in the conclusion that the ten conditions required for the recognition of a National Society by the International Committee had been met.

This recognition brought to 126 the number of National Societies of the international Red Cross.

Information meeting and consultation at the ICRC with the leaders of National Societies

As in 1978 (see Annual Report, 1978, pages 61-62), the leaders of National Societies participating in the various meetings organized in Geneva on the occasion of the session of the League Executive Council met at the ICRC on 26 April, for the third time.

The meeting was attended by 93 persons, including 54 representatives of thirty National Societies, of the League and of the ICRC.

The first part of this meeting was devoted to a lecture on the current activities of the ICRC. During the second part, the participants discussed the activity of the Red Cross for refugees and its relations with intergovernmental organizations such as the HCR and the activity of the Red Cross in cases of non-international armed conflict.

Visits to the ICRC by National Societies

Besides the meetings referred to above, the ICRC received about 1,400 members and a number of leaders of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at its headquarters in 1979.

Missions by the President and members of the ICRC to National Societies and Governments.

During the year the President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, visited the National Societies and authorities of the following countries: Brazil (participation in the Eleventh Inter-American Red Cross Conference from 3 to 8 June), Federal Republic of Germany (invited to the annual Assembly of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany,
from 13 to 16 June), Poland (invited to the 60th anniversary and Seventh Congress of the Polish Red Cross from 22 to 24 June), Tunisia (First French-speaking African Seminar, in October). He also visited Edinburgh (in March, at the invitation of the Scottish branch of the British Red Cross).

During missions more particularly related to the operations of the ICRC and the financing of the institution, President Hay met representatives of the National Societies and governments of the United Kingdom (January and March), Cuba (February), Saudi Arabia (April), Paraguay (June), France (June and December), and Belgium (November).

For their part, several members of the ICRC undertook various missions. Mr. Richard Pestalozzi attended in Jordan (March) the inauguration of a new building of the Red Crescent Hospital in Amman, and, in Switzerland, the annual Assembly of delegates of the Swiss Red Cross at St. Gall (June). Mr. Rudolf Jäckli represented the ICRC at the centenary of the Peruvian Red Cross (April). Mr. Marcel A. Naville went to Athens (Greece) for the Third Conference of National Societies of Balkan Countries (May), and to the Tunis seminar. Dr. Gallino took part in the Bogota seminar. Mrs. Bovée-Rothenbach participated in a seminar on the role of the Red Cross in first aid, in Frounze, USSR (May). Dr. Jacques F. de Rougemont attended in Poland the inauguration of the hospital devoted to child health in memory of the young victims of the Second World War (June). Mr. Maurice Aubert participated in the Eighth Congress of the Czechoslovak National Society (June).

**Participation in regional meetings and seminars**

In addition to the meetings referred to in the chapter on the dissemination of international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles and ideals, ICRC representatives attended the following Red Cross regional meetings and seminars:

**Africa**
- Eleventh Conference of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies in Arab Countries, Mogadishu, 2-6 July.

**America**
- Eleventh Inter-American Conference, Rio de Janeiro, 3-8 June.

**Europe**
- Training Course for International Missions for Finnish Red Cross Staff, Helsinki, 20-21 February.
- First meeting, in Geneva, on 1 October, of the Organizing Committee for the Third Regional Conference of European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**STANDING COMMISSION**

Under the chairmanship of Sir Evelyn Shuckburg (British Red Cross), the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross met in Geneva on 25 April and 2 October.

The preparation of the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference, which will be held in Manila in November 1981, was the main matter under consideration during the two meetings.

**COMMISSION ON THE RED CROSS AND PEACE**

The Commission on the Red Cross and Peace held its second meeting from 1 to 4 May in Cairo, at the invitation of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, member of that Commission.

Created by Decision No. 2 taken by the Council of Delegates in October 1977 at Bucharest, this commission is made up of 15 members (twelve National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute) and is chaired by Mr. Harald Huber, Vice-President of the ICRC.

During four working sessions, the Commission discussed various ways through which the Red Cross could increase its contribution to peace. The ICRC had presented a working document concerning the significance for the spirit of peace of the basic rules of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. It recommended a series of studies designed to make that significance much clearer. As an example, this document presented certain definitions concerning peace which could be drawn from fundamental principles (See box page 76).

During its third meeting at ICRC headquarters on 29 September, at which eight National Societies were represented, the Commission drafted its activity report for the Council of Delegates which, on 3 October, formally decided to continue the Commission until the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference (Manila, 1981).

**FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL**

The purpose of this medal is to honour the exceptional devotion which nurses or voluntary auxiliaries have demonstrated in caring for the sick and injured in the dangerous and difficult situations which often occur in times of war or of disaster.

After examining the 52 candidatures proposed by 27 National Societies, the ICRC awarded the Florence Nightingale medal to 36 nurses and voluntary auxiliaries from 17 National Societies.

**SHÔKEN FUND**

The Joint Commission responsible for distributing the income from the Empress Shôken Fund—made up of representatives of the League and the ICRC—met in Geneva on 2 May 1979.

The Japanese Red Cross was represented, in the absence of Ambassador M. Sawaki, by Mr. S. Tawiguchi, from the
THE ICRC AND THE OCCUPATION OF RED CROSS PREMISES

The XIth Inter-American Conference of Rio de Janeiro adopted, with respect to the occupation of Red Cross facilities, the following recommendation:

When facilities of a National Red Cross Society are occupied by persons not connected with the Red Cross and with intentions and purposes alien to those of the Red Cross, the Officers of the National Society will endeavour to act according to the following principles and procedures:

A) PRINCIPLES:
1) The Red Cross is a neutral organization which, in order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, does not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.
2) The humanitarian services provided by the National Society shall prevail in any circumstances over the declared objectives of the occupants.
3) In the event of such occupation the fundamental objective of the Red Cross will be to bring it to an end as soon as possible and without violence.

B) PROCEDURE:
1) Upon occupation and in the impossibility to avoid it the National Society should immediately inform the ICRC and competent authorities on the situation.
2) The above-mentioned principles should be made known to the occupants, advising them that no guarantees or immunity could be granted to them.
3) Should the occupation persist, the National Society will endeavour to avoid the use of Red Cross premises for propaganda objectives not connected with the Red Cross.
4) Each National Society will apply the present guidelines in consultation with the ICRC and in accordance with local laws and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.

Permanent Mission of Japan to International Organizations in Geneva.

The Joint Commission examined requests received from various National Societies and made allocations to those of Burma, Chile, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria and Thailand.

The funds distributed during this 58th distribution—totalling 180,000 Swiss francs—will permit these Societies to improve their equipment and their activities in blood transfusion, first aid and medico-social action.

The Empress Shōken Fund was set up in 1912 with a gift from Her Imperial Majesty of Japan, with a view to financing the humanitarian activities of National Societies, mainly in peacetime. Since then, the Fund has received several gifts from the Japanese Imperial Family, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross.

As in the past, the ICRC has lent its assistance to seminars organized by the Institute, namely during the third introductory seminar to the international activities of the Red Cross, from 10 to 17 May 1979, in which leaders from English-speaking National Societies from 20 countries of Europe, Asia and Africa participated, and during a course organized for Danish journalists from 5 to 9 November 1979. Also, it was represented at the second African seminar on international humanitarian law, organized by the Henry Dunant Institute and the Cameroon Institute of International Relations, in Yaoundé, from 27 November to 5 December.

In addition, several projects, forming a part of the Action Programme of the Red Cross with respect to international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Red Cross—a programme which runs from 1978 to 1981—are in the process of being implemented through the activity of the Henry Dunant Institute.

The Council of the Institute having announced its support for a study on “Red Cross voluntary work in today’s society”, a working group, composed of representatives of the League, the ICRC, the Swiss Red Cross and the Henry Dunant Institute, met on 23 November in the Institute’s headquarters to discuss the content and the means for execution of such a study.

RELATIONS WITH THE HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

The ICRC, an institutional member of the Henry Dunant Institute, together with the League and the Swiss Red Cross, has followed the Institute’s activities closely.
Miscellaneous matters

THE ICRC AND THE OCCUPATION OF RED CROSS PREMISES

On the fringes of the official working discussions at the first Inter-American Seminar on the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law in Bogota (see page 72) the question of the occupation of Red Cross premises by various movements was discussed by an “ad hoc” group.

These discussions were held in order to consider how National Societies might deal with this increasingly frequent phenomenon.

The conclusions which this group reached were transmitted, to the Eleventh Inter-American Conference in Rio de Janeiro; they served as a working base for the Conference to adopt a recommendation entitled “Occupation of Red Cross premises” (See box page 78). The ICRC took part in these discussions and referring to the principles which had guided the National Societies during the Bogota seminar, reviewed the ideas which had been expressed and made it clear that the Red Cross had to maintain absolute neutrality in its actions and in its attitude, and that it could not tolerate the occupation of its premises by persons who were not members of the movement.
Relations with international organizations

In the context of the ICRC’s relations with the United Nations and some of its specialized agencies, the delegate to international organizations, with the assistance of other staff members of the ICRC, followed the deliberations of the following bodies in 1979:

— from 12 February to 16 March, the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights, at which ICRC activities in the Middle East, Africa and Kampuchea were referred to;
— from 10 April to 11 May in New York, and from 4 July to 3 August in Geneva, the two annual sessions of the Economic and Social Council;
— from 17 September to December, the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. At this session, the deliberations concerning the ICRC were those relating to disarmament questions discussed in the First Committee; human rights, in the Third Committee; legal questions, in the Sixth Committee, including the state of signatures and ratifications of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages in which the ICRC is mentioned; and various other matters, discussed in other Committees, relating to areas where the ICRC was conducting its humanitarian activities (Southern Africa, Western Sahara, Middle East, Cyprus, Nicaragua, East Timor, Kampuchea).

The ICRC was also represented at the thirtieth session of the Executive Council for the programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, from 8 to 16 October in Geneva.

Because of the consultative nature of the relations between the ICRC and WHO, the ICRC delegate to international organizations and the head of the ICRC Medical Division attended the sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions of the WHO Executive Board in January and May 1979 in Geneva, and the thirty-second World Health Assembly from 7 to 25 May.

In general, the ICRC representatives continued to work in co-operation with various United Nations specialized agencies, more particularly with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO).

Apart from the customary relations that have just been mentioned, the ICRC and the organizations of the United Nations system worked together particularly closely for the establishment of humanitarian aid programmes in south-east Asia. The delegate to international organizations was requested, in addition to the steps taken by the ICRC President in Geneva and the delegates in the field, to present the ICRC’s appeal of 19 March 1979 on the situation in Rhodesia to the States Members of the Security Council and to the United Nations Secretariat.

On 3 July 1979, the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, paid an official visit to the ICRC and was received by the ICRC President and Assembly.

Contacts were pursued with various regional organizations, including the European Economic Community (EEC), the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Arab League.

The delegate to international organizations also took part in various special meetings:

— the Conference on Human Rights, held in January during the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the founding of Cape Town University (South Africa), where he spoke on ICRC activities in aid of political detainees;
— the United Nations Institute for Namibia, where he spoke, also in January, on international humanitarian law and ICRC activities in Southern Africa;
— the Symposium on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Arab World, organized by the Union of Arab Jurists in Baghdad, from 18 to 20 May 1979;
— the tenth study session of the International Institute of Human Rights, held in Strasbourg from 16 to 20 July.

In connection with the Sixth Summit Conference of Heads of States and of Governments of Non-Aligned Countries, who met in Havana from 3 to 7 September 1980, the ICRC delegate to international organizations conferred on matters relating to ICRC humanitarian work with the Swedish Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of State in charge of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the President of Democratic Kampuchea and the Director of the Africa Department of the Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Information and public relations

The tragedy which has stricken civilian victims of the events in south-east Asia, in Africa, in Latin America and in the Middle East has focused world opinion on the protection and assistance operations of the ICRC, particularly in the context of the conflicts in Kampuchea and Nicaragua. The considerable coverage given by the international press, radio and television has led the Press and Information Division (PID) to expand its activities in the field as well as at headquarters. At the end of 1979 PID staff numbered 35 (as against 23 at the end of 1978), 15 of them outside Geneva.

News from the field

KAMPUCHEA. — The flood of newspaper reporters and filming crews into Thailand to cover the joint ICRC-UNICEF action made it necessary for the Bangkok delegation to set up a news organization for a twofold purpose:

— to maintain contact with international press correspondents and envoys, supplying them with news on humanitarian operations and to reply to their questions;
— to prepare articles, photos and films for National Societies, to help them in their public relations and fundraising campaigns.

This press office, comprising a co-ordinator, three information delegates (two provided by National Societies), a photographer and three assistants, has produced radio programmes, articles, features and thousands of photographs for dispatch to National Societies or use in ICRC periodicals and radio broadcasts.

In November three video tapes showed various aspects of relief operations for the benefit of Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. They were made for National Societies and distributed to some international television corporations.

In addition, a 16-mm film was produced on refugee camps along the Thai border and even inside Kampuchea. A filming crew, accompanied by an information delegate and a photographer, had been authorized by the authorities in Phnom Penh to go to the People's Republic of Kampuchea at the beginning of December and for 15 days they were able to cover humanitarian activities for the benefit of Cambodian civilians.

NICARAGUA. — At the request of the American Red Cross, which had received many appeals from national media interested in humanitarian operations in connection with the civil war in Nicaragua, the deputy chief of the PID, in July, went to the United States and Nicaragua. A number of interviews to the press and major television corporations gave opportunities to explain the organization and extent of ICRC activities carried out in close co-operation with the Nicaraguan Red Cross Society. After that mission, an information delegate was assigned to Managua from where he sent a series of reports which were widely reproduced by press agencies and newspapers.

SOUTHERN AFRICA. — The information campaign launched in Southern Africa towards the end of 1978 developed in 1979 and gave satisfactory results. Its aim was to make the Red Cross, particularly the ICRC, known and understood to all people and organizations—government circles, combatants, refugees and rural populations—directly or indirectly involved in the conflict in Rhodesia. Copies of information material produced locally and in Geneva were distributed by the tens of thousands in combat zones, schools and refugee camps in Rhodesia, Zambia and Botswana.

This material consisted of:
— seven cartoon strips explaining the various activities of the Red Cross; the number printed was increased from 120,000 to 240,000 copies of each in English, Ndebele and Shona (they were also printed in French for use in other African countries);
— an illustrated bulletin in English entitled “Red Cross in Action” of which five issues were published in 1979;
— four colour posters, each illustrating a different subject (10,000 copies);
— 13,500 copies of a calendar issued in three versions, namely English, Ndebele and Shona; English and Swahili; English, French and Portuguese.

The impact of these publications has been growing, probably promoted by the wide distribution of articles marked with the red cross, such as school exercise books, pencils, T-shirts and bowls which contributed by drawing public attention to the Red Cross.

The information team based at Lusaka produced some fifty radio programmes in English and four vernacular languages. These were broadcast weekly by Radio Zambia. From Salisbury Red Cross advertisements were broadcast by television and radio in English, Shona and Ndebele. In addition, the film “Challenge in Africa” was shown in many places in Rhodesia, Zambia and Botswana, and was often followed by a lecture on the Red Cross.

Another information campaign method was the itinerant ICRC-League exhibition of some 40 panels illustrating by photo and text the aims and activities of the Red Cross. The exhibition was inaugurated on 8 May, World Red Cross Day, in Luanda (Angola). It then went to Swaziland, Zambia and Kenya and aroused keen interest everywhere.

All the participants in a round table meeting in Lusaka on 19 July, some of whom were not members of the Red Cross, underlined the usefulness of the information campaign and the need to continue it. At that meeting three main problems were discussed:

— methods to bring home the Red Cross message to African rural populations with a view, inter alia, to promoting voluntary service;
— the possibilities of increased National Society participation in the campaign, with a view to their gradually taking it over;
— methods of developing active public participation with a view to more widely disseminating the Red Cross message.
Information from headquarters

PRESS — About 50 press releases, some jointly with the League or UNICEF; five press conferences at the institution's headquarters (Southern Africa appeal, Kampuchea and Lebanon operations) or in the United Nations Building (simultaneous release of civilian Arab prisoners and an Israeli prisoner of war); numerous interviews given to visiting journalists, to radio and television crews; lectures to groups of visitors: whatever the information methods employed, ICRC activities were given considerable coverage in international media. The televised report on 14 March at Cointrin Airport, when Arab prisoners and one Israeli prisoner were released, was broadcast by some thirty television channels in Europe, America, the Middle East and North Africa. Photographs of this exchange at Cointrin were provided for the major press associations (AP, UPI, Keystone, etc.).

The periodical ICRC Bulletin continued to be issued each month, giving news and articles which were reproduced and commented on by the press. International Review of the Red Cross continued to appear every two months (see below).

Like "The Times" of London in 1978, the French national daily "Le Monde", in its issue for 25-26 November, carried a six-page supplement on the International Red Cross with special reference to the ICRC, which supplied the journalists writing the articles with the basic material. Three thousand copies of this supplement were reserved for distribution to National Societies.

Sixteen thousand copies of a new brochure on the ICRC were printed in 1979. It is entitled "Presenting the ICRC" and is available in French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic.

AUDIO VISUAL CENTRE. — With the approval of the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference (Resolution XX) the ICRC and the League pooled their audio-visual resources and installed a joint audio-visual studio in ICRC headquarters. This initial stage enabled the two institutions to produce a programme of five documentary films in seven countries. The films have been sent to more than a dozen National Societies and some have been broadcast by television corporations in Europe, Asia and Oceania. At the same time, recordings were made during a number of events and a library of documentaries on video cassettes has been steadily developed. A second stage will consist in the transfer of all League and ICRC audio-visual equipment on the fourth floor now being added to the League building.

RADIO — The extensive humanitarian activities undertaken during the year influenced the production of radio programmes. The number of interviews directly related to current events and intended for the mass media was 93. In addition, 145 other interviews were necessary for the production of 42 regular broadcasts by the Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) in five languages each month. The subjects most frequently discussed were the situations in south-east Asia, Africa and Nicaragua. Several on-the-spot reports were included in these programmes. Twelve programmes were produced especially for the Portuguese radio and for Portuguese-speaking countries or regions in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

EXHIBITIONS — At the World Telecommunication Exhibition (TELECOM 79) in Geneva from 20 to 26 September, the ICRC stand illustrated its radio communication network with texts and photographs explaining the role and importance of radio in relief operations. A transmitter-receiver station enabled a large public to follow "live" the radio-communications exchanged with delegations and to see that even with unsophisticated equipment notable efficiency could be obtained. The continuous projection of an ICRC video film on three television screens showed how important was radio communication for the whole international Red Cross movement and how necessary it was for the Red Cross to retain the radio frequencies allocated to it.

At the request of the Barcelona branch of the Spanish Red Cross the ICRC displayed in that town from 4 to 11 May a photo exhibition and a twelve-minute multivision show illustrating the various aspects of Red Cross activities.

Public relations efforts in Switzerland included an itinerant exhibition which was shown at Bellinzona, Lugano, Locarno, Emmen, Winthertur and Chiasso.

VISITORS TO THE ICRC — In addition, 6,251 visitors came to ICRC headquarters in 1979, including a large group of Belgian journalists and a party of Danish journalists to whom lectures were given on the Red Cross. For visitors in general, films were shown on 168 occasions and video films on 293.

MISSIONS. — The head of the division went on missions to the United Kingdom, Angola, Bulgaria, Brazil, France, Canada, the USA, Thailand and several times to Southern Africa, to take part in Red Cross conferences, to assess information problems and develop co-operation with National Societies, and to direct the information campaign in Southern Africa.

As mentioned above, information delegates were dispatched to Nicaragua, Southern Africa, Thailand and the United Kingdom, both to meet journalists and give them an account of humanitarian activities, and to gather material for the ICRC and for donors. Photographers went on assignments to Zambia, Botswana, Swaziland, Angola, Mozambique, Rhodesia, Uganda, Chad, Thailand and Kampuchea.

The PID participated in the Eleventh Inter-American Red Cross Conference at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 8 June, and in the First French-speaking African Seminar on the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law, in Tunis from 9 to 19 October. It was represented also at the Seventh International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films at Varna from 9 to 18 June. The ICRC film “Challenge in Africa” was awarded the gold medal. At the end of 1979, 130 copies of this film, in twelve languages, were in circulation throughout the world.
In 1979 International Review of the Red Cross was issued every two months in three main editions—French, English and Spanish—of about 60 pages each. An abridged version in German, numbering from 16 to 20 pages, contained a selection of articles in the main editions.

The Review continued its essential functions as the official organ of the International Red Cross and as the leading Red Cross journal specializing in international humanitarian law. It is the only publication of its kind in the world. In 1979 it published several appeals by the ICRC, contributions from a number of authors on topical problems: “The ICRC and human rights”, “European plans for perpetual peace and their impact upon the law of war”; articles of a more technical nature of interest to the Red Cross: “Modernization of protective markings and signalling”, “Red Cross emergency radiocommunications”, and a study presenting three aspects of voluntary service.

PERSONNEL

In 1979, the Personnel Department was considerably reorganized to cope with the substantial increase in personnel, the immediate consequence of the ICRC’s expanding activities in the field. The reorganization called for the creation of two divisions: Recruitment and Training, and Administration.

At ICRC headquarters, the staff strength rose from 288 (in January) to 339 (in December), with a monthly average of 312.5. Included in this average—which was 75.5 more than in 1978—there were about 120 persons whose work was directly related in one way or another with field operations. The rest of the staff were employed in work related to the activities of the Central Tracing Agency, to the development and dissemination of international humanitarian law, to relations with National Red Cross Societies, to information and public relations, to fund-raising, administration and so on.

The number of persons employed in the field (delegates and technicians sent from Geneva) rose from 102 in January to 223 in December; the monthly average for 1979 was 150.5 (97 in 1978). These figures do not include the very large number of medical and paramedical personnel made available to the ICRC by National Red Cross Societies, mainly for its work in Thailand. In addition, the ICRC delegations were assisted by locally employed personnel, whose number rose from 202 in January to 287 in December.

During the year under review, 999 missions were performed by personnel sent from the ICRC’s Geneva headquarters.

* * *

In 1979, the efforts of the Personnel Department were principally directed to recruitment and training.

Recruitment

The Recruitment and Training Division had to meet the constant need for additions to our operational staff strength, but at the same time it endeavoured to maintain and improve the standard of the delegates representing the ICRC. A recruiting campaign conducted on television and in the press showed that there were in Switzerland quite a number of men and women who were prepared to work for the ICRC, some for a short term and others on a permanent basis. In fact, the Applications Service received in 1979 no less than 1665 enquiries from persons who were interested in ICRC employment. A preliminary list was drawn up and 321 candidates were invited for an interview at the Geneva headquarters. Of these, a short list containing 151 names was selected, and the candidates took part in seven introductory courses at Cartigny (near Geneva). Finally, 124 persons were offered a contract.

Training

As a general rule, a delegate's first year in the field constitutes a training period, while the aim of the introductory courses at Cartigny is to give budding delegates a grounding on a variety of subjects connected with the ICRC and Red Cross (history of the Red Cross; structure; distribution of tasks; financing; role of the National Societies and League; the Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Protocols; extra-conventional activities and “political” detainees; procedure of visits to places of detention; assessment of a given situation; role and tasks of the Central Tracing Agency; material relief; the ICRC and disclosure of information; medical aid programmes, etc).

With the purpose of giving staff at Geneva headquarters the opportunity to improve their qualifications, courses were given in the following subjects:

Number of persons:
75: language courses
10: specialized courses in their particular field of work
10: conduct of meetings
20: administration

In addition, 75 persons took the three courses organized jointly by the League and ICRC for newly engaged staff.
Financial Structure

The ordinary account covers the permanent tasks of the ICRC, its infrastructure and all activities without special financing. In 1979, the income on the ordinary account was 30.4 million Swiss francs and the expenditure 30.5 million Swiss francs (see Table III). Most of the income—22.6 million francs—came from regular contributions by governments and National Societies.

The special account covers large-scale operations for which special appeals are made. In 1979, the income for these operations totalled 76.2 million and the expenditure 71.3 million (see Table VI). The income and expenditure were respectively credited and debited to the Fund for specially financed operations; these movements are given in Table VI.

The ICRC also has a Fund for relief actions. The sources of income of this Fund are the annual public collection in Switzerland and various donations. The use made of this Fund is shown in Table X.

In addition to its own accounts the ICRC manages a certain number of special funds such as those of the “Indochina Bureau” (INDSEC), the Foundation for the ICRC, the Augusta Fund, the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, the Clare R. Benedict Fund, the Maurice de Madre Fund. The balance sheets and expenditure and income accounts are given in Tables on pages 96-97 and 99 to 103.

Financing

These results though encouraging were not wholly satisfactory. Compared with 1978, the increase in government contributions to the ordinary budget amounted to 3.9 million Swiss francs, 2 million of which came from the Swiss Government. The latter again made the largest donation (14.5 million Swiss francs). Moreover, several other countries, such as Austria, Canada, Colombia, the United States, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and Sweden adjusted their previous contributions. It should be noted that in 1979 the People’s Republic of China sent its first contribution.

It is nevertheless unfortunate that not all governments have yet realized the importance of sending regular contributions in keeping with the world-wide activities of the ICRC. Yet, pursuant to the resolution of the 1949 Diplomatic Conference and other resolutions passed at various international conferences, they ought to give it the financial support it requires. In 1979, however, 66 out of the 145 States parties to the Geneva Conventions did not contribute to the ordinary budget.

National Society contributions rose from 1,813,000 Swiss francs in 1978 to 1,832,000 in 1979. Out of 126 National Societies, 61 did not respond to the ICRC appeals. It is essential that financing should be sufficient for the tasks the ICRC has to assume. This applies not only to special budgets but equally to its ordinary budget, which covers its permanent activities. It will therefore have to step up its efforts to increase its income, especially since, in 1980, out of a total of 34.4 million Swiss francs in the ordinary budget, the expected income amounts to 27.8 million, so that a deficit of 6.6 million will have to be made up by additional income. To achieve this aim the Financing Division has been reinforced by the appointment of Mr. Serge Nessi as its chief.

Balance Sheet

The total increase of the balance sheet from 27.4 million Swiss francs at the end of 1978 to 36.6 million Swiss francs at the end of 1979 is unusual. Sizeable contributions received at the end of the year for large-scale operations increased the liquid assets. This, however, does not imply a surplus as these amounts are earmarked for operations continuing into 1980.

In view of its increased activities, the ICRC has to take certain steps to intensify its efforts and be prepared for any emergencies. To this end, the general Reserve, which according to a prudent estimate must equal half the annual budget to fulfil its role, was increased by 1.25 million taken from the excess of receipts over expenditure. Moreover, since the headquarters in Geneva has become too crowded, 1 million Swiss francs (round figure) have been allocated for additional offices that the ICRC will occupy in 1980 and 1981.

Expenditure and Income

There was a small deficit of 120,066 Swiss francs. This would have been much more had it not been for the strict management of funds. Owing to monthly audits, even weekly in the case of difficult operations, it was possible to keep a close check on expenses and income and avoid unpleasant surprises at the end of the financial year.

Auditing

As in previous years, the ICRC accounts were audited by the “Société fiduciaire OFOR SA”, appointed in accordance with the ICRC Statutes.

A photocopy of the auditor’s letter proposing that the 1979 accounts be approved has been reproduced on page 104.
## Table I

### Comparative Balance Sheets As at 31 December 1979 and 1978

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1979</th>
<th>1978</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>13,331</td>
<td>8,266</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
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<td>Securities (market value)</td>
<td>5,305</td>
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<td>Other investments</td>
<td>6,352</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
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<td>2,298</td>
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<td>Accruals and prepaid expenses</td>
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<td>367</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14,812</td>
<td>15,248</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Buildings</td>
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<td>304</td>
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<td>Relief supplies</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
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<td>56</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2,177</td>
<td>1,110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advances to Delegations</td>
<td>6,281</td>
<td>2,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance Sheet Totals</strong></td>
<td>36,601</td>
<td>27,382</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                      |        |        |
| **Liabilities**      |        |        |
| Short-term Liabilities |      |        |
| Accounts payable     | 3,973  | 2,931  |
| Accrued liabilities  | 482    | 726    |
|                      | 4,455  | 3,657  |
| Funds for Current Operations | 931   | 779    |
| Unappropriated       | 18,695 | 14,520 |
| Earmarked            | 19,626 | 15,299 |
| **Sundry Provisions**| 4,960  | 1,996  |
| **Capital Reserve Funds** | 430  | 455    |
| Carried forward      | (120)  | (25)   |
| Deficit              | 310    | 430    |
|                      | 7,250  | 6,000  |
| General Reserve      | 7,560  | 6,430  |
| **Balance Sheet Totals** | 36,601 | 27,382 |

|                      |        |        |
| **Funds in Trust**   |        |        |
| Debtors              | 92     | 206    |
| Trust funds in banks | 92     | 205    |
|                      | 92     | 206    |

(Summary in thousands of Swiss francs)
### Summary Statement of Income and Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>Ordinary account</th>
<th>Special account</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECRETARIAT OF THE ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE BOARD</strong></td>
<td>224,995</td>
<td>224,995</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEPARTMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND LAW</strong></td>
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<td>721,677</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and experts</td>
<td>726,497</td>
<td>726,497</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Division</td>
<td>1,354,959</td>
<td>1,354,959</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation and Dissemination Division</td>
<td>516,500</td>
<td>516,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>3,319,633</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT</strong></td>
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<td>1,834,983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and support services</td>
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<td>716,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relief Division</td>
<td>530,176</td>
<td>530,176</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Division</td>
<td>349,115</td>
<td>349,115</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and North America</td>
<td>361,126</td>
<td>361,126</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>29,001,940</td>
<td>29,001,940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia-Oceania</td>
<td>1,346,177</td>
<td>1,346,177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
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<td>4,297,831</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
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<td>784,993</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>10,264,665</td>
<td>10,264,665</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY</strong></td>
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<td>3,008,707</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE</strong></td>
<td>152,500</td>
<td>152,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT</strong></td>
<td>2,214,313</td>
<td>2,214,313</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DELEGATE TRAINING PROGRAMME</strong></td>
<td>264,172</td>
<td>264,172</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT</strong></td>
<td>5,705,888</td>
<td>5,705,888</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PRESS AND INFORMATION DIVISION</strong></td>
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<td>1,487,131</td>
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<td><strong>PUBLIC RELATIONS</strong></td>
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<td>224,951</td>
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<td><strong>DELEGATE TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</strong></td>
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<td>236,102</td>
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<td><strong>COST OF ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
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<td>98,604,964</td>
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<td><strong>OTHER EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>27,480,121</td>
<td>27,480,121</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions to other Red Cross organizations</td>
<td>268,820</td>
<td>268,820</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>School textbook</td>
<td>139,212</td>
<td>139,212</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of organizing public collection</td>
<td>145,375</td>
<td>145,375</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjustment of asset accounts</td>
<td>1,008,000</td>
<td>1,008,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for replacement of equipment/buildings</td>
<td>1,250,000</td>
<td>1,250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>101,756,581</td>
<td>101,756,581</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESULT</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess income added to fund for current operations</td>
<td>4,920,884</td>
<td>4,920,884</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>30,492,526</td>
<td>30,492,526</td>
<td>106,677,465</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE II

#### INCOME (Swiss francs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ordinary account</th>
<th>Special account</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGULAR INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Governments:</td>
<td>13,803,680</td>
<td>13,803,680</td>
<td>26,478,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- National Societies</td>
<td>1,831,875</td>
<td>1,831,875</td>
<td>3,663,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Complementary from Swiss Government</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>14,000,000</td>
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<td>Private contributions</td>
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<td>Donations and legacies</td>
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<td>2,198,207</td>
<td>4,396,414</td>
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<td>Revenue from investments</td>
<td>1,242,208</td>
<td>1,242,208</td>
<td>2,484,416</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>26,478,320</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special contributions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Governments:</td>
<td>412,228</td>
<td>412,228</td>
<td>824,456</td>
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<tr>
<td>- National Societies</td>
<td>468,760</td>
<td>468,760</td>
<td>937,520</td>
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<td>Foundations:</td>
<td>65,901</td>
<td>65,901</td>
<td>131,802</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complementary contribution from Swiss Government</td>
<td>526,760</td>
<td>526,760</td>
<td>1,053,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>carried forward from 1978</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissemination seminars, carried forward from 1978 (a)</td>
<td>108,682</td>
<td>108,682</td>
<td>217,364</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>1,582,331</strong></td>
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<td><strong>VARIABLE INCOME</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions for special operations</td>
<td>76,184,939</td>
<td>76,184,939</td>
<td>152,369,878</td>
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<td>Transfer from special accounts</td>
<td>1,882,485</td>
<td>1,882,485</td>
<td>3,764,970</td>
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<td>Other income:</td>
<td>161,599</td>
<td>161,599</td>
<td>323,198</td>
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<td>Transfer from fund for relief operations</td>
<td>267,725</td>
<td>267,725</td>
<td>535,450</td>
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<td><strong>2,311,809</strong></td>
<td>76,184,939</td>
<td>78,496,748</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>30,372,460</td>
<td>76,184,939</td>
<td>106,557,399</td>
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#### RESULT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess expenditure over receipts:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1979</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>30,492,526</td>
<td>76,184,939</td>
<td>106,677,465</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) See Table VI
ORDINARY

Summary statement of income and expenditure for 1979

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE (Swiss francs)</th>
<th>1978</th>
<th>1979</th>
<th>Budget 1980</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SECRETARIAT OF THE ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE BOARD</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Management and experts</td>
<td>186,259</td>
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<td>2,534,996</td>
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<td>3,314,696</td>
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<td>DEPARTMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND LAW</td>
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<td>Management and support services</td>
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<td>Relief Division</td>
<td>486,023</td>
<td>716,995</td>
<td>697,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Division</td>
<td>295,427</td>
<td>530,176</td>
<td>680,130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe and North America</td>
<td>342,114</td>
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<td>Africa</td>
<td>515,059</td>
<td>404,395</td>
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<td>Asia-Oceania</td>
<td>951,539</td>
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<td>Middle East</td>
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<td>13,285,224</td>
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<td></td>
<td>264,172</td>
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<td>1,166,690</td>
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<td>377,064</td>
<td>310,386</td>
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<td>DELEGATE TRAINING PROGRAMME</td>
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<td>267,843</td>
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<td>263,940</td>
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<td>341,630</td>
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<td>PRESS AND INFORMATION DIVISION</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBLIC RELATIONS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>310,386</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL REVIEW</td>
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<td>263,940</td>
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<tr>
<td>DELEGATE TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>COST OF ACTIVITIES</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>453,172</td>
<td></td>
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<td>OTHER EXPENDITURE</td>
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<td>1977 activities financed in 1978</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of organizing public collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions to other Red Cross organizations</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for replacement of equipment/buildings</td>
<td>486,155</td>
<td>340,210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjustment of asset accounts</td>
<td>750,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocated to reserve funds</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>30,492,526</td>
<td>34,424,670</td>
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</table>
ACCOUNT for 1979 with comparative figures for 1978 and budget for 1980

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME (Swiss francs)</th>
<th>1978</th>
<th>1979</th>
<th>Budget 1980</th>
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<tbody>
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(1) Rec'd in 1980 for 1979 a special contribution of B Fr. 5,000,000.
(2) Rec'd in 1980 for 1979 a special contribution of US$ 30,000.
### CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NATIONAL SOCIETIES TO THE FINANCING OF THE REGULAR BUDGET IN 1979

#### TABLE V

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**Adjustment for previous years**

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1 Former operation Democratic Kampuchea conflict.
2 Initial survey mission and establishment of CTA office.
3 Transferred to ordinary account, see Table II.
4 Transferred to general Africa account.
5 Surplus ICRC operation transferred to joint UNICEF ICRC operation.
6 Return to Geneva of unused funds.
### SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN 1979

(Swiss francs)

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### OPERATIONS IN 1979

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<td>152,126</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>5,378,813</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>46,560</td>
<td>7,900</td>
<td>3,530.575</td>
<td>152,126</td>
<td>5,378,813</td>
<td>235,042</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82,805</td>
<td>648,492</td>
<td>3,298,600</td>
<td>273,224</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>129,300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>648,492</td>
<td>3,298,600</td>
<td>273,224</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>129,300</td>
<td>505,340</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>407,500</td>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>343,620</td>
<td>2,677,820</td>
<td>370,615</td>
<td>7,355</td>
<td>1,045,450</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>343,620</td>
<td>2,677,820</td>
<td>370,615</td>
<td>1,045,450</td>
<td>3,820,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>343,620</td>
<td>2,677,820</td>
<td>370,615</td>
<td>7,355</td>
<td>5,556,985</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>343,620</td>
<td>2,677,820</td>
<td>370,615</td>
<td>5,556,985</td>
<td>1,944,400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>343,620</td>
<td>2,677,820</td>
<td>370,615</td>
<td>3,224,697</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>343,620</td>
<td>2,677,820</td>
<td>370,615</td>
<td>3,224,697</td>
<td>3,820,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Former operation Democratic Kampuchea conflict
2. Initial survey mission and establishment of CTA office

Data in thousands.
## INDO-CHINA BUREAU (INDSEC)

Comparative balance sheets as at 31 December 1979 and 1978

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Balance Sheet as at 31.12.79 (Sw. fr.)</th>
<th>Balance Sheet as at 31.12.78 (Sw. fr.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASH</td>
<td>82,697</td>
<td>535,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>3,148,428</td>
<td>4,178,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>400,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accruals and prepaid expenses</td>
<td>36,092</td>
<td>10,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>3,184,520</td>
<td>4,588,916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Balance Sheet as at 31.12.79 (Sw. fr.)</th>
<th>Balance Sheet as at 31.12.78 (Sw. fr.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>190,434</td>
<td>92,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Short-term Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>190,434</td>
<td>95,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDARY PROVISIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.O.G. Programmes taken over by INDSEC</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>174,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPITAL FUNDS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bt/fwd from previous period</td>
<td>4,854,006</td>
<td>7,348,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7.78-31.12.78</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>(1,286,831)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.79-31.12.79</td>
<td>(1,561,273)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on dollar-yen exchange rates</td>
<td>(215,950)</td>
<td>(1,207,235)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Capital Funds</strong></td>
<td>3,076,783</td>
<td>4,854,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>3,267,217</td>
<td>5,124,275</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# INDO-CHINA BUREAU (INDSEC)

## Receipts and Expenditure Account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Period from 1.1.79 to 31.12.79</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECEIPTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Contributions from Governments</td>
<td>49,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Contributions from National Societies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other organizations and individual contributors</td>
<td>4,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other receipts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Receipts</strong></td>
<td>53,448</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **EXPENDITURE**    |                                  |
| - Relief           | 1,398,739                        |
| - Operational expenses | 215,982                        |
| **Total Expenditure** | 1,614,721                       |

| **EXCESS EXPENDITURE OVER RECEIPTS** | (1,561,273)                     |
| **LOSS ON DOLLAR, YEN DEVALUATION/S.Fr.** | (215,950)                     |
| **BT/FWD 1.1.79**            | 4,854,006                       |
| **BALANCE AVAILABLE 31.12.79** | 3,076,783                       |
TABLE X

Funds for Current Operations
(Summary of movements in 1979)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Fund for Relief Operations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Balance as at 1 January 1979</td>
<td></td>
<td>778,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Receipts in 1979</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1. Proceeds of public collection in Switzerland</td>
<td>595,667</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2. Donations for specific relief operations</td>
<td>832,907</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3. Other receipts</td>
<td>13,445</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Total available</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,220,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Expenditure in 1979</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1. Purchase and forwarding of relief</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Europe</td>
<td>18,727</td>
<td>6,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Africa</td>
<td>105,744</td>
<td>37,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Latin America</td>
<td>158,759</td>
<td>65,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- South-East Asia</td>
<td>486,033</td>
<td>216,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Middle East</td>
<td>1,110,159</td>
<td>158,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sundry relief operations</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>42,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Upkeep of emergency stores</td>
<td>48,708</td>
<td>10,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,928,212</td>
<td>537,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Programmes bt/fwd from 1978</td>
<td>(1,175,901)</td>
<td>(1,175,901)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,928,212</td>
<td>(638,560)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Amount available on 31 December 1979</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(shown on the Balance Sheet under liabilities as “Fund for Current Operations, Unappropriated”)</td>
<td></td>
<td>931,249</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>II. Fund for Operations Requiring Special Financing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>18,694,942*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Balance bt/fwd from 31 December 1978</td>
<td></td>
<td>14,520,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Receipts in 1979</td>
<td></td>
<td>76,184,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Total available</td>
<td></td>
<td>90,705,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Expenditure in 1979</td>
<td>71,264,055*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers and reimbursements</td>
<td>107,590*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in current commitments</td>
<td>638,560*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Amount available on 31 December 1979</td>
<td></td>
<td>72,010,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(shown on the balance sheet under liabilities as “Fund for Current Operations, Earmarked”)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*This amount consists of:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Balances of special programmes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bt/fwd, as at 31.12.1979</td>
<td>18,157,601*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Current relief operations</td>
<td>537,341</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This amount consists of:
- Balances of special programmes
  bt/fwd, as at 31.12.1979 | 18,157,601 |
- Current relief operations | 537,341 |

(1) See Table VI
(2) Programmes transferred from 1978 to 1979
Programmes transferred from 1979 to 1980 | 1,175,901 |
Carried out in 1979 | 638,560 |

(1) See Table VI
(2) Programmes transferred from 1978 to 1979
Programmes transferred from 1979 to 1980 | 1,175,901 |
Carried out in 1979 | 638,560 |
## SPECIAL FUNDS

### 1. FOUNDATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1979

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inalienable capital</td>
<td>1,028,252.52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss bonds (market value Sw.fr. 1,194,100.—)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,182,000.—</td>
<td>Inalienable reserve:</td>
<td>1,182,000.—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West German bonds (market value Sw.fr. 72,930.—)</td>
<td>90,800.—</td>
<td>1,272,800.—</td>
<td>b/f from 1978</td>
<td>253,151.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit with Swiss National Bank, Geneva</td>
<td>53,432.77</td>
<td></td>
<td>Statutory allocation of 15% of net revenue in 1979</td>
<td>9,864.35</td>
<td>263,015.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration fédérale des contributions, Berne (prepaid tax to be refunded)</td>
<td>20,933.15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total capital</td>
<td>1,291,268.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund in current account</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross:</td>
<td>55,897.90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funds in current account</td>
<td>55,897.90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,347,165.92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, 1979

**RECEIPTS**

- Income from securities ........................................... 64,490.30
- Difference between nominal value and purchase price of bonds bought in 1979 2,750.

**EXPENDITURE**

- Safekeeping charges ........................................... 624.70
- Audit fees ...................................................... 790.
- Sundry ......................................................... 63.35

**RESULT**

- Excess of receipts over expenditure ....................... 65,762.25

**STATUTORY ALLOCATION**

- Statutory allocation to inalienable reserve: 15% of net revenue (Art. 8 of the Statutes) 9,864.35
- Statutory allocation to the ICRC of balance of net revenue (Art. 7 of the Statutes) 55,897.90

**Total** 65,762.25
## 2. AUGUSTA FUND

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1979

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>Sw.fr.</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>Sw.fr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swiss and other gov't securities</td>
<td>89,000.—</td>
<td>Inalienable capital</td>
<td>100,000.—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Swiss securities</td>
<td>24,931.95</td>
<td>Reserve for price fluctuations of securities</td>
<td>4,903.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>113,931.95</td>
<td>Total capital</td>
<td>104,903.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less provision for price fluctuations</td>
<td>13,566.95</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market value of portfolio</td>
<td>100,365.—</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at banks</td>
<td>7,171.75</td>
<td>ICRC, Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, current</td>
<td>4,321.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration fédérale des contributions, Berne</td>
<td>1,687.55</td>
<td>account</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(tax paid in advance, to be refunded)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>109,224.30</td>
<td></td>
<td>109,224.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1979

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>Sw.fr.</th>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>Sw.fr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees and safekeeping and other bank charges</td>
<td>498.90</td>
<td>Income from securities and interest on bank deposit</td>
<td>4,819.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>498.90</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESULT**

Excess of receipts over expenditure for 1979 allocated to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund pursuant to Resolution VI of the Twenty-first International Red Cross Conference    | 4,321.05
### 3. FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL FUND

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1979

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>Sw.fr.</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>Sw.fr.</th>
<th>Sw.fr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swiss Government securities (market value Sw.fr. 81,940.—)</td>
<td>75,000.—</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>25,000.—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock of medals</td>
<td>6,672.—</td>
<td>Reserve:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank</td>
<td>2,000.90</td>
<td>— Balance brought forward from 1978</td>
<td>62,239.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration fédérale des contributions, Berne (tax paid in advance to be refunded)</td>
<td>1,127.—</td>
<td>— Plus: excess of receipts over expenditure</td>
<td>1,881.15</td>
<td>64,120.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRC, Augusta Fund a/c</td>
<td>4,321.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89,120.95</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>89,120.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1979

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>Sw.fr.</th>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>Sw.fr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Printing and despatch of circulars, presentation of medals, sundries</td>
<td>5,480.90</td>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>3,220.—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>400.—</td>
<td>Difference between nominal value and purchase of bonds during the year</td>
<td>250.—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safekeeping charges</td>
<td>29.—</td>
<td>Transfer of balance as at 31 December 1979 of Augusta Fund Receipts and Expenditure Account pursuant to resolution VI of the Twenty-first International Red Cross Conference</td>
<td>4,321.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,909.90</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,791.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESULT**

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1979 .... 1,881.15
4. THE CLARE R. BENEDICT FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1979
(expressed in US$ before appropriation of revenue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>US$</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>1,000,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value: US$ 1,076,262.80)</td>
<td>929,844.10</td>
<td>Receipts and Expenditure Account: balance for distribution</td>
<td>315,002.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank</td>
<td>385,158.46</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,315,002.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,315,002.56</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,315,002.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1979

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>US$</th>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safekeeping charges, fees and other administrative expenses</td>
<td>7,561.38</td>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>86,407.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interest on bank deposits</td>
<td>16,603.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7,561.38</td>
<td></td>
<td>103,010.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenue over expenses in 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE FOR DISTRIBUTION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance b/fwds from 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess income over expenses in 1979 (as above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance for distribution as at 31 December 1979</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. MAURICE DE MADRE FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1979

ASSETS

Securities:
- Bonds and bank certificates (market value Sw.fr. 1,523,475.—) .............................................. 1,530,000.—
- Surplus receipts over expenditure in 1979 .............. 935,550.05

Debtors:
- AFC Berne, tax paid in advance, to be refunded 342,243.35

Banks:
- Current accounts ........................................ 16,792.25
- Fixed deposit ............................................ 175,000.—
- Prepaid expenses ............................................ 6,100.—

LIABILITIES

Capital:
- Balance bt/fwd from 1978 ............................ 1,132,655.55
- Surplus receipts over expenditure in 1979 .............. 935,550.05
- Total capital .............................................. 2,068,205.60
- Accrued liabilities ............................... 1,930.—

Total assets .............................................. 2,070,135.60

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1979

EXPENDITURE

Allocation of grant ........................................ 7,000.—
Charges re purchase of securities and other bank charges ................................................. 1,339.95
Printing and despatch of circular letter ................. 1,525.—
Fees ......................................................... 1,255.—
Sundry ....................................................... 486.20

Total expenditure ........................................ 11,606.15

RECEIPTS

Net result of liquidation of S.I. Léman-Pelouse S.A. 895,660.75
Interest from securities and bank accounts .......... 50,745.45
Difference between nominal value and purchase price of bonds bought in 1979 ................. 750.—

Total receipts ............................................. 947,156.20

RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1979 transferred to Capital Account ........................ 935,550.05

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (I.C.R.C.)

Geneva

AUDITORS' REPORT

on the examination of the accounts for the year ended
December 31, 1979

As statutory auditors of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, we have examined the accounts for the year ended December 31, 1979.

We confirm that:

- the balance sheet and the statement of income and expenditure are in agreement with the books,
- the books of account have been properly kept,
- the balance sheet totals Sw.Fr. 36'601'239,— and the statement of income and expenditure which after creation and reinforcement of various provisions and reserves shows an over-expenditure of Sw.Fr. 120'066,— reflect fairly the financial position of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the results of its operations for the year 1979.

Based upon our examination, we recommend that the accounts submitted be approved.

Geneva, April 21, 1980

[Signature]

DIDUCIAIRE OFOR S.A.
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS*

ASSEMBLY

Mr. Alexandre Hay, Lawyer, former Director-General of the Swiss National Bank, President (member since 1975)
Mr. Harald Huber, Doctor of Laws, Federal Court Judge, Vice-President (1969)
Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, Doctor of Laws, former Ambassador, Vice-President (1977)
Mrs. Denise Bindschedler-Robert, Doctor of Laws, Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights (1967)
Mr. Marcel A. Naville, Master of Arts, ICRC President from 1969 to 1973 (1967)
Mr. Jacques F. de Rougemont, Doctor of Medicine (1967)
Mr. Roger Gallopin, Doctor of Laws, former ICRC Director-General and former President of the Executive Board (1967)
Mr. Jean Pictet, Doctor of Laws, Associate Professor at the University of Geneva, former Director of the Henry Dunant Institute, Vice-President from 1971 to 1979 (1967)
Mr. Victor H. Umbricht, Doctor of Laws, Managing Director (1970)
Mr. Gilbert Etienne, Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies and at the Institut d'études du développement, Geneva (1973)
Mr. Ulrich Middendorp, Doctor of Medicine, head of surgical department of the Cantonal Hospital, Winterthur (1973)
Mrs. Marion Bovée-Rothenbach, Doctor of Sociology (1973)
Mr. Hans Peter Tschudi, Doctor of Laws, former Swiss Federal Councillor (1973)
Mr. Henry Huguenin, Banker (1974)
Mr. Jakob Burckhardt, Doctor of Laws, former Minister Plenipotentiary, former Chairman of the Council of Federal Polytechnic Schools (1975)
Mr. Thomas Fleiner, Master of Laws, Professor at the University of Fribourg (1975)
Mr. Athos Gallino, Doctor of Medicine, Mayor of Bellinzona (1977)
Mr. Robert Kohler, Master of Economics, Company chairman (1977)
Mr. Maurice Aubert, Doctor of Laws, banker (1979)
Mr. Rudolf Jäckli, Doctor of Science, geologist (1979)
Miss Andrée Weitzel, former head of the women's auxiliary service at the Federal Military Department (1979)

Honorary members: Miss Lucie Odier, Honorary Vice-President; Messrs. Hans Bachmann, Guillaume Bordier, Mrs. Marguerite Gautier-Van Berchem, Messrs. Adolphe Graedel, Édouard de Haller, Eric Martin, Rodolfo Olgati, Max Petitpierre, Paul Ruegger, Dietrich Schindler, Frédéric Siordet, Alfredo Vannotti.

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Mr. Alexandre Hay, President
Mr. Richard Pestalozzi
Mrs. Denise Bindschedler-Robert
Mr. Jakob Burckhardt
Mr. Athos Gallino
Mr. Rudolf Jäckli

DIRECTORATE

Mr. Pierre Basset, Director, Central Tracing Agency
Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Directeur, Operations Department
Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Director, Personnel Department
Mr. Jacques Moreillon, Director, Department of Principles and Law
Mr. Edmé Regenass, Director, Finance and Administration Department

Functions related to the Directorate

Mr. André-Dominique Micheli, Head of Presidential Secretariat
Mr. Alain Modoux, Head of Press and Information Division
Dr. Rémi Russbach, Chief Medical Officer
Mr. Michel Veuthey, Delegate to International Organizations

* As at 31 December 1979.
ADMINISTRATION *

Operations department

Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director
Mr. Michel Convers, Deputy Director
Mr. Melchior Borsinger, delegate-general for Europe and North America
Mr. Jean de Courten, delegate-general for Asia
Mr. Jean Heflinger, delegate-general for Middle East and North Africa
Mr. André Pasquier, delegate-general for Latin America
Mr. Frank Schmidt, delegate-general for Africa
Dr. Rémi Russbach, Head of Medical Division
Mr. Philippe Dind, Head of Relief Division

Department of Principles and Law

Mr. Jacques Moreillon, Director
Mr. René-Jean Wilhelm, Deputy Director and Head of National Societies and Principles Division
Mr. Hans-Peter Gasser, Head of Legal Division
Mr. Robert Gaillard-Moret, Head of Documentation and Dissemination Division

Central Tracing Agency

Mr. Pierre Basset, Director
Mr. Nicolas Vecsey, Deputy Director

Personnel Department

Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Director
Mr. Laurent Marti, Deputy Director and Head of Recruitment and Training Division
Mr. Edmond de Palézieux, Head of Personnel Administration Division

Finance and Administration Department

Mr. Edmé Regenass, Director
Mr. Sergio Nessi, Head of Financing Division
Mr. Étienne Paridant, Head of Finance Management Division
Mr. Tibor Molnarfi, Head of Administration Division

Press and Information Division

Mr. Alain Modoux, Head of Division
Miss Michèle Mercier, Deputy Head

Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Rémi Russbach

Delegate to International Organizations

Mr. Michel Veuthey

Adviser

Mr. Pierre Gaillard

Management Control

Mr. Ulrich Wasser

* As at 31 December 1979.