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

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

Maps in this report have no political significance.
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For the International Committee of the Red Cross, 1992 had already been fraught with concern about the scale of suffering caused by conflicts and the grave and repeated violations of international humanitarian law. The year 1993 was little better, as violence and inequities continued in many parts of the world. On the other hand, the past year also brought awareness of the urgent need to respect and ensure respect for humanitarian rules. The International Conference for the Protection of War Victims enabled the ICRC to resume multilateral dialogue with the States, which should yield results at the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 1995.

In 1993, the ICRC intervened in numerous conflicts in an effort to curb the inhumane and cruel practices that are all too common today. Delegates were deployed in an increasing range of operations to provide protection and assistance and often had to work in critical conditions. Moreover, the complexity of current situations and the dynamics of modern conflicts compelled the ICRC to adopt a new approach. All too frequently, however, its mandate and the purpose of its mission were called in question by failure to respect the protective emblem of the red cross. Once again, the institution mourned the loss of several of its staff.

Concurrently, the ICRC consolidated its network of regional delegations, whose work of fostering contacts, promoting cooperation and spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law is focused on prevention. If a conflict breaks out, these field posts can rapidly be turned into operational delegations.

Learning from the lessons of 1992, the ICRC wanted to join together with the international community in mutual discussion designed to enhance respect for international humanitarian law. Switzerland, as the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions, thus convened the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, which was held in Geneva from 30 August to 1 September 1993. The 165 Governments represented at the meeting adopted a solemn declaration confirming the responsibility of States in respecting and ensuring respect for the basic humanitarian
rules and principles. The commitments made by the international community call for action to prevent violations and react against them. Belligerents - irrespective of their degree of power and influence, their legal status or legitimacy - are all duty bound to observe these basic principles of humanity in times of international and non-international conflict.

The United Nations, for its part, significantly stepped up its capacity for action in areas such as preventive diplomacy and peace-keeping and peace-making operations. There are, moreover, growing needs to be covered and numerous humanitarian activities requiring proper coordination. An in-depth dialogue was therefore maintained by the ICRC both with the various States and with the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, which is in charge of coordinating the work of the various humanitarian agencies. The debate on links between peace-keeping operations and independent, impartial humanitarian action remains of paramount importance. In this context, the ICRC continues to uphold the fundamental Red Cross and Red Crescent principles which guide its action and which even today are the key to gaining access to the victims. The principles of independence, neutrality and impartiality remain indispensable to the success of humanitarian action.

In the name of all the victims it was able to protect and assist in 1993, the ICRC expresses its gratitude to all the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and their Federation for the support it received from them, and to the Governments that gave it the means to operate with complete independence.

Cornelio Sommaruga
President of the ICRC
LEGAL BASES

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

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

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

Two Protocols additional to these Conventions were adopted on 8 June 1977. They are intended mainly to reaffirm and develop the humanitarian rules governing the conduct of hostilities (Protocol I) and to extend the body of humanitarian law applicable in non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II). Almost two-thirds of the world’s States are now bound by the Protocols.

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

☐ In the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I, the international community gave the ICRC a mandate in the event of international armed conflict. In particular, the ICRC has the right to visit prisoners of war and civilian internees. The Conventions also confer on the ICRC a broad right of initiative.

☐ In situations of armed conflict which are not international in character, the ICRC also has a right of initiative recognized by the States and enshrined in the four Geneva Conventions.

☐ In the event of internal disturbances and tension, and in any other situation which warrants humanitarian action, the ICRC has a right of humanitarian initiative which is recognized in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and allows it to offer its services to governments without that offer constituting interference in the internal affairs of the State.
CRITERIA FOR ACTION

Activities for people deprived of their freedom

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

In the event of a non-international armed conflict, covered by Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol II of 1977, the ICRC endeavours to come to the aid of persons deprived of their freedom in connection with the conflict.

In situations of internal disturbances and tension, which are not covered by international humanitarian law, the ICRC has a statutory right of initiative entitling it to offer its services to visit people arrested in connection with the events.

The purpose of ICRC visits is purely humanitarian; ICRC delegates observe the material and psychological conditions of detention and the treatment accorded to detainees, provide them with relief supplies if required (medicines, clothing, toilet articles) and ask the authorities to take any steps deemed necessary to improve the detainees’ treatment.

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

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

These confidential reports are not intended for publication. The ICRC confines itself to releasing the number and names of the places visited, the dates of the visits and the number of people seen. It does not express an opinion on the grounds for detention and does not publicly comment on the material conditions or treatment it observes. If a government should publish incomplete or inaccurate versions of ICRC reports, the ICRC reserves the right to publish and circulate them in full.
Central Tracing Agency

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

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

- to obtain, centralize and, where necessary, forward any information that might help to identify the people on whose behalf the ICRC works;
- to maintain the exchange of family correspondence when the usual means of communication have been disrupted;
- to trace persons reported missing or whose families have had no news of them;
- to arrange for transfers and repatriations and to reunite separated families;
- to issue, for a limited period and a single journey, "ICRC travel documents" for persons without identity papers;
- to issue captivity, hospitalization or death certificates for former detainees, prisoners of war or their rightful claimants.

The forwarding of family messages, tracing activities and family reunifications are often carried out in conjunction with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Central Tracing Agency, which acts as technical adviser to those Societies, organizes training courses, some of which are regional in nature.

Medical activities

The Medical Division at headquarters plans and supports medical activities in the field. These include emergency preparedness, training of personnel, initial assessment of health problems in war situations, implementation of medical programmes for war victims (the wounded, prisoners, civilian populations, war disabled) and evaluation of the results. The Medical Division has specialists in areas as varied as water and sanitation, nutrition, pharmaceutics, prosthetics, war surgery and health problems specific to prisoners.

Medical activities in the field, carried out by the ICRC and National Society personnel, are not limited to providing medical care or to intervening actively in areas such as sanitation, nutrition and rehabilitation. ICRC policy is to encourage the people it assists to be independent, especially by reinforcing or supporting local medical facilities.
Material relief

The primary aim of ICRC relief operations is to protect the lives of victims of a conflict situation, to alleviate their suffering and to ensure that the consequences of such a situation – disease, injury or hunger – do not jeopardize their future.

In order to attain that goal and enable the entire population to regain its self-sufficiency, the ICRC can also set up, maintain or re-establish community services.

To achieve these objectives it is essential that the ICRC maintain its independence throughout the various stages of every relief programme.

The ICRC must also make sure at all times that the relief supplies intended for the victims are distributed in compliance with the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality.

The General Relief Division at headquarters plans and supervises all relief activities in the field. Its Geneva-based team consists of over 30 specialists in procurement, food aid, transport, agronomy, construction and veterinary medicine. At the end of 1993 an additional 170 expatriate relief, logistic and technical ICRC and National Society staff were deployed in the field to carry out the various material assistance programmes.

The General Relief Division is in charge of procuring all supplies required for the ICRC’s aid programmes, either locally or through donations. It organizes the transport of relief supplies by air or sea and manages stocks in Geneva, in northern Europe and in the field. The Division also administers and maintains a fleet of around 2,000 ICRC-owned vehicles used in the field.

The ICRC furnishes medical and material assistance in situations of armed conflict and internal disturbances or tension, providing it can:

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

Dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the Movement’s principles and ideals

The dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law is primarily the responsibility of the States which undertook to make this law known and respected and to ensure respect for it when they became parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to their two Additional Protocols of 1977.

The ICRC bases its dissemination activities on the primary responsibility conferred upon it in this connection by the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which stipulate that:
The role of the International Committee, in accordance with its Statutes, is in particular:

☐ to maintain and disseminate the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, namely humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality;

☐ to work for the understanding and dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts and to prepare any development thereof.¹

Assisted in this task by the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and by their International Federation, the ICRC has focused on training disseminators. In particular, it helps train national instructors within the armed forces and dissemination officers within the National Societies.

Certain target groups have also been the object of particular attention. They are government and academic circles, youth, and the media.

The adoption of the Additional Protocols in 1977 represented a decisive step towards greater awareness of the importance of dissemination.²

Since then, innumerable activities have been undertaken every year throughout the world to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Movement’s principles, ideals and work. The aims of these dissemination efforts are:

☐ to limit the suffering caused by armed conflicts and situations of disturbances and tension through improved knowledge of and greater respect for international humanitarian law;

☐ to ensure the security of humanitarian operations and the safety of Red Cross and Red Crescent personnel so that the victims can be helped;

☐ to strengthen the identity and image of the Movement, to contribute to its unity through greater awareness and understanding of its principles, history, workings and activities;

☐ to foster the propagation of a spirit of peace.

Today’s combatants are all too often ignorant of the rules of international humanitarian law. By the same token, journalists and the public tend to become aware of humanitarian law and its applications only in the wake of tragedy.

To be respected, international humanitarian law must be known. To be supported and accepted, the activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent must be understood.

Civilians are frequently unaware of their rights and their obligations with regard to international humanitarian law. When they benefit from the protection and assistance of the Movement, they should be better informed as to the mandate, role and ethical considerations which govern the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

¹ Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Art. 5, paras. (a) and (g).
Humanitarian diplomacy

Thus, in everything it does the ICRC seeks to safeguard the victims of international conflict, civil war and situations of internal violence, either by bringing them protection and assistance, by taking preventive action such as spreading knowledge of humanitarian law and promoting its development, or by contributing to the growth of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Its work is therefore not limited to the theatre of armed conflict, even though the largest – and most prominent – part of that work is carried out in war-torn countries, for the ICRC is also duty-bound to maintain close relations with all governments and National Societies.

To this end, the ICRC has established a network of regional delegations covering practically all countries not directly affected by armed conflict. These delegations have specific tasks which concern operational activities on the one hand, and humanitarian diplomacy on the other.

In the operational sphere, regional delegates respond to emergencies brought about, in the countries they cover, by outbreaks of violence, sudden tension or the start of an armed conflict. They can also be called upon to provide logistic support for operations in nearby countries or even to conduct limited operations, especially on account of a conflict. They visit security detainees and provide tracing services in the countries covered by the delegation.

Regional delegations also have a major role of humanitarian diplomacy, particularly in developing and maintaining regular contacts with governments, regional organizations, and so on. Moreover, they are in a privileged position to hold a dialogue with the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in each of the countries concerned. All regional delegations actively promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law and foster cooperation – which varies in form depending on needs and priorities – with the National Societies.
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES
Protecting the victims of armed conflict is the very purpose of international humanitarian law. Almost all the world's States have undertaken to respect that law and to ensure that it is respected. The protection of war victims is also the raison d'être of the ICRC and of the mandate entrusted to it by the international community. In the increasingly frequent and serious crises of 1993, the ICRC was more determined than ever to meet the victims' needs and took action on an unprecedented scale. The complexity of the problems posed by the erosion of the authority of international humanitarian law and by violation of the rules on which it is based compelled the institution to adopt an innovative approach. It was a year of humanitarian mobilization, not only in terms of aid provided but also on account of the renewed dialogue with States in order to clarify roles, resolve ambiguities, seek possibilities for complementary endeavour and restore authority to international humanitarian law.

The International Conference for the Protection of War Victims took place in August. 1 In the months that preceded it, the ICRC was highly active on the diplomatic front, both in the field and at its Geneva headquarters, so as to alert the international community to the plight of war victims and urge States to send high-ranking representatives to the meeting.

The scale of the ICRC's involvement in the field reflected the widespread acceptance of the institution, which, in its particular capacity as a neutral intermediary, carries on its work against all odds. Indeed, the ICRC is convinced that the effectiveness, credibility and safety of humanitarian action are directly related to the independence and neutrality of such action, themselves a guarantee of its impartiality.

ICRC programmes were bigger than ever before, both in volume and in the number of staff and recipients; making the necessary resources available was no small challenge to the international community. 2 Almost half the relief supplies distributed went to conflict victims in Africa, principally Somalia, where the emergency is now over and activities have moved into the rehabilitation phase, and in Rwanda, where the ICRC's largest relief operation that year provided aid for nearly one million people. With the exception of Angola, whose population suffered a cruel year of war cut off from humanitarian aid, the ICRC managed to work wherever its services were needed, not only to meet emergency requirements but also to take preventive action and carry out rehabilitation activities.

1 See International Conference, p. 236.
2 All figures in this report are in Swiss Francs (CHF). On 31 December 1993, the average USD exchange rate was approximately: CHF 1.48 to USD 1.
The situation in the former Yugoslavia was another major source of concern for the ICRC. Its delegates worked in all areas to provide aid for all the victims of the conflict. One fourth of the institution's resources were devoted to assisting them and attempting to ensure their protection.

The ICRC also remained present in other situations that did not make headline news but nonetheless caused tremendous suffering to the victims – in Afghanistan, the Caucasus and Sri Lanka, which is the ICRC's main theatre of operations in Asia.

The debate on the politicization and militarization of humanitarian work brought to the fore all the risks involved in confusing different categories of action and the ambiguities of certain motivations. Humanitarian action needs political support from the various States, it needs international humanitarian law to maintain its force of authority and to be known and respected by all. It cannot, however, be a substitute for political action taken by States in order to restore peace. On the contrary, the strength of humanitarian action lies in the limited nature of its objectives and in the soundness of its working principles. Experience gained in 1993 demonstrated the need to preserve an independent sphere of humanitarian action and to allow a neutral intermediary to take action in all instances where force is being used, even – and including – that of the United Nations. This is the only way to ensure respect for the protective emblems of the red cross and red crescent. A humanitarian organization accepted by all is the victims' last resort.

Being able to work for the protection of all victims of conflict and violence, whatever the circumstances and with support from the States, while maintaining a coordinated and complementary approach with the United Nations is, and remains, the primary challenge facing neutral and independent humanitarian action.
Relations with international organizations

In 1993, the ICRC actively pursued its efforts to heighten the international community’s awareness of humanitarian issues, to foster greater knowledge and understanding of international humanitarian law, and to enhance respect for and compliance with that law. It closely followed the proceedings of the main international organizations, particularly through its International Organizations Division and its delegation in New York. It obtained observer status with the United Nations in 1990 and with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1992.

One of the institution’s primary objectives is to maintain the neutral and impartial character of humanitarian action. Addressing the forty-fourth session of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva, 4-8 October), the ICRC Director of Operations stressed that a clear distinction must be made between the role of States in peace-keeping operations and that of neutral and impartial organizations.

The ICRC followed with interest the debate at the United Nations Economic and Social Council on the transition between emergency and development and on the coordination of humanitarian assistance. It also took part in numerous working groups on humanitarian coordination, convened by the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs to discuss matters such as early warning, mines, displaced persons, United Nations consolidated appeals and the protection of humanitarian mandates in conflict situations involving peace-keeping forces. It strongly emphasized the need to define the respective limits of political action and humanitarian work.

The ICRC President took the floor in plenary session at the 90th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held in Canberra from 13 to 18 September, to condemn the ceaseless violations of international humanitarian law. He urged the parliamentarians to help ensure application of the law. The IPU confirmed its support by adopting a resolution which takes up nearly all the recommendations in the report submitted by the ICRC to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims (Geneva, 30 August-1 September).\footnote{See International Conference p. 236.} The resolution calls on States to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law, to respect the emblems of the red cross and red crescent, to adopt national measures to implement humanitarian law, to ratify the humanitarian law instruments and to “understand the meaning of
humanitarian action so as to avoid hindering it, to ensure rapid and effective relief operations by guaranteeing safe access to the regions affected,” [and] “to take all the necessary measures to strengthen respect for the safety and integrity of humanitarian organizations”. References to international humanitarian law were also included in the declaration adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 14-25 June) as a result of the ICRC’s active contribution to the drafting process.

Taking the floor at a meeting of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, the ICRC stressed the link between violations of international humanitarian law and mass population movements.

All military personnel must have a thorough knowledge of the relevant principles and rules of international humanitarian law, and dissemination of that law must be an integral part of the training given to peace-keeping troops. The ICRC therefore welcomes the United Nations’ decision to adopt measures providing for instruction to the commanders of peace-keeping forces and to countries sending such contingents.

The ICRC took part in the discussions of the First Committee (disarmament and international security) of the United Nations General Assembly on the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons. It mentioned in particular the work it had already accomplished in two related areas, i.e., by organizing meetings of experts on blinding weapons (1989-1991) and by hosting the Symposium on Anti-Personnel Mines in April.2

An ICRC report on protection of the environment in times of armed conflict was submitted to the forty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly.3

The ICRC noted with great interest that the Twenty-first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers had adopted a resolution on Bosnia-Herzegovina, in which the Organization of the Islamic Conference “calls for full respect by all parties of the Humanitarian Plan of Action adopted in the framework of the London Conference on 27 August 1992 and notably calls for the immediate release of prisoners in accordance with the agreement signed in Geneva under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross on 1 October 1992”.

Contacts with the OAU “Group of 15” on refugees and displaced persons led to the ICRC being mentioned in a resolution adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers, which thanks the institution for its activities on behalf of displaced people in Africa.

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2 See Medical activities below.
3 See The Law and Legal Considerations, p. 246.
The ICRC also participated in the annual session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and in the proceedings of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the 23rd General Assembly of the Organization of American States, the World Health Assembly, the 16th Conference of the Union of African Parliaments and the Council of Europe (in particular the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography, and the Committee on Legal Issues and Human Rights).

Finally, the ICRC and New York University jointly organized the 11th seminar on international humanitarian law for diplomats accredited to the United Nations. A similar seminar, hosted together with the Graduate Institute of International Studies, was held in Geneva.

Activities for people deprived of their freedom

In 1993, the ICRC continued its work for people deprived of their freedom, acting on strictly humanitarian grounds as a neutral intermediary between parties to a conflict or between a detaining Power and the people it was holding. In Somalia, for instance, the ICRC visited Somalis arrested and held by the United Nations forces (UNOSOM), and UNOSOM military personnel detained by Somali factions. In Russia, the authorities granted the ICRC permission to visit people arrested and charged following the events of 3 and 4 October.

Both activities were possible thanks to universal recognition of the ICRC’s neutrality and of its role as a humanitarian intermediary between the parties. It is indispensable for the ICRC to maintain its independence vis-à-vis governments and the United Nations if it is to succeed in pursuing this task in situations of armed conflict, internal violence or crisis, regardless of the applicability of international humanitarian law.

For many years now, the ICRC has monitored every situation where people were deprived of their freedom on account of armed conflict, internal violence or situations of crisis. It has practically always reached the conclusion that it was its duty to propose its services to the governments concerned for visits to detainees coming within its purview.

The purpose of these visits is to examine the material and psychological conditions of detention and the treatment accorded to detainees since their arrest. The ICRC then submits its findings to the governments concerned and proposes any improvements it considers necessary for the inmates.

To ensure that its humanitarian work is useful both to detainees and to the detaining authorities, the ICRC repeats its visits for as long as it deems necessary, with the consent of the government concerned. This type of work does not require
extensive material investment since the ICRC does not act as a substitute for the detaining authorities, but it does involve considerable human resources.

In 1993, the ICRC visited detainees in 55 countries. Although some of these countries no longer make the headline news, they are still in the throes of armed conflict or internal violence, and the ICRC therefore carries on its work there on behalf of people deprived of their freedom. In South Africa, the ICRC has been visiting people detained on account of internal disturbances since 1963 (with an interruption between 1986 and 1990). The ICRC has maintained a presence in Israel and the occupied territories since 1967, in order to monitor respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention and to provide protection and assistance to the victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In Colombia and Peru, the ICRC’s work on behalf of people detained in connection with political violence began in 1969. Since 1989, ICRC delegates have been visiting persons detained in relation with the conflict in northern and eastern Sri Lanka and the disturbances that broke out in the south of the country. They also visit detainees held by the LTTE.*

Within the context of humanitarian work for people deprived of their freedom, the following three issues were of particular concern to the ICRC in 1993: the aftermath of the Iran/Iraq and Morocco/Western Sahara conflicts; the plight of people held in connection with the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and conditions of detention in countries where the authorities are not or are no longer in a position to assume their responsibilities vis-à-vis the people they detain.

The international conflict between Iran and Iraq ended on 20 August 1988. Although the ICRC again repeatedly approached the authorities during the year, at the end of 1993 thousands of prisoners of war (POWs) had still not been repatriated, particularly many Iraqi POWs held by Iran. Under international humanitarian law, prisoners of war must be released and repatriated without delay after the cessation of active hostilities, and those refusing repatriation retain prisoner-of-war status until the repatriation process has been completed; they therefore continue to benefit from the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention, in particular as regards notification of their identity to the ICRC, visits by ICRC delegates and the exchange of family messages.

In accordance with the Third Geneva Convention and pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 690, the ICRC also continued its representations to the parties to the conflict between Morocco and Western Sahara, which ended in 1991. ICRC delegates visited prisoners held by the Moroccan authorities and by the Polisario Front. Some of these prisoners had been in captivity since 1975 and should have been repatriated at the close of hostilities, but by the end of 1993 they had still not been released.

* LTTE Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.
In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the ICRC carried on its vast protection and relief operation for detainees and increased the number of field delegates for the purpose. It secured the release of numerous detainees, who were transferred to areas or countries where they would find safety. The ICRC observed, however, that detainees who remained in custody continued being subjected to inhumane practices by the parties to the conflict. Despite repeated representations to all the parties involved, the institution was unable to induce them to put a stop to such practices. In some instances the ICRC was compelled to depart from its policy of confidentiality – which is one of its customary ways of working – and report publicly on certain grave breaches of international humanitarian law.

Until the parties to the conflict honour their commitments, the ICRC’s protection work in Bosnia-Herzegovina will remain limited in scope, and the institution will be powerless to prevent an even greater human disaster.

The ICRC increasingly has to deal with situations marked by a disintegration of governmental structures, and these are a matter of growing concern to the institution. The inevitable consequence of such disintegration is that the State can no longer fully discharge the obligations it normally assumes towards its citizens, particularly those who depend on it for subsistence. Prisoners are a case in point: the breakdown of prison systems in particular and of the judicial system is followed by a serious deterioration in detention conditions, as those in charge of ensuring the prisoners’ upkeep no longer fulfil their duties. When there is no one left to assume responsibility for humanitarian matters, the ICRC steps in with emergency assistance for vulnerable population groups – including prisoners. It also seeks to identify authorities that could take the necessary action and to make them aware of their duties, and to involve other humanitarian organizations or charities.

Central Tracing Agency

Keeping track of the whereabouts of thousands of individuals deprived of their freedom, organizing releases and repatriations and reuniting families constitute the day-to-day work of the Central Tracing Agency. Maintaining or re-establishing contact between relatives separated by conflict or detention is a crucial task that greatly helps to alleviate the anxiety and moral suffering of the victims. That is why speed in forwarding messages and processing information remains one of the Agency’s primary objectives.

Efforts initiated in 1992 to decentralize and accelerate the processing of inquiries through agencies in the field continued throughout 1993. Individuals and National Society tracing services can thus submit most of their inquiries
directly to Tracing Agency offices in the field, and doing away with the compulsory passage of inquiries through Geneva saves a lot of time.

The exchange of messages via these field tracing offices is one area where cohesion and solidarity between the various components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have really proved their worth. In 1993, more than four million family messages were exchanged all over the world, in connection with the ongoing conflict in the former Yugoslavia. This required cooperation on the part of over 80 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In the field, an extensive network designed to collect and distribute family messages was set up to assist countless refugees and displaced persons. The network was operated with the support of local Red Cross branches and it helped restore contact between vast numbers of people who had become separated from their relatives.

Red Cross messages are only one of the means used to restore family ties. When a person reports to the ICRC that a close relative has disappeared in connection with a conflict or internal disturbances, a tracing request file is opened. It is considered closed and resolved when the missing person’s present whereabouts has been established or, sadly, when the missing person’s death has been reliably reported to the ICRC. Files are also closed, although unresolved, when all attempts to trace the missing person have failed and the ICRC has no further means of obtaining reliable news, or when the person who made the request has left without indicating where he or she can be contacted.

Another major aspect of the Central Tracing Agency’s work is to cooperate with and help develop National Society tracing services. In 1993, training seminars were organized in Hungary and in the Central Asian republics of the former USSR.

The Central Tracing Agency’s archives serve as a basis for issuing certificates of captivity designed to enable the victims of former conflicts or their rightful claimants to obtain compensation. Tracing Agency staff in Geneva carried on the major task of sorting archives and computerizing documents relating to former conflicts.

**Medical activities**

The ICRC’s Medical Division has two main functions. Firstly, it devises, carries out, supervises and coordinates ICRC medical assistance programmes. Secondly, it works to increase and spread knowledge of health problems related to armed conflict (including those specific to prisoners and detainees) while seeking, and making widely known, the best ways of dealing with such problems.
One of the Medical Division’s main concerns in 1993 was the use of antipersonnel mines and their effect on civilians both during and after conflicts. Almost 25 per cent of the war casualties treated by ICRC surgical teams are mine-blast victims. Most of these victims are non-combatants, and almost one third of them must undergo one or more amputations.

This situation prompted the Division to organize, jointly with the ICRC’s Department of Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement, a meeting of experts on the subject, which took place in Montreux (Switzerland) from 21 to 23 April 1993. This symposium was attended by 55 specialists from around the world as well as 14 staff members from various ICRC departments. Attention was drawn to the multiple consequences of indiscriminate use of these weapons: the victims’ suffering and permanent disablement and the overburdening of medical and social welfare services, but also the fact that mines impede the repatriation of refugees, render fertile land unusable for cultivation and cause damage to the environment, etc. Various proposals were made to restrict the use of mines and limit their harmful effects. A further meeting of technical experts was scheduled to continue the symposium’s work in early 1994 and pave the way for the revision and strengthening of the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons.\(^4\)

A knowledge of war surgery is indispensable to alleviate the suffering of people injured by mines and other weapons, but the techniques required have no equivalent in civilian practice. The surgeons of the Medical Division therefore organized war-surgery training seminars in Geneva from 2 to 4 April and in Banja Luka and Zenica (Bosnia-Herzegovina) during the months of February and March. They also took part in seminars on the subject organized by the armed forces of various countries, for instance in Baghdad (Iraq) from 6 to 9 July, Bangkok (Thailand) on 15 July and Yangon (Myanmar) from 8 to 10 November. Lastly, they gave lectures at international conferences on war surgery and emergency medicine, notably in London (Eurosurgery, 18 to 22 September), Hong Kong (International Surgery Week, 22 to 27 August), Perugia (XVII Congresso Nazionale della Societá Italiana di Medicina di Pronto Soccorso, 22 to 25 September) and Istanbul (29th International Congress of Military Medicine, 18 to 25 September). In addition to the many articles published in medical journals by the ICRC’s specialized staff, a book on the treatment of wounded limbs was written by the Division’s coordinator of surgical activities (Robin Coupland, FRCS, *War Wounds of Limbs – Surgical Management*, Butterworth-Heinemann, July 1993).

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\(^4\) See *The law and legal considerations*, p. 239-243.
In the field itself, surgical teams were active in over 25 countries, in particular in Burundi, Somalia, Djibouti, Afghanistan and Cambodia. The ICRC hospitals in Quetta (Pakistan) and Lopiding (Kenya) worked throughout the year. The hospital in Peshawar (Pakistan) closed on 13 April while the one in Khao-I-Dang (Thailand) closed on 10 February.

In order to facilitate the rehabilitation of people who had undergone amputations, the ICRC continued to run 26 orthopaedic workshops in 16 countries. A centre for the treatment of spinal injuries was set up in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) in conjunction with the Norwegian Red Cross. The ICRC continued its support for the paraplegic centre in Peshawar (Pakistan) set up in 1983, and helped finance a project in Bucharest (Romania), carried out by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Red Cross of Romania, for the treatment and rehabilitation of spinal injury victims.

But the actual treatment of casualties is only one aspect of the Medical Division’s work. When war strikes, it also affects the basic medical infrastructure such as hospitals and other health-care facilities, which are soon overstretched, disrupted and sometimes destroyed precisely when needs are greatest. The team of specialists at ICRC headquarters stands ready at all times to assess conflict situations, identify needs and bring emergency medical assistance to the victims. Such assistance may consist in distributing medical supplies and equipment, providing drinking water or setting up sanitation facilities in a war zone.

In 1993, the ICRC helped hospitals, dispensaries and other health-care facilities in some twenty countries to continue working, particularly in the former Yugoslavia, where over 200 medical facilities were provided with supplies.

ICRC nutritionists assessed the food supply and nutritional status of displaced persons, detainees and large sections of the civilian population in Somalia, Rwanda, Sudan, Zaire, Angola and the former Yugoslavia.

ICRC sanitary engineers launched and carried out programmes in a dozen countries to provide the civilian population, medical facilities and detainees with clean drinking water, in particular in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq and East Timor.

Another important aspect of ICRC medical work is training health-care personnel in disaster medicine. Two "SOS" courses were held in 1993, the first in April-May in Brussels (21 participants) and the second in June-July in Geneva (24 participants). In conjunction with the Swiss Nursing Association, the ICRC organized four seminars in the French- and German-speaking parts of the country to train nursing staff to meet the specific requirements of humanitarian work.

* SOS/HELP Health Emergencies in Large Populations.
The Medical Division plays an important role in ICRC visits to detainees. Forty doctors took part as medical delegates in 10,521 prison visits in 55 countries to assess the health of the detainees. A seminar entitled “Health in Prison” was organized in Amman in September for all doctors on the staff of the Jordanian prison service. The Division’s coordinator of detention-related work, also a doctor, attended a number of international meetings on torture, detainee health and the role of doctors in situations of imprisonment.

Useful contacts were thus maintained with organizations such as Physicians for Human Rights, the World Medical Association, the Copenhagen Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims, the International Council of Prison Medical Services and various universities and colleges such as the Harvard School of Public Health.

Relief activities

ICRC relief activities again increased in 1993 in terms of volume, personnel and number of beneficiaries. Whereas just over 290,000 tonnes of material relief had been provided to almost 50 countries in 1992, the figure rose still further in 1993 to a total of 306,000 tonnes. The three major relief programmes in Rwanda, Somalia and the former Yugoslavia accounted for 85 per cent of the assistance provided.

Many will agree that to begin a relief programme is far easier than to end one in good time and in such a way that the withdrawal is understood and accepted by the previously assisted population. We have indeed witnessed too many situations in which assistance began to show more and more negative side-effects, assistance dependency being the most commonly known. The task is particularly difficult for the ICRC as conflict situations are tending to become more and more prolonged. It is therefore not at all easy to choose the right moment to withdraw, as there is always the fear that a situation of newly restored peace may rapidly revert to war again. Besides choosing the right moment for withdrawal, intensive preparation is required by all those involved in the relief effort: ourselves, other humanitarian organizations, other members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the local authorities, the donor community and, last but not least, the previously assisted population itself.

Unlike 1992, when the biggest major challenge had been to get the huge food aid programme in Somalia under way, the ICRC’s main difficulty in 1993 was, firstly, to choose the right moment for scaling down its relief operation and, subsequently, to facilitate a smooth transition from emergency intervention to
development activities. Somalia has been a particularly good example of how
the ICRC has helped famine victims to get through the immediate crisis by means
of food aid and then to survive in the long term through large-scale distribution
of seed, basic agricultural tools, fishing tackle and veterinary medicine and
equipment. Such programmes are now a well-established component of ICRC
operations, enabling the beneficiaries to regain a measure of self-sufficiency
and thus their human dignity. Frequently launched, as in Somalia, while the
emergency is at its height, these activities already pave the way for rehabilitation
and development, in short, a return to normal life.

The ICRC assistance programme in Rwanda never drew public attention to
the same extent as its operation in Somalia. However, with over 120,000 tonnes
of food provided to some one million displaced people in northern Rwanda, it
should be recognized as the largest relief input undertaken by the ICRC in 1993,
and would not have been possible without the substantial support of the United
Nations World Food Programme and the operational participation of the Rwanda
Red Cross Society. Similar to the strategy adopted in Somalia, an emergency
rehabilitation programme providing seed and basic agricultural tools was
simultaneously implemented throughout 1993 to complement the food aid
distributions. Thus, after the peace agreement was signed in August 1993, close
to half a million people were able to return to their places of origin in time for
planting. Thanks to this programme most had regained their self-sufficiency by
the end of 1993.

Throughout 1993 the ICRC’s relief programme in the former Yugoslavia
remained its second largest operation and the biggest in terms of non-food
assistance. The operation included a second winter assistance programme aimed
at helping hundreds of thousands of people in Bosnia-Herzegovina to stave off
the cold during the winter of 1993-1994. Another highlight was the introduction
of a new form of relief item in the form of an individual food parcel. A Red Cross
message form was included and dissemination comic strips were printed on all
sides of the parcels. This first joint relief-dissemination-tracing product was widely
distributed in 1993 at a rate of 300,000 to 500,000 units per month.

In order to carry out this huge relief operation in a very difficult security and
logistic environment further means of transport were needed, and by the end of
the year the ICRC’s heavy transport fleet in the former Yugoslavia comprised
110 lorries and 55 trailers. Furthermore, political constraints forced the ICRC to
employ more and more expatriate drivers for its relief operation there. Thanks to
the positive response by a large number of National Red Cross and Red Crescent
Societies it was possible to send an average of around 60 to 80 drivers to the
field throughout 1993, some from as far away as Australia and Canada.
Apart from the three major relief operations described above, the ICRC continued to provide assistance in Mozambique, Liberia, Sierra Leone, southern Sudan and various parts of the former Soviet Union. The level of assistance provided in the Caucasus remained much the same as in 1992, whereas the ICRC's relief operation in Tajikistan could be substantially reduced in the second half of 1993.

As in the past, the bulk of assistance went to Africa, with Europe the second biggest beneficiary. The chart below shows the breakdown of assistance by year and by region. With the exception of 1991, when the ICRC was heavily involved in assisting victims of the Gulf war, Africa has regularly been the principal recipient of relief and medical aid. Assistance given to the Middle East countries further decreased to reach levels similar to those prevailing in Asia and Latin America. All those regions received less than one per cent each of the overall relief assistance provided by the ICRC in 1993. However, it must be stressed that the main emphasis in Asia continued to be clearly placed on medical assistance, especially in Afghanistan and Cambodia.
Dissemination cartoon strip printed on ICRC relief parcels which were distributed in the former Yugoslavia at the rate of 300,000 to 500,000 units per month.
Comments on relief and medical assistance tables.

All the figures mentioned in the preceding pages relate to relief and medical goods arriving in a country of destination or procured locally during the year. Distribution figures are therefore not necessarily identical, as distributions may have taken place from stocks still available for a given operation at the end of the previous year. Similarly, large quantities which arrived at the end of 1993 might not be distributed until 1994.

The statistical data in the following tables can be summarized as follows:

- **Relief and medical supplies dispatched by the ICRC in 1993**
  All relief and medical goods received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December 1993.

- **Contributions in kind received and purchases made by the ICRC in 1993**
  All relief and medical goods received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December 1993. The figures for contributions in kind cover all material support received as a gift but do not include any services received, such as the provision of human resources and/or logistic means. The figures for medical and relief purchases comprise all procurements carried out both with unearmarked and with earmarked financial contributions ("cash for kind"). The grand total of CHF 295,583,039 therefore corresponds to the grand total given in the table "Relief and medical supplies dispatched by the ICRC in 1993".

- **ICRC relief and medical distributions in 1993**
  All relief and medical goods distributed by the ICRC in the field between 1 January and 31 December 1993. These goods were either purchased or received in kind during 1993 or taken from stocks already constituted at the end of 1992.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>GIFTS IN KIND</th>
<th>PURCHASES BY THE ICRC</th>
<th>TOTAL DISPATCHED</th>
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ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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<th>PURCHASES BY THE ICRC</th>
<th>TOTAL DISPATCHED</th>
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</thead>
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<td>MEDICAL (CHF)</td>
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WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE

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LATIN AMERICA

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MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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GRAND TOTAL

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7,352,863      | 131,737,412           | 179,018.0        | 27,577,021       | 128,915,743   | 126,919.9      | 34,299,884     | 260,653,155   | 305,937.9    | 295,583,039  |
## Contributions in Kind Received and Purchases Made by the ICRC in 1993

(divided by donors and purchases, according to stock entry date)

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<th>BLANKETS</th>
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<th>KITCHEN SETS</th>
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(1) Partly financed by the European Union (CHF 12,449,236)
(2) Goods from stocks of local National Societies, original donors not determined.
(3) via Embassy of Rwanda in Kampala.
## RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1993

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<th>COUNTRIES</th>
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<th>RELIEF (Tonnes)</th>
<th>TOTAL (CHF)</th>
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<td><strong>249,796,097</strong></td>
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**Note:** The table above outlines the relief supplies distributed by the ICRC in 1993 to various countries worldwide, categorized by region and including medical aid, relief aid, and total aid in Swiss Francs (CHF) and tonnes.
An ICRC delegate conducts a private interview with detainees in Liberia.
Central and West Africa
**ICRC delegations:**
Liberia, Mali

**ICRC regional delegations:**
Abidjan, Dakar, Kinshasa, Lagos, Yaoundé

Southern Africa
**ICRC delegations:**
Angola, Mozambique, South Africa

**ICRC regional delegation:**
Harare

East Africa
**ICRC delegations:**
Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda

**ICRC regional delegation:**
Nairobi

Staff
ICRC expatriates* : 316
National Societies* : 67
Local employees** : 1,902

Total expenditure
CHF 365,004,365

Expenditure breakdown
Protection/tracing: 28,019,413
Relief: 251,478,952
Medical assistance: 28,386,823
Cooperation with National Societies: 7,239,720
Dissemination: 3,943,724
Operational support: 30,728,233
Overheads: 15,207,500

* Average numbers calculated on an annual basis.
** Under ICRC contract, as at December 1993.
In 1993 new humanitarian needs emerged in a number of countries. Heavy fighting and violent popular discontent in many areas were symptomatic of the power shifts which continued to jolt the African continent. Few countries were at peace during the year, and the various outbreaks of conflict and internal disturbances led the ICRC to pursue its humanitarian activities at an unprecedented level. The year’s total budget for Africa of almost 500 million Swiss francs was the highest ever.

At the start of the year the conflict in Angola took a major turn for the worse. Any remaining hopes for lasting peace were dashed as full-scale civil war gripped the country once again. It was only towards the end of the year that the ICRC was able to begin its assistance programmes for civilians unreached by other agencies. In Liberia the ICRC’s operations went much the same way, and again only towards the end of 1993 was it able to get a programme under way to assist civilians trapped in conflict zones. The ICRC’s operations in Sudan were also restricted until May 1993, although the situation in the south of the country required urgent attention.

Besides difficulties in getting operations started, which could mainly be put down to logistic constraints and the lack of timely authorizations from parties to the conflicts concerned, the ICRC was temporarily obliged to suspend its activities in a number of places for want of security. Angola, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Somalia were all cases in point. Despite the cautious and carefully planned approach adopted by the ICRC in conflict situations, its constant negotiation with all warring parties and extensive security measures proved insufficient to prevent frequent and often violent attacks on its staff. In carrying out their work two ICRC expatriates and seven of its local employees lost their lives in Africa in security incidents in 1993. The need for the institution’s dissemination work thus assumed still greater importance.

Extensive dissemination programmes, one of the major activities of the seven regional delegations, were developed all over Africa in 1993, aimed mainly at armed forces and other gun-carriers, but also at much wider audiences including academic circles, schoolchildren, National Societies and the press. A new concept was introduced in Burundi and Rwanda, bringing together various social groups in a panel to explore ways of laying down a universal humanitarian code of conduct that all could abide by. The results of this local solution may well play an important role in the shaping of future ICRC dissemination work.

Yet despite the growing humanitarian problems in Africa in 1993, a number of positive developments changed millions of African lives: in
South Africa the remnants of apartheid were laid to rest and the nation looked forward to free elections in 1994; in Mozambique the peace found in 1992 stood firm through 1993, despite delays in the demobilization of FRELIMO and RENAMO combatants; in Somalia the many relief organizations bringing food to the starving put an end to widespread famine. But even in those countries where war was giving way to peace the ICRC continued to play its role, whether through detention visits, orthopaedic rehabilitation programmes, an extensive tracing network, or work to train National Societies to be ready to intervene in future emergencies.
Central and West Africa

LIBERIA

At the start of 1993 the ICRC’s humanitarian activities for the victims of the armed conflict in Liberia were severely restricted, largely because of increasingly hazardous conditions throughout the country. In October 1992 the ICRC had been obliged to evacuate its staff from the area controlled by the NPFL* amid a crescendo of violence and xenophobic feeling.

Fighting between the NPFL and the forces of ECOMOG,* ULIMO,* and the AFL* went on throughout the first half of 1993 until 25 July, when the ninth peace agreement between the NPFL, the IGNU,* and ULIMO was signed in Cotonou. The agreement specified among other things that humanitarian agencies be granted access to the civilian population by direct routes and with routine checking of convoys by a joint cease-fire monitoring commission to ensure that the arms embargo was respected. Despite repeated efforts to obtain security guarantees and authorization from all parties to fulfil its mandate, the ICRC found its operations in rural Liberia blocked until October.

The regional delegation in Abidjan organized a number of missions to Gbarnnga, where the NPFL has its headquarters, in order to discuss the possibility of visiting detainees held by the NPFL and the immediate resumption of emergency relief work. During these missions to Gbarnnga and central Liberia the ICRC’s delegates witnessed entire communities along the roadside living in appalling conditions. Many thousands of displaced people and residents were practically cut off from the outside world and in dire need of assistance.

* National Patriotic Front of Liberia.
Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West Africa.
United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy.
Armed Forces of Liberia.
Interim Government of National Unity.

IN 1993 THE ICRC:
- made 212 visits to 17 places of detention, where 1,160 detainees were seen and 1,065 of them were registered for the first time;
- provided more than 100,000 civilians affected by the conflict with a total of over 1,000 tonnes of basic necessities;
- provided fresh water supplies for communities affected by the conflict.
Even after the Cotonou agreement only limited access was possible for some months to come, as ECOMOG and the UN insisted on waiting for the creation of a humanitarian corridor leading from Monrovia to Gbarnga.

The go-ahead for ICRC activities thus did not hinge on acceptance by the NPFL alone. Indeed, extensive diplomatic efforts were made in the course of the year to convince ECOMOG and the United Nations that the ICRC’s humanitarian work should begin immediately and be carried out according to customary ICRC criteria.

Finally in November the institution was able to start a relief operation for some 65,000 people living in desperate conditions in the area between Totota and Weala on the road from Gbarnga to Kakata.

By the end of the year another two armed groups had appeared on the scene, namely the Liberian Peace Council in the south-east and the Lofa Defence Forces in northern Lofa county. Fighting in both these areas brought yet more humanitarian problems, and in Lofa the resulting nervous and aggressive behaviour of ULIMO fighters forced agencies working there to withdraw.

In the Monrovia area the ICRC was active throughout the year, mainly visiting detainees, supporting local medical facilities and the National Society’s ambulance service, assisting displaced people with food and non-food necessities, and coordinating a major campaign to promote respect for international humanitarian law and the red cross emblem. For most of the year, as the ICRC’s access to the part of the country controlled by the NPFL was restricted, the institution supported local health facilities there through the Liberian Red Cross in Gbarnga.

Activities for detainees

As the year progressed, suspected NPFL combatants were taken to detention centres and military prisons. ICRC delegates were given access to all detainees held by ECOMOG, as well as those held by the AFL and by ULIMO. They also supervised the release of detainees and provided those in detention with basic non-food assistance and health care wherever needed.

Over the year the ICRC regularly visited all places of detention and screening centres in Monrovia and in Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bomi and Lofa counties. Two military prisons in Lofa county were also visited. In all, 212 visits were made, whereby 1,160 detainees were seen, including 1,065 who were registered for the first time.

Eleven detainees held by the NPFL in two different places were visited by ICRC delegates for the first time in September. The visits were conducted in accordance with ICRC criteria.

Assistance for the civilian population

The bulk of the ICRC’s relief work in Liberia took place in and around Monrovia for most of the year, as rural Liberia remained inaccessible. Most of
those assisted were displaced people living in camps around the capital, and the ICRC provided them with basic necessities including clothes, blankets, soap and buckets. With the cooperation of the Liberian Red Cross in the area controlled by the NPFL, the ICRC was also able to get non-food relief supplies through to 3,500 displaced people living in rural Liberia. As of November a new large-scale relief programme was started, bringing assistance in a first phase to 65,000 civilians affected by the conflict. In all the ICRC provided more than 1,000 tonnes of food and non-food assistance in Liberia in 1993.

Medical and sanitation activities

The ICRC’s medical activities included the regular monitoring of health care in prison infirmaries and hospitals treating detainees, supplying these establishments with medicines and medical supplies where need be, and providing the detainees there with soap and blankets.

Health care in Liberia continued to be seriously affected by the prevailing instability in the country. The ICRC managed to keep up its regular support to the six dispensaries run by the National Society in rural Liberia, and to other medical facilities in need, thanks to cooperation with the Liberian Red Cross in Gbarnga.

The Liberian Red Cross Society’s ambulance service continued to receive ICRC support throughout the year, operating in Monrovia and in rural Liberia.

Water supply was still a major problem in Monrovia in early 1993 and the system of wells and bore-holes set up by the ICRC had to be maintained for some time to come. As a result, new wells were dug, old ones repaired, new pumps were installed, and more latrines were built over the year. The ICRC’s water-tanker programme in Monrovia was terminated in July, as the emergency phase came to an end and other agencies took over.

Tracing activities

At the beginning of the year the delegation initiated a new programme of Red Cross messages, enabling displaced and resident Liberians in Monrovia to send news to their families abroad, mainly in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea and the United States.

Dissemination

Once again, getting the ICRC’s message across to the numerous parties involved in the Liberian conflict proved to be a major source of concern. In negotiations for access to rural Liberia the institution emphasized the specific nature of its mandate. An intensive dissemination programme for all forces involved in the conflict was carried out, including an extensive radio, newspaper and poster campaign, to promote respect for international humanitarian law. Dissemination activities were directed at a variety of target audiences, in
conjunction with the Liberian Red Cross Society. Special efforts were made to reach the combatants manning the many checkpoints throughout the country.

**MALI**

The troubles between Tuareg separatists and government authorities decreased in Mali throughout 1993. The ICRC maintained regular contact during the year with all Tuareg movements and local authorities in order to be able to carry out overland missions and thereby accomplish its mandate as a neutral and impartial intermediary, visiting prisoners, collecting and delivering Red Cross messages, evacuating the wounded and facilitating medical care for the various isolated communities.

By May all the parties to the internal armed conflict had officially accepted a “national pact” in full. This led to an improvement in security in the east of the country, and the process of integrating 600 former rebel fighters into the armed forces of Mali had almost been completed by the end of June.

In the first half of the year the ICRC fell victim to the violence attributed to bandits in Gao and in Ras El Ma, where an ICRC medical post was destroyed. The attacks on ICRC premises hampered the delegation’s attempts to build confidence between all communities and forced the ICRC to reduce its medical activities in remote areas.

In the second half of the year the ICRC was again the victim of acts of banditry and a number of its vehicles were stolen in the Timbuktu and Gao regions.

The national army and the Tuareg movements were eventually able to repress the violence and by the end of the year humanitarian organizations were set to resume their activities in the north of Mali. The ICRC subsequently decided that a permanent presence was no longer required in the north of the country and closed its delegation in Bamako on 21 December. Responsibility for keeping watch on developments in Mali, carrying out activities for detainees and dissemination work there and fostering improved cooperation with the Mali Red Cross was henceforth assigned to the regional delegation in Dakar.

**Activities for the civilian population**

Through its permanent presence in Gao, Timbuktu and four offices in remote areas the ICRC sought to build confidence both between different communities and between opposition movements and the authorities. When reports of serious violations of basic humanitarian principles proved to be well-founded, the ICRC, in order to avoid a repetition of such incidents, made oral or written representations to all parties involved. On a number of occasions the ICRC requested the authorities or other bodies such as the Cease-fire Commission to take measures to ensure the safety of civilians, who were constantly subjected to attacks. These requests were frequently accepted and carried out successfully.
The ICRC also provided tracing services for families who were otherwise unable to keep in touch, owing to the communications problems caused by the troubles. Most tracing work involved the exchange of Red Cross messages between the north of Mali and Tuareg refugees in Mauritania. Tracing activities were brought to an end in mid-year as the transmission of news through normal channels between Mali and Mauritania became possible.

Medical activities

The ICRC supported eleven remote health posts in the north, taking them medicine (partly from the Ministry of Health and partly from the ICRC) by air and by road under the protection of the red cross emblem. The ICRC’s presence made it possible to reopen a state health post in the north near Lake Faguibine, thus facilitating access to health care for the local population.

About a dozen seriously wounded combatants and civilians were evacuated by air by the ICRC to hospitals in Gao and Bamako.

Medical workshops were held in Bamako in April and May to train 23 National Society first-aiders from remote areas. They all received a three-month stock of medical supplies to help them in their work in the field.

Activities for detainees

During the year visits were made to different categories of detainees, namely dignitaries from the previous government, including former President Moussa Traoré and his wife, members of the military accused of participating in the attempted coup of July 1991, and Tuaregs held in connection with the rebellion in the north of the country. Medical and material assistance was provided to detainees by the ICRC according to needs and reports were submitted to the authorities summing up the ICRC’s findings and recommendations. The institution also visited one person detained by rebels.

NIGER

The Tuareg rebellion in Niger remained a source of great tension in the country during the first half of 1993. After a period of reflection the Niger government gave the ICRC permission to visit Tuareg rebels and sympathizers held in four places of detention by the Ministry of Justice. An ICRC nurse accompanied delegates on these visits, during which the ICRC saw 61 detainees, and a limited amount of material assistance was distributed.

In March the ICRC received a list of 46 officials held by the FLAA* Tuareg rebel movement. Despite frequent attempts, the delegate based in Niamey was unable to gain access to these detainees. At the beginning of April the ICRC

* Front de libération de l’Air et de l’Azawad.
AFRICA

opened an office in Niamey, in order to have a permanent presence in the country and thus be better able to follow developments. A sub-office was also kept open in Agadez, in the north of the country. The delegation approached the authorities on a number of occasions, with a view to carrying out a field survey in the Air region, which had been closed off to all humanitarian organizations for over a year. Permission was not given.

On 11 April the FLAA released 26 detainees.

At the end of 1993 the ICRC closed its offices in Niger, transferring the coverage of ICRC activities in the country to its regional delegation in Abidjan.

SIERRA LEONE

The humanitarian problems affecting Sierra Leone became even more acute in 1993, as a direct consequence of the internal armed conflict. Constant changes in the military balance in the east of the country caused further upheavals and displacement of the resident population, who were forced to flee their homes in areas that had been transformed into battlefields. After retaking Koidu, then moving up as far as the districts of Pendembu and Kailahun, previously strongholds of the RUF,* the government started encouraging civilians who had fled across the border to Liberia to return to Sierra Leone. Almost 5,000 civilians previously under the rebels’ control were taken to Daru military barracks for screening by the army. Some were subsequently sent to prison and the others were sent to camps for displaced people at Segbwema and Daru. There were therefore large groups of civilians in the east and south of the country in need of humanitarian assistance.

The capital, too, remained relatively unstable. To commemorate the coup of 1992, the Chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council announced several measures, including the release of 24 detainees from the former government held since the coup. They were placed under house arrest after their release.

The year ended with the President presenting the broad outline of a plan to return the country to democratic rule, announcing free elections by 1996, declaring a unilateral cease-fire for the month of December and reconfirming a general amnesty for all opposition groups. However, these efforts were frequently counteracted by coup scares, accusations of corruption and, in the case of the December cease-fire, by military setbacks.

Activities for the civilian population

The year was overshadowed for the ICRC by a fatal security incident in late August. An ICRC convoy was attacked by an armed group on the road from

*Revolutionary United Front.
In 1993 the ICRC:

- assisted about 50,000 civilians affected by the conflict in Sierra Leone with more than 1,200 tonnes of food and non-food items;
- visited 647 detainees held for security reasons or in connection with the armed conflict;
- carried out a major awareness campaign to promote understanding of the work of the Red Cross and respect for its emblem.

Until then the ICRC had been carrying out regular humanitarian activities both in the Zimmi area and in another affected part in the east of the country. Throughout the first half of 1993 the institution had been providing food aid and medical care for 11,000 civilians affected by the conflict in the Zimmi area, giving regular medical consultations, vaccinating under-fives and immunizing young women against tetanus. Seed distributions were also being made.

Similar ICRC programmes were underway in the Daru area, to the north of Zimmi. Civilians in the region between Daru and the Liberian border, which was severely affected by fighting, had been receiving medical assistance from the ICRC, and in view of the poor nutritional condition of the people living there, especially the children, a month's food ration had been distributed in August.

These operations were brought to an abrupt halt by the attack on the ICRC convoy. As the security situation remained unstable, the ICRC was unable to resume its field activities in the region, and although detention-related and dissemination activities continued in the towns of Bo, Kenema and Daru and limited medical supplies were made available for a local nurse in Zimmi, relief work was suspended as of September.

Activities for detainees

In February the regional delegate in Abidjan submitted a report to the President on the ICRC’s visits to Freetown Central Prison over the past six months, asking for urgent improvements in the conditions of detention.

As government troops advanced into RUF-held territory the number of RUF combatants and suspected sympathizers taken prisoner rose significantly. A favourable response was given to the ICRC’s request to have access to detainees held up-country, and thereafter much of the ICRC’s work in Sierra Leone over the year was devoted to following up cases of detainees under interrogation or in actual detention. Visits, conducted in accordance with customary ICRC criteria, continued in Freetown Central Prison and began as of June in military barracks.
in Bo, Kenema, Koidu and Daru. In some cases material assistance was provided to detainees by the ICRC; otherwise the National Society or charities took care of needs. In all cases the ICRC monitored the health of detainees and provided food aid in Freetown Central Prison.

The ICRC also obtained access, in accordance with ICRC criteria, to people detained by the Criminal Investigation Department in Freetown.

On 15 October renewed visits were carried out in military barracks in Bo, Kenema, Koidu and Daru. The ICRC subsequently submitted a special report to the authorities.

The government released 195 detainees from Freetown Central Prison in November. The authorities asked the ICRC to organize the transport of those freed back to their places of origin. Following preliminary visits by delegates to the areas concerned, the first 153 were taken back to the Bo, Kenema, Segbwema and Daru areas, while the remaining 42 were transported to the Makeni and Massingi camps for displaced people.

**Dissemination**

Over the year the regional delegation in Abidjan, the sub-delegation in Freetown and the office in Kenema worked to spread awareness of the ICRC’s specific mandate. In June a three-day seminar on international humanitarian law and the law of war was held for 30 lieutenants and captains of the Sierra Leone armed forces. Another seminar organized with the Sierra Leone Red Cross was held in Freetown for 30 journalists. Following the serious security incident of 27 August described above, dissemination work assumed still greater importance in Sierra Leone.

**ABIDJAN**

Regional delegation
(Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone)

For an account of the ICRC’s activities in Liberia and Sierra Leone in 1993, which were coordinated from the Abidjan regional delegation, please see the relevant chapters. As of mid-1993 the Liberia operation was coordinated by an ad hoc delegation independent from Abidjan.

**BURKINA FASO**

With the support of the regional delegation the Burkinabè Red Cross Society’s dissemination and information campaign in the country’s military barracks was completed by mid-November. In addition, a week-long campaign was held in Ouagadougou to improve awareness of the red cross emblem, involving door-to-door visits to those misusing it. Also in the capital, a dissemination workshop was held in December for high-ranking civil servants.
COTE D’IVOIRE

A football match played in Kumasi (Ghana) between Ivorian and Ghanaian teams at the end of October became the unlikely source of mass hostility towards Ghanaians living in Côte d’Ivoire, causing the displacement of over 10,000 people and an unconfirmed number of deaths. As of 6 November two Red Cross medical teams, composed of staff from the Red Cross Society of Côte d’Ivoire, the Federation and the ICRC, made daily visits to a dozen places including police stations and embassy residences, where around 3,500 people had gathered. Some 50 people were given medical treatment by the teams every day, and one-off distributions of clothes, blankets, floor mats and soap were carried out for those in need. The ICRC also provided the National Society with two vehicles and replenished its emergency stocks.

Grand Bassam was the venue for a seminar on communication, planning and methods of dissemination organized by the ICRC in February for members of the National Society working in this domain. The Minister of Health and the Mayor of Grand Bassam also took part.

A further training course for dissemination officers and a special session for teachers were organized with the National Society in April. On 17 and 18 June a seminar was held for 25 officers of the gendarmerie nationale on international humanitarian law and policing operations. The authorities subsequently declared their satisfaction with the quality of the course.

GUINEA

A demonstration at the end of September in Conakry degenerated into a violent confrontation between ethnic groups. The hospitals of the capital were overwhelmed by some 200 casualties, and 18 people were killed. The regional delegation sent a delegate to give practical assistance to the National Society, with a view to making it more effective in the event of emergency situations such as this.

On 19 December Guineans went to the polls in the country’s first elections since independence, with eight candidates contesting the presidency. Last-minute calls from the opposition to postpone the elections were ignored by the government, and the fighting that subsequently broke out in the streets of Conakry and Gueckedou left over 200 people injured and claimed at least ten lives, according to local reports. At the end of the year, despite cries of foul play, the Supreme Court confirmed the victory of the previous head of state.

During the election period the Guinean Red Cross Society was very active, evacuating the injured to hospital (111 evacuations on election day alone). An ICRC delegate was on the spot before the vote, in order to assist the National Society. The ICRC provided the National Society’s first-aid teams with VHF radios to ensure adequate communication between the teams themselves and
with the fixed station in the ICRC office, where a 24-hour standby service was on call.

Also in December, first talks were held with the head of the Law Department at the University of Conakry in an attempt to introduce and formalize the teaching of international humanitarian law at an academic level.

DAKAR
Regional delegation
(Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Senegal)

CAPE VERDE

At the end of February the regional delegate carried out a mission to the islands, during which he gave dissemination sessions to the National Society branches in Praia and Mindelo. Following a request from the Red Cross of Cape Verde and in cooperation with the Federation, the ICRC installed an HF radio system on all but one of the islands of the archipelago to link up all the Red Cross sections with each other and with Dakar and Geneva.

On 15 December the National Assembly of Cape Verde acceded to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

GAMBIA

From 7 to 10 June the regional delegate and the Gambia Red Cross Society held a seminar on international humanitarian law for 20 members of the armed forces, the police and the prison service. Throughout the year the ICRC supported the dissemination activities of the National Society.

On 30 November the delegate visited Banjul central prison, where he interviewed two security detainees held in connection with the attempted coup in 1981.

GUINEA BISSAU

On 17 March 1993 the ICRC was given access to all detainees held in connection with a recent attempted coup. A first visit was made on 14 and 15 May to 42 detainees, in accordance with customary ICRC criteria. A report on the visit was presented to the Minister of Defence on 28 June. By the end of December a number of these detainees had been released, and visits were made to 13 remaining detainees on 27 and 28 December. Since the first visit in May the detainees had been allowed family visits.

From 11 to 13 May a course in international humanitarian law was given to members of the armed forces of Guinea Bissau. Three officers from Sao Tome and Principe and from Cape Verde also took part.
SENEGAL

The armed uprising in Casamance continued in the first half of 1993, making Red Cross work in the area indispensable as yet more civilians were displaced by the fighting and in need of assistance. Tragically, in assessing the needs for this assistance, the Red Cross fell victim to a dramatic incident on 25 January, when a vehicle carrying first-aid workers from the Senegalese Red Cross Society went over an anti-tank landmine on the Boulouba road about 30km from Ziguinchor. Six first-aiders were killed outright and five others were rushed to hospital in critical condition, where they were given immediate treatment and subsequently recovered.

Because of the fighting between the Senegalese army and the MFDC* the number of displaced people went up by tens of thousands. Local reports spoke of more than 300 dead during the clashes.

Despite the new security problem of landmines, the Senegalese Red Cross and the ICRC were able to carry out a food-aid programme for 8,000 displaced people in Ziguinchor, starting in May. The ICRC provided the 80 tonnes of rice and oil required to keep the operation running.

In addition, the ICRC requested access to people captured in connection with this internal armed conflict. Following numerous unsuccessful attempts to obtain an audience with the Minister of the Interior to discuss the matter, an interview was finally arranged with the new incumbent at the beginning of September, by which time a cease-fire had been signed (8 July) between the government and the MFDC, and the 256 detainees held in connection with the conflict had been released. Regarding the question of access to future detainees, the Minister affirmed that the new Senegalese government would be favourably disposed towards requests made by the ICRC.

Dissemination and information

At the end of March the ICRC and the Union of West African Journalists organized a two-day workshop in Dakar which brought together 15 directors and editors-in-chief of major West African French-language news publications. The ICRC’s Delegate General for Africa, accompanied by communications-related staff from ICRC headquarters, was there to answer questions from the participants, who expressed a desire to have a more active working relationship with the ICRC. Agreements to this effect were defined in the course of discussions and working relations were strengthened. Very well attended local press conferences were held jointly with the Senegalese Red Cross Society on the mobilization of humanitarian work in Africa, on landmines and on the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims.

* Democratic Front of Casamance Movement.
KINSHASA
Regional delegation
(Congo, Zaire)

The regional delegation in Kinshasa increased its activities in 1993, responding in various ways to the humanitarian needs engendered by the internal disturbances in parts of Zaire and the Congo. As a result the delegation expanded considerably over the year, from five expatriates in January to 14 in December.

CONGO

Amid cries of unfair elections in early June, the opposition called people out on to the streets in protest. Shops closed, barricades went up and demonstrations degenerated into violent clashes between supporters of the President and the opposition. Certain parts of town were sealed off and around 2,000 people who had fled the district of Bacongo gathered at the government building. Bacongo had just become the stronghold of the opposition and, like other parts of Brazzaville controlled by the opposition, was fiercely guarded by masked gunmen. During the periods of violence the vehicles of the ICRC and the Congolese Red Cross were the only ones allowed to circulate freely in the divided capital, bringing medicines across the lines and evacuating the sick and wounded to hospital. In some parts of town only ICRC vehicles could gain access.

During the unrest in July the ICRC requested permission to visit people allegedly detained on both sides. However, before this authorization was received, the detainees were released. The delegate based in Brazzaville carried out a survey in Dolésie and Pointe Noire from 19 to 28 August, where disturbances had also been reported, to examine the situation of displaced people in the area and assess any need for visits to detainees. As a result of the delegate’s findings, the ICRC decided to support the National Society with a limited relief programme for displaced people in the Dolésie area.

After a brief return to calm in the Congo, following the signing of an agreement between the two opposing parties in Libreville on 4 August, new disturbances broke out in Brazzaville on 1 November. The violence in the streets continued escalating through to the end of December, and some of the parts of town controlled by the opposition were meanwhile defended by other armed militants. The ICRC and the Congolese Red Cross worked under dangerous conditions to evacuate the wounded and pick up dead bodies. No final death toll for the year was available, although between 10 and 15 December alone the city’s hospitals registered more than 80 dead. The ICRC, as during the events in previous months, broadcast radio spots calling on the warring parties to respect the Red Cross and allow the first-aid teams’ vehicles to circulate freely. The regional delegation provided the National Society with bandage sets and a vehicle, and supplied the city’s hospitals with medical material.
Aware that a number of people had reportedly been arrested by government forces for their involvement in the disturbances, the ICRC sought to gain access to them. Unfortunately, despite the delegation’s numerous contacts with the authorities, including the Minister of Defence, the Minister of the Interior and the Office of the President, no such visits had been possible by the end of the year.

Dissemination

In Brazzaville from 16-22 September, representatives of the States of Chad, Central Africa, Cameroon, Gabon and Sao Tome participated in a seminar on the use of the new French version of the ICRC’s teaching file on the law of war in national teaching programmes.

ZAIRE

During the year Zaire was the scene of popular discontent, mass demonstrations, riots, looting, other outbreaks of violence and worsening socio-economic conditions. Political and ethnic tension and harassment were a source of great human suffering in the Shaba region (Katanga) and in northern Kivu, where the civilian population became enmeshed in a complex process of destabilization. The regional delegation maintained regular contact with the authorities in order to remind them of their obligation to ensure the safety and protection of civilians caught up in the different disturbances. Nonetheless, many lives were lost in the course of the year, and over 100,000 people had to flee their homes and live in very difficult and precarious conditions in makeshift camps in Kolwezi and Likasi (Shaba) while waiting to return to their region of origin. Many of these Kasaian families had lived in Shaba for generations. The ICRC provided them with regular food and non-food assistance.

In Kivu delegates evaluating the possibility of ICRC intervention there in June heard numerous reports of massacres. Many houses had been razed to the ground and thousands of displaced people were seen on the roads and in the villages visited. Protection needs were the ICRC’s main concern in this area, along with support to the National Society in the form of first-aid training and the development of sanitation systems. Material assistance was limited to a small-scale distribution of agricultural tools.

Zaire is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, covering the same area as most of western Europe. Communications within the country are extremely difficult and rapid access to many places is virtually impossible. The humanitarian problems were therefore all the more worrying, for in a context of economic, social and political instability any further major deterioration of the situation would have catastrophic consequences.
**Kivu**

In the Kivu region delegates carried out a series of surveys in June in remote communities affected by a chain of violent attacks, where indigenous tribes were fighting with people of Banyarwanda origin who had lived there often for generations. The delegates were able to ascertain that at least 60,000 people had been displaced but were so widely scattered that any precise count was impossible. As food and medical needs were being covered by the local population, parishes and non-governmental organizations, no ICRC food assistance was deemed necessary, although the institution did continue to monitor the situation there over the year, establishing a permanent presence in Goma in August. The tasks of the delegate based in Goma were to promote respect for the civilian population by the authorities and communities concerned, carry out visits to detainees in the region and help the local branches of the Zaire Red Cross to set up emergency intervention teams.

**Shaba**

In the Shaba region a new permanent ICRC presence was established in Kolwezi, where tens of thousands of people of Kasaian origin had gathered while awaiting a possibility to return to the Kasai. Many of the Kasaian people living in Shaba had fled their homes after being threatened and attacked, and had no choice but to try to return to their region of origin, where they would be in greater security.

Following political disturbances, the situation of the Kasaian community in Shaba remained a major concern for the ICRC throughout the whole of 1993. Over 100,000 displaced people in and around the railway stations in the towns of Likasi and Kolwezi, as well as in schools and makeshift camps there, were living in extremely difficult circumstances.

At the very end of June the military authorities began forcibly displacing the Kasaian at the station in Kolwezi, destroying the makeshift shelters that they
had built there. The people subsequently fled to other parts of the town, creating new urgent needs in terms of assistance. The ICRC immediately began distributing blankets to those sleeping in the open air, then continued with food distributions right through to the end of the year, when some 80,000 displaced people still remained in Likasi and Kolwezi. A similar, though less violent, military evacuation occurred in Likasi at the end of July. The regional delegate intervened at ministerial level, asking the authorities to give orders to bring an end to the violence and harassment in Shaba and in northern Kivu.

The provision of trains to evacuate the people to the Kasai was a major issue throughout the year. The few departures that were scheduled almost invariably led to distressing scenes of people crowding desperately onto the trains, some dying in the crush or during the long journey to the Kasai. Owing to fuel shortages and other setbacks the trip sometimes lasted several weeks, and the evacuees had to set up temporary camps along the way. Those who were registered to leave were given food rations by the ICRC on their departure.

Further relief supplies were provided by the ICRC to Katangans who had fallen victim to harassment by the military stationed in Kolwezi and the general violence inspired by political militants. Other vulnerable groups assisted by the ICRC included families split up because of their racial mix. In all, the ICRC provided 5,665 tonnes of food and non-food assistance to more than 110,000 beneficiaries in Shaba.

Throughout the year relief distributions frequently had to be suspended for several days at a time in Kolwezi, owing to problems in drawing up reliable lists of beneficiaries and confusion during distributions.

Activities for detainees

Following the revival of tension in June in Kinshasa, in the Shaba region and in northern Kivu, and with the President's renewed instructions in August for the ICRC's detention-related work to be facilitated, the delegation carried out visits to certain places of detention. Four such places were visited between July and September in Kinshasa and Goma and a total of 24 security detainees were registered (18 at police stations in Goma and 6 at Makala prison in Kinshasa). The ICRC was unable to gain access in Kinshasa to places of detention under the jurisdiction of the presidency.

Medical activities

In August a nutritional survey was carried out in Kolwezi and in Likasi by a specialist from headquarters. It confirmed the need to continue food distributions to victims in the two towns and to readjust the rations provided to vulnerable groups in Kolwezi, where the nutritional condition of the population was found to be deteriorating.
Following a survey in northern Kivu by an ICRC sanitary engineer, the town of Kanyabayonga received four water pumps and other sanitary supplies from the ICRC.

Tracing activities

Tracing work at the Kinshasa regional delegation was limited to a small number of tracing requests which were opened for Zairians who were being looked for by their relatives living abroad. Only one file was opened in connection with the problems in Shaba.

Cooperation with the National Society

Following the events in Shaba, Kivu and Kinshasa, it became necessary to train additional Zaire Red Cross emergency first-aid teams. Since 1992 teams had been receiving training in Kinshasa. This programme was extended to northern Kivu and Shaba in 1993.

Dissemination

A course on international humanitarian law for instructors of the armed forces of Zaire was held in Kinshasa and Kananga in July. It was attended by some 60 officers from the provinces of Kasai, Shaba, Equateur, Haut-Zaïre and Kinshasa.

Further courses in Kinshasa were held on international humanitarian law for 31 high-ranking officers from nine member countries of the Economic Community of Central African States.

LAGOS
Regional delegation
(Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo)

The region covered experienced a period of general uncertainty in 1993. Political change in Nigeria and in Togo was by no means straightforward, and led to violence in both cases. This violence also affected Benin and Ghana to a certain extent.

The ICRC responded by stepping up its contacts with political decision-making circles (civilian and military), expanding its international humanitarian law dissemination activities and increasing its support to the emergency response capacity of the National Red Cross Societies of the four countries covered.
BENIN

The ICRC funded and participated in seven seminars, attended by 120 officers and non-commissioned officers from the Benin armed forces, on the practical application of international humanitarian law on the battlefield.

In cooperation with the Red Cross of Benin, the ICRC launched a campaign on the protection of the emblem. A seminar was held in mid-year for medical and paramedical professionals, government representatives and the media.

GHANA

The ICRC provided support for a number of dissemination seminars organized by the Ghana Red Cross Society for politicians, government officials, business leaders, officers of the security forces and journalists. The National Society organized fresh water supplies for the Togolese refugees who thronged across the border in January and February.

NIGERIA

Already affected by a sluggish economy and a number of social problems, Nigeria experienced a year of turbulence in 1993.

The annulment of the presidential election of 12 June brought a growing number of strikes, fuel shortages and civil disturbances similar to those witnessed in 1992. South-western Nigeria was particularly hard hit by riots in July, which caused a high number of casualties. A climate of fear set in, as an outbreak of generalized violence was anticipated at the national level. Changes in the country’s leadership ensued, with the President stepping down to be replaced by an interim government which was subsequently replaced by a supreme ruling body, the Provisional Ruling Council, composed of 11 members and dominated by the security forces.

By the end of the year a broad-spectrum civilian government body, the Federal Executive Council, had been installed and talks between prominent Nigerians on major changes to the constitution had been initiated. Statements from the authorities gave rise to hopes for new elections, and the tension that had been pervading the country abated.

During 1993 the ICRC significantly expanded its contacts with the civilian and military decision-making circles within and outside the government. This was accompanied by greater efforts to disseminate international humanitarian law. Lectures were given at key institutions of the security forces such as the Command and Staff College, the National Guard, the Brigade of Guards and the National War College, the highest military teaching establishment in the country. *Ad hoc* briefings on the ICRC and international humanitarian law were given to prominent members of the military hierarchy and to various major unit commanders. At the same time, meetings were organized for the national press.
Over the year the regional delegation continued to support the Nigerian Red Cross Society’s emergency preparedness teams. A considerable number of workshops were held, aimed at upgrading the Society’s overall capacity. They mainly took place in Lagos and in Kaduna, two cities considered to be particularly susceptible to outbreaks of violence.

In May the Federation and the ICRC had talks with leading representatives of the Nigerian Red Cross in order to establish a plan for its future development. It was agreed that an audit of the National Society would be followed up by two years of management advice by a specialist from the Federation.

TOGO

Against a backdrop of continuing political malaise and a general strike which had the economy in a stranglehold, three successive waves of internal violence (two in January and the third in March) signalled the start of a particularly difficult year for Togo. The clashes at the beginning of 1993 involving members of the security forces and the public caused a high number of deaths and injuries, especially among the civilian population.

The disturbances triggered off a mass exodus of around 300,000 people, mainly from the Lomé area, who fled across the border to Benin and Ghana or up-country within Togo itself. This put a strain on local resources, which were already barely sufficient to cover existing needs, and had a significant impact on the neighbouring economies of Benin and Ghana. A major relief effort for the refugees became necessary and the three countries’ National Societies played an important role in its implementation.

By mid-year negotiations between the government and the opposition held under French and Burkinabé auspices resulted in an agreement that led to presidential elections in August. However, the major opposition groups withdrew their candidates and the election ended in controversy, with the incumbent head of state regaining power. At the end of the year talks were still going on concerning the participation of opposition parties in new elections scheduled for early 1994.

In response to these developments the ICRC sent additional delegates to Togo, intensifying contacts with the various parties concerned and consolidating its support to the Togolese Red Cross. In conjunction with the National Society, delegates organized dissemination sessions for security forces and for members of the public living in volatile areas. In addition, a multi-media campaign on respect for the red cross emblem was carried out.

Support to the National Society included technical advice, the provision of relief supplies, first-aid equipment, communications equipment and financial assistance. The National Society concentrated its activities around Lomé, the focal point of the disturbances, where its first-aid teams were often the only ones in a position to evacuate the many casualties.
YAOUNDE
Regional delegation
(Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe)

Violent clashes occurred in several areas covered by the regional delegation during the year. In addition to providing material assistance to civilians affected by this violence, and making two formal offers of services to visit people detained for security reasons in Chad and in Equatorial Guinea, the delegation in Yaoundé and the sub-delegation in N’Djamena worked throughout the year with the National Societies of the region, supporting and improving their emergency preparedness.

CAMEROON

At the start of the year the ICRC initiated assistance programmes for civilians affected by internal disturbances in north-western Cameroon, which were sparked off by militant supporters of the opposition who contested the results of presidential elections held in October 1992. Around 300 displaced families were given food and cooking utensils at the end of December 1992 and 77 more families received assistance at the end of January 1993. Further assistance was distributed to around 500 Chadians in the border towns of Touboro and Madingrin in June, who had fled into Cameroon following armed clashes in their home areas in Chad. The refugees were later taken to the UNHCR refugee camp at Poli.

During 1993 the regional delegation carried out an extensive dissemination campaign in Cameroon in order to improve knowledge of the Red Cross among military and civilian authorities and to back up the local committees and branches of the Cameroon Red Cross Society.

A teaching manual for the armed forces, compiled by the general staff unit and printed by the ICRC, was officially introduced in the army.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Refugees fleeing from armed clashes and random killings in the towns of Gore and Doba in southern Chad arrived in the Central African Republic at the beginning of the year. Around 8,000 civilians were given emergency food assistance by the ICRC from January to mid-June through the Central African Red Cross Society in improvised refugee camps near the border, and were able to use the ICRC’s tracing service to contact their families. In all, almost 100 tonnes of food and 1,500 cooking pots were distributed among 1,554 families. In addition, a leprosy centre and a feeding centre in Bossangoa received jointly three tonnes of flour and 13 tonnes of beans.
Other tracing work was carried out for Sudanese refugees living in the south-eastern part of Central Africa in the Zemio, Mboki and Obo areas. The Red Cross of Chad handled tracing work for refugees in Chad.

**CHAD**

Attempts by the regional delegation to get access to people detained for security reasons in Chad were again unsuccessful in 1993. In January, after more than a year of fruitless negotiations with the relevant authorities, the ICRC made another formal offer of services to visit all places of detention. As there was still no opening in sight, the ICRC submitted a memorandum of understanding to the Presidency and the Sovereign National Conference in March, which then did give the institution the go-ahead for its protection activities for detainees and for civilians affected by the conflict. The authorities allowed and even requested the ICRC to carry out relief activities for civilians displaced or otherwise affected in the south-west of the country and in East Logone. However, permission to visit security detainees was not forthcoming, despite the President’s consent in May to give the ICRC access to such detainees.

A national course on international humanitarian law was conducted from 17 to 19 May in N’Djamena for senior army officers of the newly reorganized Chad national army and the *gendarmerie nationale*.

**Activities for the civilian population**

Scenes of violence took place in early 1993 between the Republican Guard elite forces and the civilian population in the south of the country, driving thousands of families across the border into Central Africa and Cameroon (see *Central African Republic* and *Cameroon*, above). In addition, thousands more fled up-country, staying within the East Logone region. Conservative reports placed the death toll at several hundred.

During a joint mission there by an ICRC delegate and the Secretary General of the Red Cross of Chad in May and June, a hundred or so villages were found razed to the ground and the ICRC subsequently launched a relief programme for some 80,000 displaced people in East Logone, providing them with seed, tools and food to tide them over and help prevent them becoming in need of long-term assistance. During the programme the ICRC kept an office open in Doba. It was closed in September, when the food situation was deemed to have stabilized enough for the ICRC to terminate its relief programme.

**Medical activities**

In N’Djamena on 8 August a ceremony to commemorate the dead from recent tribal armed clashes in Sarh and Abéché in the Ouaddai region degenerated into a horrific day of bloodshed in the capital, leaving 45 dead and 180 wounded,
according to official sources. The ICRC immediately mobilized the National Society’s first-aid teams to evacuate the wounded and provided the city’s main hospital with urgently needed medical supplies and bandages. The National Society’s first-aid teams showed exemplary courage during the turbulence.

At the very end of December 1992 the Kabalaye orthopaedic centre in N’Djamena was placed under the responsibility of SECADEV,* the ICRC’s partner at the centre for twelve years. However, the ICRC provided follow-up support throughout the year, including technical assistance and some financial help.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

In February the regional delegate went to Malabo to discuss access to security detainees with the Minister of Justice and the President of the Supreme Tribunal. Once again, the authorities of the country refused to give the ICRC permission to visit places of detention under the control of the national security services.

An information seminar on the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the main rules of international humanitarian law was held in Malabo on 1-2 July for senior government officials.

A broad dissemination and information campaign was run throughout the year to stimulate interest among the population for their National Red Cross Society, not yet officially recognized.

In order to enhance the National Society’s emergency preparedness the ICRC donated first-aid kits and other items to the branches on Bioko Island and in Rio Muni. Courses on the Movement, basic first aid and emergency preparedness were all given at branch level. In Malabo and Bata a comprehensive hygiene and sanitation programme was launched by the local Red Cross branches.

Southern Africa

ANGOLA

Referred to by many as the world’s forgotten war, the conflict in Angola claimed tens of thousands of lives in 1993 and caused untold suffering to the civilian population. Owing to the intense and widespread fighting at the beginning of the year the ICRC was unable to carry out its humanitarian work and was obliged to evacuate its expatriate staff from its offices in Huambo and Kuito in mid-January. This was the first time the ICRC had withdrawn from the Planalto since the start of its operations there in 1979.

In quieter areas the ICRC was able to carry out its mandate to a limited extent throughout the year, visiting detainees and offering tracing services.

* Secours catholique et développement.
On 10 February the ICRC made a solemn appeal to the Angolan government and UNITA* to respect the rules of international humanitarian law, to ensure that they were enforced and to authorize humanitarian action as a matter of extreme urgency.

Talks between the Angolan government and UNITA at the beginning of February in Addis Ababa broke down in a general atmosphere of disagreement. A number of issues were left pending, including the conclusion of a cease-fire, the second round of presidential elections and the release of prisoners. Further attempts shortly after to bring the parties to the negotiating table were in vain, and calls from the public for a truce and for corridors to be opened to let humanitarian aid in to the civilian population fell on deaf ears, neither of the parties agreeing at the same time to such propositions.

At the beginning of June, after an absence of five months, the ICRC was finally able to re-establish its presence in Huambo, where the fighting had led to large-scale destruction, a lack of medical care and shortages of some essential goods. Eleven tonnes of food and two tonnes of medical supplies were flown in to Huambo and distributed under ICRC supervision to the city's central hospital.

Despite more diplomatic efforts to bring about a cease-fire, the armed conflict in Angola intensified in August, the Angolan government launching a military offensive on the central Planalto on 2 August, singling out the Huambo region.

In an air raid on 4 August the ICRC's office in Huambo, clearly marked by a red cross, was largely destroyed by bombing. The delegate and local employees miraculously survived the attack. The ICRC made a public appeal to the belligerents to guarantee respect for the civilian population, the wounded, prisoners and the red cross emblem. The ICRC also informed the diplomatic representatives of the United States, the Russian Federation and Portugal of violations of international humanitarian law by both sides and requested their help in facilitating access to victims of the conflict.

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* National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.
The United Nations Security Council examined the situation in Angola three times, adopting Resolutions 864 and 890, which brought sanctions (arms and oil embargo) against UNITA into effect on 26 September (with the threat that they would be reinforced if UNITA breached the cease-fire and did not resume negotiations on the basis of the Bicesse agreement), favoured dialogue between the warring parties and extended the UNAVEM* II mandate to 16 March 1994.

In December the peace talks in Lusaka stalled, and the UN special representative in Angola was looking into the matter at the end of the year. Meanwhile, access to practically all parts of Angola had become possible, albeit only by plane in some areas.

The ICRC maintained regular contact with the Angolan government and UNITA throughout the year, inter alia in talks between the ICRC President and the Angolan Minister of Assistance and Social Reinsertion in Geneva and between the ICRC’s Delegate General for Africa and UNITA representatives in Abidjan.

In November high-level meetings were held between the ICRC and the two warring parties in Huambo and Luanda, resulting in an agreement to allow the ICRC to assist the victims according to needs. A subsequent ICRC survey in Malanje, Menongue and Huambo to prepare for a medical and relief programme in the besieged towns controlled by the government and on UNITA-controlled territory established that the needs were huge, widespread and above all urgent, despite substantial humanitarian efforts by the UN and national and international non-governmental organizations. At the end of December the ICRC was mobilizing relief consignments, and additional personnel were sent from Geneva to reinforce the delegations in Luanda and Huambo and initiate relief work.

Activities for detainees

The ICRC visited five places of detention in Luanda and at locations in two provinces: Lubango (Huila province) and Bentiaba (Namibe province). In these places of detention the government was holding either acknowledged or alleged UNITA members and sympathizers, giving some of them the status of “under government protection” or “sub custodia”. Visits were carried out in accordance with customary ICRC criteria, including private interviews with the detainees. In all, the ICRC made 123 visits to 1,234 people held at 20 different locations, including those under house arrest. Sao Paulo prison in Luanda and Bentiaba camp in Namibe province received periodic food assistance.

In the provinces of Namibe and Huila the authorities freed 197 people in the presence of the ICRC in January and February. In June the Angolan authorities announced that they would release over 200 of the “sub custodia” detainees held in Luanda. ICRC delegates spoke to the detainees concerned in private to

* United Nations Angola Verification Mission.
ascertain where they wished to go after their release. Most of them had chosen locations in the interior of the country, and the ICRC offered to fly them there if both parties agreed. Finally the government released more than 220 civilians in Luanda. Those who did not have relatives to take them in were taken care of by the Ministry of Assistance and Social Welfare and accommodated in a camp known as the Casa dos Rapazes, where some 80 people were living in tents. The ICRC provided a large tent for use as a kitchen and health post.

After having received permission from UNITA the ICRC visited some 287 detainees held at three locations in Uige province in April: Uige, Negage and Bungo. Follow-up visits were carried out on 20 October.

Tracing activities

One of the ICRC’s main concerns after the renewed outbreak of hostilities in Angola was the separation of families unable to stay in touch because of a nationwide disruption in communications. The ICRC’s tracing service tried to restore family links wherever possible. During the year 3,568 Red Cross messages were exchanged between detainees or people held sub custodia and their families, and a further 1,418 were exchanged between family members living within Angola and abroad. The ICRC also worked to trace family members whose whereabouts were unknown to their relatives. During the year 139 people were located.

Evacuation of foreign nationals

After being approached by foreign governments the ICRC agreed to assist in the evacuation of foreign residents wishing to leave Huambo, provided that an agreement to that effect was reached between the Angolan government and UNITA. Subsequently four flights were organized in June and July to evacuate foreigners in Huambo to Sao Tome and Principe, where they were met by Portuguese officials. A fifth flight took a Namibian and a South African directly to Windhoek. In all, 415 foreigners of 12 different nationalities were evacuated from Huambo by the ICRC.

Medical activities

Medical work in areas caught up in heavy combat had to be suspended as of mid-January, when the ICRC evacuated its expatriate staff from Huambo and Kuito. Access to the ICRC’s local offices in Jamba and Menongue was also impossible after this date.

Nonetheless, an ICRC doctor and nurse made an extensive survey of medical needs in areas where the institution had access. Evaluations were carried out in Uige, N’dalatando, Saurimo, Luena, Benguela, Lobito, Namibe and Lubango. All the health facilities visited were in places where only limited fighting was
going on, and most were already receiving assistance from other agencies. One-off assistance (1.5 tonnes) was therefore provided in hospitals in Saurimo, Benguela, Uige, Luena and Luanda for the treatment of war-wounded, and no further ICRC intervention was considered necessary at that time.

In June the medical coordinator made surveys in several hospitals in the province of Huambo. Five hospitals were visited and essential medical supplies were distributed (Caala, Katchiungo, Donde, Bailundo, Chilumbe).

In July the ICRC attempted to send a team of specialists in war surgery from National Societies to the Huambo region. As a result of the government’s refusal, the ICRC was unable to organize flights to Huambo and was obliged to cancel the operation.

In Huambo, after the beginning of the government air raids in August, food aid for the patients at the Central Hospital and the distribution of medical supplies to both the Central Hospital and a hospital privately run by the Benguela Railways continued while stocks lasted. Further supplies were also distributed to the hospitals in Donde, Katchiungo, Bailundo, Chilumbe. Longonjo and Ganda. A total of 13 tonnes of food and three tonnes of medical equipment was distributed, mainly in July and August.

The ICRC pursued its medical activities in the detention centres it visited, particularly in the prison of Sao Paulo and in Bentiaba camp (Namibe). The medical team also kept watch on conditions in all places where acknowledged and alleged UNITA members and sympathizers were being held.

Orthopaedic activities came to a halt in Bomba Alta and in Kuito at the beginning of January and had not resumed by the end of the year. The regular assistance programme for amputees was also interrupted in January, following the withdrawal of expatriate personnel for security reasons.

In December the ICRC was in the process of launching a major new medical programme, aimed at rehabilitating health facilities in areas affected by the conflict. A high incidence of malnutrition was noted during field evaluations. A large-scale emergency food relief programme was therefore also started at the very end of the year.

**MOZAMBIQUE**

The signing of a general peace agreement in October 1992 brought an end to the 16 years of internal armed conflict and bloodshed that had all but destroyed the very fabric of the Mozambican nation. As heavy rains in December signalled an end to the drought in southern Africa, the Mozambican people had high hopes for peace and prosperity in 1993. To some extent this was accomplished: many refugees returned to Mozambique, harvests were plentiful in a number of regions previously crippled by drought, and the constant terror pervading the country subsided.
Alongside these positive developments, the demobilization of the army and RENAMO* and the formation of a new national defence force did not come to pass as foreseen, and elections planned for October 1993 were put off for another year. The removal of landmines strewn over the countryside made only slow progress.

There were, however, certain encouraging signs, such as the long-awaited direct talks between the President and the RENAMO leader in Maputo at the end of August and beginning of September. The two men, who met for the first time on Mozambican territory, reached an agreement on regional administration and police control.

On 13 September the UN Security Council adopted a resolution which called on the parties to stick to the details of the peace agreement signed a year earlier, and to avoid any further delay in holding elections. In mid-October the UN Secretary General came to Maputo to encourage the Mozambican President and the RENAMO leader to ensure that the demobilization process was completed and that elections were held by October 1994.

Stability in the country was once again in the balance at the end of the year, as a number of problems were encountered with the demobilization of government troops and RENAMO combatants.

Against this general background the ICRC went ahead with its plans to reduce its relief programme and to concentrate on medical activities, tracing and the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

Assistance for the civilian population

Large movements of refugees and displaced people returning home were noted during the year. Many of those who had found refuge in another country, however, were hesitant to return before political reconciliation and troop demobilization actually came into effect. As the year wore on, the arrival of the UN and many

* Mozambican National Resistance Movement.
NGOs allowed the ICRC to cut back its relief activities in easily accessible regions.

The food crisis was essentially on its way to being resolved in the latter half of 1993. The harvest was satisfactory in most provinces, allowing the ICRC to concentrate its efforts on food and non-food distributions in the regions which, since access was difficult, had not benefited from aid in previous months.

Over the year the ICRC ran a large-scale food and non-food relief programme, reaching the following communities: (Sofala province) Beira, Goonda, Magunde, Gorongosa, Canda, Panja, Chihedeia, Nhangera, Canxixe, Palame, Chire and Senga-Senga; (Gaza province) Xai-Xai, Chibuto, Maqueze and Alto Changane; (Maputo province) Matola and the Magude area; (Nampula province) Angoche, Nampula, Murrupula, Namapa, Alua, Namige, Quinga and Liypo; (Niassa province) Lichinga; (Manica province) Chimoio; (Cabo Delgado province) Pemba; (Zambezia province) Quelimane, Ile and Inhassunge.

**Tracing activities**

Although the end of the armed conflict meant that people were at least theoretically able to travel freely around the country, communication was still very problematic and many families turned to the ICRC’s tracing service for news of their relatives, whether elsewhere in Mozambique or in another country.

The ICRC’s main concern in terms of tracing were the thousands of children living in RENAMO-controlled zones, many of whom had been captured by RENAMO during the conflict and were now looking for any relatives who could take them in. Despite the RENAMO leader’s personal assurance that the ICRC could go ahead with this delicate tracing work, numerous problems were encountered in connection with the transfer of these children out of RENAMO areas, and by the end of the year only 800 of them had been reunited with their families, whether through the ICRC or by other means. The ICRC’s tracing service registered some 3,000 of the children during the year.

**Medical and sanitation activities**

The ICRC continued its ongoing programme of rehabilitating medical facilities damaged or even completely destroyed during the conflict, creating facilities where they did not exist, and providing local training in medical care so as to give as many civilians as possible access to basic health services.

In addition a major immunization campaign was carried out in cooperation with UNICEF. Vaccinations were carried out at the same time as food distributions, enabling large numbers of people to be reached. In all, 11,000 children under five were treated against polio, measles, tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough, and 3,000 women of child-bearing age were vaccinated against tetanus.
As proper health care implies a reliable source of safe water, the delegation’s
sanitation engineer organized the rehabilitation or creation of regular water
supplies in health facilities, in places of detention and in isolated communities.
Two major projects financed by a special rehabilitation fund of the Dutch Embassy
were completed in Maqueze and Mapai, supplying about 19,000 people with
drinking water. A third project involving the transport of water by tankers to the
community of Chicualacuala (12,000 people) was also carried out under the
supervision of the ICRC’s sanitation engineer. Another major achievement was
the completion of five deep boreholes in the Panja area of Sofala province,
bringing fresh water to a community of 10,000 people.

Orthopaedic activities

After three years of training, the ICRC’s course for orthopaedic technicians
in Beira came to an end in March. Of the initial 38 trainees, 23 successfully
completed the course and passed their final examinations on 20 March,
supervised by three Mozambican orthopaedic specialists and three other experts
from outside the country; they were subsequently integrated as technicians in
the ICRC’s orthopaedic centres in Beira, Maputo, Nampula and Quelimane.
The ultimate aim is for them to take over as the ICRC winds down its involvement.

In the meantime, the production of prostheses, orthoses, wheelchairs and
crutches, and repairs to orthopaedic devices continued as usual throughout the
year. In all, 917 prostheses were manufactured and 377 new patients fitted with
these devices. As regards orthoses, 106 were made and 84 patients fitted. In
addition, 2,011 pairs of crutches were manufactured.

SOUTH AFRICA

The remnants of South Africa’s system of apartheid were completely
dismantled in 1993, paving the way for the first democratic elections there,
scheduled for 27 April 1994. A law was passed in December to return South
African citizenship to residents of the homelands as of 1 January 1994. New
confidence was given to the country’s ailing economy when the international
community lifted its economic sanctions on South Africa, where an estimated
50% or more of the workforce are unemployed. The adoption of a new temporary
constitution and the installation of a Transitional Executive Council in December
reinforced the moves towards democracy, and, also in December, the Nobel
Peace Prize was presented jointly to the President and the president of the ANC,*
for their efforts in bringing peace to South Africa.

Yet the positive changes to the nation’s political make-up were to some extent
offset by the internal violence which continued to plague the country. In addition

*African National Congress.
to the growing unrest in the homelands and townships, the South African people had to deal with a much higher incidence of general crime and politically motivated attacks.

As a result of the increase in violence over the year, thousands of people lost their lives. Some 1,200 people were reported killed in July and August alone in the East Rand. Approximately 46,500 people, the vast majority in Natal, were assisted in a joint relief operation by the ICRC and the South African Red Cross Society. In carrying out their work, ICRC field officers and delegates, and National Society staff and volunteers found themselves in a situation of heightened political division, intolerance, intimidation, threats of civil war and racial attacks.

Indeed, the ICRC was extremely concerned about the growing number of abuses of the red cross emblem. A number of security incidents occurred in the course of the year, including the attempted theft of a Red Cross vehicle in Inanda in early July, the theft at gunpoint of a vehicle at Umlazi, and a narrow escape for an ICRC field officer whose vehicle was twice caught in cross-fire during fighting in Ezakheni township in August. The ICRC delegation and the various National Society regional offices discussed procedures for staff and volunteers working in dangerous areas, and delegates intensified contacts with political parties and alliances to explain the role of the Red Cross.

As the rise in violence required an increase in ICRC activities, the delegation opened three new offices in 1993, in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein, in addition to the already existing offices in Durban, East London and Pretoria.

The ICRC’s visits to places of detention continued smoothly throughout the year, encompassing all categories of detainees and prisoners held in South Africa, including the homelands.

Activities for detainees

The first phase of unannounced visits to police stations in South Africa, begun in autumn 1992, was completed by the submission of a summary report on
1 March to the Minister of Law and Order and the Commissioner of the South African Police (SAP). The report, which covered the period from 22 October 1992 to 31 January 1993 and included the findings and observations of delegates during 94 visits to 70 police stations in six SAP regions, was discussed with the authorities at various levels, and the SAP pledged to continue its cooperation with the ICRC. Throughout the year unannounced visits continued on a regular basis, and in all, 534 visits were made to 303 police stations.

In January the delegation recommenced its visits to South African prisons, deferred from September 1992 when “political” prisoners were being released. By the end of June the ICRC had completed the first phase of its visits to sentenced prisoners in eight prisons in the towns of Port Elizabeth, Baviaanspoort, Pretoria, Barberton, Pietermaritzburg and Durban. Reports on the conditions of detention were subsequently sent to the Department of Correctional Services. Sixty-eight further visits were made to 40 prison sections for detainees awaiting trial. Delegates always had private interviews with the detainees and prisoners.

In several homelands the ICRC met senior members of the respective police forces and other officials to discuss the ICRC’s protection work for prisoners and detainees. In 1993 a total of 103 visits were made to 71 places of detention in the homelands (Bophuthatswana: 29 visits to 18 places of detention; Ciskei: 10 visits to eight places; Transkei: 39 visits to 29 places; KwaZulu: 25 visits to 16 places).

Assistance for victims of internal violence

The places worst hit by violence during 1993 were the townships of the Reef and the province of Natal. In Natal the death toll was reported at over 200 per month, the highest it had been in three years. The most violent areas were townships and rural communities around Durban where affected families and displaced people were assisted by the ICRC and the South African Red Cross.

The ICRC and the National Society worked together to bring assistance to the victims of the unrest throughout the year. Despite the considerable risks involved, Red Cross teams stepped up their presence at potentially violent events such as marches, demonstrations and funerals, ready to give first aid and evacuate the seriously injured to hospital. Red Cross first-aid training for the population was an ongoing activity in townships and rural areas.

Relief assistance for victims of violence during 1993 was provided to around 46,500 people, and included food, blankets and kitchen utensils.

A concerted effort was made by the ICRC and the South African Red Cross during the second quarter of 1993 to upgrade their assistance to the victims of the unrest. Three new ICRC offices were opened in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein, and paramedical teams were deployed at major areas of potential conflict around the country. Ten such teams, comprising over 100
volunteers, were mobilized on Sharpeville Day (21 March) and during the funeral of Chris Hani, a well-known ANC politician, who was assassinated in April.

Besides material assistance, the ICRC and the National Society issued burial vouchers to families, in order to help them provide a dignified burial for their dead.

Other relief activities

The Red Cross assistance programmes for Mozambican refugees continued over the first half of the year, with a total of 5,472 arrivals being recorded. This programme was terminated in June.

Following the significant consolidation of the peace process in Mozambique, new arrivals of refugees dropped considerably in number. At this point UNHCR reached an agreement with the South African government to start repatriating the refugees to Mozambique.

Tracing activities

During the year tracing activities centred on the exchange of Red Cross messages between the refugee population in the Gazankulu and KaNgwane homelands and their families in Mozambique. Four hundred and ninety-four such messages were exchanged in 1993.

HARARE
Regional delegation
(Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

In 1993 the main emphasis in the work of the ICRC’s regional delegation in Harare shifted from the problem of Mozambican refugees in the region to the pursuit of detention-related activities in Malawi.

MALAWI

In March the regional delegate went to Blantyre, where he met the Secretary of the Office of the President and Cabinet to discuss ICRC detention-related activities and the possibility of Malawi signing a headquarters agreement, enabling an ICRC delegation to be posted there. The delegate drew the Minister’s attention to the results of the first series of visits to Malawi’s 26 jails, which had been started in August 1992 and only just completed.

Having established a permanent presence in Blantyre, the ICRC was in a better position to follow developments in the country.
In a referendum on 14 June the Malawian people voted in favour of adopting a multi-party system. The poor health of the President led to the creation of a Presidential Council in October to run the country. The regional delegate returned to Malawi in November, where the Council confirmed its willingness to work with the ICRC, adding that the matter of visits to police stations would be expedited. The Council also announced that the prison service no longer came under the jurisdiction of the police, but was now controlled by the new Minister of the Interior.

Clashes between the “Young Pioneers” of the Malawi Congress Party and the army broke out in Lilongwe on 3 December, killing 22 people and leaving over a hundred injured. Confusion then reigned as the state radio announced on 7 December that the President was feeling better and was ready to return to office, and that the Presidential Council was therefore dissolved. The statement was received with some scepticism, as no one had actually seen the President to confirm his spectacular recovery. The opposition called for a general strike, calling for amendments to the constitution to allow for the nomination of a new interim President. The Supreme Court prohibited the strike, which was planned for 13 December. In the midst of this confusion two ICRC delegates took steps to visit some 20 or so people allegedly detained by the army in connection with the recent internal unrest. The army informed them that the people in question had all been handed over to the police, who in turn had already freed the majority of them. The three remaining in custody on charges of murder were visited by the delegates in accordance with the usual ICRC procedure.

By the end of the year the situation had become calm once again.

Activities for detainees

ICRC prison visits in Malawi to assess the material and psychological conditions of detention and the treatment of prisoners continued.

During 1993 the ICRC carried out visits to 26 prisons, some of them several times, where 342 prisoners within its mandate were visited. Newly registered prisoners seen during the year numbered 196, bringing the total up to 504 since the start of the ICRC’s visits in August 1992. A comprehensive report was handed over to the country’s highest authorities during the regional delegate’s visit in July.

Visits to police stations unfortunately never materialized, although the Chief of Police had given his approval in January for ICRC delegates to have access to specifically named detainees held there and despite repeated attempts by the regional delegation at the highest levels to gain access.

Various relief items were distributed in order to improve conditions of hygiene in prisons in Malawi, including plastic buckets and basins, jerrycans, brooms, mops, soap and disinfectant. Blankets and footballs were also distributed.
Sanitation projects included the refurbishment of the kitchens in Maula and Zomba prisons, and the sinking of a borehole at Mikuyu II prison.

NAMIBIA

In June the ICRC handed over to the government of Namibia the final report on missing Namibians in connection with the struggle for independence, thus bringing to an end the ICRC’s mandate to act as an intermediary between the families of missing Namibians and SWAPO.

In March the Namibia Red Cross was officially recognized by the ICRC.

SWAZILAND

In December the regional delegate visited the new Swazi authorities. Accession to the Additional Protocols was discussed with and welcomed by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The ICRC’s dissemination work and emergency preparedness activities for the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society were both complimented. During his visit to Mbabane the regional delegate also met representatives of the National Society. Its tracing work in connection with the 25,000 Mozambican refugees living in the country received ICRC support throughout the year.

ZIMBABWE

As the year progressed, the number of Mozambican asylum seekers crossing into Zimbabwe and other surrounding countries continued to decrease, mainly thanks to the improvement in the political situation in Mozambique since the signing of the peace accord in Rome in October 1992, but also thanks to better rainfall and more food distributions from the ICRC, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in the country. The mobile teams set up by the ICRC and the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society were therefore less and less in demand, transporting only a few asylum seekers to refugee camps further up-country, mainly Nyangombe and Chambuta, and the decision was taken at the beginning of the year to keep only one mobile team operational along the border. As refugees started moving back in large numbers there was no longer any need for this last team as from the end of June. Relief activities in this domain were thus phased out. The ICRC worked together with the National Society to provide tracing services for the 140,000 Mozambican refugees living in Zimbabwe (figure corresponds to number of refugees at the beginning of 1993).

In July a visit was made to Zimbabwe by Princess Diana, the patron of British Red Cross Youth. She was given a presentation on the Red Cross’s work by the regional delegates of the ICRC and the Federation and the Secretary General of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society.
Dissemination

From 21-26 August a one-week workshop was held in Harare for information officers of the region’s National Societies. Participants came from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia, as well as from the ICRC delegations in Pretoria and Luanda. The workshop dealt with the production of newsletters and radio and TV programmes, and ways of promoting the activities of the Movement through the media.

A workshop to introduce the teaching file *Law of War* was organized in Harare from 13-15 September by the delegate responsible for dissemination to the armed forces in Africa. Twenty-seven senior military instructors from 10 African countries participated (Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The workshop was opened by the Zimbabwe Defence Secretary and one of the resource persons was the head of Defence and Security at the Organization of African Unity. The workshop was covered by the main media.

At the request of the Royal Swaziland Police College, the ICRC’s emergency preparedness and response coordinator presented the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at a course for commanding officers in Mbabane.

An important seminar on human rights and international humanitarian law was organized by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute with ICRC participation from 29 November to 3 December in Harare. Seventy members of official services took part, including representatives of the Ministries of the Interior, Justice, Foreign Affairs and Defence, the police, the prison service and the Attorney General. Most participants, brought together for the first time in their careers, voiced a keen interest in the ICRC’s work. The regional delegate gave a number of press interviews during the seminar week.

East Africa

BURUNDI

The situation in Burundi changed radically in the course of 1993, and the ICRC’s humanitarian activities there changed accordingly. The sub-delegation in Bujumbura, attached to the delegation in Kigali in neighbouring Rwanda, continued its detention-related activities in the country’s 11 prisons and in four police stations until September, when the new government declared a general amnesty for all state security offenders captured before June 1993, the month it took office. Also in June the Burundi government acceded to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, with effect from December.
IN 1993 THE ICRC:
- evacuated the seriously wounded to hospital from rural areas;
- provided hospitals and other health structures with medical supplies;
- distributed emergency non-food items to 200,000 displaced people;
- visited 290 security detainees.

Despite an abortive military coup at the beginning of July the transition from 26 years of single-party Tutsi rule to multi-party ethnically mixed democracy was mainly calm. The military coup attempt on 21 October, resulting in the assassination of the country’s first democratically elected Hutu president and a number of his ministers, was therefore all the more unexpected.

The ensuing public outrage led to spiralling violence and ethnic clashes, primarily between the country’s two main ethnic groups, the Hutu and the Tutsi, but also involving political interests of various parties. The violence spread quickly to a number of areas, particularly in northern, central and eastern parts of the country, and horrifying reports of brutal massacres filled the press. The international community was shocked by the high number of deaths and called for an end to the massacres. The ICRC took up immediate contact with the government and the military, asking them to use their influence to restore calm among the population. A note to this effect was sent to the Minister of Defence on 3 November.

In the meantime the ICRC began emergency relief and medical operations without delay to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population as far as possible, and by its constant presence helped to protect civilians.

In December the situation was still unstable, though much calmer. The Minister of Defence informed the head of the ICRC’s mission in Bujumbura that pacification sessions had already started being held throughout the country. Yet by the end of the year only some of the estimated 600,000 refugees who had fled to neighbouring countries and were living there in precarious conditions were starting to return to Burundi.

Activities for the civilian population

The new turn of events in Burundi meant that the ICRC’s permanent expatriate presence had to be stepped up. Additional delegates and surgical staff were rushed in from Kigali, Nairobi and Geneva. Their regular presence in the rural communities
undoubtedly served to reduce tension between the conflicting parties, but by the end of the year, although the surge of violence in October and November had subsided, small numbers of people were still being killed and patients with fresh wounds were still arriving at the hospitals. The ICRC approached the authorities on several occasions in connection with ill-treatment of the civilian population, asking them to ensure that basic humanitarian principles were fully respected. The delegation also sent a circular to non-governmental organizations to explain the correct use of the red cross emblem, as laid down in international humanitarian law.

In Burundi and in the refugee camps in neighbouring countries, many families split up by the fighting were able to find their relatives through the ICRC's tracing service. The ICRC arranged for families to be reunited and forwarded Red Cross and "Anxious for News" messages between family members.

In the course of the ICRC's relief programme for civilians affected by the violence, 55,000 blankets, 15,000 sq.m of plastic sheeting used for shelter, 10,000 water containers and 5 tonnes of soap were distributed to some 200,000 people displaced within Burundi.

In November the ICRC carried out an agro-nutritional survey to define a future programme of seed and tool distributions intended to enable the population affected by the conflict to regain its nutritional self-sufficiency.

Medical activities

During the periods of violence the ICRC was able to travel unhindered over Burundi territory and the red cross emblem was consistently respected.

Wherever possible the ICRC's mobile teams treated wounded people by the roadside, and in addition they managed to evacuate a total of around 300 seriously injured people to hospital. From their constant contact with local communities they learned that a large number of people with injuries were hiding in the hills and afraid to come to hospital for fear of falling into the hands of the enemy. They were also informed that many thousands had died. The ICRC consequently broadcast regular radio messages informing the public of when and where the mobile medical teams would be passing through. In this way the teams were able to pick up the wounded and transport them to hospital under the protection of the red cross emblem. Delegates continued to visit these patients in hospital at regular intervals in order to afford them greater protection.

In addition to this urgent work, the teams evaluated needs in local hospitals and provided them with medicines and other medical requisites. Some 13.6 tonnes of medical supplies were dispatched to Burundi for this purpose, including half a million antibiotic tablets to combat a countrywide dysentery epidemic.

The ICRC also had a surgical team working full time in the hospital of Kibuye, while in Kiremba a team seconded by the Swiss Disaster Relief Unit worked as part of the ICRC operation from 23 November to 14 December.
In two camps for Burundi refugees in Rwanda, the ICRC carried out sanitation work to provide safe drinking water and avert the high risk of contamination. Drinking water was also provided for the hospital in Kirundo.

Activities for detainees

The approaching elections in June led to a rise in tension towards the end of March and a number of arrests.

In this context the ICRC stepped up its visits to places of detention throughout Burundi so as to see any new detainees as quickly as possible. In all, the delegation in Bujumbura visited 290 security detainees all over the country, including people held in connection with the attempted coup of March 1992.

Following the change of government in July the country's new National Assembly met in September and a general amnesty was finally signed on 9 September. All detainees of concern to the ICRC, along with many other common law prisoners, were thereupon released, with the exception of eight members of the military who had been captured after the attempted coup on 3 July 1993. In all, 2,084 detainees were freed, 180 of whom came within the ICRC's mandate.

The ICRC gave material assistance and transport on an individual basis to released detainees upon request. By the end of September some 150 people had benefited from this assistance.

In September the head of delegation in Rwanda, who was also responsible for the ICRC's operations in Burundi, met the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Relations to seek confirmation of the Burundi government's willingness to let the ICRC visit security detainees in the future, should the need arise. Soon after, the Burundi authorities signed a headquarters agreement with the ICRC for the establishment of a delegation there.

Dissemination

Throughout the year the ICRC spread knowledge of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross through a variety of means. At the end of March a course was held on the law of war for 31 senior officers of the Burundi armed forces. The Red Cross awareness campaign was also extended to political parties, to schoolchildren and to journalists, and was then conducted on a much broader scale after the events of October. At this stage the ICRC used national radio to explain the role of the institution and call for respect for basic humanitarian principles.

At Red Cross branches in Bujumbura, Kirundo, Muyinga and Ngozi the ICRC held workshops to train local volunteers in the activities of the Red Cross and to encourage the branches to set up first aid teams.

Towards the end of the year the ICRC brought together a panel composed of representatives of different social groups in order to exchange ideas on
humanitarian principles. The aim of the panel was for the different parties to agree on a general code of humanitarian conduct that would be acceptable to all, thereby promoting respect for human life and human dignity in an effective and universally applicable way.

ERITREA

The first few months of 1993 were dominated by preparations for the referendum on Eritrea’s independence, scheduled for 23-25 April. The ICRC provided first aid material to the “Red Cross Society of Eritrea”, whose volunteers were to be present at many of the 1,500 polling stations during the three-day vote. Fortunately the referendum went smoothly without any violent incidents, and there was no need for first aid intervention. On 24 May Eritrea officially became Africa’s 52nd State.

The ICRC’s main activities in Eritrea were its involvement in orthopaedic rehabilitation and support to the National Society. At the orthopaedic workshop in Asmara a total of 503 prostheses and 17 orthoses were produced in 1993, and 520 patients were fitted with orthopaedic devices. In addition, 138 pairs of crutches were made, and 428 major repairs to orthopaedic appliances were carried out.

The ICRC gave financial assistance to the National Society for the first four months of the year, after which the Federation took over the costs of this support. Discussions were held between the ICRC and the National Society during the year concerning cooperation in the fields of dissemination, tracing activities and first aid. In September a member of the Committee, the ICRC’s governing board, visited Eritrea and had talks with representatives of the Red Cross there.

The head of the ICRC’s delegation in Addis Ababa, also responsible for the institution’s activities in Eritrea, went to Asmara at regular intervals throughout the year in order to meet the authorities and discuss a number of issues, including the ICRC’s support for the orthopaedic centre in Asmara.

At the end of October the Deputy Director of Operations, the Deputy Delegate General for Africa and a legal specialist from the ICRC’s headquarters in Geneva, accompanied by the head of delegation in Addis Ababa, made the institution’s first official visit to Eritrea since independence in order to discuss the question of the country’s accession to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, recognition of the “Red Cross Society of Eritrea”, the use of the emblem and other matters.

ETHIOPIA

In 1993 the transitional government in Addis Ababa pursued its policy of decentralization, giving more autonomy to the 14 regions. Having produced an initial draft of a new constitution, the Ethiopian authorities began a nationwide
campaign towards the end of the year to stimulate debate on it at a local level. Elections for the Constituent Assembly were tentatively planned for June 1994.

The authorities continued to face discontent among the opposition. This led to a number of armed clashes between the OLF* and government troops, mainly in eastern Hararghe.

The ICRC concentrated its work during the year on visits to detainees and carried out some limited medical and material assistance programmes, mainly for people in detention. In addition, the delegation continued its activities in four orthopaedic workshops, and supported the National Society’s dissemination, tracing and first-aid activities.

Activities for detainees

The ICRC carried out visits to detainees in camps, prisons and police stations throughout the country. These people were held for alleged crimes committed under the previous government or for their connections with it, for taking part in the OLF insurgency, or for other reasons related to state security.

*Habeas corpus* procedure was adopted by the authorities at the start of the year and many detained members of the previous government who had appealed for it were subsequently released as of February. Others were released on bail. Not all were freed, however, and the ICRC continued to visit approximately 1,500 such people through to the end of the year.

Most of the 23,000 OLF supporters or fighters captured by government forces since June 1992, when the OLF withdrew from the transitional government, were released in March 1993. The ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society organized transport for 11,530 back to their places of origin. Delegates continued to visit the 1,600 who remained in detention. Over the year the government arrested a further 5,000 people for reasons related to the OLF insurgency. They too were visited by the ICRC. In all, the ICRC carried out 117 visits to 54 places of detention and visited 29,347 detainees; 8,434 of them were interviewed in private, including 4,502 who were registered for the first time.

Tracing activities

The delegation mainly carried out tracing activities for people separated from their families by the conflict which ended in 1991. During visits to places of detention the ICRC also collected and distributed Red Cross messages sent between detainees and their families. In all, the ICRC’s tracing office in Addis Ababa collected 997 Red Cross messages and distributed 571. It opened 311 tracing cases and resolved 93.

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* Oromo Liberation Front.
Medical activities

ICRC medical staff took part in all visits to detainees. When needs were observed, they provided medical supplies, including basic medicines, intravenous fluids and dressing material. In November a treatment programme for detainees suffering from tuberculosis was initiated in Hurso detention camp and in December in the detention camp of Dedessa.

As part of its support to the Ethiopian Red Cross the ICRC provided the National Society's branches in most regions with medical requisites and a total of seven ambulances. The ICRC also gave medical supplies to hospitals and health centres.

The ICRC continued its activities for amputees in three orthopaedic centres. The three workshops in Debre Zeit, Addis Ababa and Mekele produced 1,016 prostheses and 497 orthoses, and fitted 601 and 257 patients respectively with such devices. They also produced 1,349 pairs of crutches and 70 wheelchairs, and carried out 88 major repairs to orthopaedic appliances. Furthermore, the ICRC provided the orthopaedic workshop in Harar with equipment and expertise to ensure that the war amputees from the Ogaden received adequate treatment.

During the year a training workshop was set up in Addis Ababa to teach orthopaedic technicians from other countries the use of polypropylene in the production of orthopaedic devices.

Relief activities

The delegation provided food and non-food assistance principally for people held in detention camps and prisons, but also for patients at orthopaedic workshops and other disadvantaged groups. At the end of the year about 10 tonnes of beans and oil were given to four institutions providing assistance to street children, orphans and hospital patients.

Dissemination

The ICRC delegation conducted joint dissemination activities with the Ethiopian Red Cross aimed at ensuring respect for the emblem and explaining the importance of humanitarian law, especially in regions potentially vulnerable to conflict. About 30,000 people, including government authorities, members of the military and police, medical personnel and the public were reached in the Ogaden, Omo and Afar regions by the end of the year. In addition the ICRC organized seminars for members of the National Society and actively supported its dissemination programme throughout the country.

At the end of the year the ICRC held a seminar for journalists in the capital. The two-day course covered the respective roles of the components of the Movement, the press and humanitarian law and other questions, and was attended by 34 journalists, including 20 from the Ministry of Information and 14 from the independent press.
IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- provided 900,000 displaced people with regular food supplies, totalling 115,800 tonnes;
- brought in medical supplies for hospitals and health posts;
- gave medical care to some 80,000 people via mobile clinics;
- collected 5,000 Red Cross messages and distributed 8,000;
- visited 441 detainees.

RWANDA

A cease-fire had been proclaimed on 31 July 1992 by the Rwandese government and the RPF.* By the end of January 1993 tension had risen again between the parties to the conflict as a result of dissatisfaction over some points specified in the Arusha Protocols. Political and inter-ethnic violence caused deaths and the displacement of civilians in a number of areas. On 8 February the RPF forces in the north of the country launched an all-out attack on government forces along the entire cease-fire line. In a matter of days they succeeded in advancing southwards to within 25 km of the capital, Kigali. The government forces agreed to a cease-fire on condition that the RPF retreat to its former positions.

In humanitarian terms, the consequences of this new outbreak of violence were considerable. Nearly 600,000 civilians fled from their homes, heading mainly southwards towards Kigali and bringing the total of those displaced by internal armed conflict to nearly 1 million.

On 7 March the Rwandese government and the RPF signed a new cease-fire in Dar-es-Salaam. A demilitarized zone was subsequently created between the new and previous front lines and peace talks were held in Arusha (Tanzania).

From 27-31 July the ICRC President went on an official mission to Rwanda and had talks with the government and RPF officials, the Rwandese Red Cross, the ambassadors of the main donor countries and those who had participated in the Arusha peace process. During these discussions the humanitarian work achieved by the ICRC in Rwanda was clearly acknowledged and appreciated by all. The ICRC’s concern for the future of the civilian population was also shared by the various parties.

After a number of delays, on 4 August the President of the Republic of Rwanda and the President of the RPF finally signed the peace agreement which was to put an end to three years of internal armed conflict. This agreement and its protocols made provision for a broad-based transitional government, including

* Rwanda Patriotic Front.
representatives of the RPF, and an international peace force; the two armies
were to merge into one national army, following the demobilization of soldiers
of the Rwandese armed forces and RPF combatants.

On 5 October the United Nations Security Council approved Resolution 872
authorizing the deployment of UN forces in Rwanda.* This mission to monitor
security, especially in the demilitarized zone, officially began in November in
Kigali and in the north of the country.

By the end of the year, complete stability had still not been attained and various
violent incidents again took place. As a result of the precarious situation in the
country, the ICRC played a crucial role for the civilian population in 1993, often
under difficult conditions. Relief activities, especially large-scale food
distributions, were a priority, but medical, tracing and detention activities were
also very important.

Through their regular presence in places affected by the conflict between the
government and the RPF and by ethnic violence the ICRC delegates were able
to collect any allegations of abuse and transmit them to the authorities concerned,
urging all parties to respect international humanitarian law.

Assistance for the civilian population

After fighting resumed in February, the 350,000 displaced people already
receiving aid were joined by another 600,000 displaced civilians in dire need of
assistance. The ICRC, in cooperation with the Rwandese Red Cross, promptly
expanded its food aid programme considerably and set up five new logistical
bases in the regions of Kigali, Ruhengeri and Byumba. A total of some 300
Rwandese Red Cross staff and 25 ICRC expatriates were responsible for
coordinating the programme. At the same time the Belgian Red Cross, which
had been present in Rwanda for a number of years, increased its operations and
personnel to coordinate non-food relief operations in conjunction with the ICRC.

By 24 February the ICRC had established new ways of ensuring that it had
enough food to distribute. In addition to food stocks provided by the World
Food Programme (WFP) the ICRC organized its own food pipeline, using
different means of transport and routes: air transport in conjunction with the
WFP from Entebbe (Uganda), transport from Kampala (Uganda) along Lake
Victoria by ferry-boat and on to Kigali via Tanzania and direct cross-border/
cross-line operations by road from Uganda into Rwanda. The ICRC was thus
able to provide over 900,000 displaced people, mostly living in provisional camps,
with food aid on a regular basis. By April, some 2,800 tonnes of food were being
distributed weekly despite certain distribution problems, while the Belgian Red
Cross, under an ad hoc agreement with the ICRC, provided 180,000 beneficiaries
with non-food relief items such as cooking utensils.

One major stumbling block was the lack of accurate lists of beneficiaries, which made it very difficult to keep a check on the situation. The absence of local authorities at distribution sites also created precarious conditions for Rwandese Red Cross employees. These points were repeatedly brought up with the authorities in the capital.

In March the ICRC sent a memorandum to the President of the Republic and the President of the RPF expressing its concern for the civilian population, warning them of the risk of famine and severe health problems if the displaced people could not soon return to their homes. In June an agreement was finally reached between the two parties to the conflict regarding the safe return of these people to their homes in the north, in the demilitarized zone.

In July ICRC and Rwandese Red Cross representatives took part in an emergency committee set up to examine the humanitarian situation in the country. It was decided that the ICRC, WFP and the National Society would continue their relief work and the local authorities would be responsible for supervision and security during distributions. Despite these measures three major incidents occurred: from 12-18 August the ICRC was obliged to suspend food aid to certain regions as a result of road blocks, while on 26 September, during riots in Muhura, 26 Rwandese Red Cross volunteers were taken hostage for two days and therefore distributions were again temporarily suspended. The most serious incident occurred on 27 November, when a truck belonging to the Belgian Red Cross was blown up in the demilitarized zone, killing one Rwandese Red Cross employee and seriously injuring three others.

As malnutrition among the displaced population continued to cause concern, an agronomist visited Rwanda in August to study ways of overcoming it and to initiate agricultural rehabilitation programmes, and a Rwanda-based nutritionist made regular surveys in the camps. A special committee coordinated by the ICRC was set up with various non-governmental organizations in order to evaluate this problem. The final report with their recommendations was presented in September. As a result, food rations distributed were readjusted and the nutritional status in the camps improved considerably. However, some major food shortages arose at the end of October when the non-governmental organizations previously working there turned their attention to the sudden influx of Burundi refugees in the south of Rwanda.

By the end of September some 600,000 displaced people had returned to their homes in the demilitarized zone. Agricultural rehabilitation programmes were implemented to enable them to attain self-sufficiency, but the ICRC had to continue providing food relief at least until the first harvest in December.

The remaining 350,000 displacees from the RPF zone were unable to return to their homes in 1993. At the end of the year they were still in camps in government-controlled regions and were expected to remain dependent on international humanitarian aid for the first few months of 1994.
Between May and July the ICRC delegation in Kampala carried out an assistance programme, coordinated by the delegation in Kigali, for 10,500 civilians in the RPF zone in northern Rwanda, providing them with food, soap, jerrycans, cooking pots and blankets.

Medical and sanitation activities

To meet the growing needs created by the ongoing conflict the ICRC stepped up its emergency medical assistance. During the violent demonstrations in Kigali in January two ICRC medical teams helped the teams of the Rwandese and Belgian National Societies. The wounded were evacuated to local hospitals and the main hospital in the capital, and emergency medical equipment and drugs were distributed to local health posts.

Following the RPF attack in February ICRC teams evacuated the sick and wounded from combat zones to medical facilities in safer areas. A surgical team was brought in to support the main hospital in Kigali. A total of 227 operations were performed during their seven-week mission.

The ICRC carried out several medical surveys in the conflict zones, including the RPF zone. In March an ICRC doctor and sanitation engineer visited the overcrowded camps of Nyacyonga, Rusine and Kiziguro, where they found a serious dysentery epidemic. The ICRC therefore set up an emergency water supply system, bringing 350,000 litres of water a day to the region from Kigali, while the various non-governmental organizations present worked to install more permanent facilities.

Under an agreement with the ICRC, the Belgian Red Cross distributed medical and surgical equipment to Rwandese hospitals caring for the displaced.

At the end of May two ICRC/Belgian Red Cross mobile clinics were introduced to provide basic health care for the displaced civilian population in the demilitarized zone and to evacuate serious casualties to local hospitals. By 19 September, after some 80,000 patients had been cared for, this programme was phased out as local medical facilities resumed work (with the help of other humanitarian organizations). The ICRC was then able to concentrate on supplying the 17 health posts in the demilitarized zone.

Although the number of emergency cases fell sharply after the cease-fire, landmine injuries continued. In October the delegation in Kigali sent a memorandum about this problem to government authorities, the RPF, embassies, non-governmental organizations, churches and the press.

In the RPF-controlled part of the country the ICRC carried out two medical surveys from its delegation in Uganda, after which 1,300 kg of medical supplies were distributed for the treatment of war casualties and the civilian population.
Tracing activities

In 1993 many calls were made on the ICRC tracing service to restore contact between Rwandese refugees in Uganda and their families back home, and between displaced people in camps in the government zone and the RPF zone. An ICRC team visited Rwandese refugees in Kisoro (Uganda) and ICRC missions were carried out regularly to the RPF zone, registering 17 detainees held by the RPF and taking messages for their relatives living in the part of Rwanda controlled by the government. In all, some 5,000 messages were collected and 8,000 distributed. In November, after the coup in Burundi, a delegate carried out a survey in the south of Rwanda to ascertain the tracing needs of the new Burundi refugees. The ICRC subsequently trained 13 new tracing officers of the Rwandese Red Cross to carry out tracing activities in the refugee camps.

Activities for detainees

The ICRC had access to detainees held by the government and by the RPF from the start of the hostilities and in June the ICRC obtained the formal authorization of the Ministry of Defence to visit military camps. In August three RPF and 12 government detainees were released under the auspices of the ICRC. In all, delegates visited 441 detainees.

Dissemination

Over the year a number of dissemination sessions on the ICRC and on international humanitarian law were organized for the armed forces, the National Society, non-governmental organizations, schoolchildren, journalists and all political parties, with a view to spreading awareness of the role of the ICRC and thus facilitating its work in the country.

In July, at a meeting attended by 15 RPF representatives, the head of delegation explained the ICRC’s mandate, the basic rules of international humanitarian law and their practical application to the conflict in Rwanda.

In October, representatives of different social groups at a panel meeting organized by the ICRC sought to reach agreement on a universally applicable set of humanitarian rules that would effectively enhance respect for human life and human dignity.

SOMALIA

The Somalia tragedy remained unresolved at the end of 1993, yet the extreme suffering that the Somali people had known in 1992 was by and large relieved.

As of December 1992 UNITAF* soldiers moved in in force, fighting ceased in many areas, and although instability continued throughout the year, images of

* United Task Force.
starving people became less and less common in the media. This was partly due to the fact that hundreds of thousands of the weakest had died, but also to the ability of international organizations, like the ICRC, to bring in relief supplies in quantities commensurate with the needs.

On the political front, hopes for peace in Somalia were mixed. Addis Ababa played host to representatives of 15 Somali factions who met there under the auspices of the United Nations in January. Having signed an immediate cease-fire, the faction representatives returned to Addis Ababa for the first session of a national reconciliation conference on 27 March, which resulted in the signing of an agreement allowing for the creation of a national transitional council composed of 74 members from the country's different regions and political parties. Nevertheless, violence continued to afflict various parts of the country.

At the 27 March conference the 15 signatories undertook to abide by the cease-fire signed in January, and to surrender all of their arms and ammunition to UNOSOM II.** This new UN force, which took over from UNITAF on 4 May, was mandated by the UN Security Council in Resolution 814 to carry out humanitarian relief work in collaboration with UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. This was to be one of the UN's largest operations worldwide with some 30,000 men.

In Mogadishu, the military situation took a turn for the worse on 6 June, when 24 Pakistani soldiers under UN command were killed. The UN Security Council adopted a resolution condemning the attack and calling for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. The situation rapidly deteriorated in the southern part of the city, and armed conflict directly involving the UNOSOM II forces ensued, causing heavy structural damage and leaving many people dead or injured.

The subsequent precarious conditions resulted in the temporary withdrawal of many international organizations, bringing much of the humanitarian assistance temporarily to a halt. The ICRC responded to the new situation by

stepping up its efforts to assist those wounded in the fighting, and called on all parties involved to abide by international humanitarian law.

More heavy fighting cost many lives in Mogadishu in October, when a special United States force launched an attack on the SNA* leadership. Many were killed and wounded among the Somali population, and there were also casualties among UN troops. Armed clashes went on until a truce was declared on 4 October. At that point the United Nations changed its policy and decided to reinitiate talks with the SNA. The mandate of UNOSOM II was extended to 31 May 1994. At the end of 1993 tension still ran high in many parts of the country and violent outbursts continued to occur, though sporadically and on a much smaller scale.

Throughout the whole of 1993 the ICRC regularly approached the various parties at the highest levels, calling for greater respect to be shown for the civilian population in Somalia and for the spirit of international humanitarian law to be applied.

The President of the ICRC travelled to Somalia in January with a member of the Committee, the ICRC’s governing board, where they met the principal military, traditional and religious leaders of Somalia, senior members of the Somali Red Crescent Society and a number of representatives of the diplomatic and humanitarian community based in Somalia. The ICRC President emphasized to the Somali leaders that he needed their full support if the ICRC was to be able to fulfil its mandate. In talks with the UN representatives he underlined the ICRC’s specific mandate, stressing that for the sake of the victims of the violence the institution had to be able to work independently.

The ICRC’s Director of Operations also drew attention to the need for the ICRC to work independently in Somalia in discussions with several high-ranking members of the UN Secretariat in New York in March.

As the year progressed, mass starvation was gradually overcome and many organizations were able to take action nationwide to improve health and nutrition. Towards mid-year, when the emergency period was over, medical programmes throughout the country entered a phase of rehabilitation and development.

The ICRC therefore began to revert to activities stemming directly from its specific mandate, paring back considerably its large-scale emergency food and medical aid operations and finally bringing them to an end in August. The sub-delegations in Bardera, Baidoa, Merca and Kismayo were thus closed and the Garoe and Belet Huen sub-delegations were handed over to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Nonetheless, the situation in these places was kept under close observation until the end of the year through regular visits by field delegates.

The ICRC’s expatriate staff requirements had been cut dramatically by the end of August. Only the delegation in Mogadishu was left open and delegates concentrated on tracing activities throughout the country, in cooperation with

* Somali National Alliance.
the Somali Red Crescent Society. Another priority was to continue the veterinary and agricultural programmes, intended to ensure that the nutritional situation did not again degenerate into the horror witnessed in 1992.

Security concerns

The ICRC's field operations met with varying degrees of success throughout the first half of the year, owing to constantly changing security conditions. Already frequently compromised in the previous year by violence directed against its employees, the continuation of ICRC activities in Somalia was again placed in question early in 1993 when an ICRC administrator in Bardera was shot dead in his office during a hold-up. After suspending its operation for several days and sending its Delegate General for Africa for emergency meetings in Nairobi, the ICRC decided that the acute humanitarian needs outweighed the danger of the operation. It therefore made a solemn appeal to the political and traditional Somali leaders to guarantee the safety of its employees, and resumed relief distributions shortly afterwards. In February three of the ICRC's Somali staff were killed in a landmine explosion near Las Anod and three others were injured. On 22 March, after an armed robbery at the sub-delegation in North Mogadishu, the ICRC temporarily evacuated all its expatriate staff from that office to Nairobi. At the beginning of April the sub-delegation in Kismayo also had to be vacated, owing to an outbreak of violence in the town during which the ICRC's premises were hit by hand-grenades. Civilians belonging to one clan had taken refuge in the ICRC's grounds and were being attacked by an opposing clan. They were subsequently evacuated by Belgian troops under UN command to a location north-west of the town. Thus throughout the year ICRC expatriates working in Somalia were regularly faced with personal threats and demands for money, while all around incidents of looting and shooting remained a major problem, slowing down distributions considerably.

Activities for detainees

At the beginning of February 381 detainees held by the United Somali Congress in Mogadishu were released and with their consent the ICRC organized their transfer to their places of origin.

After fighting broke out between UNOSOM II forces and Somali militiamen, the ICRC sought to obtain access to detainees held by UNOSOM II. On 24 June the head of delegation met the UN Secretary General's Special Representative in Somalia and made an offer of services in this respect. Visits began on 28 June and a first report was submitted to the commander of the UNOSOM II forces on 15 September. Delegates provided limited assistance where needs were otherwise not covered. A second report was submitted to the UNOSOM II authorities on 6 December. Two UNOSOM II soldiers captured
by the SNA were also visited by delegates and the ICRC organized their transfer to UNOSOM II headquarters when they were released on 14 October. In all, 646 detainees of concern to the ICRC were visited, 206 of them held by UNOSOM II.

Tracing activities

The ICRC's tracing service was the Somali population's only regular and reliable means of communication, both within the country and abroad. The ICRC forwarded 253,476 Red Cross messages in 1993, helping families to keep in touch, and handled 4,123 tracing requests from people looking for a lost relative. In the same period 3,142 people were successfully traced.

During the year the ICRC began handing over responsibility for the tracing service to the Somali Red Crescent. Many of the tracing sub-offices were closed in the course of 1993, bringing the network at the end of December to 14 offices run by the National Society in Somalia, plus 10 others in Kenya and Djibouti.

With the end of the armed conflict and the onset of a good rainy season in many parts of the country, a considerable proportion of the refugee population in Kenya began moving back to Somalia. Tracing needs in this context thus gradually diminished as of mid-year.

Medical activities

In response to the medical needs engendered by the fighting, the ICRC assisted vulnerable groups, providing treatment for war-wounded and other surgical emergencies as well as basic health care.

The ICRC's medical programme in Somalia was re-evaluated in April, and it was decided that activities in the field would be substantially reduced in view of the arrival of other organizations starting up health programmes and the opening of public dispensaries in Mogadishu and in Somaliland.

At the beginning of April the ICRC was still providing support for the hospitals in Boroma, Los Anod, Erigavo, Garoe, Merca and Lafole, as well as some 15 out-patient clinics. By the end of the month all support activities had been handed over to other organizations or phased out.

In Bardera, where malnutrition was most severe, the therapeutic feeding centre opened in December 1992 continued to provide special care for 370 patients until the end of March. The ICRC was then able to close the centre owing to a marked improvement in the nutritional condition of the population.

In the first half of 1993 basic health-care programmes were carried out throughout the country, assisting around 155 dispensaries and health posts. Fourteen mobile medical teams were sent out to remote villages without other health services, in order to provide treatment for the most common diseases.

Following the outbreak of fighting in South Mogadishu, which started on 6 June with the killing of 24 Pakistani soldiers under UN command, the ICRC
provided the hospitals in the south of the city with emergency medical supplies to treat the wounded. Medical stocks for treating 1,000 patients were brought in to Mogadishu and ten Somali Red Crescent first-aid posts were subsequently set up in various parts of the city with medical supplies provided by the ICRC. In coordination with the National Society, the ICRC monitored the situation in hospitals in the southern part of the city and regularly supplied medicines and equipment to treat war casualties. Medical material was also given to first-aid posts run by the local community.

At the beginning of the year two flying surgical teams provided support for local medical facilities, visiting hospitals in Doble, Garoe, Bardera and Merca. As the year progressed one team sufficed to cover the needs. The single team subsequently worked in hospitals in Garoe and Merca, and visited Las Anod, Boroma and Hargeisa hospitals, where donations of surgical items and equipment were handed over. The need for a flying surgical team diminished after a few months, as there was a big reduction in the number of casualties in most parts of the country and international organizations arrived and started setting up hospital rehabilitation programmes. As of the end of May the team therefore stopped operating as a flying unit and started work in Keysaney.

Keysaney hospital carried on its work in North Mogadishu, supervised by an ICRC surgical team. Some 2,861 patients were admitted to Keysaney during the year, where a total of 5,112 operations were performed.

The ICRC/Somali Red Crescent surgical hospital in Berbera had an average of 55 admissions per month. The ICRC terminated its support for it in August, when responsibility for the hospital was given to the Somaliland authorities.

Relief activities

After distributing more than 54,000 tonnes of food in the first three months of 1993, and as other organizations were meanwhile able to bring food to those in need, the ICRC started reducing its relief work as planned, phasing out the community kitchen network and gradually stopping dry food rations (i.e. food for preparation by the beneficiaries themselves) altogether by August. At that time it was noted that the nutritional status of the population had greatly improved, thanks to the food distributions carried out by the ICRC and other organizations, but also thanks to plentiful rains and the ICRC/Somali Red Crescent agricultural and veterinary programmes.

All of the ICRC’s community kitchens in Baidoa and Belet Huen were closed before the end of April, as were most kitchens in the Merca area. By mid-May only a hundred kitchens were left in North Mogadishu and 15 in the south of the city. In the meantime, dry rations were still being distributed to particularly vulnerable groups in Kismayo, Belet Huen and Merca. In June the ICRC’s food distributions in Somalia were completed and the use of over 20 ships and barges ended.
Also in June the ICRC carried out a distribution of blankets, clothing, soap, cooking pots and plastic sheeting for 250,000 people seriously affected by the conflict.

After UNITAF forces moved in at the end of 1992 and security improved, the extensive logistics system set up by the ICRC to bring in relief supplies by land, sea and air was steadily scaled down. Road convoys within Somalia were resumed, enabling ICRC relief flights to be drastically reduced, and cross-border operations were no longer necessary as from March (1,510 tonnes were dispatched from Mombasa and Nairobi in the first three months of the year). The ICRC was also able to bring in regular shipments to Mogadishu.

In all, the ICRC’s aircraft flew in some 10,000 tonnes of supplies to Somalia during the relief effort, and more than 70,000 tonnes of food, medical supplies and non-food relief items were transported by sea on 33 voyages from Mombasa to different destinations along the Somali coast.

**Agricultural programme**

During 1993 the ICRC continued its assistance to more than 200,000 families in rural areas to consolidate the economic activities that began to emerge in early 1993. It distributed 3,300 tonnes of seed, 234,000 hoes, 400,000 rolls of fishing twine and 6 tonnes of fish-hooks.

With the exception of some places affected either by floods (Lower Shabelle and Juba regions) or by drought (Gedo region), the first cropping season (Gu) yielded an average harvest.

For the second cropping season, the Deyr, which lasts from September to February, the ICRC focused its assistance on 50,000 farming families who had only recently returned to their land, or who had been affected by floods, drought or banditry.

Throughout its 1993 seed and tool distributions, the ICRC was in constant contact with other non-governmental organizations and UN agencies involved in similar work in order to coordinate agricultural rehabilitation and development activities.

Special attention was given to the most vulnerable ethnic groups such as the Bantu and the Bajuni, who depend on fishing for their survival. Sea and river fishing tackle for 40,000 families was distributed to these communities, who live near rivers and in coastal areas. At the end of 1993 the ICRC started distributing fishing tackle for a further 55,000 families.

Unless the situation changes greatly, the 1993 Deyr seed and tool distribution will be the last of its kind in Somalia.

**Veterinary programme**

The ICRC veterinary programme, in operation since 1992, was designed to maintain the Somali livestock owners’ self-sufficiency.
Between September 1992 and December 1993, almost 10 million sheep, goats, cows and camels were checked over by 23 ICRC veterinary teams, and nearly 5 million animals were treated for endo-ecto parasites and trypanosomiasis and/or vaccinated against rinderpest and other diseases.

The main objective of the emergency programme was attained by the end of 1993. Livestock owners, traders and veterinary surgeons confirmed that the programme had beneficial results on the health of the animals. These results contributed to a rise in export livestock value, leading to an improved economic situation for the herdsmen.

During the year the ICRC was at the forefront of a nationwide programme to establish private veterinary practices and a commercial drug distribution network throughout Somalia. Renowned pharmaceutical companies were persuaded to re-establish the drug distribution network throughout Somalia with Somali vets and businessmen. The ICRC, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations willing to take over its programme, provided the private practices with start-up equipment, drugs and vaccines. Plans were made for a two-year training programme for Somali veterinary assistants.

Dissemination

Numerous information and training sessions were held throughout the year to promote understanding of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Movement. Emphasis was placed on special courses for Somali Red Crescent and ICRC staff to make each participant a capable relay for dissemination messages. Other sessions were held with clan elders and local authorities, as well as United Nations forces, with the aim of improving general understanding of the ICRC’s work and thus making it easier to carry out.

During the year a wide variety of dissemination materials was produced in order to ensure that wherever the ICRC or the National Society was active, the special meaning of Red Cross/Red Crescent work was passed on. The permanent dissemination potential of posters was particularly exploited in this respect and a series of large-format and smaller designs created by Somali artists was printed, with various messages for dissemination purposes. As many as 16,000 posters were distributed through 25 ICRC sub-delegations and National Society branches, while the agro-vet teams distributed the posters in rural areas. This same distribution network was used for 20,000 pocket calendars produced along the same lines as the posters. In North and South Mogadishu 40 sites were used for large wall paintings by local artists containing simple messages on the ICRC and Somali Red Crescent.

Other items made for dissemination purposes included 20,000 leaflets with messages and photographs, 20,000 code of conduct booklets intended for all armed men, 5,000 first aid triangles with dissemination messages printed on them, 20,000 checkpoint leaflets for foreign troops, 3,000 T-shirts for the National
After ten years of internal armed conflict in southern Sudan, fighting continued in 1993 between government forces and the Garang faction of the SPLA*, as well as between the different opposition factions (SPLA-Garang and SPLA-Riek).

As a result of this warfare the country continued to face immeasurable problems. Irreparable damage was caused to the nation’s infrastructure and in terms of human suffering the situation was catastrophic. Hundreds of thousands of displaced people were left totally destitute, without land or livestock.

On 21 March 1993, after almost a year of absence from southern Sudan, the ICRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sudanese government, stipulating that the ICRC could have access to all victims of the conflict. On 22 March the ICRC submitted an initial plan of action which was approved by all the parties to the conflict on 20 April. The ICRC was finally able to carry out a series of surveys in May, after which a consolidated plan of action was presented to the Sudanese government and the SPLA factions.

The ICRC obtained no response to its flight plan for June from the Sudanese authorities. Only in July was the institution able to start its activities. At the beginning of September the ICRC also received authorization to reopen its sub-delegation in the provincial capital Juba and recommence its humanitarian activities there.

As of July operations out of Khartoum and Kenya were grouped under the sole responsibility of the ICRC delegation in Khartoum.

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*Sudanese People’s Liberation Army.
Assistance for the civilian population

The first step taken by the delegation was to carry out a number of surveys to identify needs in zones controlled by the government, the SPLA-Garang faction and the SPLA-Riek faction. From 10-28 May delegates visited Juba, Kongor, Ayod, Torit, Kajo Kaji, Nasir, Ulang, Kapoeta, Waat, Lafon, Malakal and Bor. Nutritional conditions varied substantially: in certain regions they were found to be satisfactory, whereas in others the population was in dire need of food. There was an acute lack of medical care and equipment in all areas and often no possibility for the people to break away from dependence on outside aid.

After completing these surveys the ICRC drew up a plan of action. As the UN relief operation in southern Sudan, “Operation Lifeline Sudan”, remained the main purveyor of food aid in southern Sudan, the ICRC focused its relief activities on providing the affected population with a means of regaining their self-sufficiency. Seed, agricultural tools and fishing tackle were to be supplied to those hardest hit by the conflict. These programmes were unfortunately at a standstill in June for want of the necessary flight authorizations.

Activities were resumed in July and further surveys were carried out in other areas. The first consignments of assistance consisted of mosquito nets, plastic sheeting, blankets, fishing tackle, medical supplies and medicines for distribution. As of 13 August the authorization to use an additional DC3 allowed for the transport and distribution of seed (sorghum, beans and vegetables) and agricultural tools.

During the second half of August a nutritionist and agronomist carried out a mission to Sudan to evaluate the emergency rehabilitation programmes and determine how they should progress.

During the second sowing season the agricultural programme was held up by a number of problems, such as the flooding of airstrips and delays in receiving the necessary flight authorizations. To compensate, and in view of the prolonged rainy season, the ICRC continued its seed distribution programme for a longer period than planned. With the end of the rainy season the ICRC’s programme of seed and tool distributions was concluded.

Following a survey in Malakal at the end of September, a special emergency relief programme was set up to assist the displaced people there, who were found to be living in particularly precarious conditions. The programme included the establishment of two therapeutic feeding centres.

From October the ICRC concentrated its efforts on regions most affected by violence and in greatest need of emergency assistance. Distributions of fishing tackle and mosquito netting, which had been started in July, continued on through to the end of the year. The fishing tackle in particular had a very positive impact on the lives of civilians affected by the conflict, who thus had access to a source of protein and could enjoy a more balanced diet.
In all, some 170 tonnes of seed and agricultural equipment were distributed to 400,000 people in 1993, while 10 tonnes of fishing tackle and 30 tonnes (288,000 sq.m) of mosquito netting were distributed to some 350,000 people.

Over the year the ICRC established contacts with non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies in southern Sudan to coordinate agricultural activities in the region and avoid duplication of relief operations.

Medical and sanitation activities

Although other ICRC operations did not resume until later in the year, medical assistance for the victims of the ongoing conflict never ceased.

The ICRC’s war-surgery hospital at Lokichokio in north-western Kenya received casualties from the conflict in southern Sudan all year round. The number of in-patients reached an all-time high of 320 in August. As of July direct ICRC flights from southern Sudan brought the wounded to Lokichokio. Before that, the wounded were flown out by other agencies operating in southern Sudan or by ICRC flights from northern Uganda, where a number of war casualties had sought refuge. Other casualties arrived at Lokichokio by their own means.

From 6 September on, the ICRC was authorized to re-establish its permanent presence in Juba and was able to go ahead with the first stage of its programme there, namely rehabilitation of the surgical wing of the provincial hospital. The ICRC also provided it with medical supplies and equipment, the ultimate aim being to transform it into a referral hospital.

In addition to the above activities the ICRC provided medical supplies to functioning health-care facilities in 47 different places throughout southern Sudan, in government and SPLA-controlled areas.

In communities not covered by other organizations because of fighting there or the proximity of such places to the front lines, the ICRC developed a programme to restore disrupted medical facilities. This programme was started in November in the Bor/Kongor area and in three locations in Bahr El Ghazal region—Mayen Abun, Malwak Kon and Nyamlell. Some 20 tonnes of medical supplies were distributed in 30 different health-care facilities.

Over the year the ICRC continued its activities for amputees at the orthopaedic centre in Khartoum and in Lokichokio. The workshop in Kassala was closed in May. In all, the ICRC’s technicians produced 1,052 prostheses and 180 orthoses, and fitted 739 and 158 patients respectively with such devices. They also produced 863 pairs of crutches and carried out 204 major repairs to orthopaedic appliances.

Tracing activities

In 1993 the ICRC’s tracing service gave priority to the restoration of family ties, as countless families were separated as a result of the conflict. By the end of
the year 21 tracing sub-offices had been set up in Sudan, both in government and SPLA-controlled areas. Tracing work was carried out for displaced people in Sudan itself as well as for Sudanese refugees in camps in Uganda, northern Zaire, the Central African Republic, Kenya and Ethiopia, and numerous Red Cross messages were exchanged. A training programme was also set up for branches of the Sudanese Red Crescent in areas with no ICRC presence.

Activities for detainees

For the first time since April 1992 the ICRC was able to visit detainees in Sudan. On 4 July the ICRC saw three officers of the Sudanese army who were detained by the SPLA-Garang faction. They were later released. Having received authorization to visit all detainees held by the SPLA-Garang faction, from 16 to 18 October an ICRC team from Lokichokio visited 182 detainees (mainly members of the Sudanese armed forces). Blankets, mosquito nets, food and clothing were distributed during a second visit which took place in early November. Detainees were able to write Red Cross messages to their families and delegates distributed messages sent from their families.

Cooperation with the National Society

The ICRC continued its support to the four branches of the Sudanese Red Crescent in southern Sudan by contributing to their running costs, organizing a number of training and dissemination courses and developing assistance and rehabilitation programmes. It also provided the National Society's Juba branch with food for distribution to vulnerable groups, including hospital patients, orphans, the sick and the disabled.

In addition, the Sudanese Red Crescent in Khartoum received ICRC support, including cooking pots, blankets and food for distribution to displaced people at the reception centre in Omdurman. All year round the ICRC and the National Society cooperated to provide over 30,000 displaced people living in a camp on the outskirts of Khartoum with a daily supply of drinking water.

The joint Sudanese Red Crescent/ICRC programme to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles was continued throughout the year in the parts of the country where there was no fighting.

UGANDA

The political landscape of Uganda changed in 1993. Rebel groups such as the UPA* in eastern Uganda and the NALU** in the Ruwenzori mountains in the west apparently all but disappeared after the deaths of their leaders in June and August respectively. In November a surrender package was negotiated

* Uganda People's Army.
** National Army for the Liberation of Uganda.
between high-ranking government officials and rebel commanders of the LRA* (formerly the “Holy Spirit” movement) operating in the Gulu and Kitgum districts of northern Uganda; an unofficial cease-fire followed.

While the nation’s rebel groups were laying down their arms, some 25,000 of the government’s 45,000 NRA** forces were demobilized. A general rise in banditry – a common problem in post-conflict periods – ensued.

In the meantime, the Uganda Constitutional Commission presented the draft constitution to President Museveni and elections for the future Constituent Assembly were rescheduled for 28 March 1994.

On balance the situation in Uganda continued to stabilize considerably in 1993. The release of security detainees, moves towards greater democracy and a relatively buoyant economy supported by Western donor governments were positive achievements, and diverted attention from the problems encountered with the demobilization of tens of thousands of combatants.

ICRC detention-related activities steadily diminished and it became possible to hand over many programmes to the National Society (see below). The ICRC therefore reduced its permanent presence in Uganda at the end of the year to only two expatriates based at the Kampala office, which henceforth came under the regional delegation in Nairobi.

Activities for detainees

New efforts to speed up judicial procedure in the country with a view to releasing people with no official charges against them meant that the number of people held for security reasons continued to drop in 1993. A presidential pardon initiated by the Commissioner of Prisons led to the release of 785 inmates. Thus only 99 detainees within the ICRC’s mandate were still behind bars at the end of 1993, as compared with 2,232 in July 1992. During the year ICRC delegates carried out 38 visits in 18 places of detention, including state prisons, police stations and military barracks.

The ICRC delegation in Kampala pursued its efforts to obtain access to NRA soldiers detained in military barracks. The issue of NRA soldiers in custody but not yet sentenced, to whom the ICRC had no access without witnesses, was discussed with the NRA commander in June. Twenty-two NRA officers were later released from Makindye and Lubiri military barracks after treason charges against them were withdrawn.

As in previous years, and in keeping with customary ICRC procedure, ICRC medical staff accompanied delegates on visits to places of detention, in order to check the health of detainees. Water and sanitation programmes continued, with improvements made by the ICRC and the Uganda Prison Services in three state

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* Lord Resistance Army.
** National Resistance Army.
prisons. The ICRC also provided the Ugandan Prison Services with some basic items including soap, cleaning products, blankets and leisure equipment such as footballs, in particular for Gulu and Lira prisons.

**Tracing activities**

Tracing work at the Kampala delegation centred on the exchange of Red Cross messages between Sudanese refugees in the north of Zaire and Rwandese refugees in southern Uganda and their families back home.

At the end of June all tracing activities, except missions into Zaire and confidential detention files, were handed over to the newly created tracing office of the Uganda Red Cross Society. In 1993, 187 people were successfully traced and 29,202 Red Cross messages were handled.

**Medical activities**

After heavy fighting recurred in the border area of Western Equatoria (southern Sudan) in February, a growing number of war casualties arrived in Uganda. The delegation in Kampala helped to transfer the seriously wounded to the ICRC's surgical hospital at Lokichokio in north-western Kenya: over the year 84 war casualties were taken from Arua in north-western Uganda to Lokichokio. Some 1,700 kg of medicine and other medical supplies were also flown in by the ICRC from Lokichokio to Arua to provide first aid for the wounded.

**Relief activities**

In the first half of the year the delegation organized the necessary logistics to ensure regular supplies for the ICRC's emergency food programme in Rwanda. Some 18,000 tonnes of food were purchased in Uganda and sent on to Rwanda in 1993.

Small-scale non-food relief distributions were also carried out in northern Uganda for victims of the renewed fighting in Sudan.

**Dissemination**

The ICRC's mobile dissemination units toured much of Uganda, reaching over 30,000 people with information about international humanitarian law and basic humanitarian principles. Target audiences included Uganda Red Cross staff and volunteers, local authorities, teachers, students, police, local defence units, medical personnel and prison staff.

The ICRC delegation in Kampala also held dissemination sessions for the officers of the Ugandan contingent placed at the UN's disposal and for the UNOMUR* forces based on the Uganda/Rwanda border.

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In 1993 the government of Uganda for the first time organized human rights workshops for senior officials of the army, police and prison services. The ICRC delegation was invited to give an introductory course on international humanitarian law at these workshops.

Cooperation with the National Society

Over the year the ICRC gradually transferred responsibility for a growing number of its activities to the Uganda Red Cross. In passing on its tracing activities and two mobile dissemination units the ICRC handed over a variety of material to the National Society, including vehicles, audio-visual equipment and office supplies. In addition the ICRC gave its remaining relief stocks to the National Society for its disaster preparedness programme.

NAIROBI
Regional delegation
(Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania)

In 1993 the regional delegation in Nairobi provided a number of services for major ICRC operations in East Africa, notably in Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda and Burundi. It planned the veterinary and agricultural programmes, water and sanitation projects, telecommunications, dissemination activities, tracing work and information/press service. The respective specialists carried out a number of missions to the countries concerned to perform surveys, set up emergency programmes and help resident ICRC delegations solve specific problems. The Nairobi regional delegation also organized the dispatch of medical and relief supplies for ICRC operations throughout the Horn of Africa. This regional pool of services enabled the ICRC to have the flexibility and rapidity necessary to respond to operational needs in the region.

COMOROS

During the year the regional delegate carried out two missions to the Comoros, where he met the country’s authorities and requested authorization for ICRC visits to a number of people detained in connection with the abortive coup of September 1992. Discussions on this matter were still going on at the end of the year.
DJIBOUTI

Following the withdrawal at the end of 1992 of the French military from parts of Djibouti controlled by the FRUD* movement, the ICRC stepped up its activities in Djibouti in 1993, particularly in the north of the country, which was affected by internal armed conflict.

A permanent ICRC presence, consisting of one doctor, one nurse and one delegate, was established in March in Assa Gueyla, where a rural hospital was set up to care for the sick and wounded. In addition, a flying surgical team was sent for one week in March to treat 90 wounded people, following a particularly heavy bout of fighting. In all, some 100 surgical operations were carried out and 2,000 out-patients treated. In agreement with the parties to the conflict the ICRC evacuated serious cases to the government-controlled town of Djibouti for more sophisticated medical care. In all, 51 people were evacuated to Djibouti for medical or surgical treatment and subsequently transported back to Assa Gueyla. Furthermore, the ICRC provided 11 dispensaries in northern Djibouti with basic drugs.

At the beginning of July government forces launched a military offensive, retaking control over the northern part of the country. As a result of this new situation, the ICRC withdrew its team from Assa Gueyla and discontinued its medical programme in the previously FRUD-controlled zone.

Nevertheless, the ICRC still carried out its protection activities, acting as a neutral intermediary for the simultaneous release of detainees by both sides. On 1 December the Djibouti government released 68 detainees and the FRUD released 28 under ICRC auspices. The institution subsequently organized transport for those freed. Before these releases the ICRC had been regularly visiting people detained by the government for state security offences, and from July on made numerous requests to the FRUD for renewed access to detainees held by it. In total, the ICRC visited 148 detainees in 1993, and gave them the possibility to write Red Cross messages to their relatives.

KENYA

Kenya’s economic difficulties were exacerbated in 1993 by the instability in the north-east of the country caused by the presence of over 350,000 Somali refugees, and by an upsurge of tribal violence between the Kalenjin and the Kikuyu in the Rift Valley of western Kenya. Some groups of civilians displaced by these tribal clashes were assisted by the Kenya Red Cross Society, with ICRC material support.

* Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy.
Over the year the National Society and the ICRC carried out tracing activities for Somali refugees in Kenya. In February the Secretary-General of the Kenya Red Cross and the ICRC's regional delegate signed a development programme agreement on tracing matters, thus cementing the institutions’ cooperation in this respect.

In 1993 the ICRC continued its efforts to promote knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law. Over the year its delegate to the armed forces in Africa, based in Nairobi, carried out a number of missions to African countries, holding seminars and workshops on international humanitarian law for a total of 474 senior officers of the respective armed forces of 17 countries. The ultimate aim is to have the teaching of the law introduced as an integral part of military training across the continent. From 6 to 10 December a major workshop was held jointly by the ICRC and the OAU* on international humanitarian law for the armed forces of OAU member States. Forty-three countries were represented.

MADAGASCAR

At a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Justice of Madagascar in September the ICRC was informed that it was authorized to visit militants of the federalist movement detained for state security offences. These visits took place from 28 October to 5 November, during which the ICRC visited 86 detainees.

In July the government of Madagascar acceded to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and in August recognized the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.

TANZANIA

From 18 to 19 August a delegate based in Nairobi went to Zanzibar, where he met the National Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Tanzania Red Cross National Society and the head of the local Red Cross branch. In conjunction with these National Society representatives the delegate organized a dissemination session for 34 members of the local government. The event was covered by national television and radio.

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* Organization of African Unity.
A mother and child at the Provincial Hospital of Mongkol Borei, Cambodia, which is actively supported by the ICRC.
Indian sub-continent and Myanmar

ICRC delegations:
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Sri Lanka

ICRC regional delegation:
New Delhi

South East Asia

ICRC delegation:
Cambodia

ICRC regional delegation:
Bangkok

Far East

ICRC regional delegations:
Hong Kong, Jakarta, Manila

Staff
ICRC expatriates*: 168
National Societies*: 34
Local employees**: 1,642

Total expenditure
CHF 56,895,164

Expenditure breakdown CHF
Protection/Tracing: 15,138,248
Relief: 2,462,673
Medical assistance: 22,078,936
Cooperation with National Societies: 243,029
Dissemination: 1,491,056
Operational support: 12,265,764
Overheads: 3,215,458

* Average numbers calculated on an annual basis.
** Under ICRC contract, as at December 1993.
Afghanistan was certainly the main trouble spot in Asia in 1993. The situation in Kashmir and Sri Lanka also gave the ICRC cause for grave concern.

As Afghanistan descended further into total chaos, the ICRC continued to concentrate on the enormous medical needs. For the first time since the change of government in Kabul, the ICRC had access to detainees in prisons run by the Department of National Security, as well as prisoners held by various mujaheddin groups.

The ICRC’s main office in Pakistan moved from Peshawar to Islamabad. However, instability in some of the Afghan provinces made it impossible for the ICRC to transfer all of its activities on the border onto Afghan soil as planned. The Quetta hospital remained one of the only surgical facilities serving the needs of the wounded in the south-western part of Afghanistan.

The ICRC redoubled its efforts to gain access to the victims of the unrest in Kashmir. While the Indian government remained hesitant about authorizing visits to security detainees, it accepted the principle of dissemination of international humanitarian law to the paramilitary forces operating in Kashmir and negotiations were still going on to obtain ICRC access to the valley.

The situation remained much the same for the ICRC in Sri Lanka. After an initial lull in the fighting, the year came to a murderous end with attacks by both the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the north of the country. The ICRC reoriented its detention-related activities following changes in the Emergency Regulations, the closure of some of the detention camps, the decline in the numbers of JVP detainees and the increase in the number of arrests of LTTE suspects in the Colombo area. The ICRC continued to protect the transport of mainly government supplies for the civilian population in conflict zones in the north.

Elections in Cambodia in May set the seal on the peace process begun in October 1991. The ongoing conflict with the Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge) faction, however, meant that there were still considerable needs for ICRC assistance. For the first time the ICRC had access from within Cambodia to areas controlled by Democratic Kampuchea. Meanwhile, certain parts of its medical operation were progressively handed over to other organizations.

There were some other developments for the ICRC in Asia in 1993. The Chinese government publicly indicated its willingness to resume discussions with the institution concerning visits to security detainees. In Myanmar, a dissemination programme for the armed forces got under
way for the first time, but ongoing negotiations to gain access to security detainees did not bring any tangible results.

The ICRC restructured some of its delegations in Asia and the Pacific following developments in the area. The beginning of the peace process in the Philippines meant that the delegation there could be transformed into a regional delegation covering the whole Pacific region. The regional delegation in Suva, Fiji, became a local office. The repatriation of all Cambodian refugees from Thailand and the phasing out of ICRC activities on the Thai-Cambodian border also meant that the delegation in Bangkok could become a regional delegation serving Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam. The regional delegation in Hanoi was therefore transferred, but the orthopaedic centre in Ho Chi Minh City remained operational.

At the end of 1993 the ICRC ceased to finance the Tracing and Mailing Services (TMS) for Vietnamese boat people set up in 1979 in partnership with the National Societies of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand and the Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross. For 15 years the service was coordinated by the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency in Geneva and carried out by the National Societies in the countries concerned.

In all the countries where it was active the ICRC consolidated relations with the National Societies and the authorities and encouraged the ratification of the Additional Protocols by those countries that had not already done so. ICRC delegations and National Societies throughout Asia and the Pacific took active part in the worldwide campaign to raise awareness of the issues underlying the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims held in Geneva at the end of August.
The armed conflict in Afghanistan persisted throughout the year, characterized by a general atmosphere of uncertainty and lack of stability. As the year progressed the situation developed into a stalemate on both the political and military fronts, with none of the main parties or factions vying for power in Kabul able to gain the upper hand. Two successive agreements between the main parties did not lead to any real peace.

The capital, carved up into fiefdoms controlled by different factions, continued to be a focal point of discord. Through regular contacts with the highest authorities and representatives of all the parties, as well as with local commanders, the ICRC was able to move freely about the city, crossing front lines to bring assistance to medical structures and evacuate the wounded.

Control of some of the provinces was also violently disputed by rival groups. Fighting was particularly heavy in March-April and in August in Kandahar, in the south-western part of the country. The Nangarhar province, long considered to be calm and stable, was nevertheless affected by fighting in September. The situation on the northern border with Tajikistan was also a cause for concern; thousands of Tajiks sought refuge in Afghanistan and sporadic border clashes occurred.

**AFGHANISTAN**

Two major battles ravaged Kabul in February and May 1993. In May, according to ICRC estimates, more than 1,000 people lost their lives in 11 days of violent fighting. Despite indiscriminate bombing, the hospitals were able to function and admitted over 6,500 wounded. In addition to medical assistance, delegates distributed relief in the form of blankets, mattresses, provisions and fuel and evacuated the wounded to hospitals when security conditions allowed. Many wounded from Kabul's suburbs were also evacuated to the Jalalabad hospital.

**IN 1993, THE ICRC:**

- recorded 13,945 admissions, 9,283 of which were war-wounded, at ICRC-supported hospitals in Kabul and Jalalabad, which carried out 21,020 surgical operations and 83,549 out-patient consultations;
- treated 1,462 patients, performed 3,159 surgical operations and treated 2,992 out-patient cases at its hospital in Quetta (Pakistan);
- fitted 1,445 new patients with orthopaedic appliances and produced 1,921 prostheses.
On several occasions during the bouts of violent fighting in Kabul, the ICRC-assisted Karte Seh and Wazir Akbar Khan hospitals came under fire, resulting in the death or injury of civilians and damage to the installations. The delegation made written protests to the highest authorities and reminded all sides involved in the fighting of their obligation under international humanitarian law to respect medical installations and spare the lives of civilians.

On 9 July the new Afghan Minister of Foreign Affairs was received in Geneva by the ICRC President, the Vice-President and the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific. The Minister thanked the ICRC for its commitment in Afghanistan, particularly since the change of government. For its part the ICRC stressed the necessity for all the parties to respect the red cross emblem and medical facilities and requested the support of the Minister in resuming its activities on behalf of detainees in the hands of all the parties concerned.

Delegates undertook various missions to the provinces in the course of the year. A first survey was carried out in Kunduz in north-eastern Afghanistan in early 1993. An ICRC team evaluated the situation of large numbers of refugees who had fled the hostilities in neighbouring Tajikistan (see also under Tajikistan). Contact was taken up with the various humanitarian organizations present in the area, such as United Nations agencies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS).

In March the medical coordinator and a delegate went to Pul-i-Khumri to evaluate the situation of around 10,000 displaced people who had fled Kabul during the fighting. They distributed supplies to dispensaries providing medical care for the displaced people.

Between August and September the ICRC carried out three missions to the north-eastern provinces to assess medical needs and gauge the impact of the fighting along the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border. First, delegates returned to Kunduz where they found the situation to be calm. The main concern there was the situation of the 40,000 Tajik refugees who had been left to fend for themselves with the aid of the local Afghan community. The second evaluation mission was to Faizabad, in Badakhshan province, and the third to Taloqan in Takhar province, where 8,000 Tajik refugees were living without need of outside assistance. In the course of these missions delegates provided several medical facilities with substantial amounts of surgical and other medical supplies, including medicines for the treatment of cholera.

Fierce fighting broke out at the beginning of November in the Tagab valley, north of the town of Sarobi. Dozens of people died and many fled the area in the direction of Jalalabad and Pakistan. An ICRC team went to Sarobi several times, distributed medical assistance to the clinic which had received an influx of patients and evacuated a number of war-wounded, some of whom were transferred to Jalalabad and others to Kabul.
Also in November clashes erupted around the town of Shir Khan Bandar. The ICRC immediately dispatched a team to the Kunduz province to assess the situation. During this mission the delegates visited captured combatants.

To keep check on the situation in south-western Afghanistan, especially in the region of Kandahar, which was particularly hard hit by the conflict, delegates continued to make every effort to find a safe way to reach the province.

The ICRC maintained its delegation in Kabul, open since 1987, and offices in Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif.

Activities for detainees

The ICRC regularly approached the parties and detaining authorities in Kabul, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif and Jalalabad to discuss access to detainees. At the end of April the Head of the Department of National Security accepted the principle of ICRC visits to people detained by the government in Kabul.

The visits started in September, and by the end of the year the ICRC had visited 56 detainees in two places of detention in Kabul. The visits enabled detainees to re-establish contact with their families. Some material assistance was distributed at the end of the visits.

In addition, 89 prisoners in the hands of various parties were visited in accordance with standard ICRC procedures. The majority consisted of combatants captured by the warring parties during fighting around Shir Khan Bandar. They were visited in November and December in Kunduz and Mazar-i-Sharif.

Delegates continued to visit three ex-Soviet soldiers held in the north until their release on 19 September. Two other ex-Soviet soldiers were released in early March. A group of 12 wounded prisoners was handed over to the delegation by the Hezb-i-Islami in January; on 29 May and 6 June the Hezb-i-Wahdat party released three groups of prisoners (a total of 19 people) and handed them over to ICRC delegates.

Medical assistance

The periodic battles in Kabul resulted in thousands of casualties. Coping with the large numbers of wounded presented a major challenge for the ICRC, accentuated by the severe constraints linked to the ethnic nature of the conflict and the fact that medical facilities themselves had not always been spared. Yet, despite the risks and difficulties, delegates managed to distribute medical assistance to health facilities treating the wounded in the capital and elsewhere. They were also frequently called upon to evacuate the wounded to hospitals across front lines.

In mid-July certain areas of Kabul were struck by an outbreak of gastro-enteritis and in some cases cholera, the spread of which was accelerated by the poor state of the water mains and sewage system, as well as the living conditions
of displaced people. Similar problems developed in Pul-i-Khumri, Kunduz and Mazar-i-Sharif in the north-east, and later in and around Herat. The ICRC helped the Ministry of Public Health to overcome the crisis and provided the main medical facilities in the affected areas with much-needed intravenous fluids.

The ICRC organized weekly convoys carrying medical supplies from Peshawar to Kabul via Jalalabad. When four UN workers were killed in January on their way from the Pakistan border to Jalalabad, the ICRC stopped using that route, switching to air transport and private transport firms instead. As of May, such convoys became possible again. Trucks setting out for Kabul from Jalalabad were put under ICRC protection and accompanied by a delegate.

In 1993 an ICRC-chartered aircraft made 214 flights from Peshawar to the four ICRC offices in Afghanistan, carrying 106,719 kg of medical and other supplies. ICRC road convoys from Peshawar transported 447,101 kg of medical supplies to Kabul and 247,711 kg to Jalalabad.

**ICRC-assisted hospitals in Kabul**

Throughout the year and in particular during the fighting in Kabul, the ICRC gave substantial support to the Karte Seh hospital (in the south-west of Kabul) and the Wazir Akbar Khan hospital (in the city centre) by providing medical supplies, food, fuel and transport and funding employees’ allowances. At the end of 1993 the ICRC renewed its standing agreement with the Ministry of Public Health to assist these two hospitals, since the Ministry was still not in a position to assume full financial and administrative responsibility for them.

The ICRC’s former surgical hospital in Karte Seh regularly treated numbers of patients exceeding its 280-bed capacity, and the five local surgeons were able to handle the situation without major difficulties.

The delegation distributed emergency medical supplies to eight other hospitals and medical facilities in the capital, and to nine clinics outside Kabul.

**Jalalabad Public Health Hospital**

The ICRC carried on with the reconstruction and reorganization of the surgical department of the Jalalabad Public Health Hospital, begun at the end of September 1992, as well as the training of its staff in war surgery. As the hospital’s badly damaged and neglected buildings were restored to working order, many patients could be admitted who would otherwise have been evacuated to Peshawar. By June 1993 the number of operations being carried out by the surgical department had increased sevenfold. Ninety per cent of these were performed entirely by the Afghan staff, the expatriate team merely acting as advisers. At the beginning of September the ICRC withdrew its expatriate surgical team, leaving a medical administrator and two ward nurses. During an outbreak of fighting in Jalalabad itself in September, the hospital proved to be functional and coped well with the increased workload. Repair work on the hospital was completed at the end of the year.
The hospital received war casualties and other patients requiring general surgery from several provinces - Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman and Logar - and the Sarobi district of Kabul province, as well as some of the overflow of patients from Kabul itself.

Another 15 medical facilities in Laghman, Logar and Nangarhar provinces received ICRC assistance on a regular basis.

**Other medical facilities**

The ICRC provided three clinics in Mazar-i-Sharif with monthly supplies for their out-patient consultations and kept medical stocks in Pul-i-Khumri that were managed and distributed by an ICRC nurse. The clinics were mainly visited by displaced people who had fled the fighting in Kabul and had gathered in and around Mazar-i-Sharif and at Pul-i-Khumri. An ICRC nurse based in Mazar-i-Sharif provided medical assistance to local hospitals according to need.

Following the clashes along the border with Tajikistan, three surveys were carried out in the north-eastern provinces. Medicines and war-surgery material were distributed. Supplies were also sent to Kandahar through the Ministry of Public Health.

**First-aid posts**

The ICRC first-aid posts at Mir Bachakot and Sheikhabad continued to act as clearing centres for the transfer of wounded to hospitals in Kabul. In 1993 medical staff at the two posts treated 3,900 out-patients and evacuated 780 war-wounded, usually across front lines.

**Orthopaedic programme**

Security conditions made it impossible for the Ali Abad orthopaedic centre in Kabul (the ICRC's largest orthopaedic project worldwide) to resume production of artificial limbs for amputees. Heavy fighting in the neighbourhood early in the year prompted the ICRC to move most of the equipment from the centre closer to the delegation. This turned out to be a fortunate decision, as the centre was seriously damaged by rockets in May. The production unit resumed its activities in the new premises and manufactured orthopaedic components and crutches for the workshops in Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat. However, in view of the immense needs of the disabled, the ICRC decided to install a temporary workshop for the manufacture of prostheses within the compound of the Wazir Akbar Khan hospital and production of a small number of prostheses (mainly for children, women and double amputees) began before the workshop had been completed. By November this provisional centre was capable of handling up to 50 amputees a month.

The ICRC set up regular cooperation programmes with other organizations working in the same field: the Disabled Afghan Project (DAP) in Taloqan (Takhar) was supplied monthly, for instance, with artificial feet and knees, as well as with
raw materials. In addition, the production of crutches and wheelchairs for hospitals and dispensaries went well.

In Mazar-i-Sharif production continued apace, meeting the needs not only in the town itself but also in surrounding villages and the northern provinces.

The ICRC’s orthopaedic centre in Herat was officially inaugurated on 21 June but had already begun fitting patients in January. The centre consists of workshops for the manufacture of artificial limbs, physiotherapy rooms, refectories, a kitchen and dormitories. By the second half of the year production had reached a steady rhythm. Amputees from the western and south-western provinces of Afghanistan were treated at the centre.

Tracing activities

For most of the year the ICRC’s tracing activities were limited to the occasional delivery of Red Cross messages from abroad. After visits to places of detention resumed in September the tracing agency kept track of registered detainees and forwarded a number of Red Cross messages between the detainees and their families. In 1993 a total of 191 Red Cross messages were collected and 171 distributed.

Cooperation with the Federation and the National Society

An ICRC field nurse took over monitoring the ARCS dispensaries supported by the Federation, which withdrew from Kabul in February when security conditions deteriorated sharply. The ICRC’s delegation in Mazar-i-Sharif also provided medical supplies to the local branches of the ARCS in the northern provinces.

After several thousand people fled Kabul and other towns affected by the fighting, the ICRC gave support to the ARCS in its assistance programmes for the displaced. When torrential rain set off landslides in Kabul in June, the ICRC, together with the ARCS, distributed food and blankets to the survivors.

From April on the ICRC provided material assistance (food, clothing, medical supplies) to the Marastoon psychiatric hospital run by the ARCS. At the beginning of November, at the request of the ARCS, the ICRC evacuated the female patients for security reasons to a rented building in the centre of town. Meanwhile the ICRC financed repairs to the Marastoon hospital so that it would be in a fit state for the winter.

The ICRC also gave direct assistance to the National Society by financing repairs to its headquarters and maintenance of its fleet of vehicles.

Dissemination

Military and medical personnel and civilians took part in dissemination sessions presenting the ICRC’s activities in Afghanistan and the various components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
PAKISTAN

The ICRC’s delegation in Islamabad was officially installed at the beginning of March, with the aim of strengthening contacts with the government of Pakistan, as well as with embassies and international organizations based in Islamabad. In the course of its work it also approached the Pakistan authorities with a view to setting up a dissemination programme for the armed forces.

The delegation continued to provide vital support for the ICRC’s activities in connection with the Afghan conflict. The ICRC maintained a sub-delegation in Peshawar, essentially a logistics base for the organization of regular convoys carrying medical supplies for Jalalabad and Kabul. The activities of the sub-delegation in Quetta were mainly linked to the surgical hospital treating war-wounded from south-western Afghanistan.

Activities for detainees

In 1993 delegates carried out two series of visits to 94 Afghan nationals detained by the Pakistan authorities. They collected messages from them for their families and distributed the replies.

Medical assistance

During 1993 the ICRC gradually transferred some of its medical activities onto Afghan soil. The move was prompted by the return of tens of thousands of refugees from Pakistan and the opening up of opportunities to develop assistance programmes for Afghan hospitals treating war-wounded, such as the one in Jalalabad.

ICRC hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta

The reconstruction of the Jalalabad Public Health Hospital and the training of its staff in war surgery increased the hospital’s capacity and the efficiency of its medical services. As the number of wounded admitted to the ICRC-assisted hospital in Jalalabad rose, the number of admissions to the Peshawar hospital decreased accordingly. The 390-bed Peshawar hospital therefore stopped taking in new patients as of 1 March and was closed shortly afterwards, after 12 years of activity. Most of the medical equipment was transferred to the Jalalabad hospital.

The prevailing insecurity in Kandahar prevented the ICRC from proceeding with a programme similar to the one in Jalalabad, and as a result the ICRC’s hospital in Quetta continued to receive war-wounded from the south-western provinces of Afghanistan. It was therefore decided to keep the Quetta hospital running at least until the end of the year.

In April, after some of the worst fighting in ten years flared in Kandahar, the ICRC had to supplement its medical staff in Quetta with a third surgical team in order to deal with the large influx of wounded reaching the hospital.
First-aid posts

The two first-aid posts run from Peshawar, at Landi Kotal and Basawul, were closed in early March. Given the number of patients still being admitted to the ICRC hospital in Quetta, the ICRC decided to maintain the first-aid post at Chaman.

Orthopaedic programme

The ICRC’s orthopaedic centre in Peshawar stopped taking new patients as of 1 February and closed at the same time as the hospital.

The ICRC continued to provide technical and financial support to the paraplegic centre in Peshawar, managed by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and which is the only establishment of its kind in southern Asia. In all, 499 patients were treated at the centre in 1993, half of them Afghans.

Tracing activities

The tracing agency’s main activity was to follow up on Afghan nationals detained in Pakistan and registered by the ICRC.

The delegation collected and distributed 412 Red Cross messages and handled 12 tracing requests. It also issued 339 travel documents for refugees who had been accepted for resettlement in host countries, in cooperation with UNHCR.

SRI LANKA

There was little in the way of improvement in the armed conflict opposing the government and the LTTE* in the north and east of Sri Lanka in 1993.

The year was marked by the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa on 1 May in a bomb attack that killed 24 people. He was succeeded by Mr Dingiri Banda Wijetunga. The assassination did not lead to any major political upheaval. As part of the government’s drive to ensure better security in Colombo, more than 1,000 Tamils were screened and a number of people arrested. There were, however, fewer arrests registered in connection with the aftermath of the JVP** uprising of 1988-1990 in the centre and south of the island.

The political situation in the north and east of the country remained tense. The army maintained administrative control of the east in anticipation of municipal elections due in the spring of 1994.

On the military front, the first six months of the year were relatively calm, except for a few isolated attacks by the LTTE and army reprisals. Then, on 28 September, government forces launched an offensive on the Jaffna peninsula, reaching Kilali before retreating a week later to their previous position at Elephant

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* Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Tamil opposition.
** Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, Sinhalese opposition.
Pass. During the military operation, the army kept up a sustained shelling of Jaffna town, and the peninsula was put under curfew.

The LTTE attacked an army base in Pooneryn on 10 November, killing, wounding and capturing many of the servicemen stationed there. The army was able to retake the base three days later, but not without heavy loss of life on both sides.

The ICRC acted as neutral intermediary on a number of occasions: during the hunger strike of 39 prisoners in Jaffna; with regard to the handover by the LTTE of the bodies or ashes of soldiers who had fallen in attacks in July, August and November; and during the evacuation of 60 people who wished to leave Mannar mainland.

In addition to its delegation in Colombo, opened in 1989, the ICRC also maintained sub-delegations in Batticaloa and Jaffna, and offices in Amparai, Anuradhapura, Kandy, Mannar, Trincomalee and Vavuniya.

As in the past, the delegation concentrated its activities on visits to detainees throughout the island, the protection of the civilian population, the protection of vessels and road convoys transporting essential items to the north, the protection of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital and the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

Activities for detainees

Delegates continued to visit places of detention across the country, including prisons, detention camps, police stations and military camps. They monitored conditions of detention, focusing their attention on the way detainees were physically and psychologically treated. The delegates also checked on the detainees' state of health and facilitated the exchange of news between them and their families by means of Red Cross messages. When necessary, they accompanied released detainees back to their homes.

Although the number of people arrested by the security forces decreased over the year, the total number of detainees visited by the ICRC remained constant. Many JVP suspects held in detention camps were either released, transferred to rehabilitation camps or sentenced to prison. Activities for these detainees
remained a large part of the ICRC's work, however, since they still amounted to about half of the total population of security detainees visited.

There was a slight decrease in the ICRC's protection activities for people arrested by the security forces in connection with the conflict in the north and east. This was mainly because of the quieter military situation in the Eastern Province. The ICRC pursued its efforts to obtain information rapidly on all people arrested by the security forces and requested unrestricted access to them.

In the second half of the year, delegates paid particular attention to arrests in the Colombo area following large-scale search and control operations among the population. While the majority of those arrested were released after their identity had been established, some were held in detention for further investigation under the Emergency Regulations. Problems arose in getting information on the whereabouts of certain people arrested in this context and in gaining access to them. By the end of the year these problems had still not been solved.

In the east the ICRC continued its visits at much the same frequency as before, concentrating on the treatment of detainees. In particular, delegates kept a close eye on conditions of detention in Batticaloa Prison and visited detainees in STF* camps.

Delegates were also allowed to visit detainees in the hands of the PLOTE** in Vavuniya. Steps were taken to alert the authorities to the problem of the arrest and detention of people by the armed branches of Tamil parties opposed to the LTTE.

The ICRC again repeatedly sought to gain access to all people in the hands of the LTTE. Delegates in Jaffna continued to visit 38 Sinhalese policemen and one soldier held by the group. In June these detainees went on hunger strike in a bid to gain their release. With the agreement of both the government and the LTTE, the ICRC arranged for 78 of their relatives to visit them. Negotiations between a government envoy and LTTE representatives collapsed after the release of six of the detainees.

At the end of March the LTTE allowed an ICRC team to see five Muslim prisoners, who were subsequently handed over to the ICRC and accompanied home by delegates.

The ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary between the government and the LTTE after 12 Indian fishermen were intercepted by the LTTE. ICRC delegates handed them over to the Sri Lankan authorities, who in turn repatriated them to India.

Following an LTTE attack on an army and naval base in Pooneryn in November, the ICRC made repeated requests to have access to all people captured by the group. At the end of December the ICRC was allowed to see 17 members of the Sri Lankan armed forces held by the LTTE, including five being treated at

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* Special Task Force, police unit.
** People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, used as an auxiliary to the Sri Lankan army.
the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. The captives wrote Red Cross messages to their families.

Tracing activities

Working procedures were revised, with the centralization in Colombo of the activities of some local tracing offices and the upgrading of the computer system. Tracing work decreased in the course of the year as a result of the more stable military situation in the east, the introduction by the police and the army of notification of detainees to the ICRC and modifications to the Emergency Regulations. The registration of detainees and the forwarding of Red Cross messages nonetheless remained a major activity for the ICRC. The institution continued to receive tracing requests concerning missing persons, especially in connection with the situation in the north and east of the country and in Colombo.

As in the past, the ICRC accompanied children and elderly people who were transported between Colombo and Jaffna to be reunited with their families. ICRC-protected ships also transported to Colombo patients who were in need of specialized medical care not available in Jaffna. In addition, the delegation issued detention certificates, as well as travel documents.

Activities for the civilian population

Through their presence ICRC delegates provided protection for the civilian population in the conflict zones. Whenever necessary, the ICRC reminded the authorities and the LTTE of their obligation to spare civilians during military offensives. In the last quarter of the year the ICRC reinforced its presence in the northern districts of Mullaittivu and Kilinochchi to improve contact with the local population and to monitor the mobile health teams run by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society.

In the east delegates kept the situation of the civilian population and displaced people under observation and brought any problems concerning their safety or living conditions to the attention of the security forces and the civilian authorities. The ICRC’s role as an independent observer was accepted and delegates’ representations on behalf of the civilian population began to yield results.

Ships sailing under ICRC protection transported government goods to the Jaffna peninsula. While maintaining its ban on the transport of forbidden items to the north, the government provided food and other essentials for the population in Jaffna. In 1993 the ICRC transported by ship and by road convoy a monthly average of 9,500 tonnes of goods supplied by the government to the north of Sri Lanka, as well as medical supplies for the Jaffna hospital.

The shipping of supplies was briefly suspended in late August after an LTTE attack on a naval vessel at Point Pedro at the same time as an ICRC-protected ship was unloading. The ICRC immediately made a written representation to the LTTE and the government, calling for renewed security guarantees. The
operation resumed a week later, after the ICRC had received the necessary guarantees.

Similarly, the ICRC convoyed relief and other essential goods by truck to the northern districts, in particular Kilinochchi and Mullaittivu.

Medical activities

The ICRC’s medical activities included taking part in visits to detainees, acting as a link between the Ministry of Health in Colombo and the Jaffna Teaching Hospital, and supervising the National Society’s eight mobile health teams in the north.

The ICRC continued to protect the Jaffna Teaching Hospital and monitor a safety zone around it, to ensure that in the event of fighting the sick and war-wounded would have access to medical care and that fighting or shelling would not spread to the hospital area.

However, on 8 December, during an artillery attack on Jaffna, a shell exploded within the perimeter of the hospital safety zone, wounding one civilian. The following day, three more shells exploded near the entrance to the hospital, fortunately without causing any casualties. The ICRC head of delegation wrote to the Ministry of Defence to protest against this violation of the safety zone, the third in the space of three months. He demanded an enquiry and insisted that the government renew its pledge to show full respect for the hospital and safety zone.

The ICRC acted as a link between the Jaffna Teaching Hospital and the civilian and military authorities in Colombo in order to ensure that the Ministry of Health made sufficient supplies available to the hospital. These were transported to Jaffna by ICRC-protected ships. Other public health facilities also benefited from the ICRC’s efforts to keep the supply lines open.

The Jaffna Teaching Hospital, with the ICRC’s support and its own two surgical teams well versed in war surgery, was able to provide the Jaffna population with adequate medical care. When there were large influxes of war-wounded in August and December, the ICRC supplied the hospital with medical requisites from its emergency stocks. The ICRC also assisted the local hospital in Anuradhapura.

Cooperation with the National Society

The ICRC supported Sri Lanka Red Cross Society branches in the north-east of the country, including Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Mullaittivu, Trincomalee and Batticaloa, thereby enabling the various branches to respond to some of the needs of displaced people. Assistance took the form of emergency food supplies, kitchen utensils and clothing, the construction and repair of shelters and the cleaning of wells. The ICRC also gave financial support and supplied medicines
to the National Society’s mobile health teams in conflict zones in the north and east of the country where the population did not have access to medical care.

On the basis of an *ad hoc* agreement between the ICRC and the Federation, Red Cross assistance to victims of the conflict outside the conflict zones in Sri Lanka, in particular displaced people, as well as support to the National Society’s activities there, was entrusted to the Federation.

The ICRC played no direct part in the repatriation of refugees from India, which was carried out by UNHCR, but supported the National Society in its programme of emergency assistance for returnees in the first few days after their arrival in Sri Lanka.

**Dissemination**

The ICRC continued its efforts to promote understanding of and respect for international humanitarian law among all the parties involved in the conflict.

Regular courses were held for all levels of the Sri Lankan security forces. Training centres for military and paramilitary forces began integrating international humanitarian law into their training courses for new recruits. The dissemination delegate was able to observe training in progress and visit training centres to plan and discuss programmes. The dissemination programme for operational units was expanded to reach more combatants in the north and east of the country. Furthermore, five high-ranking officers of the Sri Lankan armed forces were invited by the ICRC to participate in seminars on the law of war in Katmandu, San Remo and Geneva.

A special effort was made to increase dissemination to the LTTE and its forces and to make sure that the LTTE incorporated basic notions of international humanitarian law into its training. In April the delegation was able to organize a course for 50 members of the LTTE in Madhu, in the Mannar district in the north-west of the island.

In May delegates held a dissemination session for around 20 members of the TELO.* The main subject covered was the treatment of civilians and detainees under international humanitarian law.

The delegation produced a special edition of the ICRC’s *Rules for Behaviour in Combat* printed in Colombo in the form of a booklet incorporating an ICRC calendar. Eighty thousand copies of the booklet were distributed to combatants on both sides. In addition, the delegation distributed 30,000 Red Cross comics, in Sinhalese and Tamil, as well as 20,000 wall calendars and 90,000 pocket calendars.

In all, the ICRC reached a total of 8,000 combatants (including 2,000 officers) and 500 members of opposition forces through direct dissemination sessions.

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*Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, pro-government Tamil group.*
NEW DELHI
Regional delegation
(Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal)

BANGLADESH

After some violent incidents in 1992, the security situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts improved in 1993. The cease-fire with the Shanti Bahini was extended and the return of Chakmas refugees from Tripura (India) was put on the agenda of talks between the Indian and Bangladesh governments.

The regional delegate carried out a mission to Bangladesh from 16 to 22 May. He visited Rohingya refugee camps and had discussions with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society on various subjects, including cooperation in the fields of tracing and dissemination.

BHUTAN

The groundwork for ICRC visits to security detainees in Bhutan had been laid during a mission by the regional delegate in November 1992. The first visits took place as scheduled in January. On 19 January an ICRC team was granted an audience with King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan, followed by meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Home Affairs and several other government officials. The delegates then visited all people held as “anti-national” detainees in Chamgang and Thimphu prisons.

While in Bhutan, ICRC delegates organized a dissemination seminar on the history and development of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, international humanitarian law and ICRC activities. It was attended by 27 officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Bhutan Army and the Police, a district magistrate and a journalist.

On 29 January the Bhutanese Minister of Foreign Affairs visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva. In April the regional delegate handed over to the Bhutanese Ambassador in New Delhi the report on the first visits conducted in Bhutan.

In May and November the ICRC carried out further visits to “anti-national” detainees. In the course of the three series of visits delegates registered a total of 203 detainees. A mailing system was set up with the assistance of the Nepal Red Cross Society; this made regular correspondence possible between detainees visited by the ICRC in Bhutan and their families living in refugee camps in Nepal (see also Nepal).

In November a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Bhutanese government. Under the terms of the Memorandum, the ICRC was granted regular
access to all “anti-national” detainees in Bhutan, in accordance with its standard procedures for visits.

INDIA

Concern over the unrest in the State of Jammu and Kashmir prompted the ICRC to approach the Indian authorities once again on the subject of ICRC access to the region. The Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific was received by the Indian Minister of Home Affairs and by the Minister of External Affairs on 9 and 10 March. Besides discussing the troubles in Kashmir and the ICRC’s willingness to be of assistance, the Delegate General raised the question of India’s possible ratification of the Additional Protocols with the Minister of External Affairs.

On 6 April the regional delegate handed over to both ministries written proposals for ICRC assistance to the civilian population and dissemination of international humanitarian law among paramilitary forces, and offered the ICRC’s services to visit people arrested in connection with the situation in Kashmir.

During his visit to New Delhi for a press conference on the protection of war victims, the Delegate General met the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Acting Minister of External Affairs on 25 and 26 August. He reminded them of the written offer of services that the ICRC had made in April concerning the situation in Kashmir.

In their reply, the Indian government officials indicated that, for the time being, the ICRC’s request for authorization to assist the civilian population and visit detainees could not be granted. The officials were nonetheless willing to discuss the possibility of cooperating with the ICRC in the dissemination of international humanitarian law among paramilitary forces.

At the time of the siege of the Hazratbal Mosque in Srinagar, the ICRC informed the Ministry of External Affairs on 19 October of its willingness to be of assistance should the need arise. The government replied that the ICRC’s services were not required at that point.

On 17 December the Delegate General undertook another mission to Delhi, where he once again raised the issue of Kashmir with the Ministers of External Affairs and Home Affairs. Some progress was made with regard to a possible ICRC mission to Kashmir to evaluate needs for assistance to the civilian population, although there was still no question of visits to detainees arrested in connection with the events in Kashmir. Meanwhile a programme of dissemination for the paramilitary forces was approved by the authorities and dates were fixed for the beginning of February 1994.

On 11 December the ICRC regional delegate organized a symposium on international humanitarian law and its implementation for law professors at the
Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia. A total of 25 lawyers were present at this first symposium of a series scheduled to take place in India in 1994.

Throughout the year the regional delegation monitored the situation of some 175,000 refugees from Sri Lanka living in some 130 camps in Tamil Nadu, and kept them informed of ICRC activities in their home country.

The ICRC continued to provide tracing services for refugees who had been separated from their families and to issue ICRC travel documents to various refugees temporarily residing in India and accepted for permanent resettlement in third countries.

MYANMAR

Relations between the ICRC and the Myanmar authorities in 1993 were conducive to progress in the orthopaedic and dissemination programmes. Meanwhile, the ICRC kept up its efforts to gain access to security detainees and captured combatants, though without success. The institution also remained watchful for potential humanitarian problems arising from the internal violence in the border areas.

In October the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific met the Minister for Foreign Affairs in New York. On 19 November, during a mission to Myanmar, the regional delegate met the Minister for Home Affairs to discuss the question of ICRC visits to security detainees. A memorandum explaining the ICRC’s general conditions and procedures for visits was handed over at the meeting. In December the Ministry of Home Affairs contacted the ICRC office in Yangon to inform it that the question had been raised by the Minister with members of the SLORC,* but that no response had as yet been given. This was still the case at the end of the year.

Dissemination

Following Myanmar’s accession to the Geneva Conventions in August 1992, the ICRC embarked on a programme aimed at assisting the authorities in their task to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law within the armed forces.

To this end the ICRC organized a three-day introductory seminar on the law of war for 27 high-ranking officers of the Myanmar Defence Forces in April. This was the first time such an event had taken place in Myanmar. Later in the year, from 15 to 19 November, a five-day course on the law of war for tactical commanders of the Myanmar armed forces was held in Yangon. Thirty officers attended the course given by the Geneva-based delegate specializing in dissemination to the armed forces.

* State Law and Order Restoration Council.
At the beginning of the year the ICRC initiated a programme to strengthen knowledge of the ideals and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as the basic rules of international humanitarian law, among volunteers of the Myanmar Red Cross Society. Three three-day courses and five one-day sessions were held in the greater Yangon area.

Medical activities

An ICRC expatriate continued to supervise production at four orthopaedic workshops in Myanmar: those in Mingaladon and Maymyo run by the Ministry of Defence and those in Yangon and Mandalay run by the Ministry of Health.

The ICRC kept up its joint programme with the Ministry of Health and the National Society whereby civilian amputees from the border areas were selected, transported, housed and fitted with orthopaedic appliances. At the end of November 50 amputees from the Chin state and Sagaing division were selected for rehabilitation in Mandalay and Yangon in 1994.

The ICRC’s support to the four orthopaedic workshops was evaluated by the ICRC’s Geneva-based head of physical rehabilitation during a mission to Yangon in July. An agreement to upgrade the techniques for the manufacture of artificial limbs was reached during the regional delegate’s visit in September. In 1993 the workshops fitted 582 new patients and manufactured 1,489 prostheses.

Together with the Myanmar Directorate of Medical Services of the Defence Forces, the ICRC organized a workshop on war surgery from 8 to 10 November. It was attended by 30 military and civilian surgeons, as well as representatives from the ICRC’s Medical Division. The workshop provided a forum for the exchange of views and experiences and was judged a great success.

NEPAL

The regional delegation carried out two missions to the refugees from Bhutan in eastern Nepal in March and May. The aim of the first mission was to restore family links between detainees visited by the ICRC in Bhutan in January and their next of kin in the refugee camps. During the second mission, the ICRC worked out a mailing system between the detainees and their families. The system provided for the distribution and collection of mail by the Nepal Red Cross Society.

In January the ICRC, together with the National Society, held a dissemination seminar in Katmandu for the Nepalese media. It was attended by 18 journalists.

The ICRC held the first regional military seminar for southern Asia on the law of war from 26 to 30 April in Katmandu. The seminar was attended by 13 senior army officers from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The deputy regional delegate carried out a mission to Nepal in August to assess the situation, as a large number of people had reportedly been arrested during disturbances at the end of June and in early July. He found that most of
those arrested had already been released. The delegate also had talks with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other officials, as well as representatives of the Nepal Red Cross Society. The delegate returned to Nepal in early December where he met the Minister of Home Affairs and had contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the possible ratification by Nepal of the Additional Protocols.

South East Asia

CAMBODIA

Two major events, closely related, took place in 1993. The first was the re-establishment of an internationally recognized government in Phnom Penh, marking the final phase of the peace process begun in October 1991 with the signing of the Paris Agreement. The second was the withdrawal by 15 November of all UNTAC* personnel, having completed most of their task of overseeing the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Although the Democratic Kampuchea (DK) party, also known as the Khmer Rouge, had pulled out of the Paris Agreement by refusing to participate in the election process, 90 per cent of the registered electorate voted in the May elections. The results gave the FUNCINPEC** only a slight majority of seven seats over their former adversaries, the CPP*** To begin with, a transitional parliament was formed comprising the four parties that had won seats in the elections. Subsequently, a new constitution was drafted, reinstating the monarchy and appointing a government headed by two Prime Ministers from each of the leading parties, thus taking into account the closeness of the election result.

By October a process of national reconciliation had begun and a unified army, the Cambodian Royal Armed Forces (CRAF), was created, including soldiers from three of the former factions, plus any Khmer Rouge defectors who wished to join. The new government turned its attention to restoring law and order, normalizing relations with neighbouring countries and stabilizing the economy.

The armed conflict between Khmer Rouge and government forces remained at a level comparable to that of 1992, with the CRAF regaining control of part of the northern provinces in offensives on DK-controlled zones in August. Despite this, a political rather than a military settlement appeared to be the favoured way to achieve national reconciliation.

In 1993 the ICRC delegation extended and consolidated its activities in

* United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.
** United National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia.
*** Cambodian People's Party.
Cambodia. These included tracing, medical assistance (including creating and maintaining a network of blood banks, producing orthopaedic devices and fitting amputees), the protection of the civilian population (distribution of relief supplies to the displaced), visiting places of detention and dissemination of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC’s delegation in Cambodia was able to work in the DK–held zones, mainly in northern Banteay Meancheay province, but also in the southern province of Kampong and to a limited extent in Kompong Cham. Delegates began with the cross-line transfer of amputees to the rehabilitation centre in Battambang and continued with medical assistance to the civilian population.

During the election period the ICRC continued to be accepted in DK-held zones and remained virtually the only organization to maintain operational contacts with the faction in the field. Tracing and dissemination activities were also accepted in certain places under DK control.

The ICRC delegation, together with the Federation, gave active support and encouragement to the efforts of the Federative Committee of the Cambodian Red Cross to form a united National Society. The work accomplished included the drafting of new statutes for the Cambodian Red Cross, to be submitted to the ICRC and the Federation in Geneva, and the creation of a secretariat to prepare for the Society’s first General Assembly, due to take place in 1994.

With the departure of UNTAC forces, banditry and crime became an increasingly serious problem in Cambodia in general and in Phnom Penh in particular. The ICRC was the target of several thefts and attacks, as were most other international and non-governmental organizations working in the country. The ICRC, together with all the organizations and embassies concerned, alerted the authorities and took steps to ensure the security of its staff and property.

Activities for detainees

Since the phase of the peace process concerning the release of prisoners had been completed, the ICRC concentrated on visits to all the known places of

IN 1993, THE ICRC:

- opened 2,450 tracing cases and resolved 717;
- forwarded 3,472 Red Cross messages;
- made 63 visits to 28 places of detention (including police stations), saw 30 detainees and registered 25;
- treated 442 war-wounded and carried out 2,777 operations at the Mongkol Borei hospital;
- fitted 1,067 new patients with prostheses.
detention in Cambodia, as well as the registration of detainees falling within its mandate. Delegates found few cases of direct concern to the ICRC, but the visits nonetheless enabled them to pinpoint the various problems necessitating direct or indirect intervention by the institution.

In March the Vice-Minister for Security in Phnom Penh authorized ICRC delegates to visit without prior notice any prison or police station under his jurisdiction, and to do so without the presence of a liaison officer. Two teams of detention delegates were thus able to work in parallel and increase the frequency of their visits.

The ICRC paid particular attention to instances of detention by the military following the various outbreaks of fighting. The delegation also visited some detainees held by UNTAC.

Following a meeting with a DK liaison officer in Battambang at the beginning of February, the ICRC made a new offer of services which included a request to visit government soldiers captured by DK fighters during the government offensives. The offer was turned down and the ICRC was not able to carry out its detention-related activities in DK-controlled zones.

**Khmer Rouge defectors**

After the government offensives in August, more than 3,000 Khmer Rouge fighters defected. The ICRC was notified of these defections and delegates visited those concerned in camps, mainly in Kompong Thom, Kompong Chhnang and Kandal provinces, where they were awaiting integration into the CRAF or their transfer home. They were given the opportunity to contact their families and received medical assistance if required.

**Activities for the civilian population**

In cooperation with the UNTAC human rights component the ICRC carefully monitored the situation of people newly displaced within Cambodia and made efforts to bring this issue to the attention of political circles.

Although the elections took place without major incident, there were a few cases where violence led to the displacement of people. Delegates kept the situation under close observation throughout the troubled period and remained ready to respond to needs as they arose.

The government offensives against DK-controlled zones in Banteay Meanchey in August forced civilians to flee their villages. Up to 900 people were transferred by the authorities to a reception centre in Sisophon. The ICRC backed up the efforts of other agencies to improve the living conditions of the displaced people by carrying out water and sanitation projects and by providing mats and mosquito nets.

There was an alarming rise in attacks against the Vietnamese minority in the country. After a number of massacres of people of Vietnamese origin, several
thousand fled across the border into Viet Nam where they were given temporary shelter in camps.

**Tracing activities**

The closure of the camps on the Thai/Cambodian border meant that tracing activities for Cambodian refugees previously carried out on the border could be transferred to within Cambodia itself. Before and during the repatriation of the camp residents, the tracing agency managed to resolve most pending tracing cases, by obtaining information on the fate or whereabouts of family members and in many cases enabling families to be reunited once they were on Cambodian soil.

The tracing agency redefined its priorities and concentrated on developing the network of tracing offices in Cambodia, carrying out an extensive information campaign about the availability of tracing services within the country. Tracing activities in the north-western zone outside government control intensified, particularly the forwarding of Red Cross messages to and from the provinces controlled by the government. In the meantime, the DK-held zones were no longer totally inaccessible.

The exchange of family news remained an important activity for the tracing agency, as the postal service in Cambodia was still not fully functional.

As there was no longer a need for tracing services on the frontier, the Bangkok delegation ceased to coordinate tracing activities concerning Cambodia, and the tracing agency in Phnom Penh took over the handling of cases within Cambodia and enquiries from Cambodia concerning people abroad. To deal with the new workload a standard ICRC data base was introduced in Phnom Penh.

**Medical assistance**

The ICRC’s medical activities took a new turn over the 12-month period, as it became possible to carry out medical assistance programmes in the field, both for district hospitals in areas under government control and in DK-controlled zones (Mebon, Kokobar, Phum Chatt, Phum Malai, Dangtung, Chupkaki).

**Hospitals**

The ICRC ended its medical activities at the hospitals in Pursat and Kampot in late 1992, concentrating instead on the Mongkol Borei hospital, which largely covered the region’s surgical needs.

The ICRC handed over non-surgical activities at the Mongkol Borei hospital to the American Refugee Committee at the beginning of June, but agreed to
continue providing medicines and other medical supplies until the end of the year. It nevertheless continued to support the hospital’s surgical activities, although in September the number of ICRC surgical teams at the hospital was reduced from two to one.

When the ICRC hospital in Khao-i-Dang over the border in Thailand closed on 3 February, following the departure of most of the refugees, the transfer of patients to the Mongkol Borei hospital became routine procedure.

The ICRC also assisted in the rehabilitation of the hospital in Kokobar, in the DK-held zone.

Blood banks

The National Blood Transfusion Centre (CNTS) in Phnom Penh worked smoothly and coordinated the activities of four blood banks in the provinces, Kompong Chhnang, Mongkol Borei, Pursat and Battambang. Two further blood banks were opened in Takeo and Siem Reap in 1993.

Owing to the unstable situation in Cambodia it became more and more difficult to find blood donors. The ICRC, together with the CNTS, organized a National Blood Donation Day on 26 March. After the general election some ministries which had previously been reluctant to support the blood programme began to allow blood collections to take place on their premises. The army, too, gave the blood collection team access to its bases. This increased quite considerably the number of potential blood donors in Phnom Penh.

Orthopaedic programme

The orthopaedic centre in Battambang, which opened in October 1991, kept up the production of 1,400 prostheses in 1993. It was also able to extend its services to amputees from the DK-controlled zone in the north-west, and in March for the first time treated DK amputees from the province of Kampot.

The ICRC’s production unit in Phnom Penh supplied components to various other non-governmental organizations also producing prostheses: Cambodia Trust, Indochina Project and Handicap International. In November the ICRC signed an agreement with the Swiss Disaster Relief Unit to build a workshop for the production of orthopaedic components in Phnom Penh, thus replacing the existing one which had become too small.

Sanitation

One of the main problems identified during visits to places of detention was the poor sanitary conditions. As a result the ICRC launched a water supply and sanitation programme in about a dozen places of detention. Most of the work was carried out by the detainees themselves, while the ICRC provided the necessary materials and tools and acted in an advisory capacity.
In 1993 sanitation projects were completed in Phnom Penh and provincial places of detention in Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham and Sisophon.

Dissemination

The ICRC carried on its dissemination programme for the armed forces along the lines already established in 1992. To begin with, delegates aimed to reach demobilized soldiers from three of the former factions, starting with government forces and continuing with FUNCINPEC and KPNLF* forces. Following an agreement with the Ministry of Defence in Phnom Penh in January and negotiations with the KPNLF, the ICRC was able to organize dissemination sessions for soldiers on active duty.

A special effort was made with regard to members of UNTAC contingents, mainly targeting officers and medical personnel.

The ICRC was also able for the first time to reach people in the DK-controlled zone. In February the ICRC received the green light to begin a programme of dissemination in the regions of Chupkapi and Samrong Tièp.

In the second week of March dissemination delegates made a four-day tour of villages north of Banteay Chmar (Banteay Meancheay province) showing a video programme which explained the importance of the red cross emblem, ICRC activities and basic rules of international humanitarian law to community leaders, combatants and the local population.

BANGKOK
Regional delegation
(Laos, Thailand, Viet Nam)

Following the ICRC’s decision to reorganize its presence in the region in early 1993, the delegation in Bangkok became a regional delegation, from which all tracing, dissemination and protection activities in Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam were conducted.

LAOS

At the end of November a tracing delegate organized a tracing course in Vientiane for the Lao Red Cross. It was the first such course given by the ICRC in Laos and was attended by 21 people. While in Vientiane the delegate also organized a dissemination session on the ICRC, the Movement and international

* Khmer People's National Liberation Front.
humanitarian law for four top government officials and six high-ranking officials of the National Society, including the President and the Secretary General.

THAILAND

The repatriation of Khmer refugees from the Thai border proceeded as planned, leading to the closure of Site 8 and Khao-i-Dang camps in January and March respectively. At the end of March UNHCR and the Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs declared the last camp, Site 2, officially closed.

The ICRC hospital in Khao-i-Dang, set up to cater for the needs of Cambodian refugees in the Thai border camps, closed on 3 February, following the departure of most of the refugees. A small hospital unit for emergencies was set up at the Thai Red Cross Society branch in Aranyaprathet. It worked until mid-March, when UNHCR and the Aranyaprathet Civilian Hospital took charge of medical care for the remaining refugees.

By 30 April all Khmer refugees in Thailand had been repatriated, with the exception of those detained by the Thai authorities, i.e. some 140 people held in provincial prisons and police stations. The ICRC visited them regularly, mainly to help them keep in contact with their families.

The ICRC kept a small office run by Thai staff in Aranyaprathet close to the Cambodian border in order to maintain contacts along the border and to provide operational support for the ICRC delegation in Phnom Penh and the sub-delegations in Mongkol Borei and Battambang.

The regional delegation no longer had any operational activities in Thailand, but it kept an eye on the situation in three areas: the south of the country (in the mainly Muslim provinces of Yala, Narthiwat and Pattani, which had experienced some unrest) and the borders with Myanmar and Cambodia.

The Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific went to Thailand at the end of January. He met the Minister of Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed the imminent end of the ICRC’s operation on the Thai-Cambodian border, the plan to transform the ICRC delegation in Bangkok into a regional delegation and the situation in Myanmar. The Delegate General also met the Secretary General of the Thai Red Cross Society.

On 8 May, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, the ICRC President was present at the ceremonies to mark the National Society’s 100th anniversary and attended a “Marathon for Humanity” organized by the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.

The following day the President handed over the sub-delegation in Aranyaprathet, close to the Cambodian border, to Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Executive Vice-President of the Thai Red Cross Society.

At the President’s invitation, Princess Sirindhorn visited ICRC headquarters
on 15 July. She was accompanied by Thailand’s Permanent Representative in Geneva and was received by the President and members of the ICRC staff. Several subjects were discussed during the visit, including the possible ratification by Thailand of the Additional Protocols, dissemination to the armed forces and the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims.

Tracing activities

The ICRC tracing agency in Bangkok still handled tracing requests for Cambodian refugees and processed replies coming in from the National Societies around the world. It also continued to act as a record for all the tracing activities carried out since 1975 in connection with the conflict in Cambodia. Its work was facilitated by the integration of the data bank concerning the UNHCR repatriation, as well as a list of names of people held by the Khmer Rouge at the Tuol Sleng prison between 1975 and 1979. The Bangkok tracing office also dealt with tracing requests relating to Laos and Viet Nam.

VIET NAM

The ICRC closed its regional delegation in Hanoi on 30 March 1993, leaving only a liaison office staffed by a local employee. From then on the country was covered by the regional delegation in Bangkok, without any major change in the ICRC’s activities in the country.

After the closure of the delegation in Hanoi, the orthopaedic centre continued its work under the supervision of the regional delegation in Bangkok. In March 1993 the cooperation agreement between the ICRC and the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Welfare was extended on the same terms as before. Between April 1992 and the end of 1993, 7,443 requests for artificial limbs were registered. In 1993 itself, 2,145 new patients were fitted with prostheses, and 2,651 prostheses were manufactured.

The tracing delegate, accompanied by the head of the Red Cross of Viet Nam’s tracing service, made three visits to the northern, central and southern provinces in April, June-July and November, to evaluate the work carried out by the provincial branches of the National Society after the ICRC’s four-year training programme.

In April and October the regional delegate went on mission to the capital to pursue the dialogue with the Vietnamese authorities on the question of visits to security detainees. No agreement was reached on the ways and means of carrying out such visits.

At the end of August the regional delegate took part in a seminar on international humanitarian law organized in Hue by the Ministry of National Defence and attended by some 60 high-ranking officers.
Far East

HONG KONG
Regional delegation
(People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, Japan, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Macao, Mongolia, Taiwan)

The main focus of the Hong Kong regional delegation in 1993 continued to be cooperation with the various National Societies and dissemination of international humanitarian law, in particular among the armed forces but also for other specific groups. To this end, contacts were made and numerous workshops and seminars organized in the region. The delegation also devoted much effort to encouraging countries in the region that had not yet done so to ratify the Additional Protocols.

In early November, representatives from the Red Cross Societies of China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia took part in a study trip to ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Delegates went on several missions to China in the course of 1993. They met government officials and had discussions with representatives of the Red Cross Society of China on projects for joint cooperation, including training and the publication of dissemination materials in Chinese.

The ICRC took part in the Fourth Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which was held in Beijing from 24 to 29 May, and reported on its activities in Asia and the Pacific between 1985 and 1992. The National Societies of the area discussed disaster preparedness, dissemination of international humanitarian law, and development and health issues.

From 30 August to 12 September an ICRC team carried out a mission to the autonomous region of Xinjiang. It was the first time an ICRC team had visited the area. The delegates, accompanied by members of the National Society, had meetings with the provincial authorities in the capital Urumqi and met representatives of the local “Autonomous Association of the Red Cross and Red Crescent”. The team also visited the towns of Turpan, Kaxgar and Altay, where they met the local authorities to discuss humanitarian issues. The mission culminated in a meeting with the Secretary General and other representatives of the National Society at which discussions centred on projects of mutual interest.
The regional delegation helped to prepare Chinese officers for a meeting of experts in Geneva on the law of war at sea, and to organize a study trip by officials of the National Society, which took place in November.

In statements to the press on 9 and 11 November, the Minister of Foreign Affairs invited the ICRC to open a dialogue on the subject of visits to detainees. For many years the ICRC had repeatedly expressed its willingness to carry out such visits. Shortly after, the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific, the Deputy Delegate General and the desk officer concerned met the Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of China on 17 November in Geneva and explained the ICRC’s role, mandate and procedures for visits.

On 22 December the Delegate General had another meeting with the Permanent Representative in Geneva and was informed that the Chinese authorities, through the Chinese Red Cross, were ready for an exchange of views with the ICRC on international humanitarian law and areas of possible cooperation with the institution.

From 22 to 26 November a training course on international humanitarian law was organized for 30 high-ranking military personnel by the Political Commission of the People’s Liberation Army at the Army Political Academy in Nanjing.

HONG KONG

The Governor of Hong Kong received the regional delegate on 3 June. Discussions centred on the ICRC’s mandate and its work in the region.

From 21 to 27 August a surgeon from the ICRC’s Medical Division in Geneva took part in International Surgical Week held in Hong Kong. The congress, the most important international event on the subject of surgery, brought together 2,500 participants. During a session on wounds inflicted by bullets and missiles, which was attended by 150 people, he gave a statistically based presentation on the ICRC’s activities for war-wounded. An ICRC stand served as a contact point for any surgeons interested in ICRC war surgery, and publications on the subject were distributed.

The regional delegate had several discussions with the local Red Cross about the 1997 transition of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty and questions of joint cooperation, particularly in tracing. He also had several meetings with the local authorities and diplomatic representatives of other countries, as well as with UNHCR, non-governmental organizations and the media.

JAPAN

From 13 to 17 June the ICRC President, accompanied by the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific and the regional delegate, made an official visit to Tokyo. On 15 June he had a private audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress...
Michiko. The President of the ICRC also discussed humanitarian issues with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He met the President and high-level representatives of the Japanese Red Cross Society and gave interviews to the media.

At the beginning of October the regional delegation took part in the Conference on Development and Cooperation in Africa (TICAD) held in Tokyo. A further mission took place between 14 and 16 December to finalize cooperation projects with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs following the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims. On both occasions delegates also had talks with representatives of the National Society.

The regional delegate went to Tokyo from 14 to 16 December to take up contact with the newly appointed Ministry of Foreign Affairs team responsible for matters relating to the ICRC.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The regional delegation maintained contacts with the National Society, with whose help it completed a provisional version in Korean of the *Basic Rules of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols*.

On 17 March the ICRC President, the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific and the desk officer met the North Korean Ambassador in Geneva. The main topic discussed was the current tension between the two Koreas. The ICRC reiterated its willingness to assist in any matters of humanitarian concern, in particular to help resolve the cases of separated families.

From 15 to 19 November, during a period of rising tension in the Korean peninsula, a training course on international humanitarian law was organized by the regional delegation, together with a representative from ICRC headquarters, for 30 high-ranking officers of the North Korean army. At the same time delegates held meetings with the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to establish a programme of cooperation for 1994 and discuss certain operational questions, mainly concerned with tracing.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The regional delegate based in Hong Kong went to South Korea from 6 to 9 April primarily to carry out dissemination projects.

During his visit the delegate was invited to give a talk on “Neutrality and the Red Cross” to members of the Neutral Commission for Control of the Armistice. Several high-ranking officers from the United States, Canada, France and the Philippines, as well as a South Korean member of the commission, attended this meeting, which was held in Panmunjom, in the demilitarized zone between the two countries. A series of meetings with the President, the Secretary General and other officials of the Republic of Korea Red Cross enabled a programme of cooperation for the year to be put in place.
The regional delegate was one of the speakers at a training course held for some 60 Korean diplomats on 9 June in Seoul. The course was organized by the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security. Topics on the agenda included the ICRC and its mandate, international humanitarian law and human rights. The delegate also met representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed matters such as the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims held soon after in Geneva and the consequences in humanitarian terms of the rise in tension on the Korean peninsula. He also met the President of the National Society.

MACAO

The ICRC was in regular contact with the Red Cross in Macao and the authorities in order to promote dissemination of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles and to prepare joint projects, especially cooperation in the field of tracing.

MONGOLIA

Delegates went on several missions to the country to establish closer ties with the Red Cross Society of Mongolia and to raise humanitarian issues with the Mongolian authorities.

During missions in March and July the regional delegate met members of the Mongolian government. He discussed with them the question of ratification by Mongolia of the Additional Protocols, the organization of a course on international humanitarian law for military personnel and the participation of representatives from Mongolia in international humanitarian events.

Delegates also set up joint cooperation projects with the National Society or took part in dissemination events. From 5 to 9 July the first seminar on international humanitarian law was held for the military and high-level officials of the Ministries of Defence, of Law and of Foreign Relations. It was attended by 23 people. Four publications covering international humanitarian law were translated for this event.

From 14 to 18 October the regional delegation, along with the National Society, organized a training course in Ulan Bator for the heads of Red Cross branches in the provinces. Half the provinces were represented.

Three publications were coproduced in Mongolian by the regional delegation and the National Society.

TAIWAN

The regional delegation in Hong Kong carried out a mission to Taiwan from 4 to 6 August for discussions with the local Red Cross. The delegate also met
the Head of the International Organizations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, as well as the Secretary General of the Commission on Human Rights.

In September the regional delegation oversaw the repatriation of two Taiwanese fishermen who had been swept off course in rough weather and had landed in the Chinese province of Fujian. The operation took place with the cooperation of the local Red Cross.

The first training course on international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles took place in Taipei from 8 to 10 December, organized by the regional delegation and the local Red Cross. Some 30 heads of provincial Red Cross branches participated. Two publications in Chinese were coproduced for this event.

JAKARTA
Regional delegation
(Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia/East Timor, Malaysia, Singapore)

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

The ICRC built up contact with the emergent Brunei Red Crescent Society in order to facilitate its integration into the Movement.

INDONESIA

The ICRC President made an official visit to Indonesia and East Timor from 1 to 7 May. Together with the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific and the regional delegate, he met the Indonesian President, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Coordinating Minister for Political Affairs and Security and the Chairman of the Indonesian Red Cross Society (PMI). In the course of their discussions which centred on the situation in East Timor, Aceh and Irian Jaya, a confidential memorandum on the ICRC’s activities in East Timor between 1975 and 1993 was handed over and the ICRC President reiterated the ICRC’s willingness to expand its activities in Aceh (northern Sumatra).

The ICRC President also had talks with senior representatives of the military authorities on problems encountered by ICRC delegates in the field, visits to detainees in Aceh and a course on international humanitarian law for the armed forces.

The ICRC closed its local office in Jayapura, Irian Jaya, in mid-1993 but continued to make regular missions to the province from Jakarta.
Activities for detainees

The main priority of the regional delegation in Indonesia remained visits to all categories of security detainees, including those in Aceh and in Irian Jaya.

In the course of their annual round of visits to security detainees in Indonesia, ICRC delegates made 25 visits to 25 prisons throughout the Indonesian archipelago (excluding Aceh). They saw a total of 197 detainees falling within the ICRC’s mandate. Various categories of detainees were seen, including people detained in connection with the coup attempt of 1965 and Irianese detainees.

The ICRC’s scheduled fourth series of visits to detainees held in connection with the disturbances in the province of Aceh was postponed until mid-April. The series of visits began on 14 April, was interrupted between 2 and 31 May, and was finally completed on 16 June. In the course of the visits delegates saw some 125 detainees, of whom 47 were newly registered. A new series of visits began on 15 December.

The ICRC also arranged family visits for detainees held far from their homes. Between 18 January and 5 March the ICRC organized and financed family visits for Irianese detainees held in East Java, enabling six groups of people (98 persons) to spend three days with relatives detained in Surabaya and Madiun.

In all places visited the delegates assessed the conditions of detention and evaluated needs in terms of medical care, family visits and leisure activities. Assistance was distributed jointly with the Indonesian Red Cross to the benefit of all the inmates in these prisons.

Activities for the civilian population

The ICRC kept a close watch on the situation of returnees in Irian Jaya. In 1993 more than 200 people opted for repatriation under the auspices of UNHCR, which gave the number of Irianese refugees still in Papua New Guinea as approximately 3,700. Three missions took place, in June, September and October, to check on the welfare of Irianese returnees living in camps pending their transfer to their home villages.

Tracing activities

The ICRC tracing agency in Jakarta provided support for the delegation’s detention-related activities. In 1993, 407 tracing cases were opened and 9 resolved, 510 Red Cross messages were handled and 47 travel documents issued (figures include all of Indonesia and East Timor).

Dissemination

The main focus continued to be the dissemination of international humanitarian law to the armed forces. Meanwhile, a joint Indonesian Red Cross/
ICRC working group finalized a dissemination kit for National Society volunteers, including a manual, a set of posters and case studies.

The regional delegates based in Jakarta and Hong Kong represented the ICRC at the second Workshop on Human Rights, held in Jakarta in January. It was organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the Indonesian government.

**EAST TIMOR**

Despite some serious obstacles in the first half of the year, the ICRC was eventually able to carry out most of its activities to protect and assist the civilian population in East Timor in 1993. These activities included visits to detainees, tracing, and water and sanitation programmes.

On 5 May, for the first time ever, the ICRC President visited East Timor, where he met several local officials and the Bishop of Dili. On his way to the Baucau area he was shown one of the ICRC’s sanitation projects.

**Activities for detainees**

After the suspension of visits in early February the ICRC made every effort to gain access to all people detained in connection with the situation in East Timor.

Planned series of visits to security detainees for which prior approval had been obtained from the authorities were interrupted on two occasions, 25 May and 17 June, shortly after they had started. On 22 June the ICRC issued a communication to the press in which it deplored the persistent difficulties encountered in gaining access to detainees.

At the end of July the ICRC reached an agreement with the Indonesian authorities which allowed for the resumption of visits to security detainees in East Timor. Between 30 July and 21 September ICRC delegates visited 11 places of detention (including two outside East Timor) where East Timorese detainees were held. The visits took place in accordance with standard ICRC procedures.

**Activities for the civilian population**

From March on ICRC delegates in East Timor met increasing difficulties in carrying out activities outside Dili. The ICRC repeatedly approached the authorities in order to regain unimpeded access to the civilian population on the island. This issue was also raised by the ICRC President when he was in Jakarta for talks with the Indonesian authorities in May. Field missions were resumed successfully from October.

**Tracing activities**

The main focus in 1993 was on the programme for the repatriation to Portugal of former civil servants, members of families to be reunited and hardship cases.
Under this programme the ICRC was able to organize the repatriation to Portugal of 44 people, including seven East Timorese students on 29 December who had briefly sought shelter in the Finnish and Swedish embassies in Jakarta in July. The ICRC provided them with the necessary travel documents.

As before, the delegation organized and financed family visits for East Timorese detainees, thus enabling a group of ten people to see relatives detained in Jakarta.

Water and sanitation

A water and sanitation programme for remote villages was launched in 1988 together with the Indonesian Red Cross and in cooperation with the Ministry of Health in East Timor. Between 1988 and 1993, 32 water projects were completed in 23 municipalities. Surveys were undertaken in 1993 to identify future projects with a view to expanding this programme in 1994. Maintenance and repair work was also carried out on completed projects.

MALAYSIA

The ICRC President, accompanied by the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific, visited Malaysia from 9 to 11 May. He met the Prime Minister and other government ministers, and raised the question of visits to security detainees held under the Internal Security Act. Such visits, the last of which had been carried out in 1988, had long been a matter of concern for the ICRC. He also met the National Vice-Chairman and the Secretary General of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society.

Following the agreement reached between the Prime Minister and the ICRC President, the regional delegation finalized plans with the authorities to resume visits to security detainees before the end of the year. An ICRC team was thus able to begin visits on 30 November. By 11 December the team had completed the first phase of the programme, during which they visited three prisons in Sabah State (north Borneo).

In August the ICRC and the National Society were the guests of the Military Staff College in Kuala Lumpur where they gave a lecture on international humanitarian law to more than 150 officers from 16 countries.

SINGAPORE

The ICRC maintained contacts with the Singapore Red Cross Society with a view to increasing its participation in ICRC activities, including cooperation in the medical field.
MANILA
Regional delegation
(Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, autonomous States, territories and colonies of the Pacific)

As the peace process in the Philippines had significantly reduced the level of violence and the military operations in the country, the ICRC converted its delegation in Manila into a regional delegation covering the Philippines and the Pacific region. In August the ICRC reduced the size of its delegation and adapted the range of its activities accordingly.

With the exception of Bougainville, the situation remained calm in the Pacific region. The ICRC maintained and developed contacts with National Societies and governments, encouraged the ratification of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols by some of the Pacific States, and supported the National Societies of the region in their dissemination efforts. The ICRC transformed its regional delegation in Suva into a liaison office run by a locally recruited employee reporting to the regional delegation in Manila.

AUSTRALIA

The ICRC President made an official visit to Australia from 13 to 16 September, where he met the Australian Governor-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and other members of the Australian government. In Canberra he delivered a speech at the 90th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, focusing mainly on international humanitarian law and its implementation through national legislation.¹

During the second part of his visit the President was the guest of the Australian Red Cross Society and was awarded the Medal of Honour, the National Society’s highest distinction.

The President’s visit provided an opportunity to review the contributions by both the government and the Australian Red Cross Society to the ICRC’s activities and the part each played in the promotion of international humanitarian law.

FIJI

Two missions took place to Fiji in May and November to discuss dissemination programmes implemented by the Fiji Red Cross Society and funded by the ICRC. The missions also served as an occasion to encourage ratification of the Additional Protocols by the government.

¹ See introduction to Operational Activities.
NEW ZEALAND

After his mission to Australia, the ICRC President paid a short visit to New Zealand from 17 to 18 September. He had meetings with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Defence and other members of the government, as well as representatives of the New Zealand Red Cross Society, during which the subjects discussed included the contributions made both by the government and the National Society to the ICRC’s activities and to the promotion of international humanitarian law.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The ICRC intensified its efforts to gain access to the island of Bougainville, torn by conflict since 1989.

On 14 May the ICRC renewed the offer of services it had made to the Papua New Guinea authorities in March 1992 concerning visits to people held in connection with the situation on Bougainville.

On 9 June the Minister of State for Bougainville visited ICRC headquarters, where he had discussions with the ICRC President on issues relating to the conflict on Bougainville.

Between August and December the regional delegation carried out three missions to Papua New Guinea to discuss the Bougainville crisis with the authorities. The main topics broached with the authorities centred on gaining proper access to the island of Bougainville, as well as to possible detainees.

After repeated attempts the regional delegate was able to go to Bougainville on 13 October, along with the Deputy National Chairperson of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society. On the Society’s behalf the delegate handed over some assistance to displaced people at Wakunai and medical assistance to the Buka hospital. The ICRC also gave one-off assistance to the National Society’s local office, which had just reopened, in order to reinforce its operational capacity.

The ICRC concentrated its efforts on gaining authorization to visit people detained in connection with the conflict, as well as access to the civilian population affected by the fighting.

PHILIPPINES

Throughout the year military operations dwindled, as the different parties were waiting for the outcome of their respective negotiations. Sporadic fighting nonetheless occurred in a few areas, notably northern Luzon, Bicol, Panay and some parts of Mindanao.

The National Unification Commission pursued its numerous contacts both with the various opposition groups as well as with the different sectors of Philippine society, and on 30 June submitted to the President of the Philippines its final recommendations on how to achieve lasting peace throughout the country.
Three government panels subsequently continued talks with the three opposition groups.

The Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific visited the Philippines from 7 to 10 December where he met high-level representatives of the National Society. He also had talks with the Secretary of National Defence, with whom he discussed the situation in the region, the future role of the ICRC in the Philippines, and the need for the government to continue the ICRC’s dissemination programme for the armed forces. He also broached the subject of ratification by the Philippines of Additional Protocol I and the 1980 UN Convention on weapons regarded as inhumane, particularly in connection with its Protocol II on the problem of landmines.

Activities for detainees

As in the past, the delegation’s main activities centred on people detained in connection with the activities of armed opposition groups.

In general, delegates did not encounter any problems in gaining access to detainees falling within the ICRC’s mandate, and visits were carried out with the full cooperation of the authorities and the armed forces. The number of detainees decreased owing to the various amnesties declared as part of the peace process.

On 17 March the delegation submitted to the Secretary of Justice a report on conditions of detention observed by ICRC delegates during visits to places of detention under his jurisdiction. The report covered 52 ICRC visits to seven places of detention, carried out between July 1989 and December 1992.

In 1993 delegates conducted 328 visits to places of detention during which they saw 1,004 detainees, of whom 192 were newly registered. At the end of the year 496 detainees of concern to the ICRC were still detained.

Tracing activities

The ICRC tracing agency continued to collect, process and file information related to detainees. They kept track of registered detainees and handled correspondence between detainees and their families. The Family Visits Programme run jointly with the Philippines National Red Cross continued to enable detainees to be visited by their relatives with financial assistance from the ICRC. In 1993, a total of 321 detainees benefited from this programme.

The tracing agency opened 12 tracing requests, closed 14 others, collected and distributed 57 Red Cross messages and issued 176 travel documents for refugees accepted for resettlement by a host country.

Activities for the civilian population

With the gradual decline in armed clashes between the government and insurgent groups, there were fewer calls on ICRC delegates to check on alleged
violations of international humanitarian law or to provide assistance to civilians displaced by the fighting.

This, combined with an improvement in government relief assistance, meant that the ICRC's own involvement was limited. In all, 3,157 people received food and other relief items through ICRC/Philippines National Red Cross channels.

**Medical assistance**

The ICRC monitored the health of detainees and gave medical consultations in places of detention when necessary. In addition, the institution kept up its assistance to civilians wounded during insurgency-related incidents, mainly in Mindanao.

**Dissemination**

The ICRC organized 235 dissemination sessions for nearly 12,000 participants from the Philippines armed forces and police. Dissemination material, such as the texts of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and handbooks on the law of war, was distributed to army and police units and schools.

The two-year dissemination programme came to an end in December. Since all the military academies were ready to include international humanitarian law into their existing curricula and two officers had been trained in the teaching of it at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, the direct participation of the delegation was no longer required.

In addition to this programme, ICRC delegates took part in various dissemination sessions organized by non-governmental organizations.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS**

Two missions were undertaken in May and November to Honiara in the Solomon Islands to establish contacts with the government and meet the staff of the Solomon Islands Red Cross. The ICRC distributed a small amount of assistance to refugees from Bougainville living in the Solomon Islands and assisted by the National Society. Dissemination programmes were also discussed.

A delegate furthermore met a representative of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, with whom he discussed a possible mission to opposition-held territory on Bougainville.

**VANUATU**

The ICRC granted formal recognition to the Vanuatu Red Cross Society in September and the National Society was officially admitted to the Federation at the Ninth Session of the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Birmingham, 25-28 October.
A Croatian woman in search of her son approaches the ICRC tracing agency.
WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE

ICRC delegations:
Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, (Federal Republic of) Yugoslavia

Staff
ICRC expatriates*: 168
National Societies*: 69
Local employees**: 790

Total expenditure
CHF 173,801,047

Expenditure breakdown  CHF
Protection/Tracing: 15,795,539
Relief: 108,799,255
Medical assistance: 26,703,039
Cooperation with National Societies: 638,728
Dissemination: 2,034,248
Operational support: 11,866,912
Overheads: 7,963,326

* Average numbers calculated on an annual basis.
** Under ICRC contract, as at December 1993.

ICRC Headquarters
In Europe the ICRC concentrated its energies on operations in former Yugoslavia. The war raged on in Bosnia-Herzegovina throughout 1993 and, though difficult to imagine, the situation deteriorated still further. Early in the year political and military alliances shifted; Bosnian Croat forces entered the fray on their own account, turning the conflict between Bosnian Serb forces and Bosnian government troops into a three-way battle. International humanitarian law was frequently and intentionally violated and civilians bore the brunt of the fighting. Attacks on buildings of no military interest, the long-term siege of towns and villages and forced displacement were part and parcel of the military strategy of the three warring parties.

Repeated representations were made by the ICRC to the authorities to remind them of their responsibility for the civilian population and to denounce abuses. ICRC delegates carried out visits to people detained in connection with the conflict and, in accordance with the agreements reached with the three parties, negotiated for their release. Medical and relief supplies were distributed in areas affected by the fighting. There was a concerted effort to spread awareness of international humanitarian law among the three parties to the conflict.

From headquarters in Geneva ICRC representatives maintained contacts with European governments and National Societies in order to promote and raise funds for the institution’s activities throughout the world. The ICRC President travelled to many of the major European capitals, including official visits to Brussels and Athens within the context of the institution’s relationship with the European Union, to present the institution’s work and encourage support for its operations. Representatives of the ICRC regularly had talks with various committees and commissions of the European Union in Geneva and Brussels. Early in the year a delegate was assigned to deal with ICRC concerns related to the European Union.

In Central Europe the institution’s main objectives included disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Movement’s principles, encouraging the governments of countries in Central Europe to become party to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols and advising emergent Red Cross Societies on the procedure for official recognition as a National Society.
Western Europe

ANDORRA

The Principality of Andorra acceded to the four Geneva Conventions in September.

BELGIUM

ICRC lawyers participated in a course, organized by the Belgian Red Cross, on international humanitarian law. Some 36 French-speaking law students from 18 countries attended the course from 1 to 11 September in Spa. A member of the Committee, the ICRC’s governing board, gave the opening speech.

DENMARK

To make the traditional visit to the capital of the State holding the presidency of the European Union, the ICRC President travelled to Copenhagen in April. During his mission he met several high-ranking officials with whom he discussed ICRC activities. These talks were followed by meetings with leaders of the Danish Red Cross and a press conference organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

FINLAND

At the invitation of the Finnish Red Cross the ICRC President went on mission to Finland in March to discuss various aspects of cooperation between the ICRC and the National Society. The ICRC President also met the Finnish Prime Minister and other high-ranking officials to request their continued support for the ICRC.

ITALY

The ICRC President, accompanied by a member of the Committee, was received by the Italian President in early January. They also held talks with the Minister of Health and the Secretary-General at the Foreign Ministry. The discussions covered progress made in revising the statutes of the Italian Red Cross, as well as the ICRC’s operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Somalia.

LUXEMBOURG

In May the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg officially recognized the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. Luxembourg was the thirty-fourth State to make the declaration to that effect under Article 90 of Protocol I.
MALTAMALTA

Following a joint mission by the ICRC and the Federation in October, representatives from the two organizations concluded that the Malta Red Cross Society met the conditions necessary for official recognition as a National Society. Formal recognition was granted by the ICRC in November.

SPAIN

After a period of reflection, agreed by the ICRC and the Spanish authorities in 1989, before re-examining the issue of ICRC access to places of detention, the regional delegate travelled to Madrid for that purpose in October 1993. He met representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs, as well as the ombudsman and relatives of security detainees, to discuss detention-related matters, including a resumption of ICRC visits. The ICRC, together with the Spanish authorities, concluded that an offer of services for ICRC visits was, under the present circumstances, no longer justified.

SWITZERLAND

On 19 March the ICRC signed a headquarters agreement with the Swiss Confederation which came into effect immediately. Under this agreement, which is governed by international law, the Swiss Federal Council recognizes the international legal status of the ICRC and guarantees its independence and freedom of action. The treaty also grants the ICRC the same status as that accorded to international organizations in Switzerland.\(^1\)

The President of the Swiss Confederation was received in June by the ICRC President at the Geneva headquarters where they discussed the upcoming International Conference for the Protection of War Victims. In September the ICRC President, on mission in Berne, met the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs who had chaired the Conference and discussed its outcome with him.

Also in September the ICRC President received representatives of the Swiss federal parliament at headquarters, where they were invited to attend various presentations on ICRC operations throughout the world.

For information on the Symposium on Landmines, held in Montreux in April, and on the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims see pages 242 and 236.

UNITED KINGDOM

In September the Delegate General for Western and Central Europe went on mission to Northern Ireland to discuss with prison authorities the arrangements for a follow-up visit to prisoners held in connection with the events in the province,

\(^1\) See also *The law and legal considerations* on p. 248.
and visits were scheduled to take place in the course of 1994. The ICRC has regularly conducted visits, in accordance with its standard procedures, to prisons in the province since 1982.

EUROPEAN UNION

In 1993 the ICRC appointed a delegate with the special task of developing its relations with the European Union (EU). On 18 May it signed, in parallel with the Federation and the National Societies of the twelve EU countries, a Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. The agreement is intended above all to heighten the effectiveness of the humanitarian aid provided by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO). The ICRC also sought to establish closer contact with other bodies of the Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament, in particular by taking part in the proceedings of several of the Parliament’s committees.

The ICRC President attached particular importance to visiting the States responsible for the presidency of the European Community, called the European Union since the Maastricht Treaty came into effect. He also held several working meetings with the ambassadors of the twelve EU countries in Geneva.

Central Europe and the Balkans

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina continued unabated in 1993, claiming a high number of mostly civilian victims. Conditions became increasingly difficult as the battle for territory intensified; central Bosnia was the most severely affected. The country’s economy was in ruins and basic medical and social services scarcely functioned. All of the warring parties persisted in ignoring humanitarian principles; churches, mosques and hospitals were shelled indiscriminately.

The search for a peace settlement continued throughout the year, but efforts to end the conflict met with little lasting success. Proposals presented in January by international peace negotiators provided for the reorganization of Bosnia-Herzegovina into ten provinces within a decentralized state. By June the plan had been replaced by a provisional agreement for dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina into three constituent republics - Croat, Muslim and Serb - within a demilitarized “Union of Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina”. Talks eventually reached an impasse and attention turned towards a global approach to peace in the former Yugoslavia which involved addressing the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina alongside
IN 1993 THE ICRC:
- visited over 16,000 detainees at least once;
- handled over 4 million Red Cross messages;
- regularly provided some 190 medical facilities with emergency medical supplies;
- distributed relief supplies to about 1 million people directly affected by the fighting.

issues such as Kosovo and the self-proclaimed "Republic of Serbian Krajina". Territorial arguments remained the greatest obstacle to agreement.

The plan for a three-way division of the country reflected a change in the course of the conflict as the alliance between Bosnian Croat forces (HVO)* and government forces disintegrated and Bosnian Serbs voted to become an independent state in May. Bosnian Serbs controlled the bulk of the territory, mostly in the north and the east, and Bosnian Croats claimed areas bordering the Republic of Croatia in the south-west, leaving the Bosnian government in control of parts of central Bosnia and towns in small enclaves. A brief description of the events in main towns in the three areas provides a general picture of the situation.

Heavy fighting which started in mid-May in Mostar, the largest city in Herzegovina, forced an estimated 55,000 Muslim inhabitants and displaced people to gather on the east bank of the Neretva river which runs through the city. Thousands of people were brutally rounded up and arbitrarily detained by the HVO. Since the hills to the east of Mostar were held by Bosnian Serb forces, the Muslims found themselves in a siege situation. As from May there was a severe shortage of food, medicines and water. The battle over Mostar and central Bosnia between HVO and government troops escalated in October and thousands of villagers, particularly in central Bosnia, were forced to flee.

A month later the Bosnian Croat population of Travnik was forced to flee under the pressure of the Bosnian government forces and seek refuge in the surrounding hills, where they found themselves trapped between the Bosnian Serb and Bosnian government lines.

Bombardments of Sarajevo during July and early August were among the heaviest of the war. Conditions for the approximately 350,000 civilians in the besieged city deteriorated further as even minimal supplies of water, gas, electricity and food often failed to reach them. With the onset of winter and resumed shelling in October conditions were again exacerbated. It was impossible to bring in

*HVO Hrvatsko Vijece Obrane - Croatian Defence Council.
food aid to people in the Tarcin/Konjic area. Maglaj and Tesanj, for example, were inaccessible to the ICRC owing to the fighting and obstacles deliberately put up by the belligerents.

In the Bosnian Serb-held town of Banja Luka and the surrounding area harassment of the civilian population continued; about two-thirds of the pre-war Muslim population left the region.

In October a feud in the Bihac pocket between a breakaway Muslim group and the government turned into armed confrontation.

Public statements and appeals

The escalation of hostilities and the growing difficulties faced by the ICRC and other humanitarian organizations in gaining access to the victims prompted the ICRC on several occasions to appeal to the parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law, especially with regard to the civilian population in central Bosnia.

The ICRC publicly denounced breaches thereof, such as making prisoners work on the front lines. An ICRC press release in June reminded the parties that they were responsible for abuses committed in areas under their control, such as the targeting of civilians during combat, the destruction of their belongings and the inhumane treatment of detainees.

In the course of talks both in the field and at headquarters with the leaders of the parties to the conflict the ICRC expressed its concern about the serious violations of international humanitarian law, including security incidents involving ICRC staff and vehicles.

On several occasions the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights had talks with the ICRC President, as well as with other ICRC representatives. In July and again in November the ICRC President addressed special meetings of the Humanitarian Issues Working Group of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. During both meetings he expressed concern at the deterioration of the situation for the civilian population, in particular in central Bosnia and in besieged towns.

As guests at the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Karachi in April, the ICRC Vice-President and other ICRC representatives were able to meet high-level officials. The ICRC’s concern about the conditions of detention and call for the release of detainees in Bosnia-Herzegovina were taken up by the conference and included in the Karachi resolution.

The ICRC Director of Operations met the President of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Sarajevo in June to discuss ICRC activities in the country.

During the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims in August, the ICRC spoke out about its difficulties in reaching victims of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the violations of international humanitarian law committed against the civilian population. The ICRC again called upon the
warring parties to stop their systematic abuse, including indiscriminate attacks, forcible expulsion and the destruction of private property.

The ICRC President travelled to Bosnia-Herzegovina in November, where he met the President of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Croat political leaders.

**Action as a neutral intermediary**

ICRC representatives had frequent meetings with high-level representatives of the warring parties with the aim of helping them reach an agreement on humanitarian issues. At ICRC headquarters on 5 and 6 March the ICRC convened a meeting of the plenipotentiary representatives of the Bosnian government and of Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats, who reconfirmed their agreement to respect the civilian population and all medical facilities, to notify the ICRC of and allow it access to all detainees and to guarantee the security of humanitarian workers in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The parties were reminded of their commitment, according to the terms of the October 1992 agreement, to release all detainees unconditionally and unilaterally. An ICRC plan of action for the release of detainees was presented to the parties a few days later.

**Activities for detainees**

During visits carried out in accordance with customary ICRC criteria, the conditions of detention were evaluated by ICRC delegates. Wherever necessary the ICRC provided detainees with food supplements, clothing, hygiene products, blankets, stoves and plastic sheeting. In some places of detention the ICRC gave technical assistance to ensure that detainees' basic needs for heating, drinking water and sanitation were met (see also Water and sanitation below). Emergency medical supplies were handed over to dispensaries of detention centres.

In May the Delegate General for Western and Central Europe presented the President of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnian Croat and Bosnian Serb leaders each with an ICRC report on the conditions in places of detention under their control.

The ICRC made repeated representations to the authorities following reports that prisoners were being used as human shields and forced to work on front lines. A detailed report of allegations and ICRC findings, enjoining the three parties to the conflict to put an immediate stop to such practices, was handed over by the ICRC President to the three parties to the conflict during his November mission.

Over the year around 17,000 people detained in connection with the conflict were visited at least once by the ICRC. They also benefited from ICRC tracing services, and in 1993 more than 100,000 Red Cross messages were handled on their behalf.
Despite various agreements to release detainees unconditionally, the terms of few of these agreements were respected. However, exchanges were organized locally by the parties themselves. By mid-year, in an attempt to protect the interests of the prisoners exchanged, the ICRC drew up guidelines for international organizations or agencies involved in such exchanges.

In September, when the parties once again expressed their readiness to proceed with the unconditional release of all detainees, the ICRC offered its services and emphasized the fact that humanitarian considerations must override all other concerns.

By the end of the year some 13,000 detainees had been released by the parties. The ICRC transferred some 2,800 of them either to places within Bosnia-Herzegovina or to third countries, according to the wishes of each detainee.

Activities for the civilian population

The second year of the conflict proved no better than the first as far as respect for the civilian population was concerned. Whether they stayed at home or fled their towns and villages, civilians bore the brunt of the territorial contest and often became pawns in a larger political or military strategy.

In May the Delegate General presented the President of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnian Croat and Bosnian Serb leaders each with an ICRC report on the situation of the civilian population in areas under their control.

As from March the international community resorted to air drops in an attempt to bring aid to people in besieged cities. In May the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 824 declaring Bihac, Gorazde, Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Tuzla and Žepa "safe areas". The plan met with ambiguous support from the conflicting parties and did little to increase the safety of the civilian population.

Access to the most vulnerable people was often cut off because of poor security, bad weather, bad roads or all three. Precious weeks and even months were lost in negotiations for the safe passage of vital relief supplies. Many destinations could be reached only by crossing the front lines, where combatants were extremely reluctant to let humanitarian aid through, since they viewed it as strategic support for the opposite side or a bargaining tool to increase assistance to areas under their own control. In spite of sporadic unilateral or bilateral ceasefires - usually called so that aid could be brought into a besieged area - much of central Bosnia was supplied only intermittently.

Furthermore, so-called irregulars, including bandits and snipers, commanded main roads and regularly carried out savage attacks on humanitarian convoys. A number of UN soldiers and members of relief organizations were killed.

In June, when the Bosnian Croats of Travnik were stranded between the front lines of the Bosnian Serb and Bosnian government forces, the ICRC distributed emergency relief supplies. Soon after, following an agreement with the Bosnian Serb authorities (whose front lines had to be crossed) and the Republic of Croatia,
the ICRC was able to evacuate 500 of these Bosnian Croats to Croatia. The adult male population had been rounded up by the Bosnian Serb forces and sent to Manjaca camp near Banja Luka.

As from July the ICRC was forced to abandon the Split-Zenica route because fighting flared up again along this road. Other less direct routes had to be found and negotiated. Convoys going to Zenica travelled from Zagreb via Banja Luka and those to Tuzla from Belgrade via Zvornik. Travelling these routes involved negotiating passage across several lines.

ICRC target groups for relief distributions included displaced people, the elderly and the disabled, as well as people in social welfare institutions and hospitals. Each month an estimated 500,000 people received parcels containing supplementary foodstuffs such as beans, cheese, vegetable oil and sugar as well as certain non-food items such as soap.

As the cold weather set in and the needs of the civilian population increased, the ICRC carried out a winter relief programme to meet the needs of people in besieged towns and in central Bosnia. The non-food items included warm clothing, blankets, footwear and about 29,000 wood-burning stoves. As from October an ICRC cargo aircraft transported relief consignments to Sarajevo. Food supplies were destined for the 17 community kitchens run in collaboration with the local Red Cross, which provided meals for some 15,000 people who for health reasons or because of their age could not take advantage of other forms of food aid. In 1993 the ICRC distributed about 40,000 tonnes of relief supplies in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Tracing activities

With an estimated 1,300,000 displaced people within Bosnia-Herzegovina alone there was great need for a means to re-establish contact between separated family members. Red Cross messages often served as the principal means of communication between relatives. The Central Tracing Agency, with the indispensable help of the local Red Cross and some 102 National Societies worldwide, handled more than 4 million such messages in 1993. During December alone an average of 150,000 Red Cross messages were handled per week by the ICRC delegations in countries of the former Yugoslavia.

More than 1,300 family reunifications were carried out by the ICRC, each handled on a case-by-case basis. The most vulnerable people were given priority, i.e. children and the elderly living in precarious conditions far from their family. In addition, the ICRC, in cooperation with UNHCR and the International Migration Organization (IMO), reunited 570 families with relatives who had been detained and released under ICRC auspices; they were helped to resettle in third countries.
Medical activities

Nutritional surveys carried out by ICRC medical personnel helped the institution to monitor the need for assistance among the civilian population. Particular attention was given to the condition of detainees and people in specialized care institutions, such as those providing rehabilitation and occupational therapy, homes for the elderly, mental hospitals and orphanages.

Medical services in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly in besieged towns, were in a desperate state owing to the fighting, mass population displacement and a breakdown of supply systems. Certain field hospitals lacked basic medical equipment such as operating tables and surgical instruments. The ICRC provided emergency medicines, surgical supplies and equipment to surgical facilities. Priority was given to those treating the war-wounded.

In April, following an agreement reached under the auspices of UNPROFOR between the Bosnian government and the Bosnian Serb forces, the ICRC sent a medical team to the besieged town of Srebrenica to evacuate sick people and war casualties to Tuzla. Two other teams distributed emergency medical supplies, blankets and food to the local population.

At the end of the year distributions were stepped up in war-torn areas such as Tuzla, Nova Bila, Vitez, Zepce and Mostar. Some 180 Bosnian Croat war casualties from Zepce, being treated in hospitals in Teslic and Banja Luka, were evacuated by the ICRC to Zagreb.

In 1993 the ICRC assisted some 270 medical facilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) and parts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; some 190 such facilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina regularly received emergency medical supplies. They included hospitals, field hospitals, clinics with operating rooms, dispensaries and first-aid posts.

As an exceptional measure, disposable material essential for the treatment of patients with kidney disease was supplied by the ICRC to haemodialysis centres in Serb-held areas during the first six months of 1993, until another donor could be found. Centres in areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina held by Bosnian Croats or the government were supplied by other international humanitarian organizations.

The ICRC began reconstruction of two badly-damaged buildings at the Tuzla psychiatric hospital. Orthopaedic centres in Sarajevo and Banja Luka that manufacture prostheses for amputees were provided with the necessary materials.

Two seminars on war surgery were held in Banja Luka and Zenica for about 40 military and civilian surgeons.

The support of the numerous participating National Societies was of utmost importance for the ICRC’s emergency medical programme. Some National Societies contributed supplies to ICRC operations, others provided medical personnel or financial support. A special non-emergency programme was carried out in the Banja Luka region where the ICRC supplied medical facilities with sets of medicines for chronically ill and mentally ill patients.
A number of specialized projects were made possible by joint programmes with certain National Societies. With the assistance of the Norwegian Red Cross major repairs were carried out at the Kosevo Hospital in Sarajevo, where a centre for the treatment of patients with spinal injuries was inaugurated in November; it was the first building in Sarajevo to be restored since the outbreak of the fighting there. Supervision of a rehabilitation programme for patients at Kosevo Hospital and at an out-patient clinic was begun. Disposable medical supplies and basic surgical equipment were provided to hospitals in Zenica and Tuzla. In a bilateral project the Netherlands Red Cross, working under ICRC coordination, began setting up gas generators and heaters in Sarajevo.

Water and sanitation

The protracted conflict led to serious water shortages and caused problems of access to clean water. In some places distribution and treatment plants were destroyed by the fighting or fell into disrepair for lack of spare parts and chemicals. Elsewhere they could not be used because there was no electricity. While many local water authorities were capable of maintaining a minimum supply of water, their resources, in terms of both personnel and materials, were often limited. The situation was complicated by the fact that many areas had modern, sophisticated water and sanitation systems which require expert maintenance.

All sides used denial of access to water as a weapon in their military strategy, which left isolated areas with no drinking water. On 8 June the ICRC denounced this practice. In addition to negotiating civilian access to water supplies with the warring parties, the ICRC also worked to ensure that the water in conflict areas was safe to drink. In all, ICRC water and sanitation teams worked in some 70 different municipalities.

So as to reduce risk of illness from contaminated water, chemicals for treating the water were distributed widely in areas such as Banja Luka, Bihac, Gorazde, Mostar, Sarajevo and Zenica. Chlorinators and spare parts were supplied to many water authorities. Water distribution points were set up in Mostar and Srebrenica. In collaboration with Médecins sans Frontières the ICRC put an abandoned water system in Srebrenica back into service. Emergency reservoirs were placed in centres for displaced people in Zenica.

With the assistance of the British Red Cross the ICRC repaired the water pipeline between Pale and Sarajevo. This project was unique in that it operated on gravity flow and did not depend on fuel or electricity.

In certain detention centres the ICRC was able to improve conditions for detainees by treating the water or by installing heaters or lighting.

Dissemination

The ICRC made a particular effort to spread awareness of the rules of international humanitarian law in 1993. Use of the media was a vital aspect of
the ICRC’s approach to dissemination work. Radio spots on international humanitarian law were broadcast on local stations. ICRC delegates also helped to spread awareness of international humanitarian law through programmes on television and articles in the press. In addition, ICRC publications were translated into local languages. Seminars on the law of war were held for over 200 officers from all three parties, as well as for combatants in the field.

ICRC dissemination delegates held several seminars on ICRC activities and the Movement for leaders of local Red Cross branches.

Delegates strove to make the basic humanitarian principles known in order to encourage respect for the civilian population, to improve security for humanitarian workers and to increase the chances of success of the various ICRC operations.

CROATIA

Overall, the situation was tense on and off throughout the year. In spite of the 1992 cease-fire and the deployment of UN forces in the UNPAs, there was a resurgence of fighting early in 1993 between Croatian troops and forces from the self-proclaimed “Republic of Serbian Krajina” (RSK). Fighting flared up again in September with bombardment in UNPA Sectors South and North which also affected Karlovac, south-west of Zagreb.

During his mission in the former Yugoslavia in November the ICRC President met the Croatian President, Deputy Prime Ministers and other high-ranking officials in Zagreb where they discussed matters related to the conflict of 1991, as well as ICRC activities in the country.

The Croatian Red Cross was officially recognized as a National Society in August following a joint mission by the ICRC and the Federation.

Activities for civilians and detainees

Delegates based in ICRC offices in the UNPAs monitored the uneasy situation and prepared to take action in case conditions deteriorated. The Knin sub-delegation covered UNPA South; the Vojnic office UNPA North; the Okucani office UNPA West and the new Dalj office UNPA East. In addition to coordinating ICRC activities in Croatia the delegation in Zagreb and the sub-delegation in Split also served as logistics bases and provided support for the institution’s operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The activities of the ICRC delegates included providing protection for minority groups, spreading knowledge of the rules of war, handling Red Cross messages and visiting people detained in connection with the conflict; assistance in the form of medical emergency supplies was given to hospitals near the front line treating war casualties.

In the UNPAs, ICRC delegates brought assistance to the needy, in particular the elderly and isolated people facing hardship. ICRC water and sanitation
engineers ensured that there was safe drinking in isolated areas. Emergency reservoirs were placed in centres for displaced people in Knin. Special attention was given to areas where minority groups were subjected to pressure. The ICRC intervened on several occasions at political and administrative levels, calling on the parties to respect the civilian population. ICRC visits were carried out to people detained in connection with the conflict between the Croatian government and the Serb forces.

The ICRC continued to visit and work for the release of prisoners still held in connection with the 1991 Croatian-Yugoslav conflict who, under an agreement signed in Budapest in August 1992, should all have been released as from that time. At a meeting in Geneva on 11 February the ICRC brought together plenipotentiary representatives of the parties to the 1991 conflict to deal with unresolved issues, and discussions with high-level officials on both sides continued throughout 1993. On 6 December the Deputy Prime Ministers of Croatia and Yugoslavia met in Geneva under ICRC auspices to discuss the fate of prisoners, and by the end of the year their release appeared imminent.

**Dissemination**

More than a dozen seminars on the law of war were held for a total of 650 officers of the Croatian army as well as for members of the Serb forces in the UNPAs. Briefing sessions on international humanitarian law were also held for UNPROFOR battalions in the UNPAs.

A series of training seminars on the role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and international humanitarian law were held for senior leaders of all branches of the Croatian Red Cross; several publications and video programmes were given to the National Society for large-scale distribution.

**YUGOSLAVIA**  
(Serbia, Montenegro)

Following the December 1992 elections the new Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia formed a government in March. In addition to soaring inflation the country faced hardship because of international sanctions. Medical supplies dwindled as an indirect result of the sanctions; people found it difficult to pay for those medicines that were available.

During his November mission to Belgrade the ICRC President met the President, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the President of Serbia as well as other high-ranking officials. In Podgorica he met the President of Montenegro. Discussions centred on issues related to the 1991 conflict, as well as ICRC activities in the region.
In August, following a mission by representatives of the Joint ICRC/Federation Commission for National Society Statutes, the ICRC confirmed recognition of the Yugoslav Red Cross.

Activities for detainees

The ICRC delegation in Belgrade visited prisoners held in connection with the Croatian-Yugoslav conflict.

An ICRC delegate based in Pristina continued to organize visits to people detained in connection with the situation in Kosovo. Delegates conducted two rounds of visits; in all, 64 people were visited in nine places of detention in Serbia.

Medical activities

Throughout the year the ICRC concentrated on the needs of hospitals receiving war-wounded and provided them with emergency medical supplies. Certain humanitarian needs arose on account of the breakdown of the distribution system; blood transfusion material, for instance, including blood test sets, was donated to the Blood Transfusion Institute in Belgrade. The orthopaedic centre in Belgrade received material for the manufacture of prostheses.

The ICRC helped the Yugoslav Red Cross buy medicines for distribution free of charge to refugees.

Dissemination

The ICRC and the National Society developed a programme called “Bridges to Humanity” for national radio. ICRC staff were invited a number of times for interviews on national television to talk about ICRC activities and international humanitarian law. Delegates held a seminar on the law of war for members of the Yugoslav armed forces in Belgrade.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Formal submission by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia of an application for membership of the United Nations in January provoked strong reactions over the name of the country and was the subject of deep disagreement with Greece. UN recognition was granted to it in April under that name.

In September the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia deposited with the Swiss government a declaration of succession to the Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols. These instruments were previously applicable to the territory of the Republic of Macedonia by virtue of their ratification by the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in April 1950 and June 1979 respectively. In accordance with international practice the four Conventions and the two Protocols came into force for the country retroactively on 8 September 1991, the date of the Republic’s independence.
The ICRC President travelled to Skopje in November where he held talks with the President of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Minister of Health on the consequences, in humanitarian terms, of the war in the former Yugoslavia and on the question of recognition of the National Society. The President also gave a lecture at the Law School on the dissemination of international humanitarian law as a preventive measure.

Dissemination

In collaboration with the Ministry of Defence seven seminars were held for some 230 officers and their troops. Videos, teaching aids and other material had been translated into the local language for the seminars. Training courses in international humanitarian law were held for local Red Cross officials.

SLOVENIA

In March, at the Geneva headquarters, the ICRC President received the Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs. They discussed the effects of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia on the Slovenian population and the resultant humanitarian needs. The authorities expressed concern about the estimated 70,000 refugees in Slovenia, as well as for a number of Slovenes trapped in war-torn areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina or in the UNPAs.

The ICRC President, on mission in the former Yugoslavia in November, travelled to Ljubljana and discussed the humanitarian problems in the neighbouring war-stricken countries with the President of the Republic, several ministers, members of parliament and representatives of the Red Cross of Slovenia.

In August the Red Cross of Slovenia was formally recognized as the National Society following a joint mission by the ICRC and the Federation. A training course on National Society dissemination programmes was organized under ICRC auspices by the Belgian Red Cross for Slovenian Red Cross youth.

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Activities in the following countries were carried out by ICRC delegates based in Geneva.

ALBANIA

In July the Republic of Albania acceded to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) and Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II).

A dissemination delegate based in Geneva travelled to Tirana in July for a conference organized by the Federation on cooperation and dissemination. Other
participants included representatives of the Albanian, British, Bulgarian and Netherlands Red Cross Societies. During the same mission the delegate met the Minister of Defence to discuss the organization of seminars on the law of war for Albanian officers.

In November the regional delegate and an ICRC lawyer travelled to Albania where they held talks with Albanian authorities, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence and the Deputy Ministers of Justice and Public Order, on the ICRC’s activities and the overall situation in the region in terms of humanitarian needs, as well as respect for the emblem and other issues related to international humanitarian law.

BULGARIA

The Deputy Delegate General for Western and Central Europe, accompanied by a dissemination delegate, attended the annual Bulgarian Red Cross Assembly in March. They also met Red Cross representatives to discuss setting up dissemination and tracing programmes. Delegates sought the cooperation of the authorities in promoting international humanitarian law.

The 10th Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Balkan Countries, which took place in September in Sofia, focused on the situation in the region and on cooperation among the National Societies there. The conference was held under the auspices of the Bulgarian Red Cross and was attended by the ICRC’s Director for Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement and the Delegate General for Western and Central Europe, who both took an active part. They clearly emphasized the importance of international humanitarian law and reported on the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims.

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic announced its decision to succeed to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols in February. Two reservations concerning the Conventions, previously made by Czechoslovakia, were maintained.

The Delegate General and the regional delegate attended the first General Assembly of the Czech Red Cross in June. The newly organized Czech Red Cross was formally recognized in August.

GREECE

In February Greece acceded to Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions.

A few weeks before Greece assumed the presidency of the European Union, the ICRC President went to Athens in December for talks with the President of
the Republic, the Minister of Defence and other high-level officials on the
government’s view of the conflict and the humanitarian needs in the neighbouring
States of the former Yugoslavia. During his mission he also had talks with leaders
of the Hellenic Red Cross.

HUNGARY

The Hungarian Red Cross organized a seminar in Budapest designed to lend
support to local branches dealing with tracing requests and Red Cross messages. During the year Red Cross staff in Hungary were often called upon to deal with questions raised by the many refugees in the country.

POLAND

The ICRC Vice-President travelled to Poland in August where he met
representatives of the Polish Red Cross and the government, including the Foreign
Minister, with whom he discussed the Conference for the Protection of War Victims which was due to take place at the end of the month.

He also gave an opening speech to participants in the eleventh annual course on international humanitarian law. Some 40 university students and academics from a record 24 countries attended the course, which was held in English.

ROMANIA

In March the Deputy Delegate General and a dissemination delegate travelled
to Romania to review the situation and hold talks with the authorities and Red Cross officials. Since the situation in the country no longer warranted its continuous presence there, the ICRC closed its delegation in Bucharest on 31 March.

The ICRC supported the Federation’s “Spinal Cord Injury “ project for paraplegic patients at the Bucharest Marinescu Hospital. The six-month project ended in December 1993.

SLOVAKIA

An ICRC delegation met high-level officials in early March to discuss the question of succession of the Slovak Republic to the Geneva Conventions. They also advised Red Cross representatives about procedures for formal recognition of the National Society.

In April Slovakia announced its intention to succeed to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols. The declaration contained the reservations previously made by Czechoslovakia concerning the Conventions.

A dissemination delegate took part as an observer in a congress in May which brought together about 100 leaders of the former Red Cross Society. The newly
organized Slovak Red Cross elected a President and adopted its own statutes in preparation for its recognition as a National Society. It was formally recognized in August.

TURKEY

Throughout the year the ICRC had regular meetings with the Turkish authorities in order to keep them informed about its activities in the former Yugoslavia and in the Caucasus.

It followed the situation in Turkey closely throughout the year and reiterated its offer of services to the government in March with a view to obtaining access to detainees and civilians affected by the fighting in the south-eastern part of the country.
An Armenian soldier comforts an elderly Azeri woman after the Kalbadjar region was taken.
Eastern Europe
*ICRC regional delegation:* Moscow

The Caucasus
*ICRC delegations:* Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Central Asia:
*ICRC delegation:* Tajikistan
*ICRC regional delegation:* Tashkent

**Staff**
ICRC expatriates*: 62
National Societies*: 4
Local employees**: 170

**Total expenditure**
CHF 30,804,622

**Expenditure breakdown CHF**
Protection/Tracing: 4,410,179
Relief: 18,166,597
Medical assistance: 1,747,188
Cooperation with National Societies: 251,196
Dissemination: 1,195,126
Operational support: 3,226,199
Overheads: 1,808,137

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* Average numbers calculated on an annual basis.
** Under ICRC contract, as at December 1993.
The countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as those in Eastern Europe, faced serious economic and social difficulties in 1993 which were accompanied by armed conflict in certain areas such as the Russian Federation, the Caucasus and Tajikistan.

There were internal disturbances in Moscow in October which involved the parliament and the government. In the northern Caucasus, mainly towards the end of 1992, there was fighting in the autonomous republics of North Ossetia and Ingushetia; the human problems caused by the conflict lingered on into 1993. Although the subsequent situation was relatively calm, no real political solution was found, and displaced groups, the Ingush in particular, were not able to return to their homes. There were also sporadic violent clashes in Chechnia.

The Caucasus continued to be a source of great concern to the ICRC as the conflict around the Nagorny-Karabakh territory escalated and fighting in Georgia spread from one part of the country to another. Repeated offensives were launched by Karabakhi forces and much of the area around Nagorny-Karabakh came under Karabakhi control; hundreds of thousands of civilians were forced to flee their homes. Over 170,000 people received ICRC relief assistance. In Georgia, the Abkhaz took over the territory they had claimed as theirs. Fighting also flared up between Georgian government troops and forces loyal to former President Gamsakhurdia. Tens of thousands of people were displaced.

In Tajikistan intense fighting broke out at the end of 1992 and hundreds of thousands of people were displaced or became refugees. Over the year the situation gradually calmed down. Although people were encouraged to return to their homes, returnees faced many difficulties. At the end of the year there were still tens of thousands of people living as refugees in Afghanistan or displaced in the Gorno-Badakhshan region.

In such emergency situations as those mentioned above, the ICRC concentrates on activities such as visits to people arrested in connection with the conflict, protection of civilians not taking part in the fighting and the exchange of family messages.

In this unsettled and sometimes volatile context, the ICRC's work to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross/Red Crescent principles is also essential. Delegates focused on giving dissemination seminars to groups as diverse as the armed forces,
government officials and members of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; key ICRC publications were translated for that purpose. A concerted effort was made to encourage the newly independent countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia to become party to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols. The ICRC also supported Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies by meeting the leaders to explain the procedures for official recognition, by giving seminars on the Movement and by helping with the respective National Societies' development.
Eastern Europe

The regional delegate in charge of ICRC activities in the Baltic States, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova was based at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

BALTIC STATES

Estonia acceded to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols on 18 January.

On 31 March the ICRC confirmed its earlier recognition of the Estonia Red Cross, first granted in April 1922.

In Latvia, the regional delegate took part in the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the Latvian Red Cross. A seminar on the Movement and international humanitarian law, sponsored jointly by the ICRC and the Federation, was held in Cesis for Red Cross leaders and youth. A similar seminar was held for leaders of the Red Cross Society of Lithuania at the Academy of Science in Vilnius.

Ten publications and a few videos on international humanitarian law and the Movement and its fundamental principles were translated into Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian for the respective National Societies’ dissemination programmes.

The ICRC contacted representatives of the Ministries of Defence in the Baltic States to promote the inclusion of the law of war in the training of the newly organized armed forces.

BELARUS

During a mission carried out at the end of June by the Deputy Delegate General for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the regional delegate, the ICRC strengthened its relations with the authorities. The organization of dissemination seminars for the armed forces was discussed with a representative of the Ministry of Defence. Also in the course of the mission, the delegates met the leaders of the Red Cross Society of Belarus to discuss the procedure for its official recognition as a National Society.

ICRC delegates gave an account of the institution’s work during a UNHCR-sponsored seminar in Minsk on refugee issues.

In October the ICRC and the Federation organized a three-day seminar in Minsk for representatives from Red Cross headquarters and branch offices.
MOLDOVA

On 24 May the Republic of Moldova acceded to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols.

There were no open hostilities between Moldovan and Transdniestrian forces in 1993 owing to the installation in mid-1992 of a buffer force comprised of Moldovan, Transdniestrian and Russian units. The need for humanitarian assistance diminished and the ICRC closed its office in Tiraspol (Transdniestria) in January and the delegation in Chisinau in March.

After negotiations with the authorities in Tiraspol the ICRC received authorization to visit six detainees accused of terrorist acts; delegates carried out visits in May and October.

By March the authorities in Chisinau had informed the ICRC that there were no more detainees of concern to the ICRC held there.

Pending tracing cases related to the conflict in 1992 were submitted to the Deputy Minister of the Interior in Chisinau and to the Transdniestrian Minister of Health. Both officials agreed to treat these cases with their Tripartite Commission * one of the organizations handling cases of missing persons.

Delegates met the Chairman of the Red Cross Society of Moldova to discuss the future of dissemination work in the country and offer assistance in this task. A dissemination session on the law of war was held for officers of the 14th Russian army based in Tiraspol.

The regional delegate presented the work of the ICRC at a UNHCR-sponsored seminar in Chisinau on the problems faced by refugees and displaced people.

UKRAINE

The Red Cross Society of Ukraine was formally recognized by the ICRC in September following a joint mission by representatives from the ICRC and the Federation.

Early in the year Kiev served as a logistics base for ICRC relief operations in Tajikistan and the Caucasus. To this end, a delegate was posted there for several months.

An ICRC lawyer participated in a UNHCR seminar in Kiev on refugees. The regional delegate travelled to the Ukraine to meet representatives of the Red Cross and evaluate the need for technical assistance for its tracing service.

* The Tripartite Commission is composed of Moldovan, Transdniestrian and Russian representatives.
MOSCOW
Regional delegation
(Russian Federation, including all autonomous republics and regions)

The year 1993 proved challenging for the Russian Federation as the government confronted potentially volatile economic, social and political issues. A power struggle among the leadership culminated in internal disturbances in Moscow in October.

Tension between the Ingush and the Ossetians degenerated into armed conflict in November 1992; some 60,000 ethnic Ingush had to leave villages situated to the east of Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia). The government in Moscow declared a state of emergency and set up Russian buffer forces in an attempt to keep the situation from deteriorating further. However, no solution was found to the problems which fomented the strife.

By the end of the year the situation for the approximately 200,000 refugees who had fled from Georgia to North Ossetia in 1992 had not improved significantly; assistance from local authorities decreased and there was no large-scale return of the refugees to Georgia during the year.

In Chechnia, a power struggle between the President’s supporters and the opposition erupted into armed confrontation on several occasions.

The ICRC carried out a number of missions in the northern Caucasus to assess the needs there. An office was opened in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria) in July in order to monitor the situation and to provide the ICRC with a logistics base for operations in the region.

The 1868 Declaration of St Petersburg, the first modern multilateral treaty concerning the prohibition of projectiles causing unnecessary suffering in warfare, was commemorated on 1-2 December during a two-day symposium sponsored by the Mayor of St Petersburg, the Russian Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs and the ICRC. High-ranking representatives of the armed forces of 32 countries attended the ceremonies to mark the 125th anniversary of the Declaration. The ICRC President led the institution’s delegation.

IN 1993 THE ICRC:
• visited about 40 people detained in connection with the events in Moscow in October and the violence between Ingush and Ossetians in the northern Caucasus;
• provided relief supplies to some 28,800 people directly affected by the fighting between North Ossetia and Ingushetia.
The ICRC regional delegation in Moscow worked to develop an overall dissemination programme which included the translation of ICRC publications into Russian. It also expanded its network of contacts with government officials and representatives of the Russian Red Cross, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the Russian and international media.

Activities for detainees

Between August and December ICRC delegates visited 18 people detained in connection with the Ossetian/Ingush conflict in various places of detention, including Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia) and Pyatigorsk (Stavropol Krai).

Following the October disturbances in Moscow the head of the regional delegation met the Russian authorities and offered the institution’s services to visit people detained because of the events. Delegates conducted visits in accordance with the ICRC’s standard criteria to 23 detainees held in Moscow.

Activities for the civilian population

Of particular concern to the institution was the situation of the approximately 60,000 ethnic Ingush from North Ossetia displaced to Ingushetia by the fighting in 1992. During July the ICRC assisted some 28,800 Ingush and Ossetians rendered vulnerable by the conflict – including the elderly, large families and people sheltered in public buildings or in villages isolated because of the conflict. With the onset of winter delegates carried out a second distribution of family parcels, blankets, kitchen sets and stoves. The distributions were made in close cooperation with branches of the Russian Red Cross.

Medical activities

On 5 October, two days after armed clashes began in Moscow, the ICRC provided much-needed emergency supplies to five medical facilities treating the wounded. Medical supplies were also distributed to hospitals and first-aid posts in Ingushetia following the conflict there.

Dissemination

Talks were held with representatives of the Ministries of Defence, the Interior and Foreign Affairs to prepare seminars on international humanitarian law for members of the armed forces. In June seminars for senior officers were held in Moscow and Rostov on the Don.

In cooperation with the Russian Red Cross, the ICRC sponsored seminars on dissemination in St Petersburg and Nalchik for local branches of the National Society in the northern Caucasus and in the north-western part of the Russian

Moscow regional delegation
Total expenditure in 1993:
CHF 2,340,000
The Caucasus

ARMENIA/AZERBAIJAN

The territory of Nagorny-Karabakh has long been a bone of contention between the ethnic Armenians who live there and want independence and the Azerbaijani authorities. In 1993, the conflict between Karabakhi forces and Azerbaijani troops dragged on through another year of heavy fighting. Karabakhi offensives in areas around the territory left thousands dead or wounded and displaced an estimated 700,000 Azerbaijanis. Hundreds of civilians and military personnel were captured. Shelling along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border continued on and off throughout the year. In Armenia, the embargo imposed by Azerbaijan and Turkey resulted in severe electricity and fuel shortages.

In April, with the capture of the Kelbajar district, Karabakhi forces broadened the Lachin corridor (which had been opened between Nagorny-Karabakh and Armenia in May 1992) to the full width of Nagorny-Karabakh. Karabakhi forces took Agdam during the July offensives. Towns to the south, Jebrail, Fizuli and Gubatly, suffered the same fate in August. The Zangelan district in the southwestern tip of Azerbaijan was seized by the Karabakhi forces in October.

The situation remained relatively calm in Nakhichevan (an autonomous Azerbaijani republic surrounded by Armenia, Turkey and Iran).

In February the Deputy Delegate General met the President of the local Supreme Council and the Chairman of the Defence Committee in Stepanakert to discuss ICRC activities in the region and dissemination of international humanitarian law.

Lack of security prevented delegates from being based in Stepanakert from October 1992 until March, when the ICRC re-established a permanent presence in Nagorny-Karabakh.

The ICRC President received the Patriarch of the Catholic Armenians and Katholikos of Cilicia, accompanied by the Bishop of Stepanakert, and at a later
date Sheik-ul-Islam, the spiritual leader of the Islamic community in the Caucasus, at ICRC headquarters where discussions centred on the humanitarian needs resulting from the conflict. In December the Delegate General met the President of Azerbaijan in Baku, where they discussed ICRC activities in Azerbaijan.


Activities for the civilian population

The ICRC appealed to the parties to the conflict to ensure respect for the civilian population. ICRC delegates worked to spread awareness of international humanitarian law among combatants, officials and the general public, particularly in conflict areas. Whenever violations were observed or reported the ICRC made representations to the authorities.

The ICRC provided assistance to people in conflict areas in and around the Nagornoy-Karabakh territory and along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. In all, the ICRC assisted approximately 170,000 people in Azerbaijan and in Armenia. The Federation concentrated on needs in non-combat areas in both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

When tens of thousands of Azerbaijaniis fled the fighting in the Kelbajar district in April, ICRC delegates worked quickly to evacuate a number of women and children travelling on foot northwards across a 3,400 m high snow-covered mountain pass. Some 6,000 destitute families were provided with blankets, clothing and food parcels.

During the offensives around Agdam in July delegates based in Barda distributed food parcels and reinforced plastic sheeting to some 4,000 families without shelter. Following the offensives in the south and south-west in August, the ICRC brought in material to install temporary shelters for displaced people camping along the road leading eastward towards Beilagan and Imishli. National Societies in the region set up camps for about 100,000 displaced people.
Throughout the year the ICRC assisted vulnerable groups in Armenia in villages subject to shelling along the border with Azerbaijan. Food parcels and relief items such as blankets, winter footwear, plastic sheeting and kitchen sets were distributed in Armenia.

Activities for detainees

The ICRC visited 446 people who had been captured and detained in connection with the Nagorny-Karabakh conflict. In spite of its repeated requests to the parties to the conflict, at the end of the year delegates did not have access to all people deprived of their freedom.

Despite the commitments made by the parties concerned and their statements condemning the taking of hostages, the ICRC did not notice any change in this practice which placed people protected by international humanitarian law in jeopardy.

The ICRC pursued its efforts to obtain the release of all detainees held solely because of their ethnic origins and whose lives were endangered by such detention. It sponsored a meeting in Moscow in March between representatives from Azerbaijan and Armenia in order to encourage solutions to this problem. The ICRC subsequently facilitated the return home of a number of detainees released by both parties.

During ICRC visits detainees were given the opportunity to send Red Cross messages to their families; several hundred such messages were handled by the ICRC tracing service in 1993.

Medical activities

ICRC surveys early in the year revealed that hospitals treating the war-wounded in both Armenia and Nagorny-Karabakh had adequate stocks since they were receiving assistance from other international organizations. ICRC assistance was then directed towards poorly supplied hospitals and first-aid posts near the front line in Azerbaijan. Distributions consisted mainly of emergency surgical material, dressing material for wounds and burns, plaster, blood bags, medicines and paediatric sets.

Later in the year, when the conflict intensified, the ICRC gave emergency assistance to hospitals receiving war-wounded in Armenia, Nagorny-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. In addition, two ICRC mobile water tanks were set up at a field hospital in the southern part of Azerbaijan.

Dissemination

Seminars on international humanitarian law were organized in Armenia for high-ranking officers under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defence, members of the armed forces under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior, and
officers from the Russian units stationed in Armenia. The delegation in Yerevan also worked closely with the Red Cross of Armenia in preparing documents in Armenian for dissemination purposes.

Two series of seminars on the law of war were held for military units in Nagorny-Karabakh. Radio and television spots explaining the basic principles of international humanitarian law and the ICRC's work in the region were broadcast on local stations.

The basic principles of international humanitarian law were explained to members of the Azerbaijani armed forces in all front-line barracks under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of Defence and the Interior. Seminars on international humanitarian law and the work of the ICRC were also held for representatives of the Red Crescent in Azerbaijan. Several ICRC publications were translated into Azeri. Information spots, similar to those broadcast in Nagorny-Karabakh, were aired in Azerbaijan at prime time twice a week over a four-month period.

GEORGIA

Georgia faced serious problems on nearly every front in 1993. Internal armed conflict continued through much of the year in Abkhazia; the situation in South Ossetia, far from being resolved, was kept under control by joint buffer forces; there was fresh armed confrontation in western Georgia initiated by supporters of the former President Gamsakhurdia. The hostilities had a devastating effect on the country's economy, making it difficult for the government to devote the necessary attention and resources to opportunities resulting from independence.

After the outbreak of fighting in the autonomous republic of Abkhazia in August 1992, the region was administered by two governments: Abkhaz separatists ruled from Gudauta and Georgian loyalists from Sukhumi. The Georgian government requested help from the international community in resolving the conflict, in particular the deployment of United Nations military observers. The ICRC appealed to the parties to the conflict to respect the civilian population.

During the year there were a few lulls in the fighting and three short-lived cease-fires. The third cease-fire agreement, signed by the warring parties in Abkhazia at the end of July, seemed to clear the way for a peaceful solution to the conflict. Unfortunately, this respite was brief and in September fighting resumed simultaneously on several fronts. A few days after the fall of Sukhumi to Abkhaz troops, most of the region was under their control. Once again the ICRC appealed to the authorities to ensure respect for the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

Fearing reprisals, a hundred thousand non-Abkhaz fled the region. Svanetia and Mingrelia received the largest numbers of displaced, the majority of whom
In 1993 the ICRC:
- assisted more than 63,000 people directly affected by the conflict;  
- handled over 3,500 Red Cross messages for family members separated by the fighting.

were given shelter in public buildings or private homes. Other displaced families fled to Adjaria, Tbilisi and other parts of Georgia. This brought the total number of people displaced as a result of the fighting in Abkhazia, which broke out in August 1992, to an estimated 250,000.

On 1 December, at a UN-sponsored meeting in Geneva, both parties to the Abkhaz conflict signed a Memorandum of Understanding whereby they agreed inter alia to refrain from the use of force or threats of force, to release all prisoners unconditionally, to exchange lists with the names of people reported missing, to reinter the dead and to establish conditions conducive to the voluntary return of displaced people. In conformity with its mandate the ICRC offered its services as a neutral intermediary to help the parties organize the simultaneous release of all prisoners.

Even before the Abkhaz conflict was over, Zugdidi and several other nearby towns in western Georgia were taken in September by armed supporters of former Georgian President Gamsakhurdia. Fighting between them and Georgian government forces became more violent in October. In early November government forces reclaimed Zugdidi and control of Mingrelia.

Except for minor incidents the situation in South Ossetia was calm. The internal border, controlled by the buffer forces, was open and a limited number of displaced Georgians moved back home. On the political level, however, there was no breakthrough on basic issues.

ICRC offices, opened in August 1992 in Gudauta and Sukhumi on each side of the front line, were reinforced with additional staff in July when the Abkhaz conflict intensified. The Gudauta office was closed at the end of September after the fall of Sukhumi. ICRC offices were opened in Zugdidi and in Kutaisi, in October and November respectively, to monitor the situation in western Georgia. The ICRC delegation in Tbilisi served as a logistics base for ICRC operations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the northern Caucasus.

The Georgian parliament voted to accede to the four Geneva Conventions and the two Protocols; it deposited its declaration of accession with the Swiss government on 14 September.
Activities for the civilian population

Throughout the year the ICRC was in contact with the relevant authorities and drew their attention to the needs of conflict victims. During a meeting with the Georgian President in May in Tbilisi, the ICRC Delegate General and the head of delegation discussed the ICRC’s activities in the Caucasus and expressed concern about risks faced by the civilian population, in particular shelling in populated areas and the harassment of certain groups in both Abkhaz- and Georgian-held areas. Delegates visited villages in Abkhazia and frequently reminded the local authorities of their responsibility for the protection of these groups.

In early October the ICRC Director of Operations met Abkhaz representatives in Geneva, where they discussed the institution’s concern for the safety of the remaining minority groups in Abkhazia and its desire to have access to all people detained in connection with the conflict. At the same time, the Delegate General met Abkhaz authorities and Russian military leaders in Sukhumi, where he also raised issues related to the protection of civilians and detainees. The Georgian Head of State’s special envoy was received by the ICRC President in mid-October at headquarters, where discussions again centred on the needs of the displaced and the protection of civilians and detainees.

Assistance was given wherever needs were observed. Early in the year the ICRC distributed footwear and clothing to people in Gudauta rendered vulnerable by the conflict; clothing, blankets and family parcels were distributed to victims of the shelling in Sukhumi; people in Tskhinvali (South Ossetia) were provided with blankets.

After Abkhaz forces took control of Sukhumi, ICRC surveys revealed that many of the displaced had left most of their possessions behind and faced the coming winter virtually destitute. Delegates assisted people fleeing Abkhazia through the mountains to Upper Svanetia in October; convoys brought ICRC emergency relief supplies into western Georgia from Tbilisi and over a 15-day period more than 4,800 food parcels and 13,500 blankets were distributed. The ICRC also set up a relief programme in coordination with committees organized to look after the needs of the displaced living in public buildings in conflict areas.

The Federation, which had an office in Kutaisi, took responsibility for the displaced in areas where there was no armed conflict.

In all, the ICRC provided over 43,000 people with emergency supplies such as food parcels, blankets, plastic sheeting, shoes, clothing and cooking stoves.

The ICRC tracing service handled over 3,500 Red Cross messages for families separated by the conflict. Family reunifications were organized for both Abkhaz and Georgian families.
Activities for detainees

Delegates maintained contacts with the authorities in an effort to obtain access to all detainees of concern to the ICRC. The institution publicly reminded the parties to the conflict that the taking of hostages was a violation of international humanitarian law and that prisoners should not be held in places near the front lines. Although the ICRC did not always have regular access to people detained in connection with the Abkhaz and western Georgian conflicts, delegates visited about one hundred civilians and combatants detained by one or another of the warring parties in 1993.

During the first nine months of the year ICRC visits to detainees held in connection with the Abkhaz conflict were carried out on both sides of the front line, i.e. in both Gudauta and Sukhumi. After Abkhaz forces reclaimed Sukhumi delegates continued visits to places of detention in Abkhazia; they also began visits in November to Abkhaz prisoners in Tbilisi. On 19 December the institution served as a neutral intermediary when prisoners were simultaneously released by the parties in conformity with the Memorandum of Understanding of 1 December.

Medical activities

The ICRC provided medical requisites to hospitals in conflict areas in Abkhazia and western Georgia, including Mingrelia, as well as in Tbilisi. Regular surveys were carried out to monitor needs at medical facilities treating the war-wounded. Distributions included emergency medical supplies such as medicines, dressing material for wounds and burns, injection sets, gloves, catheters and sutures.

When heavy fighting broke out in July and again in September emergency stocks were quickly depleted. The ICRC hired a cargo aircraft to bring in several tonnes of medical supplies for hospitals receiving the war-wounded in Abkhazia, as well as in Poti, Kutaisi and Tbilisi. An ICRC team consisting of a doctor and a nurse accompanied the medical supplies.

From September to November the ICRC assisted medical facilities in Mingrelia, in particular those in areas controlled by the opposition which could not be supplied by the Ministry of Health.

Dissemination

Seminars on international humanitarian law and the activities of the ICRC were given for unit commanders on the front line in Gudauta, Ochamchira and Sukhumi, the three main towns in Abkhazia. Brochures in Georgian and Russian on international humanitarian law were distributed to combatants.
Central Asia

TAJIKISTAN

In January 1993, the ICRC, which had previously covered operations in Tajikistan from its regional delegation in Tashkent, officially opened a delegation in Dushanbe.

By the beginning of 1993 the armed conflict which had broken out in Tajikistan in early May 1992 had driven some 500,000 people (about 10% of the population) from their homes, including an estimated 60,000 people from Kurgan Tyube and a smaller number from Kulyab who took refuge in Afghanistan when fighting again intensified in December 1992. With between 20,000 and 50,000 people killed, it proved to be the deadliest conflict in the former Soviet Union.

At the outset, the fighting had been viewed as an internal armed conflict between pro-Communists and an Islamic-democratic alliance – with some underlying clan pressure. Later it was observed that ideological considerations were far less important than regional identity based on political and economic interests and historical roots.

Through much of 1993 the situation remained unstable owing to infiltration of the Tajik-Afghan border by armed groups based in Afghanistan, the presence of groups of irregulars within the country and perceived regional imbalances.

Intermittent skirmishes between armed groups and government forces in the western part of the mountainous Gorno-Badakhshan oblast (province), known as the Darwaz region, and the fact that the main road from Dushanbe was still blocked with snow in May meant that the resident Pamiri population, as well as some 40,000 displaced people, were cut off from their main supply route. After fighting flared up in the region in May, the ICRC carried out a survey of the situation and a delegate was based in Khorog from July until mid-November. Assistance for the local population was provided by various non-governmental organizations.

During its high-level meetings with government officials and leaders of the opposition the ICRC, in accordance with the provisions of international
humanitarian law, reminded them of their responsibility for the civilian population. Delegates also presented the activities of the ICRC and sought the authorities’ and leaders’ assistance in facilitating the delegation’s work.

In spite of many talks with the authorities and a report expressing the ICRC’s concern for people detained in connection with the conflict, the institution did not obtain access to these detainees. Nevertheless, in a meeting between the authorities and the ICRC on 7 December the President of the Supreme Soviet assured the Delegate General that the relevant authorities would look into the matter.

On 12 January the Republic of Tajikistan deposited with the Swiss government a declaration of succession to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977. These instruments were already applicable for the territory of Tajikistan by virtue of their ratification by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1954 and 1989 respectively. The declaration contained no reference to the reservations and declaration previously made by the Soviet Union, nor was it accompanied by any further reservations or declarations. It took effect retroactively as of 21 December 1991, the date on which the Alma Ata Declaration creating the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was signed.

Activities for the civilian population

As the only humanitarian organization operational in Tajikistan until February, the ICRC closely monitored the needs of the displaced people and returnees. Delegates focused their efforts on regions most affected by the fighting: in the capital, in the Garm valley and in the Khatlon oblast. Vital emergency distributions of blankets, clothing, plastic sheeting, family parcels and bulk food were carried out. In Dushanbe and Kurgan Tyube there was particularly close collaboration with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan. Some 70,000 people benefited from ICRC relief supplies before the situation improved during the second half of the year.

In the Garm valley, where there were an estimated 45,000 displaced people, food stocks dipped very low when supplies from Dushanbe were cut off by the fighting. When the Garm valley was retaken by government forces at the end of February the ICRC was able to bring in two aid convoys. The only route into the area was through a treacherous mountain pass from Kyrgyzstan. Later, it was possible to transport relief supplies by road directly from Dushanbe.

In mid-March the government unexpectedly ordered all displaced people in Dushanbe and the Garm valley to return to their homes without delay. The ICRC kept delegates posted in the south of the country because it was deeply concerned about the lack of security for people returning to their homes. Until then there had been about 65,000 displaced in Dushanbe alone. Approximately
half of them had been sheltered in public buildings and received direct assistance from the ICRC. Those in private homes were helped by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan.

The sudden arrival of an estimated 100,000 people in the Khatlon oblast (in the south) created serious tension between the resident population and the returnees. Those returning to the area were particularly vulnerable to hostility from the resident population, as well as to marauding bandits and irregulars. The ICRC distributed family parcels both to displaced people in the area and to the returnees. Since the resources of the resident population (estimated at 280,000) had been sorely taxed by the needs of the newcomers, wheat flour was also distributed in the villages assisted by the ICRC. From September to November the ICRC cooperated with UNHCR to provide blankets and plastic sheeting to several thousand families facing the winter in precarious housing conditions.

Over the year the delegation in Dushanbe handled only a limited number of Red Cross messages. Either people separated from their families by the conflict had other means of communicating with their relatives or there was no way of tracing the relatives in order to transmit Red Cross messages.

The ICRC pursued discussions with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior to determine the fate and whereabouts of missing persons and also helped people with missing relatives to prepare their case for review by the commission set up by the government for this purpose.

Medical assistance

The ICRC provided emergency medical assistance to medical facilities in areas affected by the conflict. In and around Dushanbe, in the Garm valley, the Khatlon oblast, Tavildara-Sagirdasht and later on in Gorno-Badakhshan, there was a severe shortage of medical supplies such as medicines, dressing material, soap and disinfectant. Special attention was given to hospitals and first-aid posts treating the war-wounded.

From February to April the ICRC medical personnel ran a mobile clinic for displaced people and returnees afraid of travelling to a local medical facility because of the poor security conditions. More than 2,100 consultations were given, mostly on collective farms and in isolated villages. The Federation was responsible for meeting the medical and nutritional needs among the 30,000 displaced in the Khodjent area.

As the situation became calmer the ICRC was able to reduce its assistance and concentrate on supplying medical facilities treating the wounded after skirmishes in isolated areas.
Dissemination

ICRC delegates had talks with the Minister of Defence and the Minister of the Interior, as well as commanders of the 201st Russian division and CIS border guards, with a view to introducing a dissemination programme at staff level. An agreement was made to initiate such a programme.

Dissemination seminars were held for armed groups in the Garm valley and in the northern part of the Gorno-Badakhshan oblast.

Public appeals were made on television, radio and in newspapers in an effort to enhance knowledge of international humanitarian law and respect for the red cross and red crescent emblems. A number of ICRC publications were translated into Tajik.

For the first time since the end of the conflict, Red Crescent headquarters staff and branch leaders met in Dushanbe in October for a seminar on the Movement which was jointly organized by the ICRC and the Federation.

TASHKENT
Regional delegation
(Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

In January the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, representing the government, and the ICRC Delegate General signed a headquarters agreement in Tashkent establishing an ICRC regional delegation to cover the above four newly independent States of Central Asia.

The regional delegate thereafter regularly met high-level officials from the governments of the countries covered and discussed issues related to international humanitarian law, including dissemination programmes in the region. In all, the regional delegate gave some six seminars presenting the work of the ICRC, the Movement and international humanitarian law.

To clarify the procedures leading to recognition as a National Society the regional delegate held a number of meetings with representatives of Societies in Central Asia that were not yet officially members of the Movement. Efforts were made to encourage the Societies’ development and enhance their understanding of the fundamental principles of the Movement. A tracing workshop was held in Tashkent in mid-November for all five Societies in Central Asia, including Tajikistan. The regional delegate also had talks with leaders of local branches in the four republics covered by the delegation.

In June the Delegate General, accompanied by the regional delegate, again met the Uzbek Prime Minister and other high-level officials in Tashkent, where talks focused on the upcoming International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, the situation in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan’s preparations for
accession to the Geneva Conventions and Protocols. The Republic of Uzbekistan acceded to the four Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols in October.

The Deputy Delegate General, accompanied by the regional delegate, went on mission to Central Asia in November. In Almaty they met several high-ranking Kazakh officials, including the Minister of Justice, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, to discuss Kazakhstan’s participation in the conference to commemorate the 1868 Declaration of St Petersburg. They then travelled on to Bishkek for talks with the Chairman of the Defence Committee of Kyrgyzstan. Talks were also held with the Uzbek Deputy Minister of Defence in Tashkent.

The Delegate General travelled to Ashgabad with the regional delegate in December and held high-level talks with Turkmen officials, including the Deputy Prime Minister. Dissemination and the ICRC’s activities in the region were among the topics discussed. From there the regional delegate went on to Nebit Dagh where he gave a seminar on international humanitarian law and the Movement for representatives of the Red Crescent Society and the government.
Families who lose their breadwinners or are victims of attacks, as well as displaced people, receive assistance through the ICRC in Peru.
Central America
*ICRC regional delegations:*
Guatemala City, San José

South America
*ICRC delegation:*
Peru
*ICRC regional delegations:*
Bogota, Brasilia, Buenos Aires

Staff
ICRC expatriates*: 64
National Societies*: 1
Local employees**: 129

Total expenditure
CHF 15,700,456

Expenditure breakdown CHF
Protection/Tracing: 4,586,767
Relief: 751,181
Medical assistance: 1,980,564
Cooperation with
National Societies: 349,725
Dissemination: 847,957
Operational support: 3,234,353
Overheads: 949,909

* Average numbers calculated on an annual basis.
** Under ICRC contract, as at December 1993.
Colombia and Peru were again plagued by serious violence in 1993, despite the efforts of the governments of both countries to end insurgencies and restore some measure of stability.

In the early part of the year the ICRC operation in Peru was still facing a number of difficulties. These included problems relating to authorizations to visit detainees, and a very serious incident involving the recording of a prison interview which was supposed to be confidential. During the year the ICRC consistently sought to restore its relationship of confidence with the authorities and the population, reminding them of the institution's mandate and the importance of its established procedures. These efforts paid off, as by mid-year the institution was fully able to conduct its activities with the cooperation of the authorities.

In Colombia, the ICRC continued to expand its delegation, creating a network of sub-delegations and offices extending coverage to most of the country. As it progressively became better established in the field, the ICRC was able to make its methods of work better understood and gain the trust of both the authorities and the population. The ICRC continued its constant restructuring to adapt its presence in the field to current needs and make the best possible use of its resources. At the beginning of 1993, with the peace process in El Salvador well under way, the ICRC decided to close its delegation in San Salvador. Shortly after, in view of the stable situation in most of the sub-region, it was decided to merge the two regional delegations into one, based in Guatemala City, and to close the San José regional delegation with effect from the end of the year. Further restructuring in mid-year placed responsibility for coverage of Ecuador and Venezuela with the regional delegation in Brasilia, thus freeing resources in Bogota for more extensive coverage of the needs in Colombia.

Though the situation in most countries of Central America and the Caribbean was calm, extremely serious economic and social difficulties in Cuba and political and social crises in Guatemala, Haiti and Nicaragua remained a cause of concern for the ICRC, and the regional delegations in Guatemala City and San José had to follow these situations closely. The political conflict in Haiti was thought to have been settled by the Governors Island accord, but the agreement could not be implemented and the end of 1993 saw the exiled President no closer to returning to power. In Guatemala, an attempted coup d'état by the President led to tensions in mid-year, but the army's support of the Constitution thwarted the coup and toppled the President.

ICRC efforts throughout Latin America, and particularly in the south, were devoted to urging the region's governments to accept and ratify
the main instruments of international humanitarian law, including the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, to recognize the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission established in accordance with Article 90 of Additional Protocol I, and to ratify the United Nations 1980 Weapons Convention.

Because humanitarian law requires enabling legislation and other measures at the national level in order to be effective, the ICRC has made a special point of encouraging the establishment of ministerial commissions for its implementation. The measures adopted by these commissions (which may inter alia include representatives of the ministries of defence, justice, interior, health and education) range from fostering the adoption of laws designed to enforce humanitarian law and to penalize violations, to the teaching of basic principles (such as the significance of the emblem and respect for civilians) at schools and health institutions. By the end of 1993 commissions had been set up in Bolivia and Uruguay and others were being established in Argentina and Chile.
Central America

GUATEMALA CITY
Regional delegation
(Belize, Caribbean, Guatemala, Mexico)

CUBA

Throughout the year the ICRC maintained contacts with the authorities and the Cuban Red Cross. Among the topics discussed was the establishment of a centre for the dissemination of humanitarian law in Havana. An agreement was reached in October with the National Society, and was signed in Havana on 20 October by the Deputy Secretary General of the Cuban Red Cross and the ICRC Delegate General for Latin America. Under the agreement, the ICRC and the National Society were to open the Red Cross Training and Dissemination Centre, whilst steps were to be taken by the end of the year to find premises and ship dissemination material to Havana.

Other subjects addressed during the ICRC’s meetings with government officials included the possibility of ratification by the government of Additional Protocol II and of ICRC visits to detainees, and the situation of Haitian refugees in eastern Cuba. A meeting took place on 28 June between the new Minister of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC President in Geneva and various other high-level contacts were maintained both in Geneva and in Cuba. In October the Delegate General for Latin America went to Cuba to continue these discussions and to finalize and sign the agreement between the National Society and the ICRC regarding the Dissemination Centre. He also had a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs during which the possible resumption of ICRC visits to detainees was discussed.

In January an ICRC doctor conducted a survey of conditions at a camp run by the Cuban Red Cross in Punta de Maisi, at the eastern end of the island. The camp housed hundreds of Haitian boat people awaiting their return to Haiti. Following this mission, limited assistance was given to the Cuban National Society to strengthen its operational capacity.

Dissemination

In the early part of the year, the ICRC gave its first courses for staff of the Cuban Red Cross. Over 100 members of the National Society attended talks on the Red Cross in Holguin, Santa Clara and Havana, and later in Ciego de Avila, Sancti Espíritus, Cienfuegos and Villa Clara. The ICRC also gave lectures on humanitarian law to students at the University of Havana’s Law Faculty.
In mid-year two ICRC delegates and a Spanish military judge working for the Spanish Red Cross gave a course on the law of armed conflict to 35 high-ranking officers of the Cuban armed forces, and in October three delegates took part in Forense 93, a conference on disaster relief which was attended by 220 participants from some 20 Latin American and European countries. The ICRC displayed a photo exhibition on international humanitarian law, which was visited by the President of Cuba and by numerous participants.

GUATEMALA

Following the failure of the coup d'état launched by the President himself at the end of May, the ICRC kept the situation under close observation and maintained high-level contacts with the new authorities. In July, the regional delegate met the new Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

The ICRC assisted in holding a dissemination course in May for students at the Military Study Centre in Guatemala City, and a course on humanitarian law was given to high-ranking officers of the armed forces.

HAITI

The ICRC carried out several missions to Haiti in 1993 to monitor the situation in the country and to maintain high-level contacts with representatives of the highest authorities and of the OAS*-United Nations mission, the National Society and non-governmental organizations active there. In January delegates carried out a follow-up visit to the National Penitentiary, checking on the conditions of detention and proper use of medical supplies donated by the ICRC in 1992. In addition, they visited the Military Hospital and the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince and met representatives of the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization. During missions carried out later in the year delegates held meetings with the Chief of Staff of the armed forces and with the Prime Minister, discussing the plight of Haitian boat people in Cuba and other countries, the humanitarian situation in Haiti itself, the organization of dissemination activities for the armed forces, and conditions at the National Penitentiary. The ICRC also maintained contacts with the government in exile.

From 14 to 21 April the ICRC held two seminars for about 60 officers of the armed forces based in Port-au-Prince and in the country’s nine provinces.

The ICRC sent delegates to the country whenever tension mounted. After the OAS-United Nations mission withdrew and the deadline for the exiled President’s return passed, the ICRC stationed a delegate in the country full-time from October through to the end of the year. The ICRC carried out a number of surveys of the situation in the main towns and the National Society’s preparedness to deal with emergencies in areas outside the capital, as tension was once again on the rise.

* Organization of American States.
Delegates stayed in contact with local leaders, representatives of non-governmental organizations and other agencies active in these regions. In addition, the ICRC provided limited logistic support for the Haitian National Red Cross Society.

JAMAICA

The regional delegate based in Guatemala travelled to Jamaica for three days in March to participate in a seminar organized by the Federation on the future role of National Societies in the Caribbean. During this mission he also took the opportunity to have talks with representatives of the Jamaica Red Cross Society.

MEXICO

The ICRC maintained contacts with the Mexican authorities throughout the year. The regional delegate met the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in Mexico City in March, and the ICRC President received him at headquarters in June. The main topic of discussion was the possible ratification by Mexico of Additional Protocol II. During the regional delegate’s visit to the Mexican capital he also met the new President of the Mexican Red Cross.

SAN JOSE

Regional delegation
(Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama)

COSTA RICA

Throughout the year the ICRC maintained contacts with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR), continuing to cooperate in activities concerned with the dissemination of international humanitarian law, human rights and the condition of people displaced by violence in Latin America. In November a mission sent by an ad hoc IIHR group studying the situation of displaced people travelled to Colombia at the request of the Colombian authorities, where it was helped in its work by the ICRC delegation. In January 1994 the conclusions of this mission were to be submitted to the ad hoc group, of which the ICRC regional delegation is a member with observer status.

In January, the ICRC took part as an observer in the Latin American regional meeting held in San José in preparation for the Vienna Human Rights Conference in mid-1993.

The ICRC also gave a course on international humanitarian law at the Department of International Relations of the National University of Costa Rica.
In September the ICRC, in cooperation with the Costa Rica Red Cross and the National College of Journalists, organized a two-day seminar on safety for journalists on dangerous missions. It was attended by ten journalists.

At the end of December the ICRC, having decided to restructure its presence in Central America to match the considerable reduction in its operational activities there, closed its regional delegation in San José and assigned responsibility for covering all the countries of Central America and the Caribbean to the ICRC regional delegation in Guatemala City.

EL SALVADOR

The Delegate General for Latin America and the regional delegate based in San José met the President of El Salvador and the Minister of Foreign Affairs during a mission in June. They handed over to the authorities a report reviewing the twelve years of ICRC activities in the country. A list of some 3,100 people reported missing by their families, allegedly owing to the conflict, was also handed over to the government to help resolve various administrative and legal problems for the families of the missing.

The ICRC also maintained high-level contacts with representatives of the Farabundo Marti Liberation Movement (FMLN).

As from the beginning of 1993, with the closing of the ICRC’s delegation, the armed forces included a course on international humanitarian law in their training curriculum. In 1993 the ICRC provided the military with a number of publications to assist in the teaching of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC officially closed its delegation in San Salvador on 15 March 1993. Thereafter, all activities were carried out from the ICRC’s regional delegation in San José.

HONDURAS

In October the Honduran government approached the ICRC delegation in San José with a request to help it deal with an influx of Nicaraguan civilians who had fled over the border following skirmishes between the recontras and the Nicaraguan army. The ICRC sent a delegate to the area, where the Honduran Red Cross was providing assistance for the group. A number of civilians had already returned, but the approximately 200 still in Honduras, though wanting to go home to Nicaragua, wished to do so only in the presence of humanitarian organizations such as the ICRC. The ICRC alerted human rights organizations in Nicaragua that the group was about to return and had requested such a presence. As diplomatic relations existed between the two countries, the civilians’ repatriation could be organized through the respective governments. The ICRC,
for its part, helped the Honduran National Society to transport the civilians to
the border, where they were received by the Nicaraguan authorities in the presence
of representatives of human rights groups contacted by the ICRC.

NICARAGUA

Since the end of 1991 the ICRC’s presence in Nicaragua had been limited to
orthopaedic activities. Throughout 1993 the ICRC maintained its efforts to ensure
that the work of the Erasmo Paredes orthopaedic centre in Managua would
continue after the ICRC withdrew from the country. The Ministry of Health
issued a ministerial decree on 12 December which created a body to run the
centre's activities. The ICRC office in Managua officially closed shortly thereafter,
on 17 December 1993.

In 1993 the centre produced 318 prostheses and 897 orthoses, and carried
out 108 major repairs to prostheses. The ICRC helped the centre to establish a
mobile orthopaedic repair workshop, which reduced costs by making the provision
of transport and accommodation for patients living in remote areas unnecessary
and enabled needs in such areas to be assessed.

The ICRC also kept track of the situation in the country, maintaining contacts
with the authorities and carrying out missions in Nicaragua, particularly after
the armed confrontation in Esteli in mid-year and the various incidents involving
the taking of hostages. The ICRC furthermore carried out dissemination activities
for the National Society and the military. In September a course was organized
for 35 supervisory staff of the Nicaraguan Red Cross. In November two courses
were held, one for 30 officers of the National Police and the other, the first of its
kind, for 40 high-ranking army officers. A general of the Spanish armed forces
and judge at the Supreme Court of Spain was invited by the ICRC to direct the
seminars. In addition, the ICRC gave a lecture on international humanitarian
law at the National University for 150 teachers, professors, law students and
human rights activists.

Tracing activities relating to the conflict which ended three years before
continued in 1993. The ICRC, together with the families concerned, reviewed
172 tracing requests concerning people separated from their families or reported
as missing, and solved 56 cases between January and May. The ICRC also
issued 12 certificates of detention to provide administrative assistance to people
who had been detained during the conflict.

Apart from the activities mentioned above, the ICRC sent a delegation
consisting of the Delegate General for Latin America, the New York-based
delegate responsible for relations with international organizations and the regional
delegate based in San José to the General Assembly of the Organization
of American States, which was held in Managua from 7 to 11 June 1993.
PANAMA

From 9-13 August an ICRC doctor and two delegates visited 40 detainees held in connection with the United States’ intervention in 1989 or arrested since 1990 for security reasons (including three who were seen for the first time) in two prisons (La Modelo and El Renacer) and two hospitals.

During this and other missions the ICRC delegates met government officials and members of the National Society to discuss various dissemination projects, as well as the implementation of international humanitarian law.

Also in August the regional delegate and an ICRC doctor visited the only remaining Panamanian prisoner of war held in the United States at the Miami Metropolitan Correctional Center. Two other detainees visited in May 1992 had meanwhile been released.

South America

PERU

Clashes between the government and the two main opposition groups, the Shining Path movement and the MRTA*, continued to claim lives and cause damage in 1993. Following the arrests of the leaders of the armed opposition in 1992, the government carried on arresting suspected members of the two armed opposition groups in an attempt to dismantle their forces. The number of detainees grew accordingly, and the activities of the MRTA and the Shining Path diminished somewhat. However, the level of internal violence remained high in certain regions, such as the upper Huallaga valley and certain areas of the Junin and Huanuco regions.

The ICRC was widely present in the country thanks to its three sub-delegations and nine smaller offices, which enabled its delegates and field officers to carry out missions ranging from a few days to three weeks in response to reports of needs for protection or assistance.

Activities for detainees

The problems encountered in the latter part of 1992 by the ICRC in visiting detainees, and especially those held in detention centres run by the Ministry of Justice, continued to hamper the delegation’s activities for detainees at the beginning of 1993. Visits continued, however, to certain other places of detention, notably the anti-terrorist unit (DINCOTE**), police stations run by the Ministry

* Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru.
** Dirección Nacional contra el Terrorismo.
IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- visited 6,295 detainees, including 4,110 for the first time, in 395 places of detention;
- covered the cost of medical care for more than 700 civilian conflict victims;
- provided medical supplies during the 554 visits paid to hospitals, dispensaries and first-aid posts;
- evacuated 368 people to health facilities in main towns;
- held 559 dissemination sessions, reaching over 32,500 people.

of the Interior and military bases. On 11 February 1993 an interview which was supposed to be strictly confidential was published in a Lima magazine. The interview had taken place at the DINCOTE between ICRC delegates and the leader of the Shining Path, who had been arrested in September 1992, and it had apparently been recorded. This serious violation of the conditions set by the ICRC for visits undermined the trust of all parties in the ICRC’s impartiality and confidentiality, and the ICRC immediately halted all activities until the government reaffirmed its commitment to respect all the ICRC’s criteria for visits to detainees.

High-level discussions to obtain renewed authorization to visit detainees in accordance with the ICRC’s customary procedures continued both in Peru and in Geneva, where the Peruvian Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs was received by the ICRC President on 19 February 1993. The discussions centred around the publication and recording of the interview and the renewal of authorizations to visit detainees held in Ministry of Justice prisons. An agreement between the government and the ICRC was signed by the Prime Minister and the ICRC head of delegation on 4 March, and visits to all places of detention except the DINCOTE resumed on 8 March. Visits to the DINCOTE also began again soon after. For the rest of 1993 the delegation was able to visit all categories of security detainees throughout the country in places of detention run by the armed forces, the Ministry of Justice and the National Police (under the Ministry of the Interior), including the DINCOTE. The ICRC was thus able to keep track of detainees from their initial arrest through the entire detention system.

As part of its programme of visits to detainees, the ICRC issued regular, confidential reports to the highest civilian and military authorities on the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees. Two summary reports on the ICRC’s activities in Peru in 1992 were submitted to the President of the Republic and the respective authorities by the head of delegation in August 1993. One covered the conduct of forces under the Joint Command of the Armed
Forces and the other covered forces under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior. Both reports addressed the protection of the civilian population as well as the treatment of detainees.

During their visits to places of detention, delegates provided toiletries, cleaning products and educational and recreational items for the inmates, as well as medicines for prison infirmaries. They also carried out a special assistance programme for tuberculosis patients at Lurigancho prison, providing about 250 kg of food and some cooking fuel every month. The ICRC covered travel costs for family members visiting their relatives in prison and for some released detainees. About 1,500 tickets were funded each month.

Activities for the civilian population

The delegation continued dissemination activities designed to remind combatants and armed groups of the provisions of humanitarian law and help ensure respect for them. During their field missions, ICRC delegates recorded allegations of violations of international humanitarian law. When the allegations concerned government forces the ICRC reported them to the proper authorities in its regular confidential reports. Allegations concerning the armed opposition were communicated to the respective parties whenever possible during delegates’ visits to detainees and during contacts with the Shining Path and the MRTA in the field.

The ICRC provided material assistance to approximately 10,000 people directly affected by the violence, including widows and orphans and displaced people. Civilian victims of the violence received food, blankets, clothing, tools and kitchen utensils. In addition, the ICRC continued to support a programme providing one hot meal a day to about 400 orphans or children of displaced families in Ayacucho. In all, the ICRC provided about 65 tonnes of relief supplies in Peru in 1993.

Medical assistance

The ICRC paid for the medical treatment of some 700 people injured as a direct result of the violence and undergoing treatment at Ministry of Health facilities and it provided medical supplies to these facilities.

ICRC medical staff took part in visits to places of detention and accompanied field missions, assessing needs in local dispensaries and first-aid posts, evacuating wounded people and providing medicines and other medical supplies. The delegation also took measures to protect Peruvian medical staff from various pressures brought to bear on them by the parties, particularly by making it known that they should enjoy neutral status and must care for the wounded and sick without discrimination.
In addition, a technician from the Biomechanical Service of the Callao National Rehabilitation Institute, Lima, was trained in the use of polypropylene techniques, thanks to an ICRC invitation to take a course on this technique at the ICRC-CIREC orthopaedic centre in Bogota, Colombia.

Tracing activities

The ICRC’s tracing offices in Abancay, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Huancavelica, Huancayo, Juliaca, La Merced, Lima, Púquio, Tarapoto and Tingo Maria registered and kept track of detainees and forwarded news of them to their families. They also processed tracing requests and requests for assistance from conflict victims and the families of missing people. These offices received a monthly average of about 3,000 people who came to the ICRC for assistance.

Families of people who disappeared turned to the ICRC for help in finding their relatives. The tracing offices recorded 290 cases of people who disappeared in 1993 allegedly for reasons related to the violence, either captured by government forces or opposition movements or in undetermined circumstances. At the same time, 108 cases were resolved (either the person was found to be alive in detention or released, or details were obtained of the person’s death), including eight which had been carried over from the previous year.

Dissemination

The dissemination of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles was among the delegation’s highest priorities. The delegation held a monthly average of about 50 dissemination sessions, and reached over 32,000 people, including over 10,500 members of the armed forces and police and about 1,500 members of civil defence units.

In March a four-day specialized course on the law of war was given by the ICRC’s dissemination delegate for the armed forces to about 20 colonels, captains and commanders of the Peruvian armed forces.

BOGOTA
Regional delegation
(Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela)

COLOMBIA

The internal violence between government and armed opposition forces mounted in 1993, especially in the Uraba region, Santander, North Santander, southern Bolivar, southern Cesar, Casanare and Arauca. Late in the year there were also clashes between armed opposition groups favouring and opposing peace talks with the government.
The ICRC again increased its presence in the field, providing additional staff (from 12 expatriates the delegation grew to 15 by year's end) and adding the sub-delegation in Monteria to its sub-delegations in Bucaramanga, Popayan and Villavicencio, which had been opened in the previous two years. As the institution's presence in the field became better known and accepted, the population affected by the violence began to show more confidence in the ICRC as an intermediary for transmitting allegations of violations of humanitarian law to the respective parties.

In August the Ministry of Defence authorized the ICRC to distribute medical supplies to health centres in conflict areas. The delegation began distributing such supplies soon after. In another major development, the ICRC was authorized to organize a course on the law of armed conflict for high-ranking officers of the armed forces.

On 1 September 1993 Colombia acceded to Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions.

Activities for detainees

Although the ICRC had been authorized by the National Council of the Judicial Police since March 1991 to visit detainees held at police facilities throughout the country, it did not have access to detainees held by the armed forces until April 1993, when the Fiscalía General de la Nación (an autonomous body established as part of the judicial branch under the 1991 Constitution) granted general permission for ICRC visits to detainees held at all places of detention in Colombia. The delegation thus had complete access to all detainees throughout the country, including those held by the armed forces. The Fiscalía also helped the delegation to have more rapid and complete access to the arrest notification system which the ICRC itself had helped establish in 1991.

In 1993 ICRC delegates and doctors carried out a total of 443 visits to 175 places of detention under the authority of the Ministries of Justice and Defence and the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) and to two hospitals.

IN 1993 THE ICRC:
- visited 1,653 detainees in 175 places of detention;
- held dissemination sessions reaching some 13,100 people including 2,512 members of the armed forces.
They visited 1,653 security detainees, 1,130 of whom were seen for the first time, including 81 who were under interrogation (detainees were generally held under interrogation for a period of less than 48 hours).

During visits to places of detention, the ICRC provided toiletries, recreational items and clothing to inmates and paid for the dental, medical and ophthalmological treatment of 133 detainees. Forty-four prison infirmaries also received medical supplies. The delegation helped ensure proper sanitary conditions in the prisons by providing fumigation equipment, clothing and personal hygiene items. It also paid for the transport of family members to visit their relatives in prison and for detainees to return to their homes. A total of 4,053 transport vouchers were funded.

Activities for the civilian population

With the opening of the Montería sub-delegation in October, the ICRC was better able to cover the needs of victims of the violence in the north. Field missions were sent out when reports of clashes reached the sub-delegations, and delegates visited the affected regions to provide assistance and to collect information on alleged violations of humanitarian law. Such allegations were transmitted to the respective parties.

Tracing activities

As part of its activities to protect civilians, the ICRC handled 93 tracing requests, 68 of which were carried over from previous years and 25 were new cases opened in 1993. Twenty-five of the 93 cases were solved in 1993. In addition, the ICRC tracing office kept track of reports of allegations of violations of humanitarian law.

Medical assistance

Apart from the medical assistance for detainees referred to above, the ICRC also covered the cost of medical treatment for 74 people, gave medical assistance to displaced people and, beginning in September and with the authorization of the Ministries of Health and Defence, provided assistance (bandages and basic first-aid material) to six health centres and one dispensary in regions affected by the violence.

The ICRC continued to cooperate with the CIREC (Centre for Rehabilitation Surgery) in Bogota. In 1993 the CIREC produced 331 prostheses and 720 orthoses, and fitted 323 and 695 people respectively with these devices. About sixty amputees were fitted with prostheses made of polypropylene. The use of polypropylene was introduced at the centre by the ICRC when the latter began cooperating with the CIREC.
Dissemination

The ICRC continued its ongoing dissemination activities for the police, the civilian authorities, prison guards, university students, non-governmental organizations, health specialists, journalists and members of the National Society. Many of these dissemination activities were carried out with the cooperation of the Colombian Red Cross Society. Media channels such as the press, radio and television were also used in dissemination efforts.

In July the ICRC took part in a two-day meeting of high-ranking officers of the armed forces in Bogota, which was also attended by the generals responsible for the regions most affected by the political violence. The head of delegation took advantage of this opportunity to present the activities carried out throughout the country by the ICRC. The ICRC’s dissemination delegate for the armed forces held a dissemination course for 19 high-ranking air force, navy, army and police officers in September, likewise in the capital.

In addition, the ICRC held regular dissemination sessions for officers and soldiers of the armed forces.

ECUADOR

The ICRC assisted the National Society in holding a seminar for Red Cross relief workers early in the year. In addition, delegates carried out visits to four places of detention in Quito and Guayaquil in June, and saw 12 prisoners of concern to the ICRC, including nine for the first time. They also handed over limited medical and material assistance to the prisons.

At the end of December ICRC delegates visited 11 detainees (ten Colombians and one Ecuadorian) in Quito. They had been captured following a clash in early December on the border between Colombia and Ecuador and were allegedly members of the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC).

From 4 to 7 October a member of the Committee, the ICRC's governing board, went on a mission to Ecuador to have discussions with the directors of the National Society. He also visited the Red Cross branch in Chimborazo, south of Quito.

VENEZUELA

The two attempted coups of 4 February and 27 November 1992 resulted in the arrest of hundreds of civilians and members of the military. In 1993 the ICRC continued to visit these detainees. In March delegates saw 135 prisoners at four places of detention, including 18 civilians and 74 members of the military detained in connection with the second coup attempt, who were visited for the first time, and 43 soldiers held in connection with the first coup attempt. The
ICRC also gave humanitarian law courses for civilian authorities and armed forces staff, National Society personnel and university staff and students, *inter alia* at Santa Maria University in Caracas.

Coverage of Venezuela and Ecuador passed from the Bogota regional delegation to the Brasilia regional delegation at the end of the year. In preparation for this change, the regional delegate based in Brasilia and the regional delegate based in Bogota went to Venezuela in mid-October, prior to the elections, to have talks with government officials. Another similar mission was carried out just after the 5 December elections by the delegate based in Brasilia. During these missions the regional delegates had meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the General Director of the Ministry of Defence, representatives of foreign missions and international agencies in Caracas and officials of the Venezuelan Red Cross.

**BRASILIA**  
Regional delegation  
(Brazil, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname)

**BRAZIL**

The delegation developed contacts throughout the year with various organizations and government bodies, including the Inter-American Juridical Committee of the Organization of American States, the Brazilian Society of International Law, a number of non-governmental organizations and academic circles. Several lectures on humanitarian law were given at Brazilian universities, including the University of Brasilia’s Faculties of Law and International Relations and local universities in Minas Gerais and the north-east.

The regional delegate also had talks with representatives of the government and the armed forces. In mid-year the delegation took up high-level contacts with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Justice. A campaign was launched in the press to draw attention to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims and to encourage participation by the Brazilian government in it. At the Conference, which was held in Geneva from 30 August to 2 September, the government announced that it would recognize the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission established under Article 90 of Protocol I, and subsequently published this decision in the official gazette. It then officially recognized the Commission’s competence in a declaration issued on 23 November.

The regional delegate also met senior officials of Brazil’s constituent States, notably the State Secretaries of Justice and of Public Security of Minas Gerais
and the commanders of the military and civilian police academies, and maintained contact with local authorities of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Ceara States.

Discussions with the armed forces' Chief of Staff, the Chief of Instruction and Chief of Operations addressed the teaching of international humanitarian law within the armed forces. In May the regional delegate took part in the strategy course held by the military academy in Rio de Janeiro, spoke on international humanitarian law and the role of the ICRC and handed over a vast selection of reference documents to the academy. Similar documentation was given to the Naval War College. ICRC staff gave lectures on humanitarian law to about 500 cadets at the Agulhas Negras National Officers Academy in July. At the end of the year the delegation gave briefings on international humanitarian law to military staff assigned to take part in United Nations peace-keeping operations in Angola and Mozambique.

Late in the year two dissemination sessions were held jointly by the ICRC, UNHCR, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. The first was opened in the presence of the Ministers of Justice, Foreign Affairs and the Environment, and took place at the National Congress in Brasilia. About 100 members of the Congress attended presentations covering inter alia the adoption of standards of humanitarian law in national legislation, refugee law and human rights law. The second seminar was held in Fortaleza (State of Ceara) and was attended by about 200 participants, most of whom were military police officers from the north-east region.

SURINAME

In March the regional delegate went on a mission to Suriname, where he met the President of the Republic, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and Health and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. They discussed various topics, including ways to implement international humanitarian law and the situation in the country following the peace agreement concluded at the end of 1992 between the government and opposition groups.

BUENOS AIRES

Regional delegation
(Argetina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay)

The ICRC delegation in Buenos Aires organized three major international seminars for countries in South America. From 29 March to 2 April, together with the Ministry of Defence of Uruguay, the ICRC organized a dissemination seminar in Punta del Este for the armed forces of ten countries. High-ranking delegations were sent by the armed forces of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile,
Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela; representatives of the Colombian and Paraguayan governments also attended this seminar, which was inaugurated by the Minister of Defence and the ICRC's Delegate General for Latin America. On 7 and 8 July the presidents and the dissemination service directors of the National Societies of the five countries covered by the regional delegation in Buenos Aires, as well as a delegate from the Federation, attended a workshop in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, to discuss dissemination efforts in the region and to seek ways of ensuring closer cooperation between the ICRC and the National Societies. From 8-10 September the regional delegation in Buenos Aires, in cooperation with the regional delegation in Brasilia, organized an international seminar to discuss measures taken by countries in the region (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay) to implement humanitarian law. Twenty official representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence or Justice of these six countries participated in the discussions.

The regional delegate based in Buenos Aires also took part in May in a Latin American seminar on the application of humanitarian law during war at sea, held in Buenos Aires. The seminar was organized by the University of the Saviour and the Argentine and Spanish Red Cross Societies, and was attended by fifteen representatives of the armed forces of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Spain and Uruguay.

ARGENTINA

While maintaining high-level contacts with the Argentine authorities with a view to setting up an interministerial commission for the implementation of humanitarian law, the ICRC also organized a number of dissemination sessions, notably for academic circles and the armed forces. In particular, seminars and courses were held at the University of the Saviour, the Foreign Services Institute, the Palomar military college and the University of La Plata, as well as for the security forces under the authority of the Ministry of Defence, including troops and officers about to be sent on United Nations peace-keeping missions to Croatia and Cambodia. In May a mini-course on humanitarian law was given to 31 officers of the armed forces in Comodoro Rivadavia. Courses were also given at a symposium on United Nations peace-keeping operations organized by the Argentine Council for International Relations.

On 8 June the President of Argentina was received by the ICRC President at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. They discussed various matters, including the ICRC's role with regard to conflicts where Argentine troops have been sent in as United Nations peace-keeping forces and the question of alleged violations of international humanitarian law by British forces in the 1982 conflict between Argentina and the United Kingdom.
BOLIVIA

On 3 March the Bolivian government issued a decree establishing a permanent interministerial commission for the implementation of humanitarian law, chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ICRC’s regional delegate took part in the meetings that this commission held later in the year. The ICRC also maintained high-level contacts with various government ministers, including the Ministers of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Justice, as well as with the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces to urge ratification of instruments of humanitarian law, and in particular the 1980 United Nations Weapons Convention.

The ICRC held a number of seminars and courses on international humanitarian law for the authorities, members of the police and armed forces and academic circles, including police units in the capital, an army division in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, two major universities in the capital La Paz and the private university in Santa Cruz. In November a five-day national training seminar was held for 20 members of the armed forces.

CHILE

From 16 to 31 March ICRC delegates visited 19 places of detention in Chile and saw 159 detainees, including 47 who were seen for the first time. A report on these visits was handed over to the Minister of Justice and the Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Interior in June.

Throughout the year, the ICRC held talks with the authorities to facilitate the establishment of a commission for the application of humanitarian law, and dissemination activities played a large part in the ICRC’s activities. In view of the participation by Chilean troops in United Nations peace-keeping missions, the Institute of International Studies in Santiago organized a seminar on the subject of peace-keeping and humanitarian law, and the ICRC sent a delegate to give lectures and join in the discussions. A seminar for police force instructors was held on 24 March, in cooperation with the Chilean Red Cross, on ways to teach international humanitarian law. In addition, a three-day seminar held in mid-October presented the ICRC and humanitarian law to military lawyers during their training. The delegation organized seminars on humanitarian law at the Santiago naval garrison and for the infantry brigade in Concepcion, as well as for Carabinero cadets. Shorter courses on the same subject were given for the Institute for Police Inspectors, for officers at the military academy, and for the International Law Department of the University of Santiago’s Law Faculty.

PARAGUAY

The delegation took up contact with the new authorities. Meetings were held between the ICRC’s regional delegate and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Justice, and with the President of the Chamber of Deputies and the Chairman of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee.

The ICRC also began dissemination to the armed forces in Paraguay. In April it started an eight-lesson course for 60 cadets at the military college in Capiata. In July two dissemination sessions were held for the armed forces; one for cadets at the military academy and another for officers at the main military schools. Talks were also given at the diplomatic academy and a one-day seminar was organized for 36 military jurists, judges and advisers. In October the ICRC gave a three-day introductory course on humanitarian law for 30 naval officers.

URUGUAY

On 1 March the government published Executive Decree 677, which was promulgated in 1992 and established the National Commission for Humanitarian Law. The ICRC took part in the work of the commission during the year. By the end of the year, the United Nations 1980 Weapons Convention had been submitted to the Senate for ratification.

The delegation gave lectures on humanitarian law at the Catholic University of Montevideo and the Artigas Institute (the diplomatic academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The seminar at the Artigas Institute was opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In addition, the ICRC and the Uruguayan Red Cross held a joint seminar in June for journalists in the capital. The ICRC delegate based in Buenos Aires also took part in a symposium on peace-keeping, which was attended by 250 officers, civil servants and diplomats, and organized talks on humanitarian law for cadets at the naval school in Montevideo and for officers of the national police force. In December the delegate gave a talk on humanitarian law at the International Relations College of the University of the Republic. The delegation also took part in dissemination activities for troops assigned to United Nations peace-keeping operations.
The family visit programme to detainees: waiting for the buses on the steps of an ICRC office in the Israeli-occupied territories.
The Near East

ICRC delegations:
Israel and the occupied territories
Jordan
Lebanon
Syria

The Gulf

ICRC delegation:
Iraq

ICRC regional delegation:
Kuwait

North Africa

ICRC delegation:
Egypt

ICRC regional delegation:
Tunis

Staff
ICRC expatriates*: 84
Local employees**: 314

Total expenditure
CHF 30,090,990

Expenditure breakdown CHF
Protection/Tracing: 12,666,674
Relief: 604,339
Medical assistance: 7,084,633
Cooperation with National Societies: 1,121,595
Dissemination: 573,630
Operational support: 6,208,666
Overheads: 1,831,453

* Average numbers calculated on an annual basis.
** Under ICRC contract, as at December 1993.
In 1993 the ICRC concentrated on protection activities for civilians and detainees in the Middle East and North Africa. It continued its efforts to resolve certain outstanding humanitarian consequences of the Iran/Iraq war, the Gulf war and the Western Sahara conflict.

In Israel and the occupied territories, the ICRC continued in the same role that it has played for 27 years: that of monitoring compliance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and protecting and assisting victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict. After the agreement was signed in September between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, it also followed developments closely in order to adapt in a timely fashion to any changes in the situation.

In the aftermath of the Gulf war, the ICRC kept up its negotiations aimed at tracing Kuwaitis, Saudis, Iraqis and other nationals reported missing.

In addition, the long-standing humanitarian problems connected with the Iran/Iraq war remained largely unresolved. The ICRC continued its attempts to arrange for the repatriation of thousands of prisoners and the return of the mortal remains of all fallen soldiers to their families, and to further the search for people still unaccounted for.

In Iraq, countrywide assistance programmes were launched in the medical, sanitation and orthopaedic fields, and were continuing on into 1994.

In connection with the Western Sahara conflict, the ICRC visited Sahrawis held in Morocco for the first time since 1978. Moroccans detained by the Polisario Front were also visited, for the first time since 1989. The institution continued its efforts to gain access to all prisoners held in connection with the conflict.

In Algeria the ICRC’s visits to people detained in connection with the enforcement of the state of emergency had been suspended by the authorities in July 1992. Throughout 1993 the ICRC sought to break the deadlock, but by the end of December 1993 no understanding had been reached on a resumption of visits.

Dissemination activities in the region continued to be of paramount importance. Delegates maintained and built up contacts with the local armed forces, academic and professional circles and the media with a view to promoting international humanitarian law and providing information on the ICRC’s role and activities.
The ICRC made particular efforts to promote understanding in the following two main areas:

- international humanitarian law and human rights law: their differences, the ways in which they complement one another and their different fields of application;
- the ICRC’s right of humanitarian initiative, recognized in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

During the year the delegations in the Middle East and North Africa arranged many courses and seminars, often in cooperation with local National Societies and organizations, for a variety of target audiences. The ICRC delegation in Egypt continued to produce high-quality publications and dissemination aids in Arabic for distribution to the armed forces and the public. Dissemination efforts by all the delegations in the region were stepped up in connection with the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims held in Geneva in late August at the initiative of the ICRC.
Throughout 1993 the ICRC continued to monitor compliance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and protect and assist victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the same role that it has played in the 27 years during which it has been present on a permanent basis in Israel and the occupied territories.

From 21 to 24 May the ICRC President made an official visit to Israel and the occupied territories. He had talks with the President of the State of Israel, the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, and various other ministers of the Israeli cabinet and members of the Knesset, the defence forces and the judiciary. The President reiterated the ICRC’s position regarding the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the territories occupied by Israel. He called on the Israeli authorities to be consistent with their commitment to apply the provisions of the Conventions and not to allow Israel’s security interests to take precedence over its respect for international humanitarian law.

The ICRC President had an exchange of views with the “Magen David Adom” (“the Red Shield of David Society”) on various questions of mutual interest.

During his stay in the West Bank and Gaza, the President had direct contacts with leading members of the Central Committee of the Red Crescent Societies, the umbrella organization for eight Red Crescent Societies in the occupied territories which are part of the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society”. In addition, he participated in a round table discussion at the ICRC’s Jerusalem office with Palestinian personalities.

A significant event in 1993 was the mutual recognition on 10 September by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, followed by the signing three days later of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the two parties. The Declaration provides for a five-year transitional period of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with negotiations on the final status to commence not later than the beginning
of the third year of this phase. Joint Israeli-Palestinian committees were set up to deal with issues linked to the implementation of the Declaration.

The ICRC stated that, during the five-year transitional period laid down in the Declaration, it would extend its role as an independent humanitarian organization whose mandate was defined by the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the Movement. It would keep a close watch on the humanitarian implications of the new accord’s implementation, and would remain at the disposal of all parties concerned in order to act as a neutral intermediary.

On 3 October the ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa and the regional delegate met the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunis. They discussed such issues as the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the consequences, in humanitarian terms, of the occupation, the ICRC’s activities and administrative structure in the area, and the institution’s role in programmes to assist the existing Red Crescent structures inside and outside the occupied territories.

Protection of the civilian population

In an effort to protect the civilian population and their property, ICRC delegates try, by means of approaches to the authorities, to put an end to violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention such as deportations, the destruction of houses and the building of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

On 17 December 1992, following the killing of an Israeli border policeman, the Israelis had deported 415 Palestinian civilians who thereupon remained stranded in a camp situated in a no man’s land between Israeli-controlled and Lebanese-controlled territory in southern Lebanon. The ICRC publicly stated that the expulsion was a grave breach of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the forcible transfer of protected persons, and that Israel’s responsibility for people illegally transferred lasted until the state of affairs that had existed before the breach had been restored. The ICRC also stressed that both Israel and Lebanon were unilaterally obliged to allow the free passage of medical and other relief consignments. On 9 and 23 January ICRC delegates flew to the makeshift camp at Marj-ez-Zouhour/Zemraya and assessed the condition of the deportees. They were allowed to evacuate 19 of them, including five for medical reasons. On 9 September 181 deportees were allowed to return to the occupied territories, and on 10 September a team of ICRC delegates were given access to the 215 remaining in the camp. The delegates delivered medical assistance and assessed the deportees’ overall conditions, paying particular attention to their general state of health. During the year a total of 2,240 Red Cross messages were exchanged between the deportees and their families in the occupied territories. By 15 December all but 18 of the 415 deportees had returned to Israel and the occupied territories. Those remaining in the camp had decided not to return for the time being.

Israel and the occupied territories

Total expenditure in 1993: CHF 9,200,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief</td>
<td>61.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protection/Tracing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overheads</td>
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<td>Dissemination</td>
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<td>Operational support</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
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The situation in the occupied territories remained tense in 1993. A total of 143 Palestinian civilians, including a number of children, were killed by Israeli security forces, many others were wounded and 87 houses were partially or completely destroyed during or after operations to arrest Palestinians on the Israeli “wanted” list. The ICRC made representations to the Israeli authorities, asking them to ensure that the security forces carried out only police operations in the occupied territories and to ban military operations against civilians and civilian property.

The number of houses destroyed or walled up as a punitive measure declined. Nonetheless, 71 houses were destroyed because they had been built despite the fact that the owners had not obtained a construction permit. This caused considerable distress for several hundred people protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

For security reasons, Israel decided to close off the occupied territories at the end of March 1993. Some 120,000 Palestinians who had previously crossed the “green line” on a regular basis to go to work in Israel suffered severe economic deprivation and the overall economic situation deteriorated.

Following a period of relative calm in the occupied territories in mid-year, the situation again deteriorated at the end of October. Incidents in which Palestinians were killed or injured or Palestinian property was destroyed by Israeli settlers increased, as did killings by armed Palestinians of Israeli civilians and members of the Israeli security forces in the occupied territories and in Israel. The delegation intervened with the Israeli authorities to remind them of their responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding maintenance of law and order in the occupied territories, and made representations to all sides concerned to put an end to the killings of Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

A large number of Palestinians were victims of continuing violence amongst Palestinians, mainly in the Gaza Strip but also in the West Bank. ICRC delegates requested Palestinian personalities inside and outside the occupied territories to use their influence to put an end to extrajudicial executions and ill-treatment of fellow Palestinians.

From 25 to 31 July the Israel Defence Forces, supported by the South Lebanon Army, carried out a military operation which they termed “Operation Accountability” in the area north of the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon, during which intensive shelling and air raids were conducted. At the same time attacks continued on northern Israel and the Israeli-occupied zone. The ICRC on two occasions made public appeals to all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law and to spare the civilian population and their property.

After the operation ICRC delegates conducted a survey in the Israeli areas affected by the said attacks, in northern Galilee, in order to assess the needs of the civilian population. According to the survey, the “Magen David Adom” and
other private and public institutions were able to cover the needs of the people affected. (For ICRC assistance to Lebanese victims, see Lebanon.)

Activities for detainees

In 1993 the bulk of the delegation’s work in Israel and the occupied territories was again focused on protection of detainees. At the beginning of the year, ICRC delegates were visiting more than 12,000 Palestinian detainees held by the Israeli authorities. By the end of the year, around 10,400 Palestinians were still in detention, including 144 administrative detainees, 9,500 security detainees and 750 common law detainees held in 44 places of detention in the occupied territories and, contrary to the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, in Israel. ICRC delegates carried out visits to all places of detention, consisting of prisons, military detention centres, police stations and temporary detention centres, during which they monitored conditions of detention and provided medical and material assistance. In 1993 ICRC delegates made a series of complete visits to Prison Service jails and to the military detention centres. Following these visits, synthesis reports were produced and transmitted to the Israeli authorities concerned.

Despite sustained efforts, the ICRC continued to be denied access to a number of Lebanese nationals detained in Israel and to detainees in Khiam prison in the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon. All these detainees are protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In 1993, ICRC delegates carried out 424 visits to detainees held in interrogation sections. The majority of the average 1,000 Palestinians arrested every month were held in these sections. In order to monitor conditions of detention there, 4,158 private interviews were conducted with detainees in accordance with an agreement concluded in 1979 with the Israeli authorities under which detainees can be visited by ICRC delegates within 14 days after their arrest. In February 1993 a confidential report was handed over to the Israeli authorities on the treatment of Palestinian detainees under interrogation in prisons, military detention centres and police stations. Following the submission of this report, which did not receive any written response in 1993, the ICRC had several meetings with the competent Israeli ministerial authorities to explore practical measures that could be taken to improve the treatment of detainees and reduce the period of time that they spent in the interrogation sections.

In 1993 the ICRC and the Central Committee of the Red Crescent Societies arranged transport for 288,418 people to visit detained relatives in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. The Norwegian Red Cross took over responsibility for financing and coordinating the programme for one year in September 1992 and in September 1993 the agreement was renewed for another year. The National Society had a coordinator working with the ICRC delegation throughout 1993.
Tracing activities

In connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the ICRC continued to provide an all-important link between people in the Israeli-occupied territories and the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, with which Israel had no diplomatic relations. This link was often the sole means of communication between families separated as a result of the conflict. In particular, in the absence of postal links with the above countries, delegates facilitated the exchange of news between detainees and civilians in the occupied territories and their families living in Arab countries, forwarded official documents of an administrative, medical and legal nature, and sent urgent messages by radio when necessary on humanitarian grounds. The ICRC facilitated 293 transfers and ambulance crossings in emergency cases across the King Hussein/Allenby bridge into Jordan, and arranged the hand-over to Lebanon of two civilians, as well as a detainee released from a place of detention in Israel. It acted as a neutral intermediary between the Israeli and Syrian authorities in organizing the transfer during the year of 389 Arab residents of the occupied Golan Heights or Syria across the demarcation line for the purpose of pilgrimage, studies or marriage. At the end of 1993, 55 people from the occupied Golan Heights, who in 1992 had received permission from the Syrian authorities to visit relatives in Syria, were still waiting for the green light from the Israeli authorities to cross the demarcation line.

The ICRC carried out its tracing services from Jerusalem, Gaza and Tel Aviv and its network of 11 local offices in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. It collected information on the whereabouts of detainees, mainly through notification by the detaining authorities, the registration cards filled in by detainees during ICRC visits and information collected from families of detainees. The huge amount of data was processed by means of three computer networks and redistributed to ICRC offices. Every month the ICRC tracing offices responded to an average of 10,000 requests from families for information about a detained relative and handled Red Cross messages between detainees and their relatives in countries without diplomatic representation with Israel. The tracing offices issued certificates of detention enabling detainees’ families and ex-detainees to obtain certain benefits and had powers of attorney signed by detainees to enable their families to settle their affairs on their behalf.

Throughout the year the tracing agency dealt with tracing requests from Lebanese families looking for relatives who had gone missing in southern Lebanon.

In June the tracing agency in Israel and the occupied territories and Jordan organized a visit by 30 relatives from Jordan to Palestinians who were detained in the occupied territories and did not have any relatives there.

Despite continuous efforts throughout the year, no progress was made in determining the fate of Israeli servicemen reported missing in Lebanon.
Medical assistance

During the regular visits to places of detention, ICRC medical staff monitored health care services there.

On 1 April a programme was started to provide financial assistance to ten private Palestinian hospitals situated in the West Bank and Gaza. The scheme was funded by the European Community and implemented by the Netherlands Red Cross under ICRC supervision. It was agreed for 12 months and covered 20-30% of the hospitals’ running costs.

Dissemination

In April delegates organized a two-day seminar on international humanitarian law, the ICRC’s mandate and activities and the history of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the Gaza Strip for 50 lawyers from the organization Palestinian Lawyers for Human Rights, and in July a similar seminar was organized for the Association for Human Rights in Nazareth. In August, as part of a course for legal officers, the delegation in Tel Aviv presented the ICRC’s role and its mandate, concentrating on the Fourth Geneva Convention and the ICRC’s presence in the occupied territories, and the Movement. The presentation was made to 19 future employees of the International Law Branch of the Israel Defence Forces.

The delegation produced a Hebrew version of the *Basic rules of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols*, published by the ICRC. Two thousand copies were printed.

On 22 August the Jerusalem sub-delegation inaugurated a photo exhibition “The ICRC – the World Over”, in the presence of a member of the Committee, the ICRC’s governing board. After being shown in East Jerusalem, the exhibition made a tour of the other 12 towns in the occupied territories where the ICRC has local offices. A number of institutions showed interest in setting it up on their premises as well.

Coordination of international Red Cross/Red Crescent action in the occupied territories

Following the signing of the Declaration of Principles in Washington on 13 September 1993 it was agreed, in consultation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, that the ICRC, by virtue of its role as a neutral and independent institution and intermediary, would assume the general coordination of international Red Cross and Red Crescent action during the transitional period leading up to Palestinian autonomy. This role was confirmed at a meeting held in Geneva on 29 September between representatives from the ICRC, the Federation and 20 National Societies. With a view to
developing an active Red Crescent Society in the occupied and future autonomous territories, the ICRC delegation began to assist the existing Red Crescent structures in the Gaza Strip and West Bank in identifying projects which would help to develop their operational capacity. The delegation also compiled data on the organizations in the occupied territories which provide primary health care to the civilian population, with the aim of assisting these organizations during the transitional phase.

At a meeting between the presidents of the “Magen David Adom” and the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” in the presence of the ICRC President in Birmingham on 25 October, the two decided to develop the existing working contacts between the two organizations and to determine jointly fields in which cooperation would be possible and useful. On 2 November the ICRC convened a meeting in Geneva for potential donor National Societies. On 14 December a meeting was held in Amman to discuss cooperation within the Movement regarding projects to support and develop the Red Crescent in the occupied territories. Present were representatives from the ICRC, the Federation, the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” and the Central Committee of the Red Crescent Societies, as well as several National Societies. On 22 December the ICRC President met the President of the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” at the ICRC’s headquarters in Geneva, where it was again confirmed that the ICRC would coordinate all action by National Societies in the occupied territories, in close cooperation with the Federation and the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society”, until autonomy had been implemented in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

JORDAN

The ICRC delegation in Amman concentrated in 1993 on detention-related and dissemination activities, and provided logistic support for ICRC programmes being carried out in Iraq. It also continued its work on behalf of Palestinians affected by the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in the occupied territories.

Developments in the Middle East peace process were naturally of great interest in Jordan, where a large number of the population are Palestinian. The delegation intensified its contacts with Palestinian representatives in Amman.

Following the introduction in 1992 of a law legalizing political parties in Jordan, 17 political groups which had applied for recognition were granted official status by the end of March 1993. Multi-party elections were held on 8 November against a background of calm.

Activities for detainees

Throughout the year the delegation carried out protection activities which consisted in particular of visits to security detainees.
ICRC delegates assessed the situation in civilian and military detention centres. Visits were carried out twice a month to 302 detainees in the General Intelligence Directorate, and eight *ad hoc* visits were made to detainees in the Military Intelligence Directorate, the Department of Foreigners and Frontiers, the rehabilitation centres of Swaqa, Qafqafa and Juweideh and the military detention centre of Zarqa.

In addition, between 9 and 18 February ICRC delegates, accompanied by a doctor from Geneva headquarters, carried out a complete visit to all rehabilitation centres in the country and submitted reports to the Ministry of the Interior. The previous complete visit had taken place in August 1991.

**Tracing activities**

The tracing work of the delegation was related mainly to the conflict in the Israeli-occupied territories (see *Israel and the occupied territories* for details), although some of it still concerned the aftermath of the Gulf war. Delegates issued certificates of detention to the families of detainees in Israel and the occupied territories, and also of some detainees in Kuwait and Iraq. These certificates enabled the families to obtain financial support.

**Dissemination**

In May the delegation held a symposium in Amman on international humanitarian law. The participants included lawyers, editors, writers, journalists and teachers from North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East. In September a seminar entitled “Health in Prison” was held in cooperation with the Jordanian Ministry of Health and under the patronage of the Crown Prince. Participants consisted of doctors working in detention centres visited by the ICRC and representatives of various ministries and security forces concerned with health problems and medical ethics.

An important part of the delegation’s dissemination work in 1993 was the organization of courses for Palestinian police forces to serve in the future autonomous territories. Two three-day courses were held in November, each one for some 50 officers belonging to the Palestine Liberation Army and responsible for leading and training the future police forces.

The programme consisted of an introduction to international humanitarian law, a presentation of the ICRC’s activities in the occupied territories and a specialized section on the humanitarian and human rights aspects of police work, given by an outside expert.

Throughout the year delegates maintained contacts with the armed forces with a view to promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law. They also continued their regular presentations on the ICRC and international
humanitarian law to teachers and schoolchildren from Jordanian secondary schools and university students.

LEBANON

The situation in 1993 remained tense in southern Lebanon: regular confrontations took place along the demarcation line separating the Israeli-occupied zone from the rest of the country and inside the zone itself between Lebanese and Palestinian armed groups and the Israel Defence Forces/South Lebanon Army.

Protection of civilians was the foremost concern of ICRC delegates in Lebanon. Civilians in the southern part of the country regularly suffered the consequences of military operations carried out by forces present in the area. The ICRC checked on alleged violations of international humanitarian law which resulted in civilian deaths and injuries or destruction of civilian property, and made the appropriate representations to all parties to the conflict in the south of the country. The delegation maintained and intensified its contacts with the main parties present in Lebanon.

On 25 July the Israel Defence Forces launched a large-scale military offensive, which they termed “Operation Accountability”, in southern Lebanon. At the same time, attacks continued on the Israeli-occupied zone and civilian targets in northern Israel. According to information from the Lebanese authorities, in the course of the operation some 300,000 civilians were forced out of their homes, more than 130 were killed and several hundred were wounded. ICRC surveys, carried out mainly along the demarcation line separating the Israeli-occupied zone from the rest of the country, showed that over 800 buildings had been completely destroyed and nearly 2,000 damaged. In addition to the five expatriates based in Lebanon, six more ICRC delegates were sent to the country during the conflict. Two of the delegates and a nurse stayed in the south of the country after the hostilities in order to carry out surveys in the affected areas and to distribute relief and medical assistance.

During the hostilities the ICRC made public appeals to all parties to the conflict to respect the provisions of international humanitarian law. The ICRC distributed ad hoc material assistance to 2,800 displaced families and medical supplies to hospitals and dispensaries in the areas affected by the hostilities. It also provided first-aid material and financial aid to the first-aid department of the Lebanese Red Cross which evacuated a large number of dead and wounded.

The ICRC extended its budget by CHF 1,400,000 in order to finance the following relief activities which were organized after the hostilities. Delegates provided food parcels, blankets and kitchen sets for a period of two months for 2,000 families whose homes had been completely or partially destroyed. They also gave medical assistance in the form of ten WHO* emergency kits for

* World Health Organization.
dispensaries run by local organizations in southern Lebanon which had been destroyed or damaged during the fighting (each WHO kit covers the needs of 10,000 people for three months). To enable the 15 Lebanese Red Cross dispensaries in southern Lebanon to respond to the needs of the population which had been affected by the hostilities, the ICRC provided them with equipment and medical supplies for three months and financed the repair of a Lebanese Red Cross dispensary damaged in the fighting.

For details of ICRC activities in connection with the camp of deportees at Maj-ez-Zouhour/Zemraya in southern Lebanon, see Israel and the occupied territories. The delegation in Lebanon also stressed that both Lebanon and Israel were unilaterally obliged to allow the free passage of medical and other relief consignments.

Activities for detainees

On five occasions the delegation organized the transfer back to their families of a total of 12 detainees who had been released by militia groups or from Khiam prison in the Israeli-occupied zone.

The ICRC did not have access to detainees held by Lebanese militia groups. (For activities relating to visits to Khiam prison see Israel and the occupied territories.)

Tracing activities

The ICRC tracing agency continued its work both for detainees and their families and for dispersed families, in particular Palestinians, by forwarding Red Cross messages, carrying out transfers and repatriations, issuing certificates of detention and dealing with tracing requests (see Israel and the occupied territories).

In addition to the special assistance provided in connection with “Operation Accountability”, the following medical and relief activities were carried out during the year.

Medical assistance

Some 15,515 consultations were given during the year by the staff of the mobile clinics assisted by the ICRC. These clinics cover villages along the demarcation line between the Israeli-occupied zone and the rest of the country, where normal access to medical services is difficult. The ICRC regularly distributed medical supplies to some 17 hospitals and 42 dispensaries to enable them to treat civilians injured in clashes, and also provided assistance to the eight “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” hospitals in the country.

The ICRC paid part of the running costs of the first-aid department of the Lebanese Red Cross and provided it with medical supplies. It gave financial aid...
in the form of payment of salaries to the social and medical sections of the National Society.

The ICRC continued material and technical support for its two orthopaedic workshops in Sidon and Beit Chebab, introducing a new technique using polypropylene to produce prostheses and thus reducing costs considerably.

**Assistance for the civilian population**

ICRC delegates regularly distributed relief items to victims of clashes in the southern part of the country as well as to needy families of detainees known to the ICRC from tracing enquiries. The assistance took the form of family parcels, kitchen sets and blankets.

**Dissemination**

Delegates delivered a series of twice-monthly lectures at Jinan University on international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In April two lectures were given on ICRC activities, the Movement and international humanitarian law to about 100 Lebanese officers at the Institute of Internal Security Forces. The delegation held two similar sessions for 42 officers participating in a course for battalion commanders at an army staff college near Beirut.

On 29 November the delegation organized a round table discussion in Beirut in cooperation with a private television network covering the whole of Lebanon. Participants included an ICRC expert on humanitarian law, a professor of international law and a former judge, and discussions covered humanitarian law and human rights law and the follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims.

**SYRIA**

Throughout the year one of the ICRC’s main activities in Syria was its tracing services in connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict and in particular on behalf of the population of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights (see *Israel and the occupied territories* for details).

From 14 to 19 December the Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa visited Damascus, providing an opportunity for the ICRC to explain both to the Syrian authorities and Palestinian groups based in Damascus its position and plans regarding the recent developments in the region and their consequences in humanitarian terms. The Delegate General also informed the authorities about the ICRC’s work on behalf of Syrian nationals held by the Israeli authorities.

The institution maintained its contacts with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. At the beginning of September the ICRC organized a seminar in Arabic on international humanitarian law for more than 30 members of the National Society.
including lawyers, teachers, doctors and journalists. The seminar was given in Homs by the regional dissemination delegate based in Amman, and provided an opportunity for a presentation on the ICRC's activities and a discussion of the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. A second seminar, covering the same ground, was held in November for some 50 members of the National Society's Latakia branch, mainly lawyers and legal advisers.

The ICRC continued its support for the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” orthopaedic project in Damascus by introducing a new technique using polypropylene to produce prostheses, thus reducing costs considerably. The institution helped to set up the centre at a new location in Yarmouk camp, Damascus.

Throughout 1993 the ICRC continued to supervise the Syrian Arab Red Crescent’s mother and child health programme which involved the distribution of 80 tonnes of wheat-soya milk.

The Gulf

IRAN

The ICRC ceased to be present on a permanent basis in the Islamic Republic of Iran in March 1992, when it was asked by the authorities to suspend its activities in the country (see Aftermath of the Iran/Iraq war) and to withdraw its expatriate staff.

IRAQ

The ICRC’s brief in Iraq was essentially to deal with unresolved humanitarian issues which arose in connection with the two international conflicts in which Iraq had been involved, the Iran/Iraq war of 1980-88 (see Aftermath of the Iran/Iraq war) and the Gulf war of 1991 (see Aftermath of the Gulf war). The institution continued its visits to detainees in the three northern governorates of Iraq under Kurdish control, foreign nationals in Abu Ghraib prison and Iranian servicemen in Ramadi camp. It organized family reunifications and coordinated measures aimed at clarifying the fate of people missing after the two wars. It kept up its work to make its activities better known and understood by all organizations, ministries and individuals with which or with whom it was in contact.

High-level contacts were maintained with the Iraqi authorities throughout the year to discuss their obligations under the Geneva Conventions concerning the consequences, in humanitarian terms, of the two international conflicts. With respect to the Iran/Iraq conflict, the authorities were requested to complete the process of repatriating all Iranian prisoners of war who wished to return home and to initiate both a search for and return of mortal remains and clarify the fate of persons missing in action. Regarding the Gulf war, the authorities were reminded of their obligation to cooperate in the search for people reported missing.
IN 1993 THE ICRC:
• carried out 12 visits to 5 places of detention in Baghdad, seeing 320 detainees, including 124 for the first time;
• carried out 14 visits to 9 places of detention in the northern governorates, seeing 346 detainees, including 257 for the first time;
• handled 26,372 Red Cross messages, opened 187 tracing cases and solved 191, issued 310 certificates of detention and organized 81 repatriations;
• issued 125 travel documents for persons of Iranian origin.

by the Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian authorities. In addition to these subjects, discussions were held on the ICRC’s protection and assistance activities in Iraq. The ICRC President met the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister on 22 June and 1 September in Geneva, and the ICRC Vice-President met the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs on 26 April in Karachi during the annual summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa carried out a mission to Iraq from 18 to 23 April during which he was received by the Minister of Defence, the First Deputy Minister of the Interior and several high-ranking officials. The Deputy Delegate General went to Iraq in September and December, and met the Minister and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In January coalition air forces, in response to alleged Iraqi violations of UN resolutions, carried out several air attacks on Iraqi military installations in the south and along the 36th parallel in the north. On 17 January Cruise missiles hit targets in and around Baghdad. In a memorandum, the ICRC reminded the governments of the United States, France, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Iraq that international humanitarian law applied to recent and possible future military operations in the area. The memorandum recalled the basic humanitarian rules relating to the conduct of hostilities and obligations vis-à-vis victims of war.

In early April the ICRC was requested by the Iraqi authorities to close down its offices in Basra and Nasiriyah. However, temporary missions in the area were subsequently carried out from Baghdad. In the northern governorates the ICRC maintained its presence in the form of the three offices in Dohuk, Arbil and Sulaymaniyah, and delegates made ad hoc visits to those offices in order to keep up their contacts with the local authorities and maintain the necessary operational capacity in case of emergency.

Activities for detainees
ICRC delegates visited 70 Iranian servicemen held in Iraq. They also visited protected foreign nationals without diplomatic representation who had been
sentenced and were detained in Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad. The detainees were given material assistance and contact with their families was ensured by means of Red Cross messages.

In addition, in the northern governorates, ICRC delegates visited civilians detained for security reasons by the Kurdish local authorities. In February, April and May complete visits to nine places of detention were carried out. Material assistance was distributed during each visit.

Activities for civilians

In 1993 the ICRC ceased its relief activities in Iraq and handed over part of its remaining stock to hospitals and welfare institutions. Some of it was handed over to civilians of Iranian origin who were living as refugees in the governorates of Maysan and Wasit and were still under the protection of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The remainder was given to UNHCR* in Baghdad to be used for Iranian refugees at Al Tash camp in Ramadi and to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society for distribution to people living in particularly difficult circumstances.

Tracing activities

The ICRC tracing service handled Red Cross messages between separated families, mainly in Kuwait and Iraq, between detainees in other countries and their families in Iraq, and between prisoners held in Iraq and their families. It processed tracing requests, particularly regarding Egyptian, Sudanese and Somali nationals with whom contact had been lost after the Gulf war. It organized repatriations and family reunifications (see Aftermath of the Gulf war), and dealt with matters concerning people reported missing (see also Aftermath of the Iran/Iraq war and Aftermath of the Gulf war).

ICRC delegates helped the Iraqi Red Crescent Society to develop its tracing service by means of regular meetings and training sessions.

Medical activities

Following the US Cruise missile attack on the headquarters of the Iraqi intelligence services in Baghdad on 27 June, the ICRC delegation in Baghdad provided medicines and other emergency medical supplies to a public hospital there which had received most of the civilian casualties.

In July, in cooperation with the Iraqi military medical services, the ICRC held a three-day seminar on war surgery in Baghdad for about one hundred experienced surgeons and field doctors. The opening ceremony was attended by a member of the Committee, the ICRC’s governing board, and the Iraqi Ministers of Defence and Health.

Owing to the continuing embargo in Iraq, the country suffered shortages of medical and X-ray materials and maintenance equipment, particularly in

*Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
hospitals, orthopaedic centres and water treatment plants. The ICRC consequently launched a programme to supply 18 blood transfusion centres throughout Iraq with blood bags, blood transfusion sets and HIV and hepatitis B tests. The first consignment was distributed in August.

A second medical programme was started towards the end of the year to supply the country's main hospitals with surgical items and X-ray materials. The programme ran into administrative difficulties, but was due to resume at the beginning of 1994.

Emergency medical kits were distributed on an *ad hoc* basis in the northern governorates when security incidents gave rise to casualties.

An ICRC orthopaedic expert carried out a survey in May, and the ICRC made proposals to the authorities whereby workshops would be established in Basra and Najaf to produce and repair orthopaedic appliances, specialized training would be provided for local orthopaedic technicians and raw materials and components supplied for the orthopaedic workshops under the authority of the various ministries. Equipment would also be provided for a central air conditioning system to make the Baghdad paraplegic centre operational. An agreement to this effect was signed between the ICRC and the Ministry of Health in November.

Following a mission in April by an ICRC sanitation team, an agreement was signed with the water authorities on a programme to supply spare parts vitally needed to improve the water distribution system throughout the country. To this end, an ICRC sanitation engineer based in Baghdad as from August carried out field surveys throughout Iraq and, in cooperation with the competent authorities, identified priority needs for all the governorates.

**Dissemination**

For the first time, an Iraqi officer took part in the course on the law of armed conflict held in Geneva for senior medical officers, as well as the 43rd Military Course on the Law of Armed Conflict in San Remo.

The ICRC set up a stand at the International Baghdad Fair from 8 to 21 November to provide information on the institution and its activities.

Starting on 28 November the delegation held two dissemination sessions at the Palestine Representation in Baghdad for a total of 50 officers from the Palestinian police force training for service in the future autonomous territories (see *Jordan* for details of the courses).

**AFTERMATH OF THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR**

The ICRC remained extremely concerned about the unresolved consequences in humanitarian terms of the Iran/Iraq war, especially the plight of the prisoners of war (POWs) who had still not been repatriated. Apart from the repatriation
of 100 Iraqi POWs under the auspices of the ICRC in May, no progress was made in 1993 despite the ICRC’s advocacy that, in accordance with Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention, POWs should be repatriated immediately after the cessation of hostilities.

Parallel to its diplomatic approaches at all levels to both parties, on 5 April the ICRC handed over a comprehensive progress report to the Permanent Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations in Geneva. The report stated that substantial progress had to be achieved in all humanitarian matters relating to the parties’ obligations under the Geneva Conventions.

In particular, the ICRC requested Iran to allow the institution access to some 20,000 Iraqi POWs still in Iran so that it could ascertain whether they wished to be repatriated. The ICRC also asked Iraq to carry out in-depth investigations into the fate of Iranian POWs presumed to be still in Iraq.

At the same time, the ICRC invited both parties to attend a fifth meeting of the JTC* to finalize ways and means of reaching a settlement on the issues still outstanding, but the meeting did not take place. The JTC had been set up in September 1990, with ICRC participation, to bring together representatives of Iran and Iraq in order to deal with questions concerning the repatriation of POWs, the search for and return of mortal remains and investigations into the fate and whereabouts of people missing in action.

In an attempt to make some headway, the ICRC carried out missions to both countries throughout 1993 and had talks with high-level representatives as follows:

**Islamic Republic of Iran**

The ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa visited Iran from 13 to 18 February. He was received by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Director of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Chairman of the Commission for POWs. The Deputy Delegate General went to Iran twice in autumn 1993; he met the Director of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry in September and again in October, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in October.

**Republic of Iraq**

The ICRC President met the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister on 22 June and 1 September in Geneva, and the ICRC Vice-President met the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs on 26 April in Karachi during the annual summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Delegate General went on mission to Iraq from 18 to 23 April and was received by the Minister of Defence, the First Deputy Minister of the Interior and several high-ranking officials. The

*Joint Technical Committee.*
Deputy Delegate General went to Iraq in September and December, and met the Minister and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In addition to the above-mentioned missions, the ICRC resumed informal discussions with Iranian officials in September and subsequently interviewed 1,442 Iraqi POWs between 16 October and 17 November, 1,244 of whom made known their wish to be repatriated. However, no repatriations had yet taken place by the end of the year, contrary to Iran’s undertaking to repatriate the POWs at the latest one month after their interviews.

The ICRC also submitted substantiated files to the Iraqi authorities on Iranian nationals who had reportedly been seen alive when they were captured or during their captivity in Iraq. In spite of assurances given by Iraqi officials, by the end of the year no information had been received on these cases.

Although no substantial progress was achieved in 1993 regarding the repatriation of Iraqi POWs, late in the year Iran expressed its willingness to solve all the remaining issues by means of a comprehensive approach, i.e. repatriating all prisoners on both sides who wish to return home, providing any available information on enemy combatants killed in action and prisoners who had died while in captivity, and furthering the search for and handing over mortal remains. Iraq agreed to this approach. In addition, both parties were prepared to establish individual files on their own nationals who were still missing and transmit them to the other party via the ICRC. Both parties agreed in principle to finalize ways and means of implementing this comprehensive approach at a meeting of the JTC, to be held under the auspices of the ICRC.

AFTERMATH OF THE GULF WAR

In order to expedite the search for Kuwaiti, Saudi, Iraqi and other nationals reported missing after the Gulf war, the ICRC proposed special procedures worked out by its Central Tracing Agency with a view to facilitating the tracing of such people and the transmission of replies. Agreement was reached by the parties concerned on a standard ICRC form to be used in drawing up individual files, which the ICRC would forward to the relevant parties. By the end of January files on 610 persons reported missing by Kuwait had been compiled by the National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs and were handed over by the ICRC to the Iraqi authorities in February and March. At the end of 1993 Iraq had not yet replied to any of these files. The Saudi authorities had transmitted to Iraq five individual files concerning missing military personnel, and the Iraqi authorities had given a reply concerning one of them. The Iraqi authorities were awaiting answers from the Kuwaiti authorities regarding 11 individual files, and from the Saudi authorities regarding 14 individual files.

Various meetings and discussions took place in an attempt to resolve the issue. From 18 to 23 April the ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East and North
Africa was in Baghdad, where he was received by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Minister of Defence. The ICRC was informed that there were no longer any Kuwaiti or Saudi nationals detained in Iraq. Nevertheless, Iraq undertook to supply answers regarding the individual files.

On 24 April, the Delegate General went to Kuwait, where he met the Chairman of the National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and informed them of the Iraqi position.

On 30 April the Chairman of the National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs visited ICRC headquarters and met the ICRC President, who briefed him on the current situation in efforts to trace Kuwaiti nationals reported missing during the Gulf war. The ICRC President also brought up the issue of people reported missing after the liberation of Kuwait. He asked for enquiries to be made into the fate of 102 people who had allegedly disappeared at that time, whose cases had been submitted by the ICRC to the Kuwaiti authorities.

In Geneva, on 22 June, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister met the ICRC President, who asked for replies with regard to the 610 missing Kuwaitis and the five files concerning missing Saudi military personnel. The Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister answered that no Kuwaiti or Saudi prisoners were being held. He confirmed the existence of an interministerial commission set up to deal with the individual files.

At Kuwait's request and in agreement with the other coalition members, the ICRC convened a meeting of the Tripartite Commission (the coalition members and Iraq, under the auspices of the ICRC) on two occasions, on 29 July and 19 November. The purpose of these meetings was to inform the parties of the latest developments in efforts to establish the fate of people who had disappeared during the occupation of Kuwait and the Gulf war, and to find ways and means of ascertaining what had happened to them. Iraq did not attend the meetings.

On 5 October the ICRC reminded Iraq in a note verbale of its responsibility to take part in the Tripartite Commission and asked for a reply to the individual files submitted in February and March. In a note verbale dated 12 October, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it was prepared to provide the ICRC with all relevant information on the files as soon as it was available.

At the second meeting with the coalition members on 19 November the parties present accepted the ICRC's offer to use its good offices with the government of the Republic of Iraq to seek ways of bringing about progress on the issues still pending. It was agreed that the ICRC would report to the coalition on progress achieved within a period of six months.

Following this consultation the Deputy Delegate General went on mission to Baghdad, where he met the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on 18 and 19 December respectively. He was assured that a special Iraqi commission would continue the work of investigating the individual files and that it would be prepared to cooperate with the ICRC delegation in Baghdad.
Repatriations

In seven operations carried out under the family reunification programme during the year, the ICRC facilitated the return of 81 Kuwaiti nationals or former residents from Iraq to Kuwait via Arar, Saudi Arabia. Five of them appeared on the list of 850 missing people submitted in 1992 to the ICRC by the Kuwaiti authorities. The final such operation of the year, in December, brought to 5,727 the number of people repatriated to Kuwait by the ICRC since March 1991.

At the end of the year the ICRC was awaiting an official reply from the Kuwaiti authorities to some 1,900 requests made by former residents of Kuwait who were living in Iraq and had asked for permission to return to Kuwait.

On 4 August the ICRC organized the repatriation from Kuwait to Iraq of the mortal remains of two Iraqi soldiers killed in Kuwait during the Gulf war.

KUWAIT
Regional delegation
(Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen)

A headquarters agreement for the establishment of an ICRC regional delegation was concluded with the Kuwaiti authorities in October 1991. However, the regional delegate remained in Saudi Arabia until 19 January 1993, when he presented his credentials to the Emir of Kuwait and was subsequently based in Kuwait.

KUWAIT
Activities for detainees

ICRC delegates continued to monitor the conditions of detention and treatment, mainly of people detained in connection with the Gulf war. The majority of those visited were Iraqi, Jordanian, Yemeni and Sudanese nationals, Palestinians with travel documents, and stateless persons. The ICRC had access to detainees at places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of the Interior, Defence, and Labour and Social Affairs, including police stations. Some detainees were awaiting trial, others had been sentenced in state security trials.

Detainees under expulsion order, consisting of residents of Kuwait and illegal immigrants, were visited regularly at the Talha expulsion centre. Interventions were made to resolve special cases and to ensure that the conditions of detention were adequate. In addition, delegates made sure that the detainees concerned were not expelled to a country where they had reason to fear persecution and that those being expelled had the opportunity to settle their personal affairs and

IN 1993 THE ICRC:
• visited 1,479 detainees in 30 places of detention, registering 706 for the first time;
• opened 61 tracing cases and solved 50, handled 26,658 Red Cross messages and issued 1,009 certificates of detention and 70 travel documents.
were permitted to take their belongings with them. Some 720 people (expellees and their families) were accompanied by ICRC delegates to the Kuwaiti/Iraqi border.

The delegation followed trials of Kuwaitis and other nationals accused of security offences. The ICRC approached the relevant authorities to ensure that the fundamental judicial guarantees were respected.

Tracing activities

The delegation took part in the efforts still being made to trace people who disappeared during the Gulf war (see Aftermath of the Gulf war). It restored and maintained contact between family members, mainly Iraqis, Kuwaitis and Jordanians, by forwarding Red Cross messages, and organized repatriations of Kuwaiti nationals from Iraq and family reunifications with Kuwaitis living in Iraq.

Dissemination

In 1993 the delegation regularly provided ICRC contacts and the press in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia with information in English and Arabic on ICRC activities, mainly in Islamic countries.

On 20 April the regional delegate for the Arabian Peninsula participated in the talk show "A guest on air" on Kuwaiti national television. The interview focused on ICRC activities, especially those relating to the aftermath of the Gulf war and the problem of the missing Kuwaitis. The talk show was screened in all other member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

SAUDI ARABIA

The delegation maintained high-level contacts with the Saudi authorities, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

On 19 October the President of the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) visited ICRC headquarters, where he and the ICRC President signed a cooperation agreement placing the relations which had already existed between the two organizations, particularly as far as assistance to war victims was concerned, on an official footing.

On 2 November the ICRC was asked to close its office in Riyadh. The institution was given verbal assurances that activities for internees in the Rafha camp could be continued by ICRC expatriates in Kuwait. In a letter addressed to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and dated 16 December, the ICRC President took note with regret of the authorities’ decision and reminded them that the ICRC

IN 1993 THE ICRC:
• collected 1,111 Red Cross messages and distributed 3,382;
• opened 207 tracing cases and solved 158.
still had a mandate, under the Fourth Geneva Convention, to protect the Iraqi
refugees living in Rafha camp until a permanent solution could be found for
them. He pointed out that the ICRC would need certain facilities in order to
discharge its mandate, and requested that the institution be granted all these
facilities in due course.

Activities for civilians living in the Rafha camp

In accordance with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention ICRC
delegates carried out regular visits to monitor the conditions of internment and the
treatment of Iraqi civilians still living in the Rafha camp administered by the Ministry
of Defence and Civil Aviation. At the beginning of the year there were some 27,000
internees, whereas by December the number had dropped to around 25,000.
The ICRC also visited Iraqi nationals from the camp who were detained in
prisons, police stations or hospitals under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the
Interior.
The ICRC stepped up its activities in the camp following an outbreak of
violence in March which led to the death of 12 people, both Iraqi and Saudi
nationals. Delegates visited those wounded and those detained in connection
with the incident. Subsequently the institution concentrated on improvements
in such fields as medical care and water supply. The ICRC’s regular presence in
the camp and its contacts with the internees and the authorities helped to
normalize the situation there.
Over the year, in cooperation with UNHCR and the International Organization
for Migration, the ICRC facilitated the departure and resettlement of 605 of the
civilian internees, providing them with travel documents.
In cooperation with the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society the delegation
facilitated the exchange of 2,000 Red Cross messages between Somali nationals
living in Saudi Arabia and their families in other countries.

YEMEN

From 30 January to 10 February and from 13 to 22 December an ICRC team
visited a total of about 5,000 detainees in seven places of detention in Yemen.
They monitored conditions of detention and handed over material assistance.
The ICRC continued to offer its tracing services to Somali refugees living in
two camps in Yemen as well as in other areas of the country. A total of 6,829 Red
Cross messages were handled.
From 20 to 25 November, a seminar on international humanitarian law was
organized by the Yemenite Red Crescent Society in cooperation with the ICRC.
The course, the third of its kind, was given by Yemeni and ICRC speakers for
around 35 participants from various ministries and institutions, university
professors and media representatives.
North Africa

EGYPT

In 1993 the ICRC delegation in Cairo concentrated on its work in the field of dissemination. It also kept up its tracing work for people affected by the Arab-Israeli conflict and maintained contacts with various Arab organizations such as the League of Arab States.

With the aim of disseminating international humanitarian law and the Red Cross/Red Crescent principles throughout the Middle East, the delegation produced high-quality publications, audio-visual aids and radio broadcasts in Arabic for the armed forces and the public.

The illustrated calendar for 1993, which drew parallels between examples of humanitarian behaviour selected from ancient Arab Islamic chronicles and contemporary humanitarian law, was adapted and produced in the form of a brochure so that it could be distributed more widely. Versions were produced in Arabic, English and French. A calendar for 1994, illustrating humanitarian principles with calligraphy of sayings and verses from traditional Arab culture, was distributed to ICRC contacts throughout the Arab world.

During the 30 days of Ramadan the national radio network broadcast one episode a day of the ICRC’s “Thousand and One Days”, a story which draws on the classic Arab tale of a “Thousand and One Nights” and confronts Sheherezade and her prince with contemporary humanitarian challenges. This inspired a children’s serial. Other dissemination aids produced during the year included a comic strip for adolescents, an Arabic soundtrack for the cartoon “Story of an Idea” on the history of the ICRC, which was subsequently broadcast on Egyptian television, and a cartoon on the principles of the Third Geneva Convention relating to the treatment of prisoners of war.

Throughout the year the head of delegation regularly gave lectures on international humanitarian law and the role of the ICRC at seminars organized by military academies. A teaching file on the law of war for use by instructors to the armed forces was translated into Arabic, and dissemination sessions were organized for university students.

In cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and the Egyptian police academies, the delegation organized two courses for officers of the future Palestinian police force in Gaza. The courses were held in late November and early December, along the lines of those given in Amman (see Jordan), for about 50 officers each, including several Egyptian officers involved in training the forces.

The ICRC, represented by its Vice-President and the Delegates General respectively for the Middle East and North Africa and for Africa, took part as an observer in the annual OAU* conference held in Cairo in June.

* Organization of African Unity.
TUNIS
Regional delegation
(Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco/Western Sahara, Tunisia)

ALGERIA

The ICRC was very concerned about the deteriorating security situation in Algeria in 1993. Attacks took place on people in official positions, journalists and intellectuals, many arrests were made and more than 300 death sentences handed down by special courts. At the end of the year a curfew was in force in ten départements.

On 18 December 1992 the ICRC President had addressed a letter to the President of Algeria in which the ICRC offered to resume its traditional activities in Algeria, in particular visits to people detained in connection with the enforcement of the state of emergency. Visits had been suspended by the Algerian authorities in July 1992. Throughout 1993 the ICRC maintained contacts with the authorities, in particular through the Permanent Mission in Geneva, but by the end of December 1993 no understanding had been reached on a resumption of visits.

From 5 to 12 November the regional delegate went on mission to Algeria. He discussed with his Algerian contacts the possibility of stepping up dissemination activities in order to increase awareness of the ICRC’s role in a context such as that prevailing in Algeria.

LIBYA

From 7 to 15 September the ICRC Vice-President carried out a mission to Libya. He visited the Libyan Red Crescent and discussed with the Secretary General and his staff ways of increasing cooperation between the ICRC and the National Society, specifically in dissemination programmes. On 12 September the Vice-President paid a visit to a camp situated 70 km east of Tripoli, where 1,200 Bosnian refugees, including 900 children, were being accommodated. Several hundred Red Cross messages were collected, and the regional delegation offered to act as an intermediary to speed up the transmission of such messages with the help of the Libyan Red Crescent. In Tripoli the Vice-President had talks with the Secretary for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, Libya’s Minister for Foreign Affairs.

MAURITANIA

During the year ICRC delegates travelled on several occasions to south-eastern Mauritania to assess the situation of refugees who had fled the fighting in Mali.
Delegates distributed medical supplies to be used for wounded Tuaregs and others when special requests were made, and informed the refugees about ICRC activities in the area. They also collected and dispatched Red Cross messages.

After the situation in Mali improved and ICRC activities there were consequently reduced, the regional delegation's previous support activities for the Mali delegation were no longer needed. As a result, delegates carried out two missions in October and November to close the ICRC offices in Fassala, in south-eastern Mauritania, and in Nouakchott. Talks on dissemination activities, especially for the armed forces, continued with the authorities concerned following a three-day course held for 30 officers in the capital in January by an ICRC expert.

MOROCCO

The ICRC President visited Morocco from 4 to 6 January. He met King Hassan II of Morocco and officials of the Moroccan Red Crescent, with whom he discussed topics of humanitarian concern. Following the meeting with the King the ICRC was authorized to visit Sahrawi prisoners held in connection with the Western Sahara conflict and to carry out dissemination activities in Morocco.

From 25 to 27 May ICRC delegates visited 70 Sahrawi prisoners, including 68 for the first time, held by the Moroccan authorities in Agadir. (The only previous visit to Sahrawi prisoners had taken place in 1978.) From 24 to 27 November a further visit was carried out. In the meantime, four prisoners had been released and had rejoined their families, while six people had been arrested. A team of four delegates, including a doctor, visited 72 Sahrawi prisoners in Agadir and Marrakech, registering six of them for the first time. During the two visits over 400 Red Cross messages were exchanged. The ICRC team also met the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation to discuss various issues related to the Western Sahara conflict.

At intervals during the year, ICRC delegates discussed with the Moroccan authorities pending issues such as dissemination to the armed forces, ratification by Morocco of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and recognition by Morocco of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.

From 6 to 12 June a Geneva-based delegate gave a series of five lectures on international humanitarian law in Rabat, Kenitra, Marrakech and Agadir. The programme, the first of its kind in Morocco, reached about 600 officers from the Gendarmerie Royale and the Royal Armed Forces and high-ranking civil servants from the Ministry of the Interior.

WESTERN SAHARA

In the Western Sahara, the cease-fire which was agreed under the UN peace plan and took effect in September 1991 was respected, but little progress was

IN 1993 THE ICRC:
• carried out 4 visits to 5 places of detention, seeing 495 detainees and registering 287 for the first time;
• handled 18,071 Red Cross messages, mainly for Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front.
made towards holding the referendum or carrying out the repatriations provided for in the plan.

The ICRC made some progress with respect to visits to prisoners taken in connection with the Western Sahara conflict and held by the Moroccan government (see *Morocco*) and the Polisario Front. Many of these prisoners had spent more than a decade in captivity.

From 22 to 31 January ICRC delegates visited 419 Moroccans (including 213 visited for the first time) held by the Polisario Front. The previous visit was in 1989. Following the visit in May to Sahrawi prisoners in Morocco, the regional delegate met a representative of the Polisario Front to discuss humanitarian matters concerning prisoners held by both parties. In particular, he repeated the ICRC’s long-standing request to have access to all Moroccan prisoners held by the Front, and to have such access during the same visit, since the ICRC had only ever been allowed to see small groups of prisoners at any one time. In the third quarter of 1993 the number of Red Cross messages delivered to and collected from such prisoners increased sevenfold compared with the same period in 1992. Despite continued efforts by the ICRC, no agreement was reached on visits to all Moroccan prisoners.

**TUNISIA**

During a visit by the ICRC President to the President of the Republic in November 1992, the issue of visits by the ICRC to people deprived of their freedom was raised, but no conclusion was reached.

Throughout the year discussions on various humanitarian issues were held with the authorities. In addition, the ICRC regional delegation carried out various dissemination activities. For example, delegates participated in a course organized by the Tunisian Red Crescent for first-aiders, gave a presentation on international humanitarian law at a seminar on the subject of women and violence and organized a drawing contest for children on the theme “Red Cross/Red Crescent and the war”. Publications on international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement were distributed to institutions and individuals.

The delegation also provided reference documentation to the officer in charge of dissemination to the armed forces. The documents were adapted and edited specially for distribution to military personnel.
PRINCIPLES, LAW AND RELATIONS WITH THE MOVEMENT
LET RED CROSS WORKERS DO THEIR JOB
Acceptance, dissemination and national measures to ensure implementation are of the utmost importance to secure greater respect for international humanitarian law, and the law itself must be kept constantly under review, adapted and developed to take account of changes in the nature of conflict and new methods of warfare.

The first few months of 1993 were marked by preparations for the year’s focal point: the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims which was held in Geneva at the end of August.1

Another highlight of 1993 was the United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for a Review Conference of the 1980 UN Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons.2

The tragic consequences of the extensive and irresponsible use of landmines in modern warfare were of particular concern to the ICRC. In 1993 its Medical and Legal Division made a concerted effort to draw attention to the long-term damage those insidious weapons cause.3

Considerable progress was made in 1993 as regards ratification or accession to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and recognition of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. Seldom have so many States committed themselves to these treaties in the space of one year.

Efforts to enhance respect for humanitarian law in various armed conflicts are described in the chapters on the ICRC’s field operations, whether made in the day-to-day contacts with the warring parties, as formal appeals or during the innumerable dissemination sessions held throughout the world. Such courses are given not only in countries affected by internal or international conflicts, but also as a preventive measure in countries currently at peace. Indeed, all States party to the Geneva Conventions have pledged to disseminate international humanitarian law within their own country.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is composed of the National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Although their respective structures, activities and functions vary, they are united by the same fundamental principles.

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1 See International Conference p. 236.
2 See p. 243.
3 See p. 242.
As the founding body of the Movement, the ICRC is committed to promoting unity, cohesion and cooperation among the Movement's components.

Within the Movement the year 1993 was marked by the meeting of the Council of Delegates, which took place in Birmingham. There too, the use of landmines was one of the main issues discussed and the Movement as a whole undertook to follow-up on the decisions taken in that respect during the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims.

In 1993, the International Tracing Service in Arolsen celebrated its 50th anniversary. Set up in the aftermath of the Second World War, it continues to provide essential services to a number of victims of persecution at that time.

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4 See p. 254.
5 See p. 262.
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAR VICTIMS

The International Conference for the Protection of War Victims took place in Geneva from 30 August to 1 September. The main aims of the Conference, which was convened by the Swiss government in its capacity as depositary of the Geneva Conventions and in response to a proposal by the ICRC, were as follows:

☐ to elicit a vigorous reaction from the various States to the widespread violations of international humanitarian law;
☐ to give in-depth and objective consideration to the measures which the States undertake and should further develop to prevent violations of international humanitarian law;
☐ to remind all States that they must join efforts to ensure universal recognition of and respect for international humanitarian law;
☐ to encourage all work undertaken to strengthen the means of repressing violations of international humanitarian law and to provide compensation for victims.

Invitations to attend the Conference as full participants were sent by the Swiss Federal Council to the member States of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the States party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice. In all, 165 States accepted the invitation and took part in the work of the Conference. It was also attended by a number of observers, including the UN Secretary-General, the institutions belonging to the UN system and bodies with observer status in the UN General Assembly. The ICRC, appointed Special Rapporteur to the Conference, fell into the latter category. Other participants with observer status at the Conference were the International Fact-Finding Commission, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and several non-governmental organizations, including Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists and Médecins sans Frontières.

The Conference, chaired by Mr Flavio Cotti, Swiss Federal Councillor and head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, met for three days in plenary session. At the same time, an open-ended drafting committee under the direction of Mr Philippe Kirsch, ambassador and Director of the Legal Operations Division at Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, prepared the text of the Final Declaration.

At the opening session, the assembly was addressed in particular by Mr Cotti, Chairman of the Conference, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, ICRC President and Special Rapporteur, and Mr Boutros Boutros Ghali, UN Secretary-General.
Some 120 delegates - both full participants and observers - took the floor during the plenary meetings.

The Conference had before it the *Report on the Protection of War Victims*, drawn up by the ICRC. In this report, the ICRC sought to identify the serious problems encountered in connection with the numerous large-scale violations of humanitarian rules during armed conflict, and set out the questions to which the States must find answers.

The Conference adopted the Final Declaration by consensus at its plenary meeting of 1 September. In it, the representatives of the community of States gathered in Geneva proclaim their refusal to accept as inevitable the gratuitous suffering caused by violations of international humanitarian law. They confirm their collective responsibility for observance of the humanitarian obligations and remind all States that they must spare no effort in strengthening protection for the victims of war. A list of specific measures is given to this effect.

As requested in the Final Declaration, the Swiss Confederation, in consultation with the ICRC, has initiated the follow-up process that should culminate in a report for submission to the States and to the next International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The UN General Assembly took note of the Final Declaration in its resolution of 9 December on the UN Decade of International Law. The 1993 Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement also adopted a resolution (No. 2) on the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims.

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1 For the complete text, see the *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 296, September-October 1993, pp. 391-445.
2 For the complete text of the Declaration, see the *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 296, September-October 1993, pp. 377-381.
3 See the *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 297, November-December 1993, pp. 490-491.
THE LAW AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

PROMOTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN LAW TREATIES

In the course of 1993 a considerable number of States became party to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

States party to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949: 185

The following States became party to the Conventions in 1993: Tajikistan, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the Republic of Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Andorra and Uzbekistan.

The Czech Republic and Slovakia deposited a declaration of succession to the Conventions, to which Czechoslovakia had been party. The reservations made by Czechoslovakia when it ratified the four Conventions therefore remain in force.

Except for Lithuania, which remains bound by the 1929 Geneva Conventions, all the States that were formerly constituent republics of the Soviet Union are party, through explicit declaration, to the 1949 Conventions. The States that succeeded Yugoslavia are likewise party to the 1949 Conventions through explicit declaration.

States party to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions: 130 and 120 respectively

The following States became party to the Protocols in 1993: Tajikistan, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Burundi, Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Colombia (Protocol I only), Georgia and Uzbekistan. None of these States made reservations or declarations of interpretation.

Throughout the year the ICRC continued to encourage universal acceptance both of the 1949 Conventions and of their Additional Protocols. It focused its efforts on the new States of Central and Eastern Europe, with a gratifying degree of success.

The 1949 Conventions undeniably belong to universally recognized law, and their Additional Protocols are well on the way to achieving the same recognition: by the end of the year under review, 130 States were bound by Protocol I and 120 by Protocol II. The governments of several other States let it be known that they were seriously examining the possibility of becoming party to those instruments.
The International Conference for the Protection of War Victims provided an excellent opportunity to remind those States that had not yet done so that they should become party to the Conventions and Protocols. The Conference’s Final Declaration included an appeal to this effect (part II, para. 4).

The programme for the United Nations Decade of International Law also calls on those States that have not yet done so to ratify the treaties of international humanitarian law.

International Fact-Finding Commission

The International Fact-Finding Commission provided for in Article 90 of 1977 Protocol I is competent to enquire into any facts alleged to be a grave breach as defined in the Geneva Conventions or in that Protocol, or any other serious violation of those treaties, as well as to facilitate, through its good offices, the restoration of an attitude of respect for the Conventions and the Protocol. The Commission has this capacity only in respect of parties which have recognized its competence, either in advance or on an ad hoc basis.

The Commission was constituted in 1991 and adopted its rules of procedure the following year.

In 1993, five further States (Luxembourg, Madagascar, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Brazil and Guinea) made the optional declaration, bringing to 38 the number of States having accepted, in advance, the Commission’s competence as binding.


This Convention was adopted in 1980 and entered into force in 1983. It regulates in particular the use of mines, booby traps and incendiary weapons in order to limit civilian casualties. The ICRC has continued to encourage States to ratify it, and this took on a particular importance when the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a resolution¹ in November 1993 calling for the convening of a conference to review the Convention. The existence of this Review Conference is likely to have the effect of increasing the number of States party to the treaty.²

² As at 31 December 1993, the following States were party to the Convention: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Benin, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, Yugoslavia.
Developments related to the Review Conference will be described under the heading Development of international humanitarian law below.

RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Implementation measures at the national level

In 1993, the ICRC continued to urge the States party to the Geneva Conventions to adopt national measures in peacetime to give effect to international humanitarian law, and to provide it with all relevant information on steps taken or contemplated in this respect.

Seminars were organized at the national and regional levels in order to encourage the setting up of interministerial committees responsible, in each country, for reviewing domestic legislation in relation to the obligations handed down by the treaties of international humanitarian law, and for proposing any appropriate measures.

The ICRC regularly reminded those concerned of the importance of taking implementation measures at the national level, and continued doing its utmost to help the States in fulfilling their obligations. It also asked the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to give it the necessary support and to assist their respective governments in meeting their responsibilities for implementation.

Protection of children in armed conflicts

A study entitled Child soldiers carried out by the Henry Dunant Institute, the ICRC and the National Societies was presented to the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which met in Birmingham (England) on 29 and 30 October 1993.

The study analysed the reasons why children take part in armed conflicts and the consequences of their participation. It makes recommendations in several areas, enlarging upon the principle that children should neither be recruited nor allowed to take part – whether voluntarily or involuntarily – in hostilities, the physical and psychological consequences of participation, the need to enhance compliance with the law at both the national and international levels and, above all, the importance of making known existing rights, rules and procedures.

After taking note of the study, the Council of Delegates adopted a resolution (Child soldiers – No. 4) urging all the components of the Movement to assist children exposed to armed conflict. The ICRC and the International Federation

1In Buenos Aires, for example. See p. 198.
2See Cooperation within the Movement p. 261.
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were asked to draw up a Plan of Action for the Movement aimed not only at promoting the principle of non-recruitment and non-participation in armed conflicts of children below the age of eighteen but also at taking specific action to protect and assist child victims of armed conflict.

Applicability of international humanitarian law to United Nations peace-keeping forces

The United Nations is engaging in an ever greater number of peace-keeping operations throughout the world and assigning ever broader and more complex mandates to the contingents involved. Since such operations are being entrusted to armed forces along with authorization to use their weapons in carrying out their mandate – which did indeed occur on several occasions in 1993 – the ICRC has been studying the applicability to UN peace-keeping forces of international humanitarian law.

An article on this subject was published in the May-June 1993 issue of the International Review of the Red Cross and the ICRC expressed its views on the matter to the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly in November. While acknowledging that the United Nations was not party to the treaties of international humanitarian law, the ICRC stressed the applicability to UN forces of the relevant principles and rules of that body of law, in particular as regards methods and means of warfare, the various categories of protected persons and the respect that must be shown for the distinctive signs (mainly the red cross and red crescent) used to indicate medical staff and transports. The ICRC reminded the Committee that international humanitarian law applies to all armed forces present in an armed conflict, regardless of any considerations as to the legitimacy of recourse to force.

In addition, the ICRC took part in several seminars and other debates on the subject in order to explore further all aspects of it and to ascertain the views of other organizations active in this area.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Identification

Pursuant to Resolution III of the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross (Geneva, 1986), the ICRC continued its work to improve the identification of medical transports. To this end it attended numerous meetings of experts at specialized international agencies such as the International Maritime
Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Telecommunication Union. It also continued providing information on new technologies which could be used to ensure better and more reliable identification of medical transports during armed conflicts.

Revision of Annex I on technical means of identifying medical facilities and transports

The process of consulting the States party to Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions in order to revise Annex I to that Protocol (*Regulations Concerning Identification*) was completed in 1993.

In accordance with Article 98 of Protocol I, and after consulting the States party to that instrument, the ICRC had convened a meeting of technical experts (Geneva, August 1990) to review Annex I. A number of proposed amendments emerged from the meeting, most of them intended to incorporate into Annex I various technical provisions already adopted by the relevant international organizations.

Thereupon the Swiss Confederation, as depositary of the Protocols, initiated the above-mentioned consultation procedure and invited the States party to the Protocol to adopt the amendments proposed by the technical experts.

With this procedure completed, those amendments were set to enter into force on 1 March 1994 for all States party to Protocol I (with the exception, for specific amendments, of States that made declarations of non-acceptance).

Mines

The ICRC hosted a symposium in April 1993 on antipersonnel landmines. The purpose of the symposium was to collect information on the situation resulting from the use of these mines and to consider possible ways of improving the fate of mine victims and possible preventive action. The symposium was multi-disciplinary in nature and included mine specialists, mine-clearance experts, representatives of humanitarian organizations, surgeons, lawyers, military officers and specialized journalists.

The problems caused by mines were studied from a number of different angles, including the care needed by mine victims, the real effect of the present use of mines, the technical characteristics of mines, mine clearance, the trade in mines, and the existing law and its shortcomings. The symposium made a number of recommendations, including legal developments that should be considered. In particular, it indicated the shortcomings of the present regulation of mines contained in Protocol II to the United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, and recommended that serious thought should be given to altogether prohibiting the use of certain
types of mines. It also pointed out the need for implementation and verification mechanisms and for certain arms control and disarmament measures in addition to international humanitarian law rules. The symposium also recommended that a number of further studies should be undertaken and that the ICRC should hold a symposium to examine in greater detail the military utility of antipersonnel mines and possible alternative systems. The ICRC scheduled this symposium of military experts for January 1994.

The problem of mines was placed on the agenda of the Review Conference of the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons.\(^5\)

New weapons


The ICRC also continued to collect information on developments in new weapons systems in order to assess whether they were likely to violate provisions of international humanitarian law or otherwise cause problems of humanitarian concern.


In November 1993, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution requesting the Secretary-General to call a conference to review this treaty. The ICRC made a statement to the First Committee of the General Assembly underscoring the fact that this conference would be an important opportunity to take stock of the use of conventional weapons in the world today, to consider whether the present treaty adequately addresses the problems that exist and to look more carefully at the likely development of new types of weapons. The ICRC voiced the hope that the conference would find an effective solution to the appalling situation that the massive and indiscriminate use of mines has created. It also indicated that as this conference was probably the only opportunity to

\(^5\) For more details on the Review Conference, see below.
take preventive measures with regard to the development of blinding battlefield laser weapons, thought should be given to the possibility of an additional protocol on the subject of blinding weapons.

The ICRC announced that it would take part as an observer in the conference and in its preparatory meetings of governmental experts.

The law of war at sea

In 1993 the ICRC hosted a meeting in Geneva on the law of war at sea. This was one of the series of meetings of experts held under the auspices of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (San Remo) to compile a document indicating the current law regulating armed conflict at sea and incorporating suggestions for the development of the law.

The principal theme of the meeting was the “Protection of victims of armed conflicts at sea” and the main report was prepared by one of the ICRC’s legal advisers. Other topics discussed were the environment during armed conflict at sea and the question of neutrality and non-belligerency during such conflicts.

The main meeting was followed by a meeting of the project’s rapporteurs who continued to work on harmonizing the final text to round off this series of meetings and the accompanying commentary.

It was decided that the final meeting to adopt the text and commentary would take place in June 1994.

Humanitarian assistance

The ICRC addressed the subject of humanitarian assistance at university symposia, in lectures to various audiences and in statements at meetings of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It stressed that under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977, the victims of armed conflict are entitled to receive impartial humanitarian assistance without discrimination, and that assistance provided in conformity with the provisions of international humanitarian law does not constitute interference.

The question of humanitarian assistance was also considered by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace, and by the 1993 Council of Delegates. The Council's Resolution 11 is a reminder of the established principles of humanitarian assistance, namely:

a) **with respect to victims**: the right to be recognized as victims and to receive assistance,

b) **with respect to States**: the duty – which is in the first instance theirs – to assist people who are placed *de jure* or *de facto* under their authority and, should they fail to discharge this duty, the obligation to authorize humanitarian
THE LAW AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

organizations to provide such assistance, to grant such organizations access to the victims and protect their action,

c) with respect to humanitarian agencies: the right to have access to victims and to bring them assistance, provided that the agencies respect the basic principles of humanitarian work – humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

The coordination of humanitarian action and the safety of those carrying it out were discussed at the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims (Geneva, 30 August – 1 September 1993). Part II, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Final Declaration adopted by the participants urged all States to make every effort to “improve the coordination of emergency humanitarian actions in order to give them the necessary coherence and efficiency, provide the necessary support to the humanitarian organizations entrusted with granting protection and assistance to the victims of armed conflicts and supplying, in all impartiality, victims of armed conflicts with goods or services essential to their survival, facilitate speedy and effective relief operations by granting to those humanitarian organizations access to the affected areas, and take the appropriate measures to enhance the respect for their safety, security and integrity, in conformity with applicable rules of international humanitarian law”.

The Declaration also called on the States to “increase respect for the emblems of the red cross and red crescent as well as for the other emblems provided for by international humanitarian law and protecting medical personnel, objects, installations and means of transport, religious personnel and places of worship, and relief personnel, goods and convoys as defined in international humanitarian law”.

Also in connection with the safety of those engaged in humanitarian action, the report on the protection of war victims, which had been drawn up by the ICRC for the Conference, pointed out that “an organization such as the ICRC would not be able to participate [...] even marginally, in operations imposed by force upon parties to a conflict, because they are after all of a military nature even though their aim is humanitarian. An organization which is called upon to act as a neutral intermediary in conflicts must of necessity retain the possibility to give protection and assistance to all the victims, including the potential victims of precisely such an operation”.

The ICRC furthermore gave thought to the question of a code of conduct for disaster relief operations. Pursuant to the 1991 Council of Delegates’ Resolution 17 on the need for such a code to guide humanitarian aid in the event of natural and technological disasters, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies contacted the ICRC on the subject. The ensuing discussions resulted in a draft Code of Conduct for humanitarian action in the event of natural or technological disaster or armed conflict. This draft was approved by the 1993 Council of Delegates in a resolution (No. 6) urging both the Federation
and the ICRC to encourage the adoption of the Code by the organizations concerned.

Internally displaced persons

At its 49th session, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights examined the question of internally displaced persons. It was presented with a comprehensive study prepared by Mr Francis M. Deng, representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights issue related to internally displaced persons, for which he had sought the ICRC's views as part of the consultation he carried out under the Commission's Resolution 1992/35 (annex to document E/CN.4/1993/35). Addressing the Commission, the ICRC gave an account of its work for internally displaced people and the protection to which those displaced by armed conflict are entitled under international humanitarian law. In its Resolution 1993/35, the Commission asked for the mandate of the Secretary-General's representative to be extended for two years and for consultations with the ICRC to be continued.

Respect for international humanitarian law helps to limit population movements during armed conflicts and protects persons displaced by conflict. The ICRC drew particular attention to this when it addressed the 44th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Programme (UNHCR), and during consideration by the 48th session of the General Assembly of agenda item 113 (Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions).

High-level discussions also took place between the ICRC and UNHCR with a view to delimiting their respective responsibilities, in particular as regards assistance to displaced persons. In this connection the conclusions of the 44th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Programme requested the High Commissioner to “promote further consultations on this priority issue with the [...] International Committee of the Red Cross” (Conclusion A, 1, 19(t)).

The problem of internally displaced persons was also dealt with by the Movement's 1993 Council of Delegates under the agenda item entitled The Movement, refugees and displaced persons.6

Environment

In 1993, the ICRC continued its work on the protection of the environment during armed conflicts. To this end, it organized two meetings of experts, one in January and one in June, which ensured wider geographical representation than in the past.

6 See Cooperation within the Movement, p. 254.
The participants – military personnel, scientists and academics as well as representatives of certain governmental and non-governmental organizations – were all invited in a personal capacity. They studied the content of the law in force, its inadequacies, problems related to implementation and measures to be taken, and compiled a draft set of guidelines for military manuals.

The work of the two meetings was summarized in a report prepared by the ICRC, which was included in the UN Secretary-General’s report to the 48th session of the General Assembly in accordance with the Assembly’s 1992 Resolution 47/37. The guidelines were included as an annex.

In connection with the United Nations Decade of International Law, the 48th session of the General Assembly adopted a resolution in December mentioning the ICRC report and action that would soon have to be taken on the basis of it. The resolution invites all the States to give the ICRC their comments on the guidelines by 31 March 1994, welcomes the intention of the ICRC to draw up a new version of those guidelines, taking into account the comments made by States, and notes that the ICRC is ready to convene, if need be, a meeting of government experts for that purpose.

Overall information from the ICRC on environmental protection during armed conflicts will be included in the report on the Decade of International Law that the Secretary-General will present to the 49th session of the UN General Assembly.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN THE REALM OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

In August, the ICRC took part in the fourth training session organized by the Arab Institute of Human Rights, based in Tunis, on the subject of human rights and international humanitarian law.

In November, the ICRC held a seminar on international humanitarian law, in conjunction with the Yemenite Red Crescent Society. It was attended by representatives of several ministries, other public institutions and academic and military circles.

In November, for the first time, a televised round table on humanitarian law took place in Lebanon. An ICRC representative took part along with two Lebanese experts on human rights and humanitarian law.

HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENTS

In 1993, headquarters agreements establishing the legal status of ICRC delegations and their staff were signed with the following States: Rwanda (14 January), Côte d’Ivoire (8 February), Uzbekistan (29 June) and Armenia
With the exception of Rwanda, these agreements took effect on the date on which they were signed.

The headquarters agreement signed with Peru on 5 June 1989 took effect on 13 October 1993.

The ICRC also concluded a headquarters agreement with Switzerland, which was signed on 19 March and came into force that same day. Under this agreement, which is governed by international law, the Swiss Federal Council recognizes the international juridical personality of the ICRC and guarantees its independence and freedom of action. The agreement also confers on the ICRC the immunities granted to international organizations having their seat in Switzerland (inviolability of premises, archives, correspondence and communications; customs exemptions; immunity from legal process and execution; immunity from legal process for the members of the Committee, ICRC staff and experts consulted by the ICRC, in respect of all acts performed in the exercise of their functions; etc.). The text of this agreement was published in the *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 293, March-April 1993, pp. 152-160.
STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949
AND TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS OF 8 JUNE 1977
As at 31 December 1993
(See notes below tables, p. 253)

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1. States party to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and to the two Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977.

As at 31 December 1993

2. Reservations/declarations.

3. Date of signature.

4. Date of ratification.

5. Date of accession.

6. Date of deposition.
STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949
AND TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS OF 8 JUNE 1977
As at 31 December 1993

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### STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949¹ AND TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS OF 8 JUNE 1977

As at 31 December 1993

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States party to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and to the two Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977
As at 31 December 1993

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<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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<td>07.03.83</td>
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Palestine: On 21 June 1989, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received a letter from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva informing the Swiss Federal Council “that the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, entrusted with the functions of the Government of the State of Palestine by decision of the Palestine National Council, decided, on 4 May 1989, to adhere to the Four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Protocols additional thereto”.

On 13 September 1989, the Swiss Federal Council informed the States that it was not in a position to decide whether the letter constituted an instrument of accession, “due to the uncertainty within the international community as to the existence or non-existence of a State of Palestine”.

Number of States party to the Conventions/Protocols:
Geneva Conventions: 185
Additional Protocol I: 130
Additional Protocol II: 120
COOPERATION WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

THE WORK OF THE STATUTORY BODIES

Council of delegates

The Council of Delegates, which brings together representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (National Societies, ICRC, Federation), met in Birmingham (United Kingdom) on 29 and 30 October, at the invitation of the British Red Cross. The assembly was honoured by a visit from Queen Elizabeth II, who presented the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity to the Somali Red Crescent.

In the course of its proceedings the Council adopted 13 resolutions, some dealing with the future of the Movement and others on issues regarding humanitarian action both in armed conflicts and in peacetime.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Study Group on the Future of the Movement, the delegates decided to set up an Advisory Commission to study policy matters of common interest to all components of the Movement.

The delegates also decided to take active part in following up the conclusions of the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, in particular by making the Final Declaration of the Conference more widely known; by supporting various efforts to limit the use of antipersonnel mines; by drawing general attention to the plight of child soldiers; and by looking into the complex problems involved in the armed protection of humanitarian assistance.

In addition, the Council of Delegates approved a Code of Conduct for organizations taking part in disaster relief operations. It called on all the components of the Movement to continue and step up their activities in favour of refugees, displaced persons and asylum-seekers; to comply with the rules governing the use of the emblem; to implement the Fundamental Principles as the Movement's ethical charter; and to increase awareness of the work of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent by various information means at their disposal. It reminded the States of the basis for and the nature of humanitarian assistance.1

In its November-December 1993 issue (No. 297, pp. 488-501), the International Review of the Red Cross published the text of the resolutions adopted by the Council of Delegates.

1See also The law and legal considerations, p. 244.
Standing commission

Following the resignation of the Commission’s Chairman, Dr Ahmad Abu-Goura, Prince Botho of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein (President of the German Red Cross) was appointed to that post. In accordance with the statutes, Dr Byron Hove (National Chairman of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society) became Vice-Chairman, and Mrs Véronique Ahouanmenou (President of the Red Cross of Benin) became a member of the Commission.

As the Commission’s new Chairman, Prince Botho announced his intention to see that the Commission fully performed the role set out for it in the Movement’s Statutes. It would above all focus on preparing for the Council of Delegates and the next International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

In the course of 1993 the Standing Commission met three times: on 19-20 April, 8 September and 24 October.

The Commission devoted much of its work to preparations for the Council of Delegates in October, and it set up an internal Working Group on the Future of the International Conference. The group sent a questionnaire to National Societies and consulted about 20 permanent missions representing a cross-section of the international community. Replies were received from 34 National Societies. The Working Group also took into account the results of the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, held in Geneva from 30 August to 1 September 1993.

The conclusions of the Working Group were presented by the Standing Commission’s Chairman to the Council of Delegates in Birmingham: an international conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent should be held in 1995 if possible, preferably in Geneva, and should last about three days. It would take place at the same time as the Movement’s statutory meetings and would deal primarily with respect for and implementation of international humanitarian law.

The Standing Commission felt that the question of future International Conferences was a subject of general interest which should be discussed within the Study Group on the Future of the Movement; it submitted its conclusions on this issue to the Study Group and to the Council of Delegates.

The Commission also awarded the Henry Dunant medal. The recipients of this prestigious award were six exemplary members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: Dr Ahmad Abu-Goura (Jordanian National Red Crescent Society), Mr Arthur Brian Hodgson (British Red Cross), Dr Pedro José Manrique Lander (Venezuelan Red Cross), Ms Maria Luisa Torres de la Cruz (Chilean Red Cross), and Mr Mohammed Zaboor and Mr Abdul Qadar (ICRC employees wounded and disabled by a mine explosion).
To honour the memory of ICRC and Federation delegates killed in the course of duty, the Standing Commission awarded the Henry Dunant medal posthumously to Mr Wim van Boxelaere (Belgian Red Cross, ICRC delegate), Ms Susanne Buser (ICRC delegate), Mr Jon Karlsson (Icelandic Red Cross, ICRC delegate), Mr Michel Kuhn (ICRC delegate), Ms Sarah Leomy (ICRC employee), Mr Kurt Lustenberger (ICRC delegate), Mr Frédéric Maurice (ICRC delegate) and Dr Jock Sutherland (Federation delegate).

The Prize for Peace and Humanity was awarded unanimously to the Somali Red Crescent.

**Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace**

The Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace was set up by the Council of Delegates in 1977; its mandate and membership were extended by the 1991 Council of Delegates. It is composed of representatives of the Federation, the ICRC, the Henry Dunant Institute and 16 National Societies.2

During 1993 the Commission met twice, on 16-17 April in Geneva, under the chairmanship of Mr Maurice Aubert, and on 22 October in Birmingham. Mr Aubert being ill, the second meeting was chaired by Mr Omran El Shafei from the Egyptian Red Crescent.

The Commission discussed the study conducted by the Henry Dunant Institute on the role of National Societies in preventing conflicts involving minorities, and was informed of the conclusions of a seminar on the same subject.

It adopted a resolution concerning the principles of humanitarian assistance.

Finally, following a recommendation by the Study Group on the Future of the Movement that the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace should be dissolved, the Commission discussed its own future. It expressed its wish to carry to completion the work entrusted to it by the 1991 Council of Delegates and, to that end, to keep its current composition.

It was also decided that the Commission would submit its final report to the next Council of Delegates.

**Sub-commission**

The Sub-commission established in May 1992 by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace comprises representatives of four National Societies that are members of the Peace Commission (France, Sweden, Hungary and Tunisia), and ICRC and Federation representatives.

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2 These are the Societies of the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Hungary, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Sudan, Sweden and Tunisia.
In 1993 the Sub-commission met twice, on 2-3 March and on 15-16 March, in order to pursue and complete its consideration of the following issues: clarification of the concept of the right to humanitarian assistance; the Movement’s contribution to respect for human rights and promotion of such respect; and the problem of refugees and displaced people.

During the meeting of the Peace Commission in Birmingham it was decided to bring the work of the Sub-commission to an end, in accordance with its mandate, which expired in 1993.

RELATIONS WITH THE COMPONENTS OF THE MOVEMENT

National societies

Dialogue and contacts

In the desire to maintain and strengthen intensive dialogue with National Societies, the ICRC President, members of the Committee (the ICRC's governing board) and the institution’s staff had many meetings throughout 1993 with National Society representatives, both abroad and at ICRC headquarters.

During those meetings many topics were discussed, including the future of the Movement, the increasing politicization of humanitarian action, the question of the emblem, the next International Conference, and the importance of respect for the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

In 1993 the ICRC President and members of the Committee visited the National Societies of Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Rwanda, Somalia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States, and those in the former Yugoslavia.

Wherever possible, ICRC representatives took up direct contact with the leaders and volunteers of the Societies’ governing bodies and, in some cases, with those from the regional branches.

Participation in regional National Society conferences and commemorative events

The ICRC attaches great importance to its participation in regional conferences, which offer an opportunity to meet representatives of many National Societies and to discuss matters of mutual interest with them. In 1993 the ICRC
President, Vice-President, several Committee members and senior staff took part in many regional and statutory meetings.

Since 1991 there have been informal consultations between the ICRC (through its President, members of the Committee and the Executive Board) and representatives of National Societies that are members of the Federation’s Executive Council. The third such meeting was held from 23 to 25 April in Yverdon-les-Bains (Switzerland).

Its main aims were to continue the dialogue and examine proposals made by the Study Group on the Future of the Movement. The participants discussed new challenges facing National Societies, the Movement’s structure, and spheres of cooperation within the Movement. The National Societies expressed their deep concern about ongoing conflicts and considered how they could take action in that respect. The question of armed intervention by the United Nations within the context of humanitarian action, and the challenge it represents for the Movement, was also discussed at length. Lastly, the participants pointed out some serious shortcomings with regard to the development of National Societies.

Visits to ICRC headquarters by National Society representatives

The ICRC encourages visits and is always pleased to receive members of National Societies at its headquarters. These visits enable the visitors to acquire a better knowledge of the institution and to meet some ICRC staff during working meetings on matters of particular interest to them. Similarly, these contacts enable ICRC staff to get better acquainted with National Societies.

In 1993, more than a hundred visits were organized for the leaders, staff and volunteers of National Societies from all parts of the world.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Joint ICRC/Federation Commission for National Society Statutes

In 1993, the Joint ICRC/Federation Commission for National Society Statutes met in Geneva ten times: on 9 February, 23 March, 10 May, 14 June, 15 July, 3 August, 20 August, 7 October, 5 November and 25 November.

In accordance with Resolution VI of the 22nd International Conference and Resolution XX of the 24th International Conference, the Commission examined draft statutory amendments submitted by various National Societies, and followed the development of emergent Societies or Societies that had applied
for recognition. On the basis of its recommendations, the ICRC recognized or confirmed the validity of previous recognition of the following ten National Societies:

- Estonia Red Cross on 31 March
- Namibia Red Cross on 31 March
- Croatian Red Cross on 25 August
- Slovak Red Cross on 25 August
- Red Cross of Slovenia on 25 August
- Czech Red Cross on 25 August
- Yugoslav Red Cross on 25 August
- Red Cross Society of Ukraine on 29 September
- Vanuatu Red Cross Society on 29 September
- Malta Red Cross Society on 21 October

The number of National Societies recognized by the ICRC was 161 at the end of the year.

The Commission also considered the cases of certain National Societies which were facing internal reorganization problems and had requested support from the governing bodies of the Movement in that connection.

Joint ICRC/Federation meetings

The ICRC and the Federation kept each other informed of their respective activities and consulted each other regularly on the coordination and distribution of their work, and on all matters of interest to the whole Movement.

These exchanges between the various services of the two institutions were often informal, though formal meetings were also held. Joint ICRC/Federation meetings, provided for by Article 35 of the ICRC/Federation Agreement of 20 October 1989, were held seven times in 1993. The matters discussed included:

- preparations for Standing Commission meetings;
- the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims;
- Red Cross Societies in the former Yugoslavia;
- a new edition of the Handbook of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
- preparations for the Council of Delegates.

Such meetings also provided an opportunity to clarify the respective mandates of the two institutions and to work out a common approach towards respect for the Fundamental Principles by all the components of the Movement.
Funds and medals

Joint Commission for the Empress Shôken Fund

This fund was created in 1912 by a gift from the Empress of Japan, for the purpose of promoting the development of National Society activities in peacetime. Since then the Fund has received several gifts from the Japanese Imperial Family, the government, the Japanese Red Cross, various associations and the Japanese public. In 1993 the Imperial Family donated five million yen, on the occasion of the 90th birthday of the Dowager Empress.

As every year, the Japanese government made a contribution of 20 million yen. The Japanese Red Cross, for its part, donated five million yen on 8 March to mark the 40th anniversary of the promulgation of the law that instituted the Society.

The Joint Commission for the Fund, which includes Federation and ICRC members, met on 26 March under the chairmanship of Mr Maurice Aubert and in the presence of Japan’s ambassador and permanent representative in Geneva.

Taking into account the criteria set for the allocation of funds, the Commission decided to distribute the income among the National Societies of the following countries: Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Jordan, Laos, Madagascar, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, South Africa and Swaziland. The amount distributed, CHF 423,000, was used for development projects and for the purchase of vehicles and other equipment.

Maurice de Madre French Fund

The Maurice de Madre French Fund was set up on the basis of property bequeathed by Count Maurice de Madre, who died in 1970. Its purpose is to assist members of National Societies who suffer injury, illness or accident in the service of the Movement and, in the event of their death, to assist their families.

In 1993 the Board of the Fund met twice, on 16 July and on 2 December.

After examining and approving the financial report of the Fund, the Board considered the cases submitted to it by the National Societies, the ICRC and the Federation. It gave favourable replies to requests for grants from the National Societies of the following 17 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo, Uganda and Zaire. The requests were made either on behalf of a specific person or a whole family.

Since its creation, the Fund had usually made allocations lower than its income. It was therefore decided to see whether its regulations could be amended to allow grants to needy members of the Movement in situations other than those for which provision was initially made.
Florence Nightingale Medal

The Florence Nightingale Commission, composed of members of the Committee and the ICRC’s Chief Medical Officer, awards the highest distinction that can be received within the Movement by a member of the nursing profession.

The medal is awarded every two years to active members or regular helpers of National Societies, and also to members of affiliated medical or nursing institutions, for showing exceptional courage or dedication in time of peace or war.

The Commission met in Geneva on 26 March 1993 and awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal to 35 nurses nominated by the National Societies of the following countries: Chile, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Henry Dunant Institute

The Henry Dunant Institute was set up in 1965 by the ICRC, the Federation and the Swiss Red Cross. Its object is “to make available to the member institutions ways and means of carrying out study, research, training and instruction in all branches of Red Cross activity and thus to contribute to the strengthening of Red Cross unity and universality”. Its Statutes further state that it “shall contribute by its work to the development of the Red Cross in the world”.

Each of its member institutions takes turns in providing it with a chairman for a two-year term of office. ICRC Vice-President Claudio Caratsch accordingly became Chairman of the Institute’s General Assembly in January 1993.

Together with the Federation, the Swiss Red Cross and certain National Societies, the ICRC has been associated with a programme run by the Institute to produce publications, insofar as these are on matters of mutual interest. In 1993 these publications included Prof. Hans Haug’s work entitled Humanité pour tous, le Mouvement international de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge, and the handbook Strengthening financial management.

The projects carried out during 1993 included a study on child soldiers and one on the role of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in preventing conflicts involving minorities. A seminar on the latter topic was held in September. It was attended by National Society experts, organizations outside the Movement and academic experts and gave rise to a constructive exchange of views. The final report on this study, which was requested by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace, was scheduled for publication in 1994.

ICRC staff took part as instructors in the 18th introductory course on the international activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which was attended by representatives of 16 National Societies.
The year 1993 was particularly important for the International Tracing Service (ITS) since it marked the institution’s 50th anniversary.

The work of the ITS began in 1943 with the setting up of a special tracing office at the British Red Cross in London. Its purpose was to elucidate the fate of the many people who had been deported or gone missing during the Second World War and organize enquiries at the international level once the war was over.

Between 1944 and 1951, the tracing office was successively placed under the responsibility of the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF), the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization (PCIRO) and then the International Refugee Organization (IRO) itself; its task was to trace missing nationals of United Nations countries (i.e. members of the anti-Axis alliance). Thus began the process of collecting and preserving information on these people and bringing together families split up by events. In 1946 the tracing office was moved to Arolsen, in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), a small town centrally situated for the four occupation zones.

As from 1951 the tracing office – meanwhile known as the International Tracing Service (ITS) – was taken over by the Allied High Commission for Germany (HICOG).

On 5 May 1955, when the Occupation Statute ended, the HICOG was disbanded and the Convention of 26 May 1952 on Relations between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic of Germany came into effect. Under the Convention, the activities of the ITS were to continue. At the same time, in conformity with the 1955 Bonn Agreements, the management and administration of the ITS were entrusted to the ICRC in Geneva and its work was placed under the supervision of an International Commission comprising representatives from ten States.

In 1990, as a result of recent political changes, the 1952 Convention was abrogated. However the clause relating to the ITS, which states that “the Federal Republic of Germany assumes the obligation to guarantee the continuation of the work that is presently being carried out by the International Tracing Service”, was included in the Transition Agreement.

The fact that this provision has been upheld shows the continuing relevance of the four main tasks of the ITS: collecting, classifying, preserving and evaluating documents for tracing and certification purposes. Since its inception, the ITS has enjoyed a high rate of success (positive replies to two-thirds of the enquiries) and today it continues steadily to add to its voluminous files. In 1993, for instance, 278 organizations provided it with new documents.

Whereas in the early days its work was almost entirely concerned with tracing – 282,283 requests up to 1950 – it was later called on, in particular for the purpose of compensation claims, to draw up certificates attesting to detention, forced labour or death in concentration camps.
The death certificates were necessary because many death registers were no longer available at the end of the war. A special registry office was set up in Arolsen in 1949 to provide such certificates, which have accounted for the bulk of its work since 1950 and can still be obtained there today.

The chart below shows the total number of enquiries and requests received by the ITS from 1945 to the end of 1993.

In accordance with the laws of 1949 of the various federal Länder and the Federal Indemnification Law of 1953 (and its supplements), proof of detention in a concentration camp or of forced labour had to be provided before a person could claim any benefits.

Displaced people who lived in the FRG from 1945 to 1951, and who were not under the obligation to declare residency at the time, also had to submit certificates of residency. Such certificates can be drawn up by the ITS on the basis of registers kept by UNRRA and the IRO.

In 1954, 62.4 per cent of all ITS work concerned requests for compensation. In 1955, when the ICRC took over the direction and administration of the ITS, the breakdown was as follows:
The adoption of new laws led to an increase in the number of rightful claimants to compensation, and the number of requests for certificates submitted to the ITS rose accordingly, before declining again between 1958 and 1960. Meanwhile, the number of tracing requests mounted steadily, accounting for 36 per cent of all ITS work in 1960. When the deadline for filing compensation claims was extended to 31 March 1962, the ITS was again flooded with requests for certificates, which eventually constituted 84 per cent of its work.

In the ensuing years the number of requests for certificates of detention and forced labour submitted by individuals seeking to obtain pension benefits have continued to rise. Indeed, the extracts from documents and registers preserved at the ITS are often the only means a claimant has of proving residency in Germany at the time, especially since official records are preserved for only 30 years.

The number of documents evaluated by the ITS was particularly high in 1973 and 1982 as a result of its work on lists of names of Jewish people who had lived in the former FRG and Berlin between 1939 and 1945. The data were needed for a German commemorative publication in 1986.

The adoption of new laws and the granting of access to hitherto untapped archives by certain countries, such as Poland in 1975, led to successive surges in requests.

During the past decade the number of requests for certificates attesting to forced labour has continued to increase. It still constitutes the bulk of ITS work, as shown below:

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**Breakdown of requests received in 1993 according to the type of information desired**

- **58.3%** certificates attesting to forced labour
- **19.1%** certificates of detention
- **9.1%** certificates of internment
- **11.7%** miscellaneous
- **1.8%** tracing requests

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THE WORK OF THE ITS IN 1993* CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

- 174,214 enquiries were received from 56 countries (as against 161,465 from 57 countries in 1992);
- 631,902 data checks were made in files and sets of documents;
- 213,178 enquiries were answered (as against 183,403 in 1992);
- 264,180 requests remained pending (as against 232,582 in 1992);
- 994,064 data files were opened on the basis of newly acquired documents (as against 1,318,026 in 1992).

*From 30.11.92 to 30.11.93
COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
The ICRC's increased workload in responding to the ever greater suffering caused by warfare required considerable planning, organization, back-up and coordination not only in the field but also at headquarters. Constant monitoring and adjusting of its management and structure were necessary to meet the enormous demands made on its employees and financial resources. An integrated management information system was therefore introduced in 1993 and a new staff policy was devised. Donor governments and private sources were also approached in an intensified effort to obtain the financial support needed for the ICRC to carry its protection and assistance programmes and fulfil the humanitarian tasks assigned to it. In 1993 the ICRC's expenditure totalled CHF 810.9 million.

In view of the growing number of organizations active in the field, the ICRC must send out a clear message to the public and the donor community. In its communications policy it must steer a careful course, making the world aware of its humanitarian activities in so many different situations without ever failing to show its strict commitment to the principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. In addition it must respect the limits set by its confidential approach, which is an inherent part of its mandate of protection. The ICRC must also keep pace with all new developments in the field of communications and adapt its working methods accordingly. Last but not least, it must highlight the specific attributes which set it apart from all other humanitarian organizations, namely the unique mandate conferred upon it by the States party to the Geneva Conventions.
COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES

"Respect and ensure respect for the Geneva Conventions". When the Swiss Confederation convened an International Conference for the Protection of War Victims in June 1993 to take place with this theme at the end of August,\(^1\) it presented an opportunity for the ICRC to stage a worldwide campaign to draw attention to international humanitarian law, its successes and failures in practice, the protection it affords and ways to enhance respect for its rules.

In the space of two months, the ICRC drew up and put into action a worldwide communication and information campaign. The communication strategy which was launched in June included films, television and radio programmes, interviews and spots, brochures, photos, fact sheets and press kits. One hundred and nine National Societies played an active part in relaying the information and getting their country's media interested in the conference.

Getting the ICRC's message across is also an essential part of the ICRC's work in countries not at war where delegates strive to increase respect for the principles of international humanitarian law and knowledge of the Movement's policies and activities among the authorities, soldiers, policemen and civilians of the world. The effectiveness of the ICRC's work and the safety of Red Cross and Red Crescent staff are directly related to the success of the institution in making itself and the Movement known and understood. To this end, programmes carried out in the field\(^2\) are backed up and complemented by films, TV news rushes, photos and publications prepared and distributed at headquarters.

Another way of increasing knowledge and awareness of the ICRC's work and mandate is to set up decentralized information units within its existing delegations. In 1993, three new units started operating in Moscow, Bangkok and Abidjan respectively, bringing the total number to nine. The others are situated in Nairobi, Pretoria, Harare, Cairo, Belgrade and Zagreb.

Films, broadcasts and photographic material

Television teams under short-term ICRC contract were sent to countries where trouble had flared up and humanitarian problems had arisen and where the international community had failed to realize the extent and urgency of the needs. Film shot in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Rwanda and Burundi, for instance, was broadcast throughout the world on television networks such as Euronews, CNN, WTN and national television programmes.

\(^1\) See International Conference p. 236.
\(^2\) See Dissemination under the various countries.
Two films - *Remembering the Silence*, which featured ICRC activities for detainees, and *War and Dignity* - were produced. In addition, the yearly Retrospective film showing the ICRC's main activities was produced in December.

International news agencies received photo and information sets covering Afghanistan, Rwanda, Burundi and subjects related to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims. Demand for ICRC photographic and video material in general increased sharply, quite apart from requests linked to the conference.

The Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) produced monthly radio programmes covering all the ICRC's major activities. The programmes, in six languages, were broadcast on short wave and also sent to about 70 radio stations worldwide, as well as to National Societies and most ICRC delegations. Swiss Radio International and the ICRC continued the cooperation which began in 1992.

In 1993 the ICRC ventured into new ground by producing a CD-ROM on international humanitarian law especially destined for universities, governments and National Societies. Promotion for it got under way at the end of the year.

**Seminars and workshops**

As in previous years the ICRC participated in numerous workshops held for the press by journalists' associations and organizations such as UNHCR or the Council of Europe on the protection of journalists and photographers working in dangerous situations.

On various occasions the ICRC was called upon to organize a seminar on the media and international humanitarian law, clearly an increasingly important issue for journalists throughout the world which the institution plans to address again shortly.

**Exhibitions**

At headquarters, efforts to make the ICRC and its specific mandate better known to the Swiss public continued. On 24 January an open day was held which attracted more than 3,000 visitors. As in previous years, the ICRC took part in the International Geneva Press and Book Fair.

In Vienna, during the World Conference on Human Rights, the ICRC set up a permanent information desk and in St Petersburg during the celebrations held in December to mark the 125th anniversary of the Declaration of St Petersburg, the exhibition “Humanity in the Midst of War” was shown.

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1 See *Eastern Europe and Central Asia* p. 166.
Publications

In 1993 the ICRC sought to raise public awareness of the acute suffering of the civilian population in various countries, for instance in Afghanistan, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi and Bosnia-Herzegovina, by issuing special brochures. The brochures were distributed mainly to the press and to the ICRC’s donors.

The *International Review of the Red Cross* is the ICRC’s official publication for opinion, reflection and reference with regard to the mission and policies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It comes out six times a year in English, French, German, Spanish and Arabic. In 1993 it focused on subjects related to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims in the run-up and follow-up to the event, as well as on the relationships between humanitarian law and human rights.

The ICRC also continued to contribute to the Movement’s *Red Cross Red Crescent* magazine produced jointly with the Federation.

Numerous dissemination brochures and *ad hoc* publications were produced, some at headquarters and others in the field, in close cooperation with ICRC dissemination experts. As the ICRC’s activities spread to new parts of the world, these publications covering the basics of international humanitarian law were translated into a wide range of languages.

Fundraising

The ICRC is essentially funded by government and National Society contributions. While the humanitarian problems arising from some conflicts receive wide media coverage and operations to address them are well funded, others receive scant public attention and tend to be ignored. The ICRC makes a point of attracting attention to the plight of the forgotten victims by informing the general public and, in greater detail, the donor community and National Societies more closely about them. Excessive earmarking of funds can leave the ICRC lacking the means to assist some people whose needs are extremely urgent, whereas enough resources have been made available for others. In order to respond to urgent needs where and when they arise, the ICRC must have sufficient non-earmarked funds.

Building up close relationships with the donor governments and National Societies is an essential aspect of the ICRC’s fundraising policy. Regular and special situation reports are issued and meetings are organized to establish close contacts with the ICRC’s interlocutors and to promote better knowledge of its activities and understanding of the problems it faces in its efforts to alleviate the suffering inflicted on victims of the numerous conflicts and disturbances throughout the world. In December 1993, a two-day workshop was organized in Yverdon, Switzerland, where senior representatives of major donor governments
and the ICRC met for open and informal discussions and exchanged views on humanitarian issues. A similar meeting will be held with the National Societies, as maintaining close working relationships with them is equally essential. They contribute to ICRC operations in cash and kind and, very importantly, they second qualified personnel for medical activities and sanitation projects, as well as for logistics and relief administration.¹

Contributions from corporations and increasingly from private donors play a sizeable part in financing the ICRC’s activities. In 1993 three regular collections by mail and two special appeals, one for victims of antipersonnel mines and the other, which was launched just before Christmas to help the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina survive the winter, met with a generous response.⁵

¹ See Human Resources p. 273.
⁵ See also Financial tables pp. 277-287.
HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Department must find qualified personnel for every area of ICRC activity, from lawyers to relief coordinators and from drivers to experts in water and sanitation. The Department looks for people who wish to promote Red Cross/Red Crescent principles and are not averse to working under difficult circumstances. Staff are selected after a rigorous recruitment procedure which is followed up by the appropriate training in matters as diverse as field work, security, administration and personnel management essential for the smooth running of a delegation, relations with the press and foreign languages.

The Department is responsible for managing the ICRC’s human resources, which in 1993 comprised an average of 664 people working at headquarters and over 5,600 expatriates and local employees in the field.

In terms of staff policy, a major effort was made to find solutions to the problems peculiar to the institution, such as staff turnover, the reluctance or inability of some staff to accept further field assignments, reintegration in the labour market of staff leaving the ICRC after several years' service, etc.

This in-depth study gave rise to new individualized management concepts and techniques and led to the introduction of regular staff assessments. Their aim is:

☐ to ensure that staff members with sufficient skills, potential, versatility, motivation and mobility can advance in their careers, thereby meeting both the staff members' own wishes and the institution's requirements;

☐ to offer, should the case arise, staff members alternative employment within the ICRC, or help them find work on the private market or in the public sector; provision is made for those approaching the end of their careers to take early retirement.

A large part of the costs arising from this new policy will be financed by discontinuing the special allowances for staff abroad.

More than ever before ICRC delegates find themselves working in dangerous, demanding and sensitive situations. In an effort to improve the security of staff in conflict areas, the Human Resources Department set up a practical training course during which new delegates are confronted with the kinds of difficulties they may encounter in the field. The course includes practical skills such as reading an unfamiliar map so as to be able to avoid unsafe routes, communication procedures in areas where radio transmission is unintelligible, conducting relief or medical surveys in combat zones and passing hazardous checkpoints.

In all, 170 newly hired staff attended the full preparatory course, prior to working in the field. A shorter course was followed by 135 people, including, for instance, chauffeurs and mechanics hired to drive relief convoys in the former Yugoslavia and other difficult situations. Over 200 people working in the field

IN 1993, ON AVERAGE, THE ICRC HAD:

• 862 expatriates;
• 4,800 local employees under ICRC contract;
• 175 National Society personnel working in the field;
• 664 people working at headquarters.
came to headquarters to attend workshops and courses in relief management, administration, dissemination and tracing techniques. At headquarters courses ranging from management to word-processing were attended by more than 800 participants and 120 members of ICRC staff took part in intensive language courses.

The ICRC hired 285 new staff, including 274 for the field (94 delegates, 22 administrators, 21 secretaries, 13 interpreters, 18 doctors, 39 paramedical specialists and 67 technicians).

As part of their contribution to ICRC operations, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies offer the services of specialized staff for medical and administrative activities, sanitation projects, logistics, information work and dissemination. In 1993, 540 people were seconded by 24 National Societies. While most of them worked on a fixed-term contract, others were sent out on ad hoc missions to meet unforeseen emergency needs.

**NATIONAL SOCIETY STAFF SECONDED TO ICRC OPERATIONS BY COUNTRY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss Disaster Relief Corps</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL 543**
GENERAL SERVICES, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Owing to another considerable increase in the volume of ICRC operations, in 1993 a number of new measures had to be taken to enable the finance, administration and general services sectors to provide the necessary support for activities carried out in Geneva and in the field.

For the finance sector, this meant the elaboration of an improved system of expenditure forecasts for operations, which updates monthly the estimated cost of each operation for the whole budgetary period (usually 12 months). This innovation enables the ICRC to monitor financial risks even more closely. In addition, as part of the drive to rationalize management methods, the monitoring of field expenses has been transferred to an accounting unit set up for this purpose in Manila (Philippines). A team of specialized staff, who will be linked to the central computer system in Geneva, examine the information and accounting documents sent by ICRC delegations throughout the world. This decentralization allows ICRC headquarters to reduce costs considerably.

The financial management information system, for use by the directorate and senior staff, was remodelled so as to take even greater advantage of possibilities offered by computer technology. Considerable efforts were made to ensure optimum use of recently developed computer applications, both for prior analysis (profitability, feasibility, deadlines, various other aspects) and for project management proper. This approach, developed and coordinated by the “Organization and Advisory Group”, which is attached to the General Directorate, implies the participation of senior staff from different departments. Other tasks entrusted to this group demonstrate the institution’s determination to make optimum use of its resources.

The ICRC’s new Five-Year Plan, covering the 1993-1997 period, was finalized in 1993. It sets the course for the conduct and management of the institution’s activities, organizational structure and relevant economic parameters, and of the necessary human and material resources.

Certain risk factors prompted the Finance and Administration Department to seek solutions to the situation created by the insurance companies’ refusal to cover material losses resulting from acts of war in the field. An in-house self-insurance fund was therefore set up and an amount equalling premiums previously paid to insurers transferred into it. The coverage possibilities are obviously limited by the financial means available, but the fund makes it possible to give a partial response to a very real problem.

In 1993 construction work began on a new multi-purpose building intended to accommodate between 160 and 240 workstations, depending on the layout chosen.
The building, the cost of which is estimated at CHF 17.5 million, will replace a temporary, prefabricated unit erected in the 1970s, which had to be pulled down for safety reasons.

In the field of telecommunications, the computerization programme continued with the installation of a local network at the dispatching centre in Geneva, thanks to which all telex and some telefax lines are now computer-operated. In the field, emphasis was placed on introducing a new, semi-automatic transmission system for radio communications, as well as for satellite transmissions used in emergency situations to replace defective or inexistent local networks.

The archives service was given special attention in a bid to rationalize the processing of documents from the delegations and the Central Tracing Agency. Some archives from these units have been taken over by the central archives. As a result, the volume of the latter rose by about 15%, bringing the total at the end of 1993 to 4,265 linear metres.
Comments on the financial tables for 1993

The continuing conflicts in the Caucasus, Tajikistan and the former Yugoslavia led to a substantial increase in ICRC operations in Europe and Central Asia. Although there was a relative decline in activities in Africa (-7%), Asia and the Pacific (-18%), Latin America (-18%), and the Middle East and North Africa (-14%), in 1993 the total volume of ICRC activities again topped all previous figures, reaching CHF 810.9 million (in cash, kind and services), or 4.2% more than in 1992. Despite efforts by certain governments, organizations and National Societies to respond to the increase in humanitarian needs, the funds collected in 1993 for field operations amounted to only CHF 645.5 million, falling CHF 26.8 million short of the total amount needed (CHF 672.3 million). This overall view does not reflect the fact that contributions are earmarked by donors for specific appeals and that certain operations were fully covered by the contributions received and funds carried over from 1992, while others again remained almost chronically underfunded. This is a recurring problem which the ICRC tries to keep within limits compatible with its overall financial balance, but it nonetheless remains a major source of concern.

Thus while at the end of 1992 the amount carried over for some field operations came to CHF 53.4 million, other operations showed a deficit totalling CHF 18.9 million. The corresponding figures for end 1993 were CHF 49.2 million (-8%) and as much as CHF 41.6 million (+120%) respectively. Of the latter, CHF 31 million represent the deficit for the operation in the former Yugoslavia; the other underfunded operations were those in Somalia, Peru, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Georgia, Israel and the occupied territories, and Lebanon.

As the ICRC tries not to make its assistance to the victims conditional upon the funding for each operation, it is obliged to advance the amounts needed by drawing on its own resources. Allocating to one operation funds earmarked for another is out of the question; the ICRC must therefore have at its disposal adequate reserves commensurate with the financial risks it must face.

The breakdown of expenditure by type of activity is shown in the chart below and, in greater detail, in Table III pp. 282-283. Medical and material assistance accounted for 62% of the total (CHF 502.4 million, as against CHF 483 million in 1992), while protection and Central Tracing Agency work represented 13.8%, or CHF 111.7 million (CHF 109.2 million in 1992).

Greater involvement in the former Yugoslavia, the Caucasus and Tajikistan obliged the ICRC to step up its activities to spread knowledge of humanitarian law in those areas. As a result, related expenses more than tripled as compared with 1992, rising from CHF 1.1 million to CHF 3.4 million. Activities concerning research, development and dissemination of international humanitarian law totalled CHF 27.7 million (3.4% of the total volume), up from CHF 22 million
EXPENDITURE BY REGION IN 1993
(including contributions in kind and services)
in millions of CHF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Expenditure (CHF)</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>355.8</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific**</td>
<td>59.6</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Activities*</td>
<td>124.4</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>175.9</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western and Central Europe</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: CHF 810.9 million

* This heading includes all the following activities when carried out at or from ICRC headquarters:
  - protection activities for victims of conflicts (Detention Division), Central Tracing Agency work;
  - medical and material assistance, aid to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
  - promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law, information;
  - operational management, support and management activities for ICRC work at headquarters and in the field,
    special extrabudgetary expenses.

** Except Central Asia.

The expenditure for support activities, management activities and allocations for operational risks and for investments came to CHF 70.3 million, which was 5% (CHF 3.6 million) less than in 1992. This was mainly because allocations for risks and funds were lower than the previous year.

The above should not be taken to mean that the provisions for operational risks have now reached a satisfactory level. The fact that at the end of 1993 operations showed a greater deficit than in 1992 justifies continued efforts to cover financial risks faced by the institution within the framework of its mandate.
### TABLE I

**COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1992/1993**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>CASH</strong></td>
<td>518,788</td>
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<td>SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES</td>
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<td><strong>OTHER CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Amounts payable</td>
<td>9,323,832</td>
<td>7,786,391</td>
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<td>- Securities</td>
<td>13,070,411</td>
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<td>- Governments</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Bank deposits</td>
<td>132,430,609</td>
<td>111,384,270</td>
<td>- National Societies and various institutions</td>
<td>157,396</td>
<td>85,631</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Amounts receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Other</td>
<td>31,755,813</td>
<td>37,486,555</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Accruals and prepaid expenditure</td>
<td>5,384,131</td>
<td>2,601,325</td>
<td>- Accruals and deferred income</td>
<td>32,453,297</td>
<td>22,871,568</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>183,622,718</td>
<td>174,196,897</td>
<td></td>
<td>73,690,338</td>
<td>68,230,145</td>
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<td><strong>ADVANCES TO DELEGATIONS</strong></td>
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<td>13,635,353</td>
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<td><strong>FIXED ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Funds for current operations</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Buildings</td>
<td>23,447,981</td>
<td>26,649,283</td>
<td>- Headquarter activities</td>
<td>1,600,104</td>
<td>880,627</td>
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<td>- Emergency relief supplies</td>
<td>1,662,566</td>
<td>3,094,084</td>
<td>- Field activities</td>
<td>53,408,301</td>
<td>49,207,019</td>
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<td>- Furniture and other equipment</td>
<td>4,352,524</td>
<td>5,031,762</td>
<td><strong>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29,463,071</td>
<td>34,775,129</td>
<td>- Building loans</td>
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<td>41,629,750</td>
<td><strong>PROVISIONS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Carried forward</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- For operational risks</td>
<td>56,895,004</td>
<td>63,269,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Excess income</td>
<td>117,498</td>
<td>451,114</td>
<td>- For staff commitments</td>
<td>14,307,098</td>
<td>19,673,708</td>
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<td>- General reserve</td>
<td>333,616</td>
<td>308,631</td>
<td>- For work in progress or to be undertaken</td>
<td>5,292,470</td>
<td>4,013,132</td>
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<td></td>
<td>451,114</td>
<td>759,745</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12,500,000</td>
<td>12,500,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12,951,114</td>
<td>13,259,745</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>261,667,763</td>
<td>265,406,328</td>
<td><strong>Funds for investments</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TRUST FUNDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- For investments in real estate</td>
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<td>27,027,263</td>
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<td>- Trust funds in banks</td>
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<td>91,486</td>
<td>- For investments in furniture and equipment</td>
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<td>10,544,928</td>
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<td>110,068,106</td>
<td>124,528,792</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TRUST FUNDS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Capital Reserve</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Creditors</td>
<td>111,826</td>
<td>91,486</td>
<td>- Carried forward</td>
<td>117,498</td>
<td>451,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Excess income</td>
<td>333,616</td>
<td>308,631</td>
<td>- Excess income</td>
<td>451,114</td>
<td>759,745</td>
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<tr>
<td>- General reserve</td>
<td>12,500,000</td>
<td>12,500,000</td>
<td>- General reserve</td>
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<td>13,259,745</td>
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<td><strong>OVERALL TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>265,497,814</td>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>261,667,963</td>
<td>265,406,328</td>
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All 1993 figures are subject to final audit.
### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF INCOME

#### EXPENDITURE

*(in CHF)*

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<th>SECRETARIAT OF THE ASSEMBLY AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS</th>
<th>FIELD</th>
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<th>GENERAL DIRECTORATE</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS</th>
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<td>Communication</td>
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<td>Finance and administration</td>
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<td>Human resources</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPERATIONS</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS</th>
<th>FIELD</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<td>Zones:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
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<td>Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<td>Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Tracing Agency</td>
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<td>Detention</td>
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<td>Relief</td>
<td>2,244,201</td>
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<td>2,244,201</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relations with International Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management of operational personnel</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRINCIPLES, LAW AND RELATIONS WITH THE MOVEMENT</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS</th>
<th>FIELD</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Doctrine and relations with the Movement</td>
<td>3,679,069</td>
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<td>Dissemination and cooperation with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</td>
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<td>2,034,498</td>
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<td>Legal Division</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDER ICRC AUSPICES:</th>
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<tr>
<td>International Tracing Service, Arolsen</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS</th>
<th>FIELD</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of provisions for work in progress</td>
<td>(1,503,338)</td>
<td>(1,503,338)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation to provisions for operational risks</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation to provisions for staff commitments</td>
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<td>6,581,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation to provisions for work in progress</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation to the fund for investments in furniture and other equipment</td>
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<td>1,000,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments of previous financial years</td>
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<td>116,884</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenditure</td>
<td>1,234,153</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS</th>
<th>FIELD</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balances brought forward</td>
<td>138,629,969</td>
<td>507,526,338</td>
<td>646,156,307</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result</td>
<td>24,018</td>
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<td>24,018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excess income over expenditure</td>
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#### GRAND TOTAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEADQUARTERS</th>
<th>FIELD</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>138,962,618</td>
<td>507,526,338</td>
<td>646,488,956</td>
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</table>

All figures are subject to final audit.
### TABLE II

**AND EXPENDITURE/CHARGES IN 1993**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE (in CHF)</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS</th>
<th>FIELD</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND AND/OR SERVICES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CONTRIBUTIONS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Governments</td>
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<td>371,740,361</td>
<td>462,951,100</td>
<td>47,095,381</td>
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<td>Supranational organizations</td>
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<td>60,956,380</td>
<td>121,912,760</td>
<td>56,531,724</td>
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<td>National Societies</td>
<td>4,384,575</td>
<td>24,155,546</td>
<td>28,540,121</td>
<td>55,168,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public sources</td>
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<td>891,204</td>
<td>4,341,154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-governmental organizations</td>
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<td>1,584,112</td>
<td>1,584,112</td>
<td>1,750,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private sources:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support association</td>
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<td>428,000</td>
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<td>Swiss companies</td>
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<td>195,185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift and legacies</td>
<td>2,673,563</td>
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<td>Direct Mail in Switzerland</td>
<td>1,185,373</td>
<td>724,835</td>
<td>1,910,208</td>
<td>4,238,602</td>
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<td>Various Donors</td>
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<td>4,510,000</td>
<td>4,510,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer of Swiss Government contribution</td>
<td>(5,000,000)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>98,527,385</td>
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<td>571,188,743</td>
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<td><strong>FINANCIAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>7,014,336</td>
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<td>7,014,336</td>
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<td>30,975,786</td>
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<td>30,975,786</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PARTICIPATION FROM FIELD BUDGETS</strong></td>
<td>1,701,616</td>
<td>8,029,798</td>
<td>9,731,414</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>138,219,123</td>
<td>480,691,156</td>
<td>618,910,279</td>
<td>164,784,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>138,962,618</td>
<td>507,526,338</td>
<td>646,488,956</td>
<td>164,784,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>138,962,618</td>
<td>507,526,338</td>
<td>646,488,956</td>
<td>164,784,307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All figures are subject to final audit.
## EXPENDITURE IN 1993

(INCLUDING GIFTS IN KIND AND SERVICES)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS BUDGET AND EXTRABUDGETARY EXPENSES</th>
<th>FIELD BUDGETS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. OPERATIONAL AND DIRECTLY RELATED ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1.1. PROTECTION ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATION OF OPERATIONS</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICA</td>
<td>2,771</td>
<td>25,581</td>
<td>28,352</td>
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<tr>
<td>LATIN AMERICA</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>7,578</td>
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<td>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</td>
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<td>EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA</td>
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<td>94</td>
<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.3. RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</strong></td>
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**Supranational organizations**

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Table IV includes modifications requested by donors up to February 28th, 1994.
### Contributions in 1993 (in CHF)

#### Table IV (cont'd)

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<th>FIELD BUDGET</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>Contributions in kind and/or services</th>
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Total from public sources: 3,449,950

### Contributions in kind and/or services: 891,204

### Non-governmental Organizations

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### Transfer on Swiss Government contribution

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Grand total: 98,527,385
## TABLE V

**MOVEMENT OF FUNDS FOR ICRC EMERGENCY OPERATIONS IN 1993**

*(in CHF)*

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<th>Region</th>
<th>Balance Carried Forward from 1992</th>
<th>Corrections/Transfers</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Balance at 31.12.1993</th>
<th>Contributions in Kind and/or Services</th>
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<td>20,812,035</td>
<td></td>
<td>260,219,939</td>
<td>(249,169,035)</td>
<td>31,116,774</td>
<td>115,835,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With deficit financing</td>
<td>(3,168,323)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LATIN AMERICA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With surplus financing</td>
<td>215,924</td>
<td></td>
<td>14,944,673</td>
<td>(15,563,920)</td>
<td>(3,081,820)</td>
<td>136,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With deficit financing</td>
<td>(2,689,497)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With surplus financing</td>
<td>1,680,508</td>
<td></td>
<td>53,473,462</td>
<td>(52,684,066)</td>
<td>(2,945,668)</td>
<td>4,211,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With deficit financing</td>
<td>(5,416,135)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WESTERN EUROPE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With surplus financing</td>
<td>2,740,572</td>
<td></td>
<td>101,623,444</td>
<td>(130,476,018)</td>
<td>(26,514,662)</td>
<td>43,325,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With deficit financing</td>
<td>(240,496)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With surplus financing</td>
<td>2,807,057</td>
<td></td>
<td>27,979,279</td>
<td>(29,625,645)</td>
<td>1,093,132</td>
<td>1,178,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With deficit financing</td>
<td>(232,261)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With surplus financing</td>
<td>22,756,567</td>
<td></td>
<td>22,450,359</td>
<td>(30,007,654)</td>
<td>7,909,513</td>
<td>83,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With deficit financing</td>
<td>(7,192,538)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE ALLOCATED</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With surplus financing</td>
<td>2,395,638</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With deficit financing</td>
<td>(2,395,638)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With surplus financing</td>
<td>53,408,301</td>
<td></td>
<td>480,691,156</td>
<td>(507,526,338)</td>
<td>7,577,269</td>
<td>164,770,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With deficit financing</td>
<td>(18,939,250)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All figures are subject to final audit.
To the Assembly of the

International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva

We are currently in the process of auditing the financial statements of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the year ended December 31, 1993, as presented in the 1993 annual report.

As our work is not yet finished, we are unable to express an opinion on these financial statements.

We will issue our audit report by the end of May 1994.

Geneva, March 28, 1994

ATAG Ernst & Young SA

M. Maglock
Swiss Certified Accountant
(Auditor in charge)

G. Gard
Swiss Certified Accountant
### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>CHF</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>CHF</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities .....................................</td>
<td>1,581,739</td>
<td>Inalienable capital .......................</td>
<td>1,391,628</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value: CHF 1,737,119)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Inalienable reserve.......................</td>
<td>347,094</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern, ....</td>
<td>37,321</td>
<td>Receipts and expenditure account:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(withholding tax refund)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1992 ..</td>
<td>(70,340)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure</td>
<td>50,693</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>in 1993</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks..........................................</td>
<td>141,932</td>
<td>Total capital ................................</td>
<td>(19,647)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>1,719,075</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>41,917</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,760,992</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,760,992</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>CHF</th>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>7,808</td>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>44,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody charges</td>
<td>1,285</td>
<td>Income from time deposits</td>
<td>21,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase and sale of securities</td>
<td>3,984</td>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium on purchase of securities.....</td>
<td>4,499</td>
<td>Discount on purchase/profit on sale of securities</td>
<td>3,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>2,203</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19,779</td>
<td></td>
<td>70,472</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993 .................................................. 50,693

---

**ESTABLISHMENT**

1 May 1931

**OBJECT**

To help the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue in complete independence the humanitarian activities which, in accordance with its Statutes, it carries out in time of peace as in time of war.

**ADMINISTRATION**

A Council composed of:

- one member nominated by the Swiss Federal Council;
- four members appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross.
## AUGUSTA FUND

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>CHF</th>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>134,709</td>
<td>Inalienable capital</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value: CHF 154,170)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reserve for fluctuations in the price</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern, ....</td>
<td>2,702</td>
<td>of securities</td>
<td>18,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(withholding tax refund)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, current account</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1992</td>
<td>6,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>1,825</td>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993</td>
<td>15,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>140,484</td>
<td></td>
<td>140,484</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>CHF</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>5,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody charges</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase and sale of securities</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>Discount on purchase of securities</td>
<td>12,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>157</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,776</td>
<td></td>
<td>17,537</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993 ........................................................................... 15,761

---

**ESTABLISHMENT**

In 1980, at the initiative of the ICRC, to commemorate the services rendered to the Red Cross by the German Empress Augusta, wife of Wilhelm I.

**OBJECT**

Modified on several occasions.

**ADMINISTRATION**

At the Twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Istanbul in 1969, it was decided that, pending further modification, receipts from the Augusta Fund would be allocated to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund. This decision was confirmed at the Twenty-second Conference, held in Tehran in 1973.
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>CHF</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities ........................................</td>
<td>107,172</td>
<td>Capital ..................................</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value: CHF 118,680)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reserve:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock of medals ....................................</td>
<td>7,999</td>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1992 ..........</td>
<td>82,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern, .... (withholding tax refund)</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993..........</td>
<td>26,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks ..................................................</td>
<td>2,386</td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>108,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta Fund, current account ..........</td>
<td>22,014</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>140,452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of medals, printing and dispatching circulars</td>
<td>11,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody charges</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase and sale of securities</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on sale of securities</td>
<td>1,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14,207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESULT</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993</td>
<td>26,691</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ESTABLISHMENT

In accordance with the recommendations of the Eighth International Conference of the Red Cross, held in London in 1907, and with the decision of the Ninth Conference held in Washington in 1912, a fund was established by contributions from National Red Cross Societies. The regulations were revised by the Eighteenth International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Toronto in 1952, and by the Council of Delegates, held in Budapest in 1991.

OBJECT

The Fund's income is used to distribute a medal, called the "Florence Nightingale Medal", to honour the life and work of Florence Nightingale.

ADMINISTRATION

A Commission composed of five ICRC representatives, including four Committee members.
CLAUDE R. BENEDICT FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities (market value USD 4,034,157)</td>
<td>Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,308,398</td>
<td>1,395,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(withholding tax refund)</td>
<td>Provision for portfolio variation:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern</td>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36,390</td>
<td>1,103,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>Partial reduction according to the decision of the Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,742</td>
<td>(499,799)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For allocation:
- Brought forward from 1992: 189,178
- Allocation decided in 1993: (189,178)
- Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993: 680,868

International Committee of the Red Cross, current account: 671,848

3,351,530

3,351,530

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>Income from securities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,536</td>
<td>142,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody charges</td>
<td>Income from time deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,387</td>
<td>4,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase and sale of securities</td>
<td>Bank interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,087</td>
<td>4,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium on purchase/loss on sale of securities</td>
<td>Discount on purchase/profit on sale of securities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57,534</td>
<td>118,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>Net profit on exchange rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,983</td>
<td>9,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partial reduction of the provision for portfolio variation according to the decision of the Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98,527</td>
<td>499,799</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULT

680,868

ESTABLISHMENT

1 February 1968

OBJECT

The Fund's income is attributed to assistance activities for the victims of armed conflicts, in accordance with Miss Benedict's wishes.

ADMINISTRATION

A Commission composed of three persons appointed by the ICRC.
### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1993

#### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities (market value: CHF 2,284,211)</td>
<td>2,224,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time deposits</td>
<td>720,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern, (withholding tax refund)</td>
<td>116,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>2,913</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total assets:** 3,064,442

#### LIABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1992</td>
<td>2,885,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993</td>
<td>41,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependant's allowance</td>
<td>116,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total capital</td>
<td>2,927,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>16,375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total liabilities:** 3,064,442

### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1993

#### EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payments to beneficiaries</td>
<td>99,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody charges</td>
<td>3,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase and sale of securities</td>
<td>2,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium on purchase/loss on sale of securities</td>
<td>8,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>3,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>1,296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total expenditure:** 120,160

#### RECEIPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>123,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from time deposits</td>
<td>35,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount on purchase of securities</td>
<td>1,760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total receipts:** 162,012

#### RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993: 41,852

### ESTABLISHMENT

**ICRC Assembly decision of 19 December 1974**

**OBJECT**

To assist temporary or permanent staff, such as delegates and nurses, of international or national Red Cross or Red Crescent institutions, who, in the course of their work or during war operations or natural disasters, have suffered injury and thereby find themselves in straitened circumstances or in reduced health.

In the event that the persons specified above should lose their lives in the course of the said humanitarian activities payments may be made to their families.

### ADMINISTRATION

A Board composed of five persons appointed by the ICRC, currently:

- two ICRC members or staff;
- one representative of the International Federation;
- one representative of the de Madre family;
- one Swiss lawyer.
**OMAR EL MUKTAR FUND**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1993**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>696,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value USD 813,693)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern, ....</td>
<td>2,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(withholding tax refund)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>135,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial capital</td>
<td>650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts and expenditure account:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1992..</td>
<td>37,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attribution of the 1992 balance according</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the decision of the Board .................</td>
<td>(37,299)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993</td>
<td>79,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross, current account ...................</td>
<td>106,079</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>835,152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1993**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody charges</td>
<td>3,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase and sale of securities</td>
<td>2,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium on purchase/loss on sale of securities</td>
<td>15,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>949</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>44,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from time deposits</td>
<td>2,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount on purchase/profit on sale of securities</td>
<td>46,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net profit on exchange rates</td>
<td>8,270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22,886</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESULT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993</td>
<td>79,073</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**ESTABLISHMENT**

Pursuant to decision No 5 of the Executive Board of 20 November 1980, adopted by the Committee in December 1980, Jamahiriya, the income of which is to be used to finance the ICRC's general assistance and protection activities.

**OBJECT**

A Fund in dollars, made up of one or several donations by the authorities of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab

**ADMINISTRATION**

A Board composed of three ICRC representatives.
# PAUL REUTER FUND

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1993

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>CHF</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities (market value: CHF 246,537)</td>
<td>234,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern, (withholding tax refund)</td>
<td>8,469</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>18,292</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>CHF</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial capital</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts and expenditure account:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1992</td>
<td>34,393</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to the reserve</td>
<td>(20,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993</td>
<td>10,133</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1992</td>
<td>15,356</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from the receipts and expenditure account</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>35,356</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Assets:** 260,761

**Total Liabilities:** 260,761

## RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1993

### EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody charges</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenditure:** 4,704

### RECEIPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>14,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Receipts:** 14,837

### RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993: 10,133

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**ESTABLISHMENT**

Pursuant to decision No. 1 of the Executive Board of 6 January 1983.

**PURPOSE**

The Fund’s initial capital of CHF 200,000 donated by Prof. Paul Reuter (his Balzan prize) may be augmented by gifts or bequest. The Fund’s purpose is to:

- use the income to encourage and promote knowledge and dissemination of international humanitarian law;
- and to that effect award a prize every two years to reward work, assist in the implementation of a project or make a publication possible.

**ADMINISTRATION**

- A Committee composed of one member of the ICRC, who is its chairman, and two members of the ICRC staff, appointed by the Directorate;
- and two persons from outside the ICRC who, with the Committee members, shall compose the Paul Reuter Prize jury.
SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DISABLED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>2,001,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value: CHF 2,675,939)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time deposits</td>
<td>680,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern, (withholding tax refund)</td>
<td>19,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>100,139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial capital</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts and expenditure account:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1992</td>
<td>1,198,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993</td>
<td>222,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total capital</td>
<td>1,420,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Cambodia project)</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>179,908</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXPENDITURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational and relief expenditure, Colombia project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody charges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase and sale of securities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium on purchase/loss on sale of securities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on exchange rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESULT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ESTABLISHMENT
Pursuant to the Assembly's decision No.2 of 19/20 October 1983.

OBJECT
- To help finance long-term projects for disabled persons, in particular the creation of workshops for the production of artificial limbs and orthotic appliances, and centres for rehabilitation and occupational retraining
- To participate not only in ICRC and National Society projects, but also in those of other humanitarian bodies working in accordance with ICRC criteria.

ADMINISTRATION
A Committee composed of six ICRC staff members:
- one member of the ICRC, who shall act as chairman;
- the Chief Medical Officer;
- one representative of the Finance and Administration Department and one representative of the Department of Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement;
- the person in charge of programmes in aid of disabled persons at the General Medical Division;
- one representative of the Operations Department appointed by the Director of Operations.
COMMITTEE

The Committee, composed of 15 to 25 Swiss citizens, defines the general policy and the principles which guide the activities of the institution.

The Executive Board comprises the President, a Vice-President, two Committee members, the Director General, the Director of Operations and the Director of Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement.

Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, President, Doctor of Laws of Zurich University (member of the Committee since 1986).

Mr Pierre Keller, Vice-President, Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations (Yale), banker (1984).

Mr Claudio Caratsch, Vice-President, Bachelor of Arts (1990).

Mr Ulrich Gaudenz Middendorp, Doctor of Medicine, lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of Zurich University (1973).

Mr Maurice Aubert, Doctor of Laws, barrister, Vice-President from 1984 to 1991 (1979).

Mr Dietrich Schindler, Doctor of Laws, honorary Professor at the University of Zurich (1980).

Ms Renée Guisan, General Secretary of the international “Institut de la Vie”, head of medico-social institutions, member of the International Association for Volunteer Effort (1986).

Mrs Anne Petitpierre, Doctor of Laws, barrister, Professor at Geneva Law Faculty (1987).

Mr Paolo Bernasconi, Bachelor of Laws, barrister, lecturer in economic penal law at the Universities of St. Gallen and Zurich, former Public Prosecutor in Lugano (1987).

Mrs Liselotte Kraus-Gurny, Doctor of Laws of Zurich University (1988).

Ms Susy Bruschweiler, nurse, Director of the Swiss Red Cross College of Nursing in Aarau (1988).


Mr Pierre Languetin, Master of Economics and Commercial Studies, Doctor h.c. of the University of Lausanne, former Governor of the Swiss National Bank (1988).

Mr Jacques Moreillon, Bachelor of Laws, Doctor of Political Science, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, former Director General at the ICRC (1988).


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1 as at 31 December 1993
Mr Marco Mumenthaler, Doctor of Medicine, former Professor of Neurology and former Rector of the University of Bern (1989).

Mr Rodolphe de Haller, Doctor of Medicine, former lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva, President of the Swiss Association against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (1991).

Mr Daniel Thürer, Master of Laws (Cambridge), Doctor of Laws, Professor at the University of Zurich (1991).

Ms Francesca Pometta, Bachelor of Arts, former Swiss Ambassador (1991).

Mr Jean-François Aubert, Doctor of Laws, Professor at the University of Neuchâtel, former member of the Swiss Parliament (1993).

Mr Joseph Feldmann, Doctor of Philosophy, former Professor at the University of St. Gallen, retired Lieutenant General of the Swiss army (1993).

Mrs Lilian Uchtenhagen, Doctor of Economics of the University of Basel, former member of the Swiss Parliament (1993).

Mr Georges-André Cuendet, Bachelor of Laws of the University of Geneva, graduate of the Institute of Political Studies of the University of Paris, Master of Arts of Stanford University (1993).

HONORARY MEMBERS: Mr Jean Pictet, Honorary Vice-President, Mr Hans Bachmann, Ms Denise Bindschedler-Robert, Mr Jakob Burckhardt, Mr Athos Gallino, Mr André Ghelfi, Mr Hans Haug, Mr Harald Huber, Mr Henry Huguenin, Mr Rudolf Jäckli, Mr Robert Kohler, Mr Olivier Long, Mr Marcel A. Naville, Mr Richard Pestalozzi, Mr Max Petitpierre, Mr Raymond R. Probst, Mr Alain Rossier, Mr Hans Peter Tschudi, Dr Alfredo Vannotti.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, President
Mr Claudio Caratsch, permanent Vice-President
Mr Jacques Forster, member of the Committee
Mrs Anne Petitpierre, member of the Committee
Mr Peter Fuchs, Director General
Mr Jean de Courten, Director of Operations
Mr Yves Sandoz, Director of Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement