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.

All figures in this report are in Swiss francs (Sfr). On 31 December 1995, the average exchange rate was approximately: Sfr 1.17 to US$ 1.
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 1995 was a time of remembrance and commemoration. It was also a time that spelt tragedy for some and brought fresh hope to others.

- Memories of untold suffering were rekindled with the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, of the liberation of those who survived the concentration camps, and of the first atom bombs that exploded over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Thoughts also went to the 22 million victims claimed by the 120 conflicts the world has known since 1945.

- Two more auspicious events were commemorated in the course of the year: the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the thirtieth anniversary of the solemn proclamation of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

- Over 30 conflicts raged around the globe in 1995, bringing tragedy to their innumerable victims.

- Hopes for peace rose during the year and were consolidated by favourable developments in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Another source of hope was the convening, after nine long years, of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. This 26th Conference, held in Geneva from 3 to 7 December, enabled the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the world’s governments to resume their vital and constructive dialogue on matters of humanitarian concern, in a unique multilateral forum: indeed, for more than a hundred years successive Conferences have put forward ideas for the development of international humanitarian law, suggestions to guide the Movement in its work, and proposals for action by the most appropriate means to prevent and alleviate the suffering endured by the most vulnerable.
In order to accomplish its impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian task the International Committee of the Red Cross needs to find new contacts, partnerships and synergies, both within the international community and in each individual country,

- to share the values common to all mankind: the instruments of international humanitarian law form a universal code, well suited to the present times, of the basic dictates of humanity that are indeed common to all peoples and to all ages;
- to reaffirm the humanitarian rules and principles: universal ratification of these international treaties must be achieved, enabling legislation must be adopted at the national level (in particular to ensure that violations of the law are duly prosecuted), and the humanitarian principles must be taught at all levels of the education system so that the same mistakes are not repeated, inexorably, generation after generation;
- to give new strength and meaning to the values that form the very core of the Red Cross and Red Crescent ideal so as to help build a more humane world, where solidarity with one’s fellow human beings will truly become a reality.

The ICRC expresses its gratitude to all those who have demonstrated their support for its mission.

Cornelio Sommaruga
President of the ICRC
LEGAL BASES

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 of International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

It was at the prompting of the ICRC that governments adopted the initial 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 methods and means 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.

Moreover, two Protocols additional to these Conventions were adopted in June 1977. Protocol I protects the victims of international armed conflicts, while Protocol II protects the victims of non-international armed conflicts; in particular, these Additional Protocols have codified the rules which protect the civilian population against the effects of hostilities. Almost two-thirds of all 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 moreover 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 a government without that offer constituting interference in the internal affairs of the State concerned.
THE ICRC AND
THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND
RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is made up of the National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Although each of the Movement’s components engages in different activities, they are all united by the same Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

As its founding institution, the ICRC has certain statutory responsibilities towards the Movement. In particular, it is responsible for ensuring respect for and promoting knowledge of the Fundamental Principles, recognizing new National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies which meet the current conditions for recognition, and discharging the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC takes an active part in the Movement’s statutory meetings, which it often organizes jointly with the Federation.

In accomplishing these tasks the ICRC maintains close relations with the National Societies, cooperating with them in areas of mutual interest such as preparedness for situations of armed conflict, development and ratification of and respect for the Geneva Conventions, and dissemination of humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles. It also assumes the general management and coordination of international relief operations conducted by the Red Cross and Red Crescent in situations of armed conflict.

Finally, while fully respecting the Federation’s competence in the matter, the ICRC cooperates actively in the development of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in particular through technical and legal assistance, by supporting the National Societies’ dissemination programmes and by contributing to the training of their staff in areas that fall within its mandate.
THE ICRC IN ACTION

By virtue of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols, and on the basis of the Movement’s Fundamental Principles, the ICRC seeks to provide protection and assistance to victims of armed conflicts. It takes direct and immediate action in response to emergency situations, at the same time promoting preventive measures by developing and spreading knowledge of humanitarian law.

Activities for people deprived of their freedom

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

In the event of non-international 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 humanitarian law, the ICRC has a statutory right of initiative entitling it to offer its services to visit people detained 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 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 a such a list during the visit).

Before and after these visits, discussions at various levels are held with the people in charge of the detention centres. Confidential reports are then drawn up. In the case of international armed conflict, these reports are sent 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. In its public statements 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 its findings with regard to material conditions and treatment. If a government should publish incomplete or inaccurate versions of ICRC reports, the institution reserves the right to publish and circulate them in full.

Protection of the civilian population

International humanitarian law is based on the principle of the immunity of the civilian population: civilians taking no part in the hostilities must on no account be the object of attacks but must be spared and protected. The Geneva Conventions, and especially their Additional Protocols, contain specific rules intended to protect civilians and civilian property. The ICRC makes representations to remind parties to conflict of their obligation to respect and protect the civilian population, and takes action whenever the rules protecting civilians are violated.

Restoration of family links

The ICRC’s Central Tracing Agency (CTA) came into being during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. Since then it has worked incessantly to facilitate the restoration of family links between conflict victims separated by the events. It symbolizes, by its work and its presence in every ICRC delegation, the importance that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement attaches to alleviating mental and psychological suffering, in addition to the nutritional and medical assistance that the ICRC provides to victims.

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

- to arrange for the exchange of family correspondence when the usual means of communication have been disrupted;
- to obtain, centralize and, where necessary, forward any information that might help to identify the people in whose behalf the ICRC works and who are in particular need of protection;
- to help trace persons reported missing or who have lost touch with their families;
- to arrange for transfers and repatriations and to reunite dispersed family members;
• to issue, for a limited period and a single journey, ICRC travel documents for persons without identity papers, in order to enable them to return to their own country or to enter the host country of their choice;
• to issue certificates of captivity, hospitalization or death for former detainees, prisoners of war or their rightful claimants.

These tasks are usually carried out in close cooperation with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which together with the CTA form a unique network of solidarity and action. Where necessary the CTA organizes training courses, usually on a regional basis, to help the National Societies increase their efficiency in both operational and technical terms.

Protection of health

Protection of life and health has always been foremost among the ICRC’s concerns. The institution’s activities in this area are based on the right of the wounded and sick, both military and civilian, to receive the care that their condition requires; these tasks are also founded on the duty to prevent human suffering, set forth in the Fundamental Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles. Many of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols protect medical personnel, as well as military and civilian medical units.

The ICRC takes preventive action by helping to train medical staff. In the event of armed conflict, it implements medical and surgical programmes for the wounded and the sick, whether military or civilian, and supports or reinforces local medical facilities. Special attention is paid to protecting the health of prisoners of war and civilian detainees. The ICRC carries out water supply and sanitation projects to provide the civilian population with drinking water and prevent epidemics; it is also actively involved in restoring hospitals and dispensaries and in fitting the war disabled with artificial limbs and ensuring their rehabilitation. In many of these activities, the ICRC is assisted by surgical teams and other specialists made available by National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies.

Material aid

The primary aim of ICRC relief operations is to protect the lives of victims of armed conflict, 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 to enable the entire population to regain its self-sufficiency, the ICRC may also set up, maintain or restore community services.
If these objectives are to be achieved it is essential that the institution 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 ICRC's relief activities are based on the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols which stipulate the right of prisoners of war and civilians in need to receive the aid essential for maintaining life and health; these activities are also founded on the obligation to ensure that every detainee is treated humanely and on the prohibition of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. Specific provisions govern the conduct of relief operations and protect the personnel engaged in such operations.

ICRC relief programmes include food aid, distributing clothing, tents and blankets, constructing shelters and helping people regain self-sufficiency by delivering seed and tools and implementing projects designed to protect livestock and herds. In addition, the ICRC organizes the logistic set-up required for all these activities, most of which are carried out in cooperation with National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies.

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

- assess the urgency and the 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.

Development of and respect for international humanitarian law

Through its humanitarian work, the ICRC endeavours to provide protection and assistance to victims of armed conflicts. Its role is also “to work for the faithful application of international humanitarian law” and “to prepare any development thereof”.¹

The ICRC constantly strives to ensure that belligerents respect their humanitarian commitments. Whenever the situation warrants, the institution may also appeal to all the members of the international community to urge the warring parties to meet their obligations.

¹ Article 5, paras 2 (c) and (g), of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
By the same token, the ICRC closely follows all developments in methods and means of combat, in particular weaponry, in order to assess their consequences in humanitarian terms and, whenever necessary, to prepare for the adoption of new rules of humanitarian law. Its role consists, especially on the basis of its observations in the field, in gathering relevant information, organizing consultations with experts, and monitoring and fostering debate on the evolution of humanitarian issues.

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

By becoming party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to their 1977 Additional Protocols, the States have undertaken to respect and to ensure respect for humanitarian law and to spread knowledge of its provisions. Accordingly, they bear the primary responsibility for raising awareness of its rules, particularly among their armed forces and all those who may be called upon to implement them.

The ICRC’s dissemination activities are based on the responsibility in this regard conferred upon the institution by the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Statutes specify that the role of the ICRC 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 humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts and to prepare any development thereof.2

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

Certain target groups — government and academic circles, youth, and the media — are also given special attention.

The adoption of the Additional Protocols in 1977 represented a decisive step towards greater awareness of the importance of dissemination.3

Since then, innumerable activities have been undertaken throughout the world every year to spread knowledge of humanitarian law and of the

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2 Article 5, paras 2 (a) and (g), of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
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 humanitarian law;
- to ensure the security of humanitarian operations and the safety of Red Cross and Red Crescent personnel so that help can reach the victims;
- to strengthen the identity and image of the Movement, and to contribute to its unity through greater awareness and understanding of its principles, history, workings and activities;
- to help propagate 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.

People must know about humanitarian law if they are to respect it, and they must understand Red Cross and Red Crescent activities if they are to accept and support them. Civilians are frequently unaware of their rights and obligations under 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.

Humanitarian diplomacy

In everything it does the ICRC seeks to safeguard the victims of international conflict, civil war and situations of internal violence, whether 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 theatres of armed conflict, even though the major — and most visible — part of that work is carried out in war-torn countries, for the ICRC has to maintain close relations with all governments and National Societies.

To supplement the contacts established at headquarters and the activities conducted by its delegates in conflict-stricken parts of the world, the ICRC has set up a network of regional delegations covering practically all countries not directly affected by armed conflict. In addition, it has an office in New York, which remains in close contact with the United Nations and cooperates with regional organizations.
The regional 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 in the countries they cover, such as outbreaks of violence, sudden heightening of tension or the onset of an armed conflict. They may be called upon to provide logistic support for operations in nearby countries or even to conduct limited emergency operations, especially in the event of conflict. In the countries under their responsibility they also visit security detainees and provide services designed to help restore family ties.

Regional delegations have a major role to play in the sphere of humanitarian diplomacy, particularly in establishing and maintaining regular contacts with governments, regional organizations, and so on. Moreover, they are in a privileged position for sustained dialogue with the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in each of the countries concerned. Finally, all regional delegations actively promote the dissemination of humanitarian law and foster cooperation — which varies in form depending on needs and priorities — with the National Societies.
The ICRC around the world in 1995
War leaves desolation and sorrow in its wake. The ICRC endeavours to bring hope to all victims of conflict throughout the world. In 1995 it helped people in more than 50 countries overcome the worst of their trials and set them on the road to recovery.
The past year brought a few favourable developments which suggested that
the world might be entering a period of relative calm. Significant progress was
made in efforts to find lasting solutions to long-drawn-out conflicts, such as
those in Angola and the former Yugoslavia; other situations in which the
ICRC had been involved for so many years (Mozambique, South Africa,
Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories) were no longer
on its list of emergency operations.

Any optimism must, however, be guarded. Indeed, if peace is to take hold,
emergency action must quickly be followed by rehabilitation and development
work. Has the international community the will — and is it in fact
demonstrating the necessary resolve — to transform years of war, tension and
total lack of understanding into lasting peace, founded on reconciliation and
collective well-being?

Although there appears to be a trend towards relative stability, a great deal
of uncertainty remains. The ICRC therefore attaches great importance to the
post-conflict period. A successful transition from emergency aid to assistance
after the end of hostilities requires a thorough knowledge of local culture and
traditions. Even in the midst of a crisis the ICRC always endeavours to plan
its aid operations with an eye to the post-war phase, by launching programmes
that are designed to achieve realistic goals and are geared to each specific
context. This is why in recent years there has been such an increase in the
number of seed distribution programmes and projects designed to provide
people with the equipment and materials they need to regain self-sufficiency.
When tension eases, the ICRC also takes advantage of this more propitious
environment to implement programmes aimed at spreading awareness of
international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Red Cross and Red
Crescent Principles, for lack of knowledge is partly to blame for present-day
failures to respect the rules of humanitarian law.

The signing of a peace agreement does not necessarily bring peace, and
the ICRC cannot therefore disregard the immediate consequences of war. A
peace accord should logically facilitate the settling of humanitarian issues
arising from conflict, for example by making it easier to trace missing persons
and restore links between dispersed family members. War leaves lasting scars,
however, and it is crucial to move without interruption from the emergency to
the rehabilitation phase.

In 1995 the ICRC worked together with the secretariat of the International
Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to develop guidelines for
a consistent response by the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent
Movement to humanitarian needs in times of relative calm.
The ICRC’s main concern was to ensure that in every situation the Movement was able to work with complete impartiality. To achieve this, it is essential that its various components operate in a truly complementary fashion.

The humanitarian environment is becoming increasingly complex. Moreover, the issue is further compounded by selective media coverage of conflicts, the politicization of humanitarian action and the tendency to incorporate humanitarian work in more comprehensive political and military operations. All those factors have strengthened the ICRC’s conviction that the Movement needs to develop its capacity for action by reaffirming its independence and enhancing solidarity among its members.
Relations with international organizations

In 1995 the ICRC continued to develop its relations with international organizations, the United Nations (and its programmes and specialized agencies) and major regional and non-governmental organizations. Its two principal aims were to encourage concerted effort to improve compliance with international humanitarian law and complementary action to ensure that conflict victims received more effective assistance. During the ceremony marking the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the ICRC President made the following statement on the subject of complementarity between the UN and the ICRC: “Although the respective nature and goals of the United Nations and of the ICRC are completely different, the two institutions nevertheless spring from the same humanist philosophy. For the founders of the United Nations in 1945, as for the ICRC in 1864 and again in 1949, the aim was to cast out the demons of war in the aftermath of a devastating and deadly conflict by striving to define and express in tangible form universal values capable of bringing all peoples together.”

Implementation of international humanitarian law and support for the ICRC

Through its International Organizations Division at headquarters and its representatives in New York, Washington, Addis Ababa and Kuwait, the ICRC attended the numerous meetings of intergovernmental organizations that took place in 1995. Its delegates thus followed the proceedings of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries. Thanks to the broad recognition it enjoys, the ICRC is able to develop a properly structured multilateral dialogue with the States and to advance the cause of humanitarian law.

Many of the resolutions adopted within those various fora dealt with subjects of vital concern to the ICRC. They included texts aimed at promoting adhesion to the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, respect for and dissemination of humanitarian law, and the setting up of an international criminal court for the prosecution of war crimes. In addition, resolutions calling for a ban on anti-personnel landmines were adopted by the OAU and the OIC, in response to the ICRC’s campaign against such weapons.1

The Fifty-first Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution (1995/89) on the former Yugoslavia, urging the parties in

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1 See The law and legal considerations, p. 261 and 268-270.
conflict to notify the ICRC of the location of all camps, prisons and other detention facilities, and calling for the ICRC and the Special Rapporteur of the UN Secretary-General and other organizations to be given access to such places; other resolutions dealt with southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa plain, Chechnya (southern Russia) and East Timor, respectively. The Council of Europe adopted a resolution requesting that the ICRC be granted access to people captured in Srebrenica and Zepa (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and the OSCE urged that the ICRC be allowed to visit all detainees held in connection with the events in Chechnya and Nagorny Karabakh.

ICRC representatives also took part in the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and in the Fourth UN World Conference on Women, held in Beijing.

Finally, the ICRC pursued its efforts to make humanitarian law better known in diplomatic circles and among international civil servants by organizing seminars in New York, Geneva, Addis Ababa and Washington.

Concerted action and preserving the neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian action

“The factor which limits the ICRC’s involvement in these mechanisms is its independence, which it must preserve in every context, in order to perform its recognized role as a neutral humanitarian intermediary. Only by taking decisions independently and by retaining its independent financial structure can the ICRC continue to fulfil the mandate conferred on it by the international community.” It was in those terms that the ICRC reaffirmed its position on the strengthening of humanitarian coordination within the United Nations at the UN General Assembly meeting on 28 November 1995. At the same time the ICRC continued to stress the need for an absolute distinction to be drawn between political and military action, on the one hand, and humanitarian work, on the other. In that connection a resolution adopted by the 93rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Madrid “calls on the international community to take into consideration the fact that humanitarian activities, politics and military action must retain their own dynamics and separate objectives and tasks, in order to preserve the independence, neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian action”.

As in 1994, the ICRC continued to cooperate in the effort to achieve greater complementarity with certain United Nations programmes and agencies. For example, it maintained close contacts with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and attended the meeting of its Executive Committee, where it stressed that “only a concerted approach by States and international and local humanitarian organizations, taking into account the wishes of civil society and of the victims themselves, will make it
possible to meet the enormous challenge of resolving them". Numerous exchanges of views took place with the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNESCO granted the ICRC observer status, thus recognizing its specific nature.

The ICRC also strengthened its operational coordination with non-governmental organizations, particularly within the context of its campaign against anti-personnel landmines.

Activities for people deprived of their freedom

Visits to people deprived of their freedom

The situation in Rwanda and the tragic consequences of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia accounted for a large part of the ICRC's activities in 1995 and, because of the magnitude of the needs, mobilized a considerable share of the institution's resources.

Following the events that had plunged Rwanda into chaos in 1994 and the mass arrests made after the massacres, the ICRC launched one of its largest operations ever for detainees held in some 250 detention facilities and lock-ups in the country. More than 60 delegates and several dozen health experts were involved in registering, supplying drinking water and food, providing medical care and improving hygiene conditions for over 60,000 inmates. The ICRC maintained close contacts with the authorities, regularly informing them of the situation and of the problems encountered during its visits to detainees. The alarming level of overcrowding and the steadily increasing numbers of prisoners prompted the ICRC, with the support of UN specialized agencies, to install facilities in a temporary detention site, which was handed over to the Rwandan Ministry of Justice in September. That exceptional measure was intended to relieve the Rwandan authorities temporarily of their obligations, until they themselves set up new places of detention.

In connection with the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, the ICRC visited around 5,300 detainees during the year under review. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the scale of the fighting and a hardening of positions among the belligerents made it increasingly difficult for the institution to gain access to detainees in camps, particularly to people captured in successive military operations during the year. Nevertheless, delegates visited a total of 2,500 detainees in 1995 and at year's end were being granted relatively regular access to some 800 individuals still in detention. By that time, however, the ICRC had ample information pointing to the fact that many detainees were being deliberately withheld from its delegates during their visits. Moreover,
throughout the conflict several hundred civilians had been forced to do dangerous work or had been captured solely for exchange purposes; such practices are in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. The International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia formally invited the ICRC to carry out visits, in accordance with its standard working procedures, to persons detained under the Tribunal’s responsibility.

As in the past, in 1995 the ICRC repeated its visits to people deprived of their freedom in all countries where its presence was still needed. In Afghanistan there was a considerable increase in the number of combatants and civilians captured; for the first time delegates gained access to persons detained by the Taliban militia. The situation in Peru, Sri Lanka and Burundi required a constant ICRC presence in places of detention.

New developments

During the year under review the ICRC made progress on several humanitarian issues to which no satisfactory solution had previously been found.

In June the institution signed an agreement with the Indian government authorizing it to visit all persons detained in connection with the situation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The visits began in Srinagar in October.

In Papua New Guinea the ICRC gained access in January to 19 people held in relation with the crisis on the island of Bougainville.

Early in the year, the ICRC organized family visits and arranged for the exchange of messages between detainees and their families in the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon. In October it was able for the first time to visit the Khiam detention centre run by the South Lebanon Army.

In the Russian Federation, the eruption of the internal armed conflict in Chechnya led to the capture and detention of hundreds of combatants and civilians. Despite a few difficulties in securing acceptance for its standard working procedures, the ICRC was able to visit a number of detainees held on either side.

In Georgia, regular visits were made to all persons detained in relation with the Abkhaz conflict. After several months of negotiation the ICRC gained access to several dozen security detainees held in this connection. Offers of services were made to the Armenian and Azerbaijani governments for visits to similar categories of detainees.

Implementation of humanitarian agreements

In accordance with its specific role as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC continued to propose its good offices to assist in the implementation of humanitarian agreements or to help parties meet their obligations (for example as regards release and repatriation operations). The institution thus lent its
services in the release of persons detained by the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone; the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees held by Peru and Ecuador; and the release and return of prisoners detained by the Polisario Front. ICRC delegates were also present during the release and repatriation of 100 Iraqi prisoners of war, who were freed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and handed over to the Iraqi authorities, pursuant to the provisions of Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention. Since the cease-fire signed between the parties to the Iran-Iraq conflict on 20 August 1988, however, some 19,000 of the 100,000 prisoners registered by the ICRC are still awaiting release and the institution has still not been authorized to visit them or organize their repatriation.

As regards the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the ICRC was requested by the parties to the Dayton Agreement of 21 November 1995 to implement the humanitarian provisions of the peace treaty, in particular those regarding supervision of the release and repatriation of all detained combatants and civilians.

Protection of the civilian population

The ICRC stepped up its activities in behalf of civilians affected by hostilities, particularly those exposed to abuse on the part of fighting units or the forces of law and order. It drew the attention of parties in conflict to the impact of their operations in humanitarian terms and called on them to respect the rules governing the conduct of hostilities.

Military operations in various regions of the former Yugoslavia — which led to several of these areas changing hands — had tragic consequences for civilians forced to flee the war zones. Some communities were subjected to numerous repressive measures and acts of reprisal which caused large-scale population movements. The ICRC repeatedly reminded the warring parties of the absolute need to respect the immunity of the civilian population, to honour the commitments they had made in May and June 1992\(^3\) and to take all proper precautions during military operations. In the same spirit it submitted to the Croatian government a summary report on the problems arising from the taking of former Sectors West, North and South in Croatia. Following the military operations conducted in Srebrenica (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the ICRC handed the Bosnian Serb authorities several thousand first-hand accounts concerning people who had been captured, gathered from relatives who had fled the town; it requested that everything be done to shed light on the fate of

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\(^3\) See the ICRC's *1992 Annual Report*, p. 93.
presumably detained individuals whom the ICRC had not managed to locate and who were therefore unaccounted for.

ICRC delegates were also active in conflict situations in other parts of the world. In Colombia, for instance, the institution handed over reports containing humanitarian observations to the authorities and to the armed opposition during the year, and it submitted a report to the Turkish government on the humanitarian consequences of Turkish military operations in northern Iraq. Similar approaches were made to the authorities of the Russian Federation concerning the hostilities in Chechnya and their effects on the civilian population.

**Humanitarian mobilization to enhance the protection of people deprived of their freedom**

In keeping with the spirit of Article 1 of the Third Geneva Convention, the ICRC systematically renewed its appeals to the States to respect their obligations in all situations where the fate of detainees coming within its mandate gave particular cause for concern. On the occasion of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Cairo, the ICRC drew attention to the plight of thousands of penal law detainees held in countries where crisis had resulted in a deterioration of detention conditions. It urged that all people deprived of their freedom be treated humanely.

**Restoration of family links**

The Central Tracing Agency (CTA) is the operational unit within the ICRC which does everything possible to facilitate the restoration of family ties severed during conflicts and thus enable the institution to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it in this respect by the international community. Several International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent have adopted specific resolutions highlighting the importance of this special field of humanitarian action for the Movement as a whole.

The 26th International Conference, held in Geneva in early December 1995, also devoted much of its work to the subject of restoring family links. It adopted a resolution on the issue of reuniting families, which should do much to ease the task of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The substance of the resolution stemmed from a symposium on this topic, held under the auspices of the Henry Dunant Institute in Budapest (Hungary) in November 1994. The text was endorsed by 25 National Societies from all continents.

While it is accepted within the Movement that the CTA acts as a coordinator and technical adviser to National Societies, the Societies themselves play a primary role in organizing and carrying out activities to restore family links.

**IN 1995 THE ICRC:**
- forwarded 3,450,519 Red Cross messages, including 1,670,980 in connection with the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and 1,305,197 in connection with the situation in Rwanda;
- reunited 11,217 families;
- traced 14,587 people;
- received 93,428 new tracing requests.
Over 100 National Societies all over the world were thus involved in operating the family message network which, in the former Yugoslavia, helped tens of thousands of people to maintain or re-establish contacts with relations from whom they had been separated as a result of the war.

The year was also marked by a major effort on the part of the main organizations involved in matters relating to children, such as UNHCR, UNICEF, the Save the Children Fund and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Mechanisms for cooperation and the coordination of activities to help children in times of emergency were set up to prevent duplication and wasting of resources and facilities; these mechanisms were implemented in particular during the international operation conducted in the Great Lakes region of Africa following the conflict and the appalling massacres of civilians in Rwanda.

A meeting held in London in September under the auspices of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) brought together the principal humanitarian organizations working in behalf of children in Africa for an in-depth exchange of views on the methods to be applied in emergency situations and on the appropriate coordination and cooperation mechanisms.

**Health activities**

The Medical Division at ICRC headquarters plans and supports health activities in the field, which are closely linked with relief programmes: they include emergency preparedness, training of personnel, initial assessment of health problems in conflict situations, implementation of medical programmes for war victims (the wounded, prisoners, the civilian population, war-disabled) and evaluation of the results. The Division has specialists in water supply and sanitation, nutrition, pharmacology, prosthetics, war surgery and health problems specific to detainees.

Health activities conducted by ICRC and National Society staff in the field are not limited to providing medical care or taking action in areas such as sanitation, nutrition and rehabilitation. The ICRC’s policy is to encourage the people it assists to achieve autonomy, especially by supporting or strengthening local medical facilities.

**War and health: a complex interaction**

Individual and collective health in a society depends not only on preventive and curative medical care and surgical facilities but also — and especially — on access to food and drinking water and on environmental sanitation. All the above presupposes the proper functioning of social and economic systems,
which become increasingly complex (and vulnerable) the higher a society’s level of development.

Conflicts have a profound and lasting impact on such systems and hence on health as a whole. War does not simply mean an influx of wounded into hospitals and the bombing and destruction of vitalinfrastructures; it also means a breaking down of essential services and a siphoning off for the war effort of human and material resources normally devoted to peacetime activities. To the inhabitants of a country at war, particularly the disadvantaged sectors of the population and vulnerable groups, access to care, food and sometimes even drinking water becomes a problem. Malnutrition and poor hygiene conditions can lead to epidemics. The difficulties are worst when entire populations are forced to flee the fighting or abuse on the part of belligerents.

Once a conflict sets in, even if it drops in intensity, or when its effects are prolonged by economic sanctions, society as a whole becomes more vulnerable, and while needs increase the resources available to meet them are ever fewer.

A comprehensive approach

The magnitude and diversity of health problems directly or indirectly caused by conflict call for a comprehensive approach on the part of humanitarian organizations. Indeed, to be effective the humanitarian agencies should not see their task as a mere juxtaposition of material and medical assistance programmes, however elaborate these may be. If they are to achieve their objective they must adopt a consistent working method that aims to meet people’s needs (vital needs first), while guaranteeing respect for certain fundamental rights of war victims. The end of hostilities does not mean that life will immediately return to normal and it is often necessary to continue the humanitarian effort throughout the post-conflict period: every emergency operation must be followed by rehabilitation work.

In its health activities for war victims (the wounded, the sick, the disabled, prisoners, displaced persons, civilians affected by famine or denied access to water or health care), the Medical Division strives to adopt a comprehensive approach, as does the ICRC as a whole.

In parallel with its operational work, the Division is responsible for gathering, analysing and structuring information gained through the ICRC’s experience of health activities and specific health problems in conflict situations; assessing the impact of those activities and passing on know-how to medical personnel working both within and outside the institution; and supporting ICRC campaigns to alert public opinion to the effects of, say, anti-personnel mines and blinding laser weapons. In 1995 the Division employed at headquarters
13 doctors, two surgeons, five sanitary engineers, two nutritionists, and administrative staff to support and coordinate action in the field.

Health of detainees

During the year under review ICRC medical activities in prisons combined the provision of assistance with the protection of detainees.

In Rwanda, the extreme overcrowding in places of detention following the arrest of over 60,000 individuals suspected of taking part in the genocide led to a mortality rate in some prisons of five to nine deaths per 10,000 detainees a day (in disaster situations, a rate of two deaths per 10,000 inmates per day is regarded as bordering on the intolerable). Since the authorities were unable to cope with the situation, the ICRC initiated a complex if unusual operation to provide food and firewood for cooking, repair prison water supply systems, latrines and showers, organize a system for treating and evacuating the sick, and distribute medicines. As a result, the mortality rate fell to 0.15-0.4 deaths per 10,000 detainees a day, and it was possible to prevent the outbreak of epidemics.

The disturbing prevalence of tuberculosis in prisons in Azerbaijan and Ethiopia prompted the ICRC to set up programmes for treating the disease, in cooperation with the detention authorities. Not only did this benefit sick detainees, but the health of other prisoners was protected because the risk of contagion had fallen.

An outbreak of beriberi (lack of vitamin B1 as a result of malnutrition) in some places of detention in Haiti was halted by a combination of medical and nutritional assistance.

In Yemen, the ICRC implemented a project to upgrade water supply facilities and waste water disposal systems in prisons and, together with the National Red Crescent Society, launched a programme to provide medical and psychiatric care for mentally ill detainees.

In Zaire and Madagascar, the countries’ National Societies and local non-governmental organizations carried out water supply and sanitation programmes in prisons, supplemented by food aid for the detainees. The programmes were conducted with support from the ICRC.

Assistance for the war-wounded and war-disabled

The ICRC’s programme for the distribution of surgical supplies and medicines to treat the war-wounded in the former Yugoslavia continued throughout 1995, reaching 82 hospitals and surgical units. According to the beneficiaries themselves, the programme covered 80 percent of their surgical requirements. The value of monthly distributions varied between 650,000 and 880,000 Swiss francs during the relatively quiet period from January to March and from one million to 1.5 million when the fighting resumed between May
and October, before falling back to 890,000 Swiss francs in November (fighting halted following the signature of the Dayton Agreement). Those fluctuations reflected the constant matching of aid to needs.

The ICRC hospitals in Quetta (Pakistan) and Lokichokio (Kenya), which care for people wounded in the conflicts in Afghanistan and southern Sudan, respectively, reported sustained activity, with 3,924 wounded admitted and 10,273 surgical operations performed during the year. While a surgical team was maintained at the Juba hospital in Sudan, the ICRC handed over responsibility for surgical activities in the hospitals in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, and Mongkol Borei, Cambodia, which it had rehabilitated, to local partners and a National Society, respectively. A first-aid post was opened in Kandahar, Afghanistan, pending completion of rehabilitation work on the town’s surgical hospital in 1996.

The ICRC’s prosthesis workshops where war amputees are fitted with artificial limbs must continue operating beyond the emergency phase, so it is important to ensure that their activities can carry on after the ICRC’s withdrawal; this often proves difficult owing to the lack of reliable partners to take over responsibility for the task. During 1995 twelve projects of this type were handed over to different organizations (National Societies, non-governmental organizations and local foundations) in Myanmar, Mozambique, Lebanon, Syria and Eritrea. Four new projects were launched in Afghanistan and Angola. At year’s end the ICRC was running 19 projects for the rehabilitation of the war-disabled in nine countries. Two former ICRC projects (i.e. the workshop in Ho Chi Minh City and the training centre in Addis Ababa) carried on with the support of the ICRC’s Special Fund for the Disabled.

In June, a meeting of experts, organized in Phnom Penh by the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics and USAID, endorsed the technical approach adopted by the ICRC for the production of prostheses in developing countries. The institution’s workshop in the Cambodian capital continued to supply components for prostheses to various non-governmental organizations working in the country.

ICRC support for health facilities also includes the supply of basic medicines to dispensaries, polyclinics and hospitals, since in conflict-stricken areas it is important to ensure that the sick as well as the wounded have access to proper medical care. In 1995 such assistance had to be provided in most of the countries covered by ICRC operations.

Water and sanitation

The ICRC’s water and sanitation activities form an integral part of health programmes and are steadily expanding. In 1995, ICRC and National Society sanitary engineers and technicians were working in 20 countries, supplying
emergency drinking water to displaced people and rehabilitating complex water treatment and distribution systems covering towns and even entire regions. They also carried out numerous sanitation and water supply projects in health facilities and places of detention.

**Nutrition**

During the year, ICRC nutritionists conducted surveys in Rwanda, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Angola, Indonesia/East Timor, Chechnya (southern Russia) and Abkhazia (Georgia) to assess the nutritional situation there. Their missions helped to identify needs and plan the provision of food aid.

**Training, assessment and communication**

There was a steady rise in the number of ICRC training programmes based on experience acquired through operational activities. In 1995 four HELP (Health Emergencies in Large Populations) courses were held in Geneva, Budapest, Bangkok and Baltimore. The latter was the first such course given at the Public Health School of Johns Hopkins University, with the participation of the Harvard Public Health School, the Atlanta Center for Disease Control, the John Burns Faculty of Medicine (Manoa-Hawaii) and the American Red Cross. This was an important step forward in the ICRC's cooperation with academic circles, which are becoming increasingly interested in setting up multidisciplinary training programmes for people wishing to prepare for work in the humanitarian field.

Specialists from the Medical Division continued to organize training activities in their respective fields throughout the year, holding seminars and courses in war surgery, sanitation and the manufacture of prostheses.

The ICRC doctors in charge of detention-related matters took part in the work of various organizations dealing with prison medicine and issues of medical ethics in connection with the institution's medical activities in prisons.

Lastly, ICRC surgeons and doctors published numerous articles in scientific journals and actively supported the institution's campaign against anti-personnel mines.

**Relief**

The General Relief Division at headquarters plans and supervises all relief activities in the field. Its Geneva-based team comprises over 30 specialists in purchasing, food aid, transport, agronomy, construction and veterinary medicine. At the end of 1995 an additional 170 ICRC and National Society expatriates with expertise in relief, logistics and various types of technology were working in the field to carry out material assistance programmes.
The Division is in charge of obtaining all the resources the ICRC needs for its relief work; these are either purchased by the institution or received in the form of donations. Staff at headquarters organize the dispatch of supplies by air or by sea and manage stocks in Geneva, in northern Europe and in the field. The Division also manages a fleet of more than 2,200 vehicles used by the ICRC in its field operations.

Continuing the previous year's trend, 1995 brought a further decrease in the volume of relief activities. Whereas some 206,800 tonnes of material aid had been provided in 1994, the supplies dispatched in 1995 amounted to only 115,228 tonnes, 66 percent of which went to Africa (mainly Rwanda and Angola), while another 33 percent was divided almost equally between Afghanistan, the former Yugoslavia and the Caucasus region. The only new assistance programme was the Chechnya operation in southern Russia, which started in early 1995.

Besides the major operations mentioned above, the ICRC continued its assistance activities in Burundi, southern Sudan and Zaire, as well as in parts of West Africa.

Unlike previous years, the bulk of relief and medical supplies (in terms of expenditure) did not go to Africa: 54 percent of the total value of assistance provided was devoted to Central and Eastern Europe, while 35 percent was allocated to Africa. No major variations were observed in the other regions. The chart above shows the breakdown of assistance by year and by region for the period 1985-1995.

Establishing an emergency response system

The continuing reduction in ICRC material assistance to Africa concerned mainly food aid. Many ongoing conflicts (for example in Rwanda, Burundi and Sudan) had become long-drawn-out situations where needs, in particular for

IN 1995 THE ICRC:
• delivered 108,500 tonnes of material and medical assistance (including 44,628 tonnes received as gifts in kind) worth 177 million Swiss francs to 52 countries;
• distributed 115,228 tonnes of medical and material assistance;
• was afforded the use of aircraft and trucks worth 1 million Swiss francs.
emergency food, decreased as structures for providing nutritional assistance, medical aid and facilities in refugee camps and for delivering other essential supplies were put in place by other organizations.

While the action taken by those organizations led to a general scaling-down of more traditional relief activities, the ICRC still faced a major challenge on account of the extremely fragile nature of any steps taken to restore peace. Because of the risk of renewed destabilization, it had to stand ready at all times to provide large-scale emergency aid at a moment's notice.

In order to meet this challenge in the volatile situation prevailing in many parts of Africa, the ICRC established a permanent regional logistics centre in Nairobi. This facility is designed to enable the institution to respond immediately to any emergency which may arise in the region. The logistics centre includes stocks of vehicles, bulk food, non-food items, medical supplies, fuel, and radio and other special equipment, in other words all the essential goods and equipment required to launch a full-scale emergency relief operation in any part of the region. This, together with the stocks of bulk food kept in Mombasa, would enable the ICRC rapidly to meet the needs of 200,000 people for a period of six weeks, thus ensuring a swiftness of action that can mean the difference between life and death.

Similar emergency response facilities were set up in the Caucasus region and in and around Bosnia and Herzegovina so as to enable the ICRC to act quickly should increased needs arise.

To complete this regional emergency response approach, new arrangements were made in northern Europe to house the ICRC's emergency stocks, which had thus far been kept in various decentralized locations. All logistic means, as well as emergency medical and relief stocks, are now centralized in special warehouse facilities in the port of Brussels.

**Training as a backbone for successful emergency action**

Over the past ten years, the complexity and scale of ICRC relief operations have grown tremendously. This has increased the need for greater professionalism in the field and a higher degree of specialization. The training unit within the General Relief Division in Geneva offers a wide range of specialized courses dealing with every aspect of assistance. All new delegates leaving for the field on their first mission receive, in addition to their basic training courses, a two-day introduction to ICRC relief operations. A number of specialized management courses are also run by the training unit. These include the relief management course for more experienced field staff, the security course for all ICRC technical construction staff and the head of vehicle fleet course. All these courses are held on an annual basis either in Geneva or in one of the regional delegations.
Operational cooperation with National Societies

The ICRC is seeking to develop synergies and to strengthen the cohesion of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement so that it is better prepared to deal with new realities. In 1995 the ICRC pursued its efforts to associate National Societies more closely with its activities in the field. Among other things it developed the “project delegation” and “bilateral project” concepts, which give National Societies a better opportunity to identify with ICRC action in conflict situations without jeopardizing the institution’s specific role as a neutral and independent intermediary.

Several National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies responded very favourably to this new approach. By the end of 1995, the management of 12 specific projects had been delegated to National Societies and 12 bilateral projects were being developed in eight conflict situations; in these projects, the ICRC assumed overall responsibility for the Movement’s action.

This constructive form of cooperation is but one expression of the solidarity which binds the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: the ICRC also received considerable support for its work through other types of collaboration, mostly financial but also involving the provision of services. Thus in 1995, twenty National Societies seconded 538 of their personnel to the ICRC.

In addition to the two customary annual meetings with representatives of the main National Societies supporting its operations, the ICRC organized an information seminar for several National Societies of Central Europe and the Balkans. The objective was to define new ways for them to participate in the ICRC’s international activities, since they had expressed interest in becoming involved but had only limited means of cooperating because of the social and economic situation in their respective countries.
Easing the aching loneliness and anxiety: Red Cross messages between detainees and their families help them keep in touch and give them hope for the day when they see one another again. In Africa the ICRC visited 94,199 detainees in 1995, and handled over 75,000 messages to and from their families.
West Africa

**ICRC delegation:**
Liberia

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

Central Africa

**ICRC delegations:**
Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire

**ICRC regional delegation:**
Yaoundé

Southern Africa

**ICRC delegation:**
Angola

**ICRC regional delegations:**
Harare, Pretoria

East Africa

**ICRC delegations:**
Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan

**ICRC regional delegation:**
Nairobi

**Staff**

ICRC expatriates\(^1\) : 440

National Societies\(^1\) : 248

Local employees\(^2\) : 3,619

**Total expenditure**

Sfr 257,065,250

**Expenditure breakdown**

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Medical assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overheads</td>
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\(^1\) Average figures calculated on an annual basis.

\(^2\) Under ICRC contract, as at December 1995.
Considering sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, 1995 was an exceptional year in a number of ways, with both encouraging and alarming developments. On the one hand, the number of conflicts diminished; the southern part of the continent was well on the way to stability, as peace took hold in Mozambique, South Africa (except in KwaZulu/Natal) and to a less obvious extent in Angola. On the other hand, the conflicts that persisted were so intractable and complex that there seemed to be little prospect of alleviating the human suffering they brought in their wake.

The ICRC’s greatest challenge was in the Great Lakes region. The situation in Burundi became increasingly volatile during the year, while stability was still a long way off in Rwanda. The situation in these two countries kept the entire region in a state of apprehension all year, as a major upheaval in either one would have considerable repercussions on parts of Zaire, Tanzania and Uganda. The decision to give more time to the process of repatriation of almost two million Rwandan refugees was welcomed by the ICRC, as the situation within Rwanda was clearly not yet propitious to their return en masse. Nonetheless, the refugees’ return remained an issue with grave humanitarian implications.

The Sudan found itself isolated at the end of 1995 having fallen out with practically all its neighbours and with the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Meanwhile, the conflict in the south became more complex, as opposition movements divided and merged almost from one day to the next. This splintering of the conflict was further complicated by the involvement of foreign forces.

Somalia did not turn to chaos as many observers expected after the United Nations Operation in Somalia withdrew in March. But internal wrangling within the Somali National Alliance, fighting in Belet Huen and the capture of Baidoa in September signalled a return to the generalized insecurity and localized conflicts that marked 1991 after the fall of Siyad Barre. Somaliland experienced full-blown conflict, as the government there was challenged by the Habr Gerhaji clan. All around Somalia sharia law became increasingly adopted as a way of containing the violence. As before, the ICRC was faced with the urgency of addressing glaring humanitarian needs, while remaining cautious of the dangers of setting up any kind of infrastructure in Somalia. For this reason, the delegation continued to maintain its base in Nairobi, and regular field missions by expatriates were backed up by a solid network of local field officers. Relief operations were executed under ICRC supervision by private Somali companies, which allowed security and effectiveness to be combined.

The Revolutionary United Front opposition in Sierra Leone launched a massive offensive early on in the year, but was driven back soon afterwards by
the army. The means and methods of warfare employed in the counter-offensive raised the intensity of the conflict in Sierra Leone, where the effects on civilians were catastrophic. Unfortunately, the ICRC was unable to help as much as it would have liked, as security guarantees were not forthcoming until the very end of the year.

In Liberia, there was a real possibility that the peace reached in September would hold. But the humanitarian needs in the country remained enormous and many fighters had still to lay down their arms by year’s end.

Again in 1995 one of the ICRC’s priorities in Africa was to persuade combatants to adhere to the rules of international humanitarian law, and thereby prevent unnecessary suffering, especially among civilians. While the traditional form of teaching humanitarian law to structured armed forces was still possible in many countries, it was no longer a viable option in a growing number of contexts. The delegate to the armed forces, based in Nairobi, set up courses in the law of war and backed up the various ICRC delegations’ efforts to have humanitarian law made an integral part of training for national armed forces and police. Contact with the many fragmented and often undisciplined opposition groups in different countries was established essentially through the ICRC’s local delegations, which sought to make all individuals carrying weapons understand that civilians and the wounded are entitled to respect and that certain minimum standards of behaviour are desirable in conflict.

The ICRC’s mission to the OAU — to which it was granted observer status in 1992 — enables it not only to gain a broad insight into the political scene in Africa, but also to sensitize African governments to the role and activities of the ICRC around the world and to make them aware of the need for greater recognition and a much wider application of humanitarian law in their respective countries.

The deepening gulf between rich and poor in Africa remained an important issue in 1995. One major cause for concern is the recent shift of donor governments away from development towards emergency humanitarian intervention. As long as there is no international resolve to tackle the root causes of the problem and to help African nations overcome their economic difficulties, the potential for popular discontent will remain a constant threat, thereby heightening the risk of conflict in many African countries.
The peace agreement signed in Accra, Ghana, in December 1994 held through the first months of the year. However, while the different faction leaders tried to implement the next step of the Accra Accord, fighters on the ground launched a new wave of attacks and banditry, causing the displacement of thousands of civilians, especially in the south-east of the country. Reports of harassment, rape and killings were commonplace. The faction leaders’ failure to agree on the composition and chairmanship of the Council of State as provided for in the peace agreement led to massive demonstrations in Monrovia on 14 January and the imposition of a curfew by ECOMOG*.

The summit of ECOWAS* heads of State in Abuja, Nigeria, on 17 May represented a new step in the peace process but was inconclusive. However, the meeting there in June between the leader of the NPFL* and the Nigerian President was a major step forward in reconciling these two long-standing enemies and key players in the conflict.

The fighting factions of Liberia finally signed another peace treaty in the Nigerian capital on 19 August and the majority of the provisions set out in the various agreements were met: the cease-fire, effective as of 27 August, was generally respected; all leaders of the different factions met in Monrovia on the appointed date of 31 August; a new government, the LNTG II,* was established, including all the main parties; parts of the country that had been inaccessible for security reasons were reopened and movement was relatively free; and the atmosphere in the capital and other accessible towns was peaceful and calm.

* ECOMOG: Monitoring group of the Economic Community of West African States
* ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
* NPFL: National Patriotic Front of Liberia
* LNTG II: Liberian National Transitional Government II
Faction leaders made repeated oral commitments concerning disarmament, the reconstruction of the country, and the organization of fair elections.

On the military side, ECOMOG announced at the end of September that it was satisfied with the disengagement of troops. Problems occurred only at the Lofa bridge, a strategic point in western Liberia giving access to the diamond-rich area. The two ULIMO* wings continued fighting for control of this area, violating the cease-fire. A serious incident occurred in Gbarnga, when the NPFL were allegedly attacked by fighters of the ULIMO-Mandingo wing. In the heat of the fighting, three vehicles of international organizations were hijacked by NPFL fighters and one expatriate was harassed. The cars were returned shortly afterwards, but humanitarian operations were put on hold for some time.

On 30 November, the government in Monrovia announced an agreement between the NPFL and ULIMO-Mandingo leaders, providing for the creation of a buffer zone guaranteeing the security and free movement of people in the centre of the country between Gbalatuah and Ganglota. The two leaders also ordered their troops to respect the neutrality of the ECOMOG forces that were starting to move out of Monrovia and be deployed in the zones controlled by the NPFL and ULIMO. However, a serious setback occurred in late December, when ULIMO-Krahn troops attacked the ECOMOG base in Tubmanburg and fierce fighting broke out.

Activities for the civilian population

Banditry and the absence of credible security guarantees from the different factions had prevented any significant humanitarian work from being accomplished since September 1994. Assistance was able to reach only the ECOMOG-controlled counties of Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa, until in September 1995 access to other areas became possible.

From February onwards, large numbers of displaced people fleeing the armed conflict streamed into the Buchanan area, where they received immediate assistance from the ICRC and the Liberia National Red Cross Society, which cooperated with MSF* and AICF* to provide shelter, water and other aid. Displaced people also continued to arrive in Greater Monrovia and to flee to neighbouring Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, particularly from the south-east of Liberia, to escape from the struggle between the NPFL and the LPC* for control of Maryland. In mid-June the conflict even spilled over onto Ivorian territory.

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* ULIMO: United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia
* MSF: Médecins sans frontières
* AICF: Action internationale contre la faim
* LPC: Liberian Peace Council
When in mid-May hostilities between the two ULIMO factions resumed north of the capital, ECOMOG proceeded to clear the highway leading to Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties and to man all checkpoints with ECOMOG troops. Tubmanburg, Tiene, Bo Waterside and Kle Junction were declared “safe havens”. Civilians subsequently began to move to Tubmanburg and approached the checkpoints, attracted by the new-found security, some leaving behind their looted villages, others fleeing forced labour in the mines. Mid-year, the ICRC received security guarantees from the ULIMO-Krahn leaders regarding access to the parts of Bomi and Grand Cape Mount not protected by ECOMOG.

The signing of the peace agreement in mid-August led to the reopening of the roads towards central Liberia. Humanitarian agencies were able to return to Upper Margibi and to Bong, Nimba and Lofa counties. Difficult road conditions after five years of war prevented a return to other areas. Mid-September, the ICRC went into central Liberia to conduct an assessment tour with the National Society. The clinics in Gbarnga, Gbatala, Totota and Salala had not been supplied by the ICRC/Liberia National Red Cross since October 1994 and had later been destroyed. A new building was found for the Gbarnga clinic, which was reopened by the ICRC in December to care for the population and the displaced. In Gbatala and Totota, new buildings were located and renovation work was begun at the end of the year.

Non-food distributions were made in Tubmanburg, Klay and Gbah and to selected beneficiaries in several feeding centres and clinics in western and central parts of Monrovia.

Since food stocks at the ICRC’s logistics base for Liberia, situated in Man in Côte d’Ivoire, had not been used because security conditions inside Liberia were too hazardous for the relief convoys, the stocks were loaned to the EU* and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for their refugee relief programme in Côte d’Ivoire.

Activities for detainees

The ICRC pursued its visits and assistance in Monrovia to detainees held in connection with the September 1994 coup attempt. The coup’s major conspirators were not allowed any other visitors. The trial of the plotters finally came to a close and eight high-ranking officers of the AFL* were sentenced to seven years’ imprisonment with hard labour. Four other officers, although acquitted, remained in custody because of judicial complications until December, when two were released.

* EU: European Union
* AFL: Armed Forces of Liberia
Delegates continued to visit the other detainees in Monrovia’s central prison and provided them with medical supplies and basic necessities, including blankets, soap and water-drums. In cooperation with the Liberia National Red Cross regular medical check-ups for detainees were begun in May, supported by the installation of a mobile clinic. A scabies treatment campaign was carried out for all inmates in June. The prisoners’ health improved significantly as a result.

In connection with the 19 August peace agreement, the ICRC was invited to brief the disarmament committee, composed of ECOMOG, UNOMIL*, the LNTG II and all factions, about procedures for the release of detainees. As provided for in the agreement, the institution offered its assistance in any releases. On 9 November the NPFL and ULIMO factions agreed to free their prisoners and the ICRC was asked to visit the detainees in order to organize their transfer. The detainees in question were subsequently visited by delegates and in December they were finally released and taken to Monrovia under ICRC auspices.

**Tracing activities**

In conjunction with a local radio station, in February the delegation began to transmit a programme aimed at reuniting families split up by the conflict.

Several tracing cases were resolved in 1995 and unaccompanied minors were reunited with their families in Monrovia. In order to process such cases the delegation continued to work closely with other humanitarian organizations active in Liberia, notably the Save the Children Fund.

Many of the Red Cross messages received were destined for refugees in camps in Guinea. Liberian tracing officers worked with the ICRC in Conakry and the Red Cross Society of Guinea to set up an effective distribution system.

**Health activities**

The Liberia National Red Cross clinic in Buchanan, which had been set up with assistance from the ICRC in 1994, was kept supplied with medical requisites. Up to 80 percent of consultations given were for displaced people. A waiting room and latrine were constructed with ICRC support.

The ICRC and the Federation contributed to the refurbishment of the National Society’s health clinic in Dolo. The clinic reopened in April as many people who had fled their homes during hostilities in the area started to return to the town.

* UNOMIL: United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia
Assistance was also given to the JFK hospital in Monrovia, run by the Ministry of Health. The ICRC nurse regularly visited the cholera unit and emergency ward and distributed intravenous fluids when necessary.

The delegation continued its water and sanitation programme, rehabilitating wells which had dried out and maintaining handpumps.

With the onset of heavy rains in July, there was an increase in the number of people suffering from severe diarrhoea and a few cholera cases appeared. At the instigation of MSF-Belgium and in cooperation with the ICRC all hospitals opened cholera wards.

Dissemination

The ICRC's dissemination work targeted the ECOMOG contingents in the field and at headquarters. Furthermore, the ICRC was able to extend this programme to the AFL and the Liberian National Police and also to start sessions with ULIMO-Krahn fighters in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount and Margibi counties and with NPFL fighters in Bong county. Ad hoc sessions were held at various security checkpoints to explain the ICRC's mandate and activities, spread awareness of basic humanitarian principles and rules of humanitarian law and promote respect for the red cross emblem.

The delegation continued to support the National Society's dissemination activities and during the month of May, declared "Month of the Red Cross" by the transitional government, Radio Monrovia broadcast a special programme devoted to Red Cross work.

ABIDJAN
Regional delegation
(Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Togo)

From the beginning of 1995 the regional delegation in Abidjan took over responsibility for Benin, Ghana and Togo, which had previously been covered from Lagos. Matters concerning Burkina Faso and Niger were handled by the regional delegation in Dakar. Activities in Liberia continued to be run by an ad hoc delegation in Monrovia, which worked closely throughout the year with the regional delegation in Abidjan given the repercussions of the Liberian situation on the surrounding countries. Abidjan provided logistical back-up for the whole of the coastal region.
Under its programme of cooperation with the Red Cross Societies of the region, the ICRC financed a number of projects including information activities, dissemination work and improvements to National Society structures.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

From April on troubles arose in the west of the country, where hundreds of thousands of Liberian refugees had settled. Liberian factions had crossed the border into Côte d'Ivoire and the ensuing clashes claimed dozens of victims, including refugees, local residents and members of the Ivorian security forces. At the onset of these incidents, the ICRC sent a mission to the area to prepare for the event that ICRC action might be needed, while maintaining regular contact with both the civil and military authorities of Côte d'Ivoire, as well as with the main embassies and non-governmental organizations in the region. The disturbances grew to alarming proportions when a particularly violent incursion into the Ivorian border town of Tai, aimed at the Liberian refugee population, caused the displacement of some 30,000 people, mainly Liberians. In conjunction with the National Society, the ICRC transported 800 of them from Tai to Man, where they were subsequently taken care of by UNHCR. The ICRC also provided the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire with the necessary logistical support. In September, delegates carried out a mission to evaluate how soon the 300,000 Liberian refugees might be repatriated and there were general signs of willingness to return in time for elections in 1996. According to different sources, some 12,000 refugees had already returned voluntarily by the end of the year.

In August, the National Society of Côte d'Ivoire received ICRC instruction in emergency preparedness, in anticipation of the presidential and general elections in October and November, which took place without major troubles.

As part of its dissemination programme, the regional delegation financed and led a number of courses and seminars organized by the National Society and/or security forces.

GHANA

Northern Ghana was again the scene of violence as inter-ethnic clashes erupted in March. The ICRC assisted some 15,000 displaced civilians and others affected by the hostilities, in cooperation with local branches of the Ghana Red Cross Society, whose participation in this operation demonstrated their usefulness to local communities, convincing even those in opposition for ethnic reasons. The non-food rehabilitation operation helped people to resettle in their home villages. The ICRC also distributed supplies to rural medical structures that had been affected by the disturbances.
GUINEA

In 1995 the ICRC established regular contact with the Guinean authorities and RUF* representatives thanks to its permanent presence in the country. This enabled the institution to play a direct role in the release of 18 hostages held by the RUF. Cooperation and dialogue with the National Society progressed; there was also greater awareness of the Red Cross, as evidenced by the presidential decree recognizing the emblem in May. Dissemination activities continued for the armed forces and the police.

During the year a network of tracing offices was set up in conjunction with the Red Cross Society of Guinea in various refugee camps along the borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone. This enabled refugees to write Red Cross messages to their relatives back home.

The 23rd Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference was held from 9 to 13 December in Conakry. It brought together 52 Muslim countries, with 900 diplomats representing a population of 935 million people in Africa, Asia and Europe. The conference unanimously adopted a resolution on the ICRC’s proposal for the elimination of anti-personnel mines and the mine-clearing process. This was a major breakthrough for the ICRC in that it was the first time that an organization so highly respected by the Islamic world, and whose membership included mine-manufacturing countries, adopted a resolution in favour of the prohibition of mines.

SIERRA LEONE

For the greater part of 1995, Sierra Leone remained a country devastated by the armed conflict and anarchy. Armed attacks were commonplace and people were taken hostage without it being clear whether those responsible were rebels or army factions. Towards the end of May, it seemed as though RUF forces were gaining strength, almost reaching Freetown. Later, the government forces, supported by Nigerian and Guinean troops as well as a private foreign security company, took back certain diamond-producing areas from the opposition. This continuing turmoil resulted in the displacement of thousands of civilians.

In this dangerous environment involving cross-border dealing in arms, drugs and diamonds, it was very difficult to obtain security guarantees for humanitarian activities. Nevertheless, the ICRC actively pursued its dialogue with both sides and was requested to help with the repatriation of a number of hostages taken during the RUF offensive in early 1995. Two sailors arrested in April 1994, a Russian and a Sierra Leonean, were released and handed over to the

* RUF: Revolutionary United Front (see Sierra Leone)
ICRC at the Guinean border in January. Seven nuns (one Brazilian and six Italians) were freed in March. In April, the remaining 10 foreigners (six British, one German and three Swiss) and six Sierra Leoneans were released under ICRC auspices. They were handed over at the Guinean border and transported by the ICRC to Conakry, where they were handed over to the representatives of their respective countries.

Increasingly constructive contact with the RUF and intensive negotiations with the Sierra Leonean government in Freetown enabled the ICRC to obtain the necessary security guarantees to initiate meetings in June with the rebel leadership, to whom it explained its mandate and plans for fulfilling its humanitarian mission in eastern Sierra Leone. The ICRC was able to carry out an assessment of the living conditions and nutritional status of civilians in and around Kailahun, which revealed glaring deficiencies among a population of around 30,000. As many civilians in this conflict area had been unable to work their land because of the hazardous security situation, food reserves were running short. Close to 30 percent of children under five were found to be suffering from severe malnutrition.

The ICRC continued to seek government approval to launch an emergency relief operation for the civilian population. Mid-July the country’s President gave his verbal agreement, though this was not confirmed, and was later opposed by military leaders. Late September the President formally accepted the ICRC’s proposal but could not authorize action for security reasons. End October, the President reiterated his acceptance of emergency aid for the rebel stronghold of Kailahun on condition that distributions were overseen by the United Nations, but only days later the government launched a major offensive on that area. The National Society stood by to evacuate the wounded and guide displaced people to safer areas, but its assistance was not needed as shortly afterwards the army was weakened by the withdrawal of the foreign security forces and fighting calmed down.

Overall, approximately 40 percent of the population remained displaced at the end of the year; 1.5 million people were displaced within Sierra Leone and 350,000 people had sought refuge in neighbouring Liberia and Guinea. Most of the internally displaced people were grouped in government-controlled areas in the east of the country around Kenema, Koidu and Bo, and the ICRC sent a team including a doctor, a nutritionist and a relief delegate to assess their needs. However, lack of security made it impossible to launch a relief programme before the end of the year. Although few humanitarian organizations were able to operate, MSF did manage to open two nutritional centres for 1,100 children, airlifting food and medical supplies, and the National Society was also active in this region, distributing food to tens of thousands of displaced people.
The major problem was that villages remained inaccessible by road because of continual ambushes.

In September the ICRC visited detainees held in Freetown central prison. The institution also pursued its dialogue with the authorities to gain access to people arrested in connection with an attempted coup in October 1995.

TOGO

A climate of instability continued to reign in Togo, although there were no major outbreaks of violence. The situation was improved by the return home of 131,000 refugees from Ghana and Benin. However, a further 6,000 Ghanaian refugees remained in northern Togo.

The national armed forces began to include instruction in humanitarian law in their training programmes and the Togolese Red Cross held first-aid courses and dissemination sessions in Togo's three largest military barracks.

In 1995 Togo ratified the 1980 UN Weapons Convention.

DAKAR

Regional delegation
(Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal)

In addition to its specific activities in Mali and the Casamance region of Senegal, the regional delegation continued its cooperation with the National Societies of the region, conducting dissemination sessions for various target groups, encouraging instruction in humanitarian law, and on a practical level, helping to fight epidemics of cholera, promote public health and give first-aid training to local volunteers.

CAPE VERDE

Following an ICRC mission to Cape Verde, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs deposited the instruments of accession to Additional Protocols I and II with the Swiss government on 16 March 1995. The government of Cape Verde also made a declaration recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.

GAMBIA

A new attempted counter-coup on 27 January resulted in the imprisonment of a number of people accused of being involved, including the Vice-President
and the Minister of the Interior. The ICRC visited 24 individuals arrested in this connection and a further 80 security detainees held at Mile 2 prison and in hospitals and barracks for reasons related to events in 1994.

GUINEA BISSAU

The regional delegate went on mission to Guinea-Bissau in mid-September in order to establish contact with the government and the National Society, particularly with the aim of reactivating the latter and enhancing its management structure.

A confidential report concerning the ICRC’s visit to 14 security detainees in December 1994 was presented to the relevant authorities in February 1995.

MALI

The violence among Tuareg and Arab rebel movements, which had widely affected the civilian population throughout 1994, abated in 1995 and the tension eased thanks to reconciliation efforts instigated by the affected communities. However, peace remained tenuous. On 8 March the ICRC reopened an office in Bamako with a permanent expatriate on staff, so that it could follow events in the north of the country more closely and monitor developments in Niger and Burkina Faso. It also set up an office in Timbuktu and this increased presence enabled the ICRC to establish contacts with the government and rebel movements, organize public health and clean-up campaigns in Timbuktu, give material assistance to health services to help fight cholera epidemics and conduct dissemination sessions for a variety of target groups.

In May, 13 security detainees were visited in Bamako in accordance with the ICRC’s standard procedures. The institution acted as a neutral intermediary in the release of one detainee held by one of the rebel movements.

In July, the delegate based in Bamako visited the population in areas most affected by food shortages and lack of sanitation and shelter. The ICRC informed the authorities and other humanitarian organizations of the gravity of the situation and requested them to take action. In August, the ICRC carried out seed distributions and improved water supply systems, assisting over 10,000 beneficiaries.

Dissemination sessions were held in Gao for members of the National Society’s regional committee, first-aid workers, armed forces of the Gao military zone and members of the commission set up to follow the implementation of the national peace agreement of April 1992.
NIGER

The Niger government and the Tuareg rebellion movement signed a peace agreement on 24 April, which should have brought an end to four years of fighting and provided, among other things, for a general amnesty, the integration of rebels into the army and emergency assistance for the Tuareg community in the north. The last two provisions of the accord were not implemented, however, as a rift developed in May between the President and the Prime Minister, causing political turmoil in parliament. Also, new troubles were reported between the Toubous and the local population in the eastern region of Diffa. The delegate based in Bamako carried out missions to Niamey in May and again in August, meeting a number of government and rebel representatives. Dialogue was initiated with the Arab militia of Niger with a view to obtaining access to any detainees they might be holding.

SENEGAL

In late May, the ICRC cooperated with the Senegalese Red Cross Society in providing assistance for more than 2,800 people displaced as a result of fighting between the Senegalese army and rebels from the MFDC* in the border region with Guinea-Bissau. Fighting resumed in Casamance in January and several missions were carried out to assess the situation of the thousands of displaced people there. Over 130 individuals were arrested as a result of the disturbances. The ICRC made repeated efforts to obtain access to detainees and the authorities declared that they were open to ICRC visits in principle. At year’s end discussions were still under way regarding access to detainees from Casamance.

LAGOS

Regional delegation
(Nigeria)

The situation in Nigeria remained unstable in 1995. The ICRC continued to monitor developments so as to maintain a clear and independent view of a context of such geostrategic importance. Indeed, by virtue of Nigeria’s size and influence, turmoil in the country could have serious repercussions on a large part of the African continent.

Although one could not talk of a conflict in Nigeria in 1995, some of the political events that marked the year did involve limited violence. In the Bakassi

* MFDC: Mouvement des forces démocratiques de Casamance
peninsula, the scene of fierce clashes in 1994 between Nigerian and Cameroonian troops, renewed fighting was reported to have claimed 20 more lives. However, some progress was made in this region after the ICRC intervened to obtain the release of several detainees. In January, a Cameroonian soldier taken prisoner by Nigerian armed forces in the peninsula and visited twice by the ICRC was freed and repatriated to Cameroon. In February, the Nigerian authorities handed over two policemen captured in the border dispute to the Cameroonian embassy.

In early March, the defence headquarters announced that an attempted coup had been foiled and 29 officers and civilians, as well as two former generals, arrested.

Clashes that broke out in May between Christian and Muslim communities caused some 30 deaths in the northern city of Kano. Order was restored when police reinforcements were brought in and the State authorities imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew. Nonetheless, tension remained high, particularly after a previously unknown group called Jammatu Tajdidi Islamya began to circulate pamphlets urging non-Muslims to leave the city. The Nigerian Red Cross Society stepped up the capacity of its Kano branch, but it was unable to intervene because of the religious nature of the troubles, highlighting the problem of acceptability of the red cross emblem in this largely Muslim area.

End June, political activities were officially authorized again. This led to the establishment of some 60 new parties, thus weakening any attempts at forming a coherent opposition party.

On 1 October, the Head of State announced that the transition from military to civilian rule would span three years, with the final disengagement of the military from power scheduled for 1 October 1998.

In November, just as Nigeria was being publicly complimented for its continued participation in the Liberian peace process, nine members of the Movement for the Survival of the People of Ogoni (MOSOP), including the writer Ken Saro-Wiva, were hanged, shocking the international community and eliciting harsh criticism from the United Nations Security Council.

Cooperation with the National Society

At an extraordinary session of the Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) in March, the structural reforms proposed by the NRCS, the ICRC and the Federation in May 1994 were approved.

The Lagos State branch opened several new emergency posts in metropolitan Lagos, which were on stand-by in the run-up to the 12 June anniversary of the annulled 1993 presidential elections. However, the country remained surprisingly calm.
A joint NRCS/ICRC dissemination seminar for Red Cross personnel and local media representatives was held in Benin City (Edo State) and emergency preparedness programmes were developed in this area.

In June the National Society began to publish its newsletter again for the first time in three years. This was partially subsidized by the ICRC.

Dissemination

The regional delegation continued its dissemination courses for senior officers of the armed forces at the National War College, covering issues relevant to the forthcoming Review Conference of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention, the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and follow-up to the 1993 International Conference for the Protection of War Victims. It also organized follow-up sessions to the 1994 training courses held for officers at the Command and Staff College, during which documents on humanitarian law were prepared for the 1996 curriculum.

Regular contact was maintained with the Nigerian media and several programmes on radio and television, including on newly established independent stations, were devoted to the Red Cross and its activities worldwide.
Central Africa

BURUNDI

A succession of political changes studied the first three months of the year in Burundi, bringing with them a marked deterioration in security. By mid-February the president of the National Assembly and the Prime Minister had both resigned and it was not until 1 March that a new government was formed. In the weeks that followed there emerged a palpable lack of confidence in the new authorities, and on 24 March mayhem broke loose in Bujumbura, as the army clashed with gangs of armed extremists and thousands of civilians fled the capital to Zaire or to the surrounding countryside.

Meanwhile, in the provinces, attacks on military targets resulted in retaliation mainly against civilians, causing a high number of deaths. In addition, reports abounded on violent confrontations between displaced people and local residents.

In May the proliferation of armed Hutu gangs on the one side and Tutsi militia groups on the other led to a further deterioration in security. Attacks from both sides became increasingly frequent, more and more civilian families were displaced or dispersed, and threats and attacks directed at humanitarian organizations made many NGOs and UN agencies reluctant to continue with their work in trouble-stricken parts of the country. The ICRC therefore extended its zone of operations to include areas no longer assisted by these organizations.

As the year progressed, so too did the intensity of the conflict. In July and August the situation in and around the capital and in the north-west (Bubanza, Cibitoke and Kayanza provinces) took a serious turn for the worse. At the beginning of July the more radical members of the FRODEBU* party walked out of parliament and fled the country to Uvira, across the Zairian border,

* FRODEBU: Front pour la démocratie au Burundi

IN 1995 THE ICRC:
- registered 1,673 new detainees and regularly visited 2,143;
- reunited 491 families split up by the conflict;
- collected 115,544 Red Cross messages and distributed 100,367;
- provided 345,000 displaced people with non-food assistance;
- provided some 175,000 people affected by the conflict with seed and tools;
- distributed water on a daily basis to over 100,000 people.
where the core of the opposition had already set up base. This weakening of the government by political strife, continuing attacks by rebel groups taking refuge in urban areas and vast purging operations by militias and sections of the army all contributed to both social and economic degradation.

Other parts of the country did not escape the violence, though flare-ups tended to be more isolated, at least until the end of the year, when fighting spread to different provinces, including the Karuzi area, causing the displacement of over 20,000 people. Even the south, which had been relatively free of violence, was affected by a major military operation around the beginning of November, when the army clashed with Hutu rebels of the FROLINA*, accusing them of launching attacks from bases in Tanzania.

Activities for the civilian population

ICRC delegates in Burundi visited trouble-stricken areas throughout the year, attempting to assuage the ill feeling which pervaded rival communities. They did this indirectly through their physical presence and more directly by giving displaced people news about the situation in their home communes, and by talking to local authorities and leaders, clarifying rumours and suggesting ways of reducing tension. When local violence had left casualties the ICRC evacuated the wounded to medical facilities, providing protection until such time as the patients could return to their homes.

Delegates also maintained regular contact with all military, political and civilian authorities to inform them of ICRC activities around the country, to report on observations made and to remind them of their responsibilities regarding the protection of civilians and their duty to abide by international humanitarian law and respect the red cross emblem.

Over the year there were hundreds of thousands of civilian victims in Burundi: apart from those killed (over 200 every week) thousands were wounded and tens of thousands more displaced or dispersed, living in camps in and outside the country. Many of the survivors lost everything during the fighting: as they left their homes, these were systematically looted and destroyed; their fields and harvests were burnt.

In several areas, hydraulic and electric installations were sabotaged, depriving the population of drinking water and electricity and hampering many forms of business, particularly in the capital.

The general instability, coupled with the pressure induced by widespread rumours, forced humanitarian organizations to abandon certain provinces, thus leaving them without any form of basic assistance, medical or otherwise.

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* FROLINA: Front pour la libération nationale
The ICRC endeavoured to continue its activities all over the country, but had to restrict its movements in certain areas where fighting occurred, and in the hills, which had been intentionally made inaccessible. The institution was therefore unable to reach the majority of the people living in the provinces of Cibitoke and Bubanza from mid-August on.

Activities in Cibitoke picked up again towards the end of October, but were soon brought to a halt in view of major security incidents on 28 October, during which an ICRC water-tanker went over a landmine, and on 6 November, when an ICRC convoy was ambushed and a Burundian staff member killed. The delegation in Bujumbura immediately launched a far-reaching information campaign to spread awareness of the ICRC’s role in Burundi and promote respect for basic humanitarian principles.

In November the Delegate General for Africa met the President of Burundi, the Ministers of the Interior and Foreign Affairs, the leadership of the army and the gendarmerie, all of whom expressed the wish that the ICRC recommence its humanitarian work in regions affected by the conflict. He also met representatives from the FDD* and the Palipehutu* opposition, both of whom were in favour of the ICRC returning to those regions.

Yet despite the overwhelming acceptance of the ICRC by all parties, events in December forced the institution temporarily to suspend all of its activities in Burundi. On 6 December heavy fighting broke out between the Burundian army and armed Hutu groups in and around Bujumbura and continued for three days. During the hostilities the ICRC evacuated over 50 casualties to hospital. In the night of 8 December a grenade attack was launched against one of the hospitals which had taken in some of the casualties, injuring 20 patients and killing two nurses. The ICRC appealed to the parties to respect the wounded and the red cross emblem.

The following day a Belgian Red Cross vehicle evacuating a wounded soldier and two of his comrades, who were not carrying weapons, was stopped by armed elements. During the ensuing discussion between the Belgian Red Cross nurse travelling on board the vehicle and the armed men, the three passengers attempted to flee. Although one of them managed to escape the ICRC learned later on that the other two had been killed. The nurse and the driver were not harmed and were allowed to continue. On 13 December the soldier who had escaped gave an interview on national radio, in which he claimed that the ICRC had handed his companions over to the armed elements. Within the next few hours an ICRC vehicle was stolen at gunpoint in Bujumbura, and an Oxfam residence adjacent to the ICRC’s office in Gitega came under gunfire and was

* FDD: Forces pour la défense de la démocratie
* Palipehutu: Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu
hit by two grenades. A third grenade exploded in the AICF compound in Gitega. The ICRC consequently curtailed all movement of its expatriates in the country until adequate clarification and rectification of the facts could be obtained from the highest authorities.

By the end of the year the ICRC was still unable to work in Burundi. This had serious repercussions on the health and safety of a significant part of the population, as the ICRC had been the only humanitarian organization with access to several provinces, including those most affected by the conflict.

Activities for detainees

During 1995 the ICRC registered detainees, monitored their conditions of detention and kept track of their whereabouts to prevent ill-treatment and disappearances. At the same time it encouraged prison authorities to improve living conditions for inmates and bring them up to acceptable standards. Delegates had unrestricted access to detainees in prisons, police stations, and places of detention run by the gendarmerie. Reports on the delegates' findings and suggestions for improvement were regularly submitted to the authorities concerned, and material assistance, such as cleaning materials, blankets, soap and water containers, was provided in all places visited.

ICRC doctors visited places of detention to arrange for the hospitalization of serious cases and follow their progress, and distributed medical supplies to prison health services.

The number of security detainees visited by the ICRC in Burundi rose constantly throughout the year. By the end of 1995 over 1,670 new detainees had been registered, bringing the total to 2,143.

Tracing activities

The delegation in Bujumbura collected 115,544 and distributed 100,367 Red Cross messages in connection with the Rwandan crisis, mainly through six offices located in refugee camps in the north of Burundi. The ICRC in Burundi also registered 12,342 unaccompanied Rwandan minors and reunited 491 with their families.

Other tracing work involved collecting and distributing Red Cross messages sent between detainees and their families.

Medical activities

The ICRC medical team assessed health requirements in trouble-stricken areas and provided 95 health centres and 17 hospitals, some of them on a regular basis, with medical supplies. Over 475 wounded people were evacuated
to health facilities by ICRC delegates, who registered them and subsequently kept track of them.

The team also monitored health conditions in camps for displaced people receiving material assistance from the ICRC, and frequent soap distributions were carried out to improve hygiene.

In September and October the ICRC ran a mobile clinic for people in areas where medical care was unavailable.

Water and sanitation

ICRC specialists carried out a broad survey of water and sanitary facilities between April and June, during which a number of installations were restored to working order on the spot. A more comprehensive rehabilitation programme was planned for early August, to restore the gravity feed systems of three provinces, build latrines and set up water distribution points in 25 camps for displaced people. However, the programme was considerably slowed down by an emergency that occurred in mid-August: on the Imbo plain to the northwest of Bujumbura some 100,000 residents and displaced people were deprived of water as a result of violence in the surrounding hills. An emergency plan of action was swiftly put into place, just as epidemics of diarrhoea and cholera were beginning to spread among the population. By the end of September 10 reservoirs had been installed, supplied by water tankers transporting up to 100,000 litres a day, and a mobile water purification unit furnishing 5,000 litres of drinking water per hour had been set up. This emergency programme was carried out from August through to the end of October, when it had to be suspended because of a number of security incidents.

The ICRC also explored alternative water supply methods and implemented a number of projects which included digging new wells, repairing existing ones and setting up systems for rainwater harvesting.

A large-scale programme to provide local water authorities with the equipment needed to maintain existing water supply facilities began in October in the provinces of Gitega, Ruyigi and Muramvya.

Other projects, such as the construction of latrines, were undertaken to improve sanitation in 15 camps for displaced people around the country.

Relief activities

From the start of the year the ICRC assisted vulnerable groups in 10 provinces affected by violence. Some 345,000 people displaced in camps or dispersed around the provinces received cooking pots, jerricans, blankets, soap and plastic sheeting to help them build shelters. In order to help the displaced
population regain a measure of self-sufficiency and dignity, and to stave off a potential famine, the ICRC also distributed seed and tools to about 175,000 people.

**Dissemination/information**

The delegation issued armed forces instructors with a manual designed to show them the need to train their soldiers in the basic rules of war. The manual was presented at a two-day seminar for 32 instructors.

Delegates were also invited to participate in various seminars organized locally for the staff of penitentiary administrations, social workers and police officers. The ICRC took advantage of this opportunity to present its mandate and activities and to draw attention to the distinction between international humanitarian law and human rights law.

In anticipation of the return of Rwandan refugees, delegates went to the seven UNHCR camps in northern Burundi to explain the need to observe at least minimum standards of humanitarian behaviour.

No fewer than 25,000 people came to see a theatrical performance staged around the country, illustrating the basic standards of humanitarian behaviour that must be maintained in times of turmoil such as those of present-day Burundi. The play was also broadcast twice on national television and on national radio.

In three provinces over 2,000 people of mixed backgrounds (including local authorities, displaced people and secondary school pupils) were shown a film portraying the principles of humanitarian behaviour. Alongside this information campaign, dissemination staff prepared special work files, tailor-made for each level of the country's education system.

As the local press was dominated by extremist groups spreading rumours about humanitarian organizations, a seminar was held in July in Nairobi by "Synergies Africa" for journalists from Burundi and other countries of the region. The ICRC participated in the seminar, enabling some 15 representatives of the local press to familiarize themselves with the workings of the institution.

Towards the end of the year, as threats and attacks directed against the ICRC increased, an enormous effort was made to inform the Burundian press of the ICRC’s specific mandate. Radio and TV spots were produced and interviews given to the media to help raise awareness of the institution’s neutrality and promote respect for the red cross emblem.

Further, ad hoc presentations of the ICRC’s work and mandate were organized for the general public, mainly for educational establishments and various social groups.
One year on from the 1994 genocide, the humanitarian problems in Rwanda were still manifold. The people remained deeply marked by the genocide, and reconstruction of the ravaged nation had only just begun. Despite the international community's initial pledges to help the Rwandan authorities with reconstruction and development, the financial assistance required was not forthcoming and by year's end the country's judicial system was by no means ready to assume the responsibility of bringing the culprits of the massacres to justice and to ensure the establishment of the rule of law. In August a change of government brought a change of attitude, as a harder line was adopted in terms of internal security and towards the international community. In the meantime, UNAMIR*, whose mandate had been renewed in June for a six-month period, saw its mission adjusted in December to a final mandate lasting until March 1996, as requested by the Rwandan government.

Though these internal issues were indeed crucial, the scope of humanitarian problems plaguing Rwanda was considerably broader. With over 1.8 million refugees still encamped in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi, stability in the region undoubtedly rested on the return of these people to their home areas. Nonetheless, conditions in Rwanda were not propitious to such a return en masse and, in any case, the vast majority of refugees were seriously deterred from going back by the *Interahamwe* leaders and officials from the previous government.

The few thousand refugees who did make their way back home were confronted with two major problems. First, many of them faced accusations, often arbitrary, of involvement in the 1994 genocide and, as the legal system was not yet equipped to deal with the thousands of cases pending, the accused were placed in detention (see section below). Second, many returned to find

* UNAMIR: United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda
IN 1995 THE ICRC:
- registered and regularly visited 70,891 detainees in 250 places of detention;
- improved access to medical care and water and regularly provided food and other supplies for 42,000 inmates in the country’s 14 prisons, thereby greatly reducing the high mortality rate among detainees;
- centralized data concerning 87,158 unaccompanied children and reunited 2,700 of them with their families;
- collected 1,525,782 Red Cross messages and distributed 1,305,197 in the Great Lakes region;
- provided food and other aid to displaced people within Rwanda, returnees and residents of areas where large numbers of returnees had arrived (560,000 beneficiaries in January, 360,000 per month in the second half of the year);
- supplied residents and returnees with seed, tools and back-up food rations (75,000 families in January/February and 65,000 families in September);
- delegated projects to participating National Red Cross Societies (Australia, France, Germany, Sweden and the United States) to rehabilitate 14 health centres in the Gitarama, Kigali and Byumba areas and renovate the water supply systems in the prefectures of Kibuye, Gisenyi and Ruhengeri.

As the year progressed, initial calls from Tanzania and Zaire in particular for the refugees to return quickly were silenced by the logical conclusion that until the country’s legal system was functioning and these matters could be settled, there would be no guarantee of security in the communes and a sudden and massive return could be disastrous for the whole Great Lakes region.

Inside Rwanda, as more and more people were arrested in connection with the 1994 genocide, the problem of overcrowding in the prisons and other places of detention reached alarming proportions. This was one of the main humanitarian challenges facing the ICRC in 1995, along with the need for effective water supply and medical care systems around the country, a system to enable families to keep in contact and the imperative need for unaccompanied children to be registered, monitored as they moved from place to place and ultimately reunited with their families. In addition, the ICRC ensured that vulnerable families were able to start anew, by providing them with seed and tools.

Throughout the year the ICRC maintained close and regular contact with the Rwandan government and with the authorities of the other countries of the region. In order to examine possible solutions to the Rwandan crisis a number of international meetings were organized, bringing together the governments concerned, the donor community and humanitarian organizations. For example, in February the OAU* and UNHCR held a regional conference in Bujumbura on assistance for refugees and the displaced in the Great Lakes region. At the conference the ICRC’s Director of Operations underlined the imperative need for the country’s judicial system to be restored and disputes over land and property rights to be settled before the refugees were repatriated.

On 31 March the ICRC President invited the permanent representatives of the group “Amis du Rwanda”, including 12 Western governments, the OAU and Tunisia, to the ICRC’s headquarters in Geneva, where he voiced the institution’s grave concern with regard to conditions in Rwanda. A solemn appeal was subsequently sent to all diplomatic representatives in Geneva, New York and Addis Ababa, calling for the Rwandan government to ensure humane conditions of detention for those deprived of their freedom and for the international community’s support not only in restoring an effective judicial system in Rwanda and the swift administration of justice, but also in providing practical assistance for the rapid construction of temporary places of detention to reduce the overcrowding in the prisons.

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* OAU: Organization of African Unity
Soon afterwards, in April, an emergency arose when the camps for approximately 200,000 displaced people in the Gikongoro area were emptied by the authorities. Thousands were killed or wounded, notably in Kibeho, and hundreds on the roads required urgent medical care. An ICRC surgical unit was set up and running within 48 hours, with the help of staff from the French and German National Red Cross Societies already in the country, and ICRC relief teams worked around the clock to supply displaced people with emergency food and water along the way. Further, in cooperation with other organizations, a relief plan was quickly drawn up to provide people returning to their home communes with food rations and other necessities such as blankets, jerricans, plastic sheeting and hoes.

From 25 to 28 October the ICRC President was on mission in Rwanda, where he met the Prime Minister and four other Ministers. He reiterated that ICRC was anxious to see the creation of conditions propitious to a return of the refugees still encamped in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi, though the discussions centred on the restoration of a working judicial system and the reduction in overcrowding in the country’s prisons.

As the year progressed the ICRC appealed once again to the international community and the Rwandan government to set up new places of detention. It was only towards the end of the year that detainees were finally transferred in any significant number, but even then, overcrowding remained a very serious problem.

During the year the entire western border was the scene of frequent armed incursions from Zaire, causing regular security problems. One of the most serious incidents occurred in late September, when an ICRC vehicle hit a landmine in the Gikongoro area, seriously injuring one expatriate nurse.

Activities for detainees

At the end of December there were 63,547 people detained by the Rwandan authorities on the accusation of having participated in the 1994 genocide. They were being held in the country’s 14 prisons (45,517) and in over 230 transitional places of detention (18,030). Severe overcrowding, with sometimes up to five people per square metre, gave rise to major health problems (dysentery, oedemas, respiratory problems, etc.), though the outbreak of epidemics was miraculously avoided.

To try and improve conditions of detention in Rwanda, the ICRC launched a large-scale programme for detainees in the country’s prisons, providing them with water, food, sanitary facilities and medical care. Most medical supplies in the prison dispensaries came from the ICRC and, from April on, transitional places of detention also received some medical assistance, wherever there were...
no local health facilities. The ICRC expanded the water storage capacity in the prisons to increase the inmates’ water rations. Rehabilitation of entire water supply systems was also carried out where required. Toilets were built in all the prisons, sewage systems were restored and septic tanks were installed in several places. In some prisons, notably Gitarama and Kibungo, the overcrowding was so severe that only the bare minimum could be done to improve access to sanitary facilities (350 people for every toilet). For most of the year the ICRC met all food needs in the jails, i.e., 80 percent of the total requirements of all places of detention in Rwanda, but by November the authorities had begun to assume their responsibilities, and were providing some of the food and firewood.

The exceptionally inhumane conditions in Rwandan prisons were directly linked to the severe overcrowding. This prompted the ICRC to participate in the construction of seven new temporary detention sites. Starting with a facility at Nsinda with a capacity of 5,000, the ICRC’s involvement was restricted to providing tents and cooking equipment and setting up water supply and sanitary facilities. The ICRC at all times impressed upon the authorities that the purpose of such aid was exclusively to save lives and that ultimately it was their responsibility to guarantee acceptable conditions of detention for the inmates. By the end of the year some 6,000 detainees had been transferred to the temporary detention site at Nsinda and to the extension of Nyanza prison. Second courtyards at Gitarama and Rilima prisons were completed and detainees were also transferred there.

Another six temporary detention sites were under construction at the end of 1995. Nevertheless, there were still more than 45,500 detainees crammed in the 14 prisons (including Nsinda), some 30,000 more than the maximum capacity, and the new facilities would only be able to take in about half of the excess. Furthermore, between 600 and 800 new detainees were still being registered every week.

The ICRC’s programme to protect and assist detainees had had an obvious impact by the end of the year. The mortality rate in the prisons had been brought down to a level comparable to that of the rest of the population, and all detainees in the 14 prisons assisted had regular access to water and food.

Tracing activities

In 1995 the ICRC’s tracing operation in Rwanda and the surrounding area was the institution’s largest after the former Yugoslavia. This operation was quite exceptional, as Rwanda is a nation with a low literacy rate and a culture which relies on oral rather than written communication. The tracing statistics (see box p. 58) are all the more remarkable when one considers the atmosphere
of distrust which pervaded the country and led to recurring disruptions in the Red Cross message service. This service was the only way for people in Rwanda to communicate with their relatives across the borders.

The ICRC also coordinated a major programme to register unaccompanied minors, setting up a computerized database in Nairobi and implementing large-scale tracing programmes, with the ultimate aim of reuniting children with their families. The operation was run in conjunction with UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children-UK and other non-governmental organizations involved in children's centres. By the end of 1995 over 87,000 children had been registered and 2,700 had been reunited with their families by the ICRC. A further 10,000 had rejoined their relatives by their own means or with the help of other organizations.

Assistance for the civilian population

The ICRC's vast relief operation, which had assisted over one million people in 1994 and was still aiding some 560,000 civilians in January 1995, was gradually reduced over the year as those displaced within Rwanda returned to their home areas, whether voluntarily or otherwise, and the nutritional situation in the country improved. In the second half of 1995 some 360,000 people received regular food distributions to counter shortages in the Bugesera, Butare and Gikongoro areas, which saw a large influx of returnees. Distributions in the Bugesera area ended in September, while in the other two they continued until December, in preparation for the harvest in January 1996. Blankets, cooking pots, jerricans, plastic sheeting and soap were provided to around 350,000 people in areas where returnees were arriving in large numbers. As regards agricultural rehabilitation, the ICRC's 1995 objective was surpassed, with seed and tools handed out to 75,000 families in January/February and to 65,000 families in September. Back-up food rations were distributed to all those who received seed, to prevent them from eating the seeds instead of planting them.

At the end of 1995, given the favourable results of an agricultural survey carried out in November, the ICRC was able to terminate its food distributions for displaced civilians and returnees and devote its resources to covering the food needs of detainees. Nevertheless, although over 140 humanitarian organizations were working in Rwanda, the ICRC kept a close watch over the food situation and stood ready to intervene in an emergency.

Medical activities

During the year the ICRC rehabilitated 14 health centres through projects delegated to the French and German Red Cross Societies. Three expatriates from the French Red Cross worked in eight health centres in the Giterama
region, while three German Red Cross expatriates worked in the regions of Kigali (four health centres) and Byumba (two centres). The buildings themselves had to be renovated, medical equipment replaced and local personnel trained. Health activities resumed in the centres, bringing access to medical care to some 450,000 people. The ICRC also participated in a polio vaccination campaign, immunising over 33,000 children, and supported Rwanda's only psychiatric hospital at Ndera, providing food and drugs and paying incentives to the staff.

On 24 April, following the forced evacuation of Kibeho camp, the authorities of Butare University Hospital gave the ICRC permission to open an emergency surgical wing at the hospital there, to treat the wounded arriving from Kibeho. Within 48 hours two ICRC surgical teams were at work. In one month they performed 376 operations on 200 patients. In early June the unit was closed and the equipment stored for future emergency use.

Water and sanitation

Besides improving water distribution and sanitation in the prisons (see above), the ICRC restored the water supply to the country's principal towns. This involved renovating the main water stations, providing over 800 tonnes of chemicals for water treatment, supplying spare parts, generators and fuel, and repairing the electricity lines between Ruhengeri and Gisenyi. While the camps for displaced people near Gikongoro were still occupied, the ICRC covered the water needs there too.

The ICRC also rehabilitated rural water supply systems in the prefectures of Kibuye, Gisenyi and Ruhengeri, benefiting over 360,000 people. Part of the work was done under individual projects delegated to the American, Australian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, respectively.

Dissemination

Courses on the law of war were held for military instructors in Kigali and in other parts of the country. One such session was attended by officers from the former Rwandan army who had been integrated into the new armed forces.

Meetings were held throughout the year with local authorities in the prefectures and communes to explain specific activities of the ICRC, such as visits to detainees, the tracing of unaccompanied minors and the handling of Red Cross messages. These last two activities were still a source of frequent misunderstanding, owing to the lack of trust among Rwandans within and outside the country.

The ICRC also held sessions on humanitarian law for 150 judicial police officers and organized a seminar for 40 prison directors.
ZAIRE
(Delegation also covers the Congo)

The general outlook for the Zairian population remained bleak throughout the year. The democratic elections promised for July 1995 were once again postponed, with the five-year-old transitional government putting off change to 1997. Virtually all commercial activity was at a standstill, barter having become an important form of trade, as the currency underwent constant devaluation. Popular discontent manifested itself at the end of July, when Kinshasa was the scene of violence during a demonstration by the PALU*, in which 10 people reportedly died and 47 were injured. The ICRC and the Red Cross of Zaire evacuated the wounded and registered 25 people arrested for security reasons.

The inadequacy of the country’s infrastructure was highlighted in Kikwit, where an outbreak of Ebola fever required large-scale international intervention. A catastrophe was avoided, partly thanks to the National Society’s volunteers, but the poor state of the nation’s medical services was clearly revealed. Leprosy, cholera, rabies, meningitis and polio afflicted other towns in the country.

By the end of July practically all of the displaced Kasaians in Shaba had returned to the Kasai. The ICRC’s office in Likasi was then closed after two years of relief operations.

Zaire’s internal troubles were exacerbated by the large refugee population in Kivu, which showed little sign of diminishing. Refugees competed with local people on the job market and the protracted existence of the camps had a destructive effect on the environment. The crime rate soared and a feeling of insecurity shrouded the Kivu region, where there was growing fear of renewed military operations along the Rwandan border. A certain degree of security was

* PALU: Unified Lumumbist Party
nevertheless provided by a Zairian contingent financed by UNHCR to patrol the refugee camps. In August the Zairian authorities set the deadline for the repatriation of refugees at 31 December, thus heightening uncertainty in the region.

Activities for the civilian population

The greatest area of instability remained the Kivu region, where the presence of over a million Rwandan and Burundian refugees created problems and was used to fuel political disputes in Kinshasa. Several thousand refugees returned home in January and February, but the tensions inside Rwanda and the control exerted over the refugees by some of their leaders in the camps prevented any voluntary repatriations from taking place from March onwards. Furthermore, massacres in Bujumbura at the end of March and tension in the border province of Cibitoke prompted some 7,000 Burundians and 15,000 Zairians to flee the Burundian capital to the Uvira area.

In August, the forced expulsion of more than 15,000 refugees — mainly women and children, of whom over 13,000 were forcibly repatriated to Rwanda and about 2,000 to Burundi — made the headlines. Tens of thousands of other refugees fled their camps in order to avoid being expelled; many children lost contact with their parents. This surprise operation took place three days after the UN Security Council's decision to lift the arms embargo on Rwanda on 16 August 1995. During this period, the ICRC had access to the camps to monitor the situation and prevent families from being separated. The ICRC appealed to the Zairian civil and military authorities to treat all returning refugees humanely.

After these forced repatriations, UNHCR tried to encourage the refugees' voluntary return, but no significant progress was made. The killing of over 100 people in a village near Gisenyi by Rwandan Patriotic Army soldiers, and the dismissal of four moderate ministers did not help to boost general confidence.

Security deteriorated considerably after these events and six Italians working for a non-governmental organization were assassinated in Rwindi Park in August. Mine explosions along the roads used by humanitarian organizations near the Rwandan and Ugandan borders killed two people in September and seriously injured an American nurse in October. At the end of September, a lorry belonging to the Federation hit a mine near Goma and 23 people were injured. On 6 November the ICRC had to suspend its activities in the Masisi area for several weeks, when a convoy bringing assistance to the displaced was hijacked by a contingent of the Zairian army and forced at gunpoint to transport some of the troops and their wives to Goma. Around the same time
the Zairian authorities closed the borders, enforced a 10-day curfew in Goma and attempted to ensure security for humanitarian organizations by having their passage preceded by troops with demining equipment.

In the Masisi area armed clashes and disturbances continued between the indigenous population and the people of Banyarwanda origin living there. Most of the Banyarwanda of Tutsi origin had returned home, but those of Hutu origin remained. More limited disturbances broke out in the Kalehe/Bunyakiri area of South Kivu and around Rutshuru in North Kivu, as the indigenous population took to arms. The ICRC began an assistance programme in September for some 30,000 families, distributing mainly non-food aid to those displaced by the troubles.

The ethnic conflict in Kivu reached a climax in September with hundreds of killings on both sides, including many civilians. The Zairian military sent to restore order only aggravated the situation. Civilians continued to flee their homes. In September UNHCR repatriated 5,900 refugees from the Masisi area. These were people of mainly Tutsi origin, who had escaped the 1959 massacres in Rwanda and felt threatened by the growing violence in the region.

Following events in the Masisi area, ICRC medical teams evacuated the wounded who were otherwise unable to get to the hospital in Goma for treatment. The ICRC also supported various health centres inundated with casualties by providing them with drugs and other medical supplies.

Activities for detainees

The pilot project initiated in mid-19941 was pursued and extended to cover 21 prisons in six regions of Zaire. Levels of severe malnutrition, which had affected up to 80 percent of the detainee population, plummeted in the prisons assisted by the ICRC, where the institution had stepped beyond its usual activities of registering, holding private interviews with and keeping track of security detainees, by supplying all prisoners with food and water and covering other basic needs, such as sanitation, in conjunction with local religious and non-governmental organizations. The ICRC urged prison authorities to assume greater responsibility for the inmates and facilitated direct contact between potential donors and local non-governmental organizations.

The ICRC investigated substituting food aid with agricultural assistance in prisons where the soil could be cultivated, in order to encourage steps towards self-sufficiency. Efforts were also made to find donors who could work

1 See the ICRC’s 1994 Annual Report, p. 64.
together with the NGOs, thus enabling the ICRC to gradually reduce its involvement in the project.

Other activities for detainees included the registration of Rwandan refugees detained in Kivu, to keep track of them in the event of their forced repatriation to Rwanda.

**Tracing activities**

The ICRC’s tracing work in Kivu increased drastically. Unaccompanied children were registered and the Goma sub-delegation concentrated on reuniting these children with their families inside Rwanda or in refugee camps. Red Cross messages were exchanged between family members split up by the crisis in Rwanda (for global figures see *Rwanda*).

Other tracing work in Zaire concerned Sudanese refugees in Haut-Zaire and Angolan refugees in the south-west.

**Dissemination**

It was essential for the ICRC to continue to spread awareness of its activities and of its impartiality, independence and complete neutrality if its delegates were to have better access to vulnerable civilians in the Kivu region and protect people from renewed violence. The ICRC used a variety of methods to achieve this goal, including plays, enacted by Red Cross volunteers and refugees in 20 camps, which explained the creation and spirit of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Local radio broadcast information on the ICRC’s work, as well as lists of missing people and lists of those for whom Red Cross messages were destined.

The main target groups for dissemination were the armed forces and the police, the purpose being to instil respect for civilians. Ten sessions were conducted in four of the main garrison towns of Shaba for some 490 officers and non-commissioned officers and 120 soldiers. Forty-three dissemination workshops were organized for refugee camp authorities in Kivu. Also in the refugee camps, sessions were held for officers and soldiers of the Zairian contingent responsible for security.

In the Masisi area dissemination programmes were run for fighters of all ethnic backgrounds and 10,000 posters were put up to explain the basic rules of the law of war to the population and to village chiefs in particular. In this way, the ICRC hoped to reach gun-carriers who killed indiscriminately. Young people under twenty, constituting over half the country’s population, were also targeted in educational programmes to teach basic humanitarian principles and the purpose of the Red Cross of Zaire.
Cooperation with the National Societies

The ICRC continued its cooperation programmes with the National Societies of Zaire and the Congo, with particular emphasis on the training of first-aiders. Pilot public health promotion campaigns were tested in Kinshasa and in Brazzaville in a bid to clean up local market places and hospitals.

CONGO

In 1995 the situation in the Congo was generally calm, although there was still some fear of renewed violence and armed militiamen of all parties remained present in the capital.

In this atmosphere of potential tension, it was important to maintain awareness of the role of the ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The task was handled by the Kinshasa delegation’s office in Brazzaville, which organized press conferences for the national and international media. In order to be ready for any new outbreaks of violence, the ICRC continued to train first-aid teams, in cooperation with the Congolese Red Cross.

YAOUNDÉ

Regional delegation
(Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and São Tomé and Príncipe)

In addition to its specific activities in Chad, the regional delegation concentrated on furthering cooperation with the Red Cross Societies of the region and provided expertise and financial assistance to the National Societies of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon for their emergency preparedness, hygiene and sanitation, tracing and dissemination programmes. Tracing activities for Chadian and Sudanese refugees were carried out with the assistance of the National Societies of Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad.

As regards medical activities, the ICRC continued to fit war amputees with artificial limbs, while training programmes to convert to polypropylene technology were successfully completed at the prosthetic/orthotic centres in N’Djamena and Yaoundé.
CHAD

After several decades of armed conflict, Chad's political and economic problems did not improve in 1995. The government attempted to assert its authority by once again rescheduling democratic elections, while militarized political opposition movements consolidated their position. Violent confrontations between the government and the opposition occurred throughout the year, making negotiation impossible. At the same time, large quantities of arms flooding through the country made widespread banditry a serious problem. In view of the prevailing instability, the ICRC maintained its emergency medical stocks in N'Djamena.

Violent clashes regularly broke out between government forces and opposition groups in the Lake Chad area and in the east of the country, though the government remained resolutely silent with regard to the fate of the wounded and those captured, maintaining that no prisoners had been taken.

A series of visits was carried out in 1995 to security detainees around the country. The ICRC provided food and medical assistance to inmates in some problem places of detention, and it pursued its dialogue with the government in order to improve conditions of detention and obtain access to military zones. An agreement was reached and a further series of visits was planned for 1996, including 41 places of detention.

A sanitation programme to improve water supply and hygiene in detention centres was carried out, concentrating particularly on places of detention in N'Djamena.

As the ICRC became more widely accepted by the Chadian authorities it was able to hold sessions on humanitarian law for all military units but the FIR* special forces.

As regards cooperation with the National Society, priority was given to training in emergency preparedness. A number of courses were given jointly by the Red Cross of Chad, the Swiss Red Cross and the ICRC.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

The Equatorial Guinea Red Cross Society, recognized at the end of 1994, demonstrated its enhanced operational capacity by informing the public about basic hygiene and sanitation, assisting returnees from the neighbouring Republic of Gabon and improving its emergency preparedness in anticipation of the election campaign and election day on 25 February.

* FIR: Forces d'intervention rapide
On 12 May the regional delegate met the President of Equatorial Guinea to discuss Red Cross matters and the ICRC’s wish to visit places of detention. This resulted in the government giving the ICRC permission to visit people detained in prisons and police stations, and a programme of visits was proposed to the authorities.

The ICRC pursued its dissemination activities in 1995, by providing further training in the law of war to instructors selected from high-ranking staff officers of the armed forces, security forces and police.

An epidemic of severe diarrhoea swept the country in July in the continental part of Rio Muni and also on the island of Bioko, affecting thousands and killing some 300 people. Local branches of the National Society, aided by the ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross, dealt with the crisis, providing assistance to dispensaries, hospitals, patients and their families. Furthermore, as a preventive measure, local Red Cross branches initiated training programmes in first aid and hygiene for the public to stop further spreading of the disease.

GABON

The situation was relatively calm in Gabon throughout the year, although there was a certain amount of political upheaval. The only significant problem in humanitarian terms was the forced expulsion of illegal immigrants from other African nations, including Equatorial Guinea, at the beginning of the year. The ICRC, together with the National Society of Equatorial Guinea, responded by providing food aid and transport to take returnees back to their home villages.

During the year the ICRC helped set up the “Gabonese Red Cross”. A comprehensive campaign was launched to promote the Red Cross principles throughout Gabon and stimulate the reactivation or creation of local structures. The “Gabonese Red Cross” convened in Libreville in June and approved its new provisional statutes.
The signing on 20 November 1994 of the Lusaka Peace Agreement between the Angolan government and UNITA* paved the way for a slow move towards normality. Active hostilities abated and the parties declared themselves committed to the peace process. This meant that people were again able to move relatively freely around the country and encouraged domestic trade to pick up slowly. Security for humanitarian organizations improved — a crucial development, as in 1994 hazardous conditions had severely hampered the effective distribution of relief and medical assistance. UN staff and other humanitarian agencies that had been forced to evacuate premises were able to return and operate more safely in many areas and to begin the rehabilitation of a country and people ravaged by over 30 years of almost continual warfare.

By the end of the year over 6,000 peacekeeping forces and military observers from UNAVEM III* had been deployed in Angola, as stipulated in the Lusaka Peace Protocol.

In March, in accordance with the Protocol, the government and UNITA forces submitted to the Joint Commission lists of detainees who were ready for release under ICRC supervision. Upon receipt of these lists, the ICRC began the process of prison visits to confirm identities and make logistical arrangements for the detainees’ return home.

The Protocol also stated that all soldiers were to be quartered in barracks, that UNITA combatants and armed civilians were to be demobilized and a new national army formed. Preparations to accommodate demobilized UNITA troops in camps were underway, when in June and July over 160 civilians and
soldiers were reported killed during skirmishes in the diamond-rich province of Lunda Norte, which slowed down the procedure. The process of creating a new national army was temporarily interrupted in October, during meetings in Luanda between the government and UNITA, when an attempt was made on the life of the UNITA Chief of Staff.

On the political front, a positive impetus was given to the peace process in May, when the leaders of the government and UNITA met in Lusaka, and in July, when the Angolan President proposed constitutional amendments providing for two posts of vice-president, one to be filled by the leader of UNITA, and the other by a member of the MPLA*. Peace talks continued in August in a meeting in Gabon between the Angolan President and the UNITA leader and in late September in Brussels, during a round-table conference organized by the UNDP*. Nevertheless, events in the second half of the year and the rise in tension which accompanied them placed the peace process in a sort of stalemate.

Activities for detainees

During the year 331 detainees were released by the government and 20 were released by UNITA under ICRC auspices. The institution arranged for the safe return of those freed to the places they had indicated during private interviews with delegates.

Meanwhile, the ICRC continued to visit detainees held in connection with the conflict who were not on the lists submitted to the Joint Commission by the parties, in order to register them and if possible integrate them into the release procedure.

Tracing activities

Tracing work resumed in early 1995 in the areas controlled by UNITA on the outskirts of Huambo, and Red Cross messages were able to pass between UNITA- and government-controlled zones. The ICRC transported two Portuguese families from Huambo to Luanda so that their embassy could arrange for their repatriation to Portugal, and six other people were taken to the capital to be reunited with their relatives. In order to carry out tracing activities in UNITA-controlled areas in Uige province, an additional tracing office was opened in Negage, and another was set up in Jamba to cover the south-east of the country. Three new sub-offices were opened in Benguela.

* MPLA: Movimento popular de libertação de Angola

* UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

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IN 1995 THE ICRC:
- visited and assisted 620 detainees in 20 places of detention;
- supervised the release of 351 detainees;
- collected 106,600 Red Cross messages and distributed 111,260;
- reunited 60 people with their families;
- switched in mid-year from large-scale food distributions to a major non-food relief programme for 400,000 civilians affected by the conflict;
- distributed seed and tools to 150,000 families for both the Nacas (dry) and the Lavras (rainy) planting seasons;
- supported 25 health posts in government and UNITA zones;
- completely renovated the prosthetic/orthotic centres in Huambo and Kuito and set up a component production unit in Luanda;
- rehabilitated water supply systems in Huambo (city and province).
province, bringing the tracing network in Angola to 28 offices and sub-offices in an effort to cope with the ever-rising number of Red Cross messages. As the year progressed and the nation's road network was slowly opened up to traffic, making communication easier, the number of messages collected and distributed decreased.

In December, after months of endeavour, the ICRC carried out the first family reunification between UNITA- and government-controlled areas.

Assistance for the civilian population

The nutritional situation greatly improved in the first half of the year on the Planalto, thanks to the ICRC's food distributions and agricultural programme conducted in 1994. Delegates nevertheless continued to monitor the situation closely, as an ICRC agronomic study had demonstrated that a new disaster could quickly overwhelm the region. In September the arrival of products such as salt, dried fish and oil from the coast enhanced the nutritional value of food for the population in government territory.

In other areas, such as the villages between Ganda and Huambo, despite the efforts made by the ICRC and various other humanitarian organizations throughout 1994, people remained largely dependent on external food aid for their survival, especially during the first months of 1995. Relief operations proceeded relatively smoothly, with only one two-week standstill for all air-cargo and ground movements in February, as a result of four security incidents targeted at the ICRC.

By April a good harvest largely obviated the need for general food distributions, enabling the ICRC to concentrate on providing other urgently needed assistance, including blankets, clothes and soap. Later in the year 150,000 families on the Planalto received seed, farming tools and a food ration to prevent them from eating the seed instead of planting it. In some areas assistance was supplemented by vegetable oil and salt, where these were not locally available.

Until the end of September the ICRC used mainly air transport for all supplies delivered to the Planalto. As of October, when the northern roads linking the cities of Lobito and Huambo were opened, road convoys were able to resume in this area, though elsewhere ground transport continued to be limited, mainly owing to the widespread presence of landmines and the occurrence of sporadic attacks and banditry.

As people began to return to their places of origin, the ICRC distributed food in some communities receiving large numbers of returnees, for example in Alto Catumbela, Tchindjenje and Ukuma, thus facilitating their reintegration.
In July the ICRC organized a week-long pilot workshop in Huambo, with the participation of international agencies such as the FAO* and the WFP*, and non-governmental organizations, on the preservation of Angola’s phytogenetic resources and traditional crop varieties, which are crucial for long-term food security in rural areas. The project included gathering local seed varieties at markets, in farmers’ fields and in granaries to make an inventory of the country’s phytogenetic resources and set up community seed banks.

Medical activities

The cease-fire enabled the ICRC to visit many health facilities that it had not seen for months or even years and to reactivate outpatient consultations in many health posts and hospitals in Huambo and Benguela provinces. Medical programmes were coordinated with other agencies so that no community was further than 30 km away from a health facility in these provinces.

In the course of the year the ICRC carried out a vaccination campaign, inoculating thousands of children under five against measles, polio, diphtheria, tetanus and tuberculosis, and supported the immunization programmes of other organizations such as UNICEF in the field. Assistance was also given to the Angola Red Cross programme to reactivate blood donations in Benguela, Lobito and Catumbela hospitals. A health post was set up and monitored at Huambo central prison to give detainees access to medical care, and sanitary conditions in the prison were improved.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the ICRC relaunched its programme for the war-disabled in Huambo and Kuito, which had been interrupted in January 1993. The reconstruction of the prosthetic/orthotic centre at Bomba Alta (Huambo) was completed by the end of October. The ICRC, jointly with the Angola Red Cross, drew up lists of amputees requiring artificial limbs in Huambo and Bie provinces and in the Jamba area. Their number was estimated at more than 20,000. The ICRC also installed a component production unit at the Neves Bendinha prosthetic/orthotic centre in Luanda, administered by the Swedish Red Cross. An agreement was signed between the Ministry of Health and the ICRC, stipulating that the same production techniques should be applied nationwide. Thereafter the ICRC also began producing polypropylene components for other organizations working in this specialist field.

In July, an ICRC surgeon surveyed local surgical teams in various hospitals in Andulo, Bailundo, Benguela, Caluquembe and Huambo. Having established

* FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization
* WFP: World Food Programme
that the major problem was not insufficient surgical expertise but a chronic lack of proper surgical instruments, the ICRC supplied the teams with the equipment they needed.

A new community health programme was set up in August to improve the health of the rural population. Local health workers attended workshops on first aid and primary health care.

Water and sanitation

Over the year the ICRC carried out a number of water and sanitation projects: Huambo’s main water pumping station was restored to proper working order and maintenance teams were trained; a well rehabilitation programme in the city’s health posts and in the Bailundo area was completed; two boreholes supplying Huambo central hospital’s main building and surgical wards were reactivated; and 18 traditional water sources in Huambo were restored near ICRC health centres or in parts of the town that were in most urgent need of water. In Huambo province 10 wells were dug and equipped with hand-pumps.

Cooperation with OXFAM continued throughout 1995, with the ICRC providing logistical support for their water and sanitation programme on the outskirts of Ganda.

Dissemination

A project aimed at introducing a permanent programme to raise awareness of international humanitarian law in the training academies of the Angolan armed forces started with 11 seminars on the law of war for government army officers.

The ICRC also gave briefings to arriving UNAVEM III military and police observers and held dissemination sessions for each of the six UN peacekeeping battalions.

Press trips were organized for Angolan and foreign journalists and TV crews to cover ICRC and Angola Red Cross/Federation activities. Special programmes were broadcast all year round on national radio and television and on commercial radio stations, and numerous articles appeared in the press. A special effort was made to publicize the anti-personnel mines issue and the ICRC’s efforts to have them banned.

Various types of dissemination activity were organized for the general population. Four cultural groups in Huambo province, consisting of up to 25 traditional dancers and singers, performed in both Portuguese and the local Umbundu language. They were present during relief distributions to help explain the role of the ICRC and the importance of solidarity and self-sufficiency in agriculture.
HARARE
Regional delegation
(Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe)

Peace prevailed in 1995 in the countries covered by the regional delegation in Harare. Relative stability in South Africa had a positive influence on the social and political climate in neighbouring countries. By the end of the year all six States had become party to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. The regional delegation concentrated its efforts on dissemination activities and on strengthening emergency preparedness and response programmes with the National Societies. It completed its detention-related activities in Malawi.

From 23 to 27 January, the ICRC was invited to participate in a workshop in Harare on the subject of peace-keeping, organized by Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom and sponsored by the UN and the OAU. The workshop was attended by representatives from 17 African countries and gave the ICRC the opportunity to underline its role as a neutral and impartial humanitarian institution.

In cooperation with the OAU, on 2 and 3 March the ICRC held a two-day international seminar on anti-personnel landmines and the 1980 UN Weapons Convention in Harare, which was attended by over 60 people, including government representatives from 13 southern African and Portuguese-speaking West African countries, national and international NGOs and representatives from National Red Cross Societies. It was one of three regional seminars organized by the ICRC to foster awareness in Africa of the problem of landmines and their devastating effects. The seminar also dealt with the problem of blinding laser weapons.

The ICRC’s Harare office served as a logistics centre for the region, forwarding relief stocks for operations in Angola and Zaire.

BOTSWANA

To encourage the Botswana Red Cross to take advantage of sponsorship offered by the ICRC, a five-day workshop on emergency preparedness and response was organized for staff members in late September. Representatives of WHO*, UNDP, UNHCR, the Council for Refugees and the National

* WHO: World Health Organization
Disaster Committee participated in the workshop, giving the Society information on the resources proposed by the various institutions for improving disaster preparedness and response to emergencies.

MALAWI

The ICRC completed its programme of visits to Malawi's prisons, the purpose of which was to examine the inmates' material and psychological conditions of detention and to establish whether the improvements it had made to water and sanitation facilities from 1992 to 1994 had been properly maintained. The ICRC reported its findings to the highest authorities and also provided blankets, soap and other hygiene articles to 25 prisons throughout the country. Construction work began on the hospital ward at Zomba prison to enable detainees to receive the medical treatment they needed.

MOZAMBIQUE

The peace process remained on course in Mozambique in 1995.

Under a cooperation agreement between the ICRC and the Mozambique Red Cross Society, a national seminar was held from 5 to 12 March for all dissemination officers, including participants from all provinces.

The ICRC's programme for the war-disabled in Mozambique was handed over in October to the Ministry of Health and a British NGO called “Power”. Since it started its programme in 1981 the ICRC registered 5,324 amputees, and produced around 8,190 prostheses, 350 orthoses and 26,000 pairs of crutches. The total number of amputees in Mozambique is estimated to be around 7,000.

During the year further efforts were made to trace the families of unaccompanied children registered by the ICRC in 1994. Thirteen children, out of a total of 138 still unresolved cases, were reunited with their relatives in 1995.

NAMIBIA

In August, the regional delegate went to Namibia to meet the authorities and the National Society's leadership in order to discuss the landmines issue, with regard to the revision of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention. The authorities intimated that Namibia was considering adhering to the Convention. They announced that an interministerial committee on human and humanitarian rights had been set up, and the regional delegate agreed to organize a workshop for the committee members to inform them of the specific measures to be applied.
ZAMBIA

In 1995 Zambia underwent an economic crisis which threatened the country’s political and social stability. Inflation stood at 60 percent, individual spending power was greatly diminished and sharp cuts in civil service posts dramatically increased unemployment, placing a large part of the population below the poverty line. This prompted the Zambia Red Cross Society to step up its emergency preparedness and response programme under the guidance of the ICRC.

The regional delegate was in Zambia at the end of July, when he congratulated the authorities on the country’s accession to the 1977 Additional Protocols. It was agreed that the newly created interministerial committee on human rights would be extended to include international humanitarian law.

ZIMBABWE

In preparation for the April parliamentary elections, the National Society organized three one-day workshops on emergency preparedness in the three provincial headquarters, to discuss the setting-up and management of first-aid posts and action teams. Many first-aid posts were installed and around 4,900 people were given first aid by voluntary teams in the areas surrounding the polling stations. The general elections confirmed overwhelming support for the ZANU-PF* party in power since independence.

PRETORIA

Regional delegation
(Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa and Swaziland)

The transfer of regional responsibilities to the Pretoria-based ICRC delegation on 1 January 1995 reflected the new-found political stability in southern Africa. In February the South African government and the ICRC signed a new Status Agreement, defining the ICRC’s position as a regional delegation for southern Africa and the Indian Ocean. Despite the generally peaceful climate, however, insecurity still reigned in some areas.

The South African province of KwaZulu/Natal and certain townships of Gauteng province were still plagued by politicized violence. Political unrest in

* ZANU-PF: Zimbabwe African National Union — Patriotic Front
Lesotho and Swaziland demonstrated that there too stability was not to be taken for granted. In the strife-ridden areas of South Africa the ICRC ran relief operations in conjunction with the National Society, distributing food parcels, kitchen sets, jerricans, plastic sheeting and blankets to thousands of victims.

Beyond this, the main activities developed by the ICRC in the region involved promoting the role of the Red Cross, teaching international humanitarian law to defence forces and providing protection for detainees. Delegates made unannounced visits to police stations in KwaZulu/Natal to check the conditions of detention of people arrested in connection with political violence.

The regional delegation meanwhile stepped up its efforts to raise both government and public awareness of the need to adhere to and review the 1980 UN Weapons Convention. The ICRC also pursued its dialogue with the governments of South Africa and Swaziland to convince them to adhere to the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. In the course of the year these two countries deposited their instruments of accession to the two Protocols with the Swiss government.

COMOROS

In late September 1995, all detainees in the capital were released during a coup attempt mounted by a French mercenary. The leaders of the coup announced the establishment of a transitional military committee, while the deposed government took refuge in the French embassy. On 3 October the military committee surrendered power to two civilian leaders of the opposition parties. Some people having been arrested during the coup, the regional delegate visited the Comoros on 11 October to ascertain whether they had all been released. The former President having fled to the island of Réunion, the Prime Minister subsequently became interim President of a government of national unity, in which all parties were represented.

LESOTHO

The turbulence that had beset Lesotho in 1994 only partially abated in 1995, as political instability continued to affect the country. A number of people were arrested in May on suspicion of laying up arms caches in preparation for a campaign to destabilize the government, but they were later released.

MADAGASCAR

Following an overall survey conducted by ICRC delegates in Malagasy prisons at the end of 1994 to assess the detention conditions of all categories
of inmates, in 1995 the ICRC started a prison assistance programme covering major prisons around the country, including limited material assistance from the ICRC and the provision of food through local non-governmental organizations.

The ICRC presented its findings in the prisons to the Malagasy authorities and met them to discuss ways of improving material conditions and treatment.

In the course of the year the ICRC also made its annual visit to 32 people detained for security reasons.

MAURITIUS

Peace prevailed on the island in 1995, and in December the political opposition was democratically elected to office. The ICRC's activities revolved around reinforcing the general operational capacity of the National Society.

SOUTH AFRICA

Although 1994 had seen the dismantling of apartheid and the successful installation of a democratically elected government, many challenges and a certain measure of instability remained. In 1995 tension among parts of the black community continued to rise, claiming many lives especially in KwaZulu/Natal and on the East Rand, while crime still plagued the whole of South Africa, causing insecurity for most of the population.

While the new Government of National Unity had released many detainees in 1994, a large number still remained incarcerated and the old system was especially slow to change among prison and police authorities. In this context, it proved essential to maintain the presence of a neutral and independent organization such as the ICRC, as the country underwent further change from a system of oppression to one that conferred the right to human dignity on all citizens. A particularly noteworthy development was the unanimous abolition of the death penalty by the South African Parliament on 6 June.

During the year the Pretoria regional delegation visited detainees in eight South African provinces (Eastern Transvaal, Western Cape, Northern and Eastern Cape, Orange Free State, Gauteng, North-West and KwaZulu/Natal) and focused on places of detention in KwaZulu/Natal and in the former homelands, where violence persisted. Reports detailing delegates' findings were submitted to the highest authorities, and the ICRC met the Minister and Commissioner of Correctional Services to discuss recommendations. Visits were made to police stations on the basis of a new agreement signed by the Minister for Safety and Security and the ICRC on 27 February, confirming the ICRC's access to all categories of detainees held by the South African Police, including those arrested in the context of a state of emergency.
The ICRC’s detention work in South Africa, spanning more than 30 years, was publicly acknowledged during a commemorative reunion on Robben Island of former political prisoners on 11 and 12 February. Under the auspices of a recently created South African organization called “Peace Visions”, some 1,200 ex-prisoners gathered in Cape Town for a visit to Robben Island, where many had been detained. There they were addressed by President Nelson Mandela and other leaders of the anti-apartheid struggle. Furthermore, in the President’s autobiography “Long walk to freedom”, published in early 1995, the ICRC’s detention work was acclaimed as follows: “In those early years, the International Red Cross was the only organization that both listened to our complaints and responded to them. This was vital, because the authorities ignored us.”

Throughout the year, the ICRC/South African Red Cross Society joint relief operation for victims of political violence provided material assistance for thousands of people mainly in KwaZulu/Natal province.

A formal instruction programme on international humanitarian law was initiated for the South African National Defence Force, and a ten-week training programme run by an expert from the ICRC was held in August for senior officers and non-commissioned officers.

In February, the new regional “Bulletin” covering the ICRC’s own activities and its cooperation programmes with the National Societies of southern Africa was launched and distributed through the regional delegations in Pretoria and Harare to 13 southern African countries. During the year, dissemination sessions for the public, the police and Red Cross personnel in KwaZulu/Natal province concentrated on raising the profile and improving the acceptability of the Red Cross, so that Red Cross volunteers would gain easier access to victims of politically motivated violence in places where insecurity was rife.

Other highlights of the ICRC’s dissemination work included a two-day workshop held jointly with the Human Rights Institute of South Africa in May and a week-long National Society information officers workshop in June, including participants from a number of countries covered by the Pretoria and Harare regional delegations.

SWAZILAND

The ICRC and the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society organized a one-day seminar in March for the national media on the role and activities of the Red Cross.
East Africa

ERITREA

Eritrea celebrated its second anniversary of independence in circumstances marked by a slow pace of economic development, despite a very good harvest in 1994/95.

Eritrea broke off diplomatic links with the Sudan in December 1994 and from then on relations between the two States steadily worsened. The rift deepened still further after a meeting in Asmara in June which brought together all the Sudanese opposition movements. In addition, clashes were reported to have broken out along the Sudanese border between the Eritrean army and fighters allegedly infiltrating from the Sudan.

During the year the ICRC kept up its attempts to encourage the Eritrean government to accede to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. By year’s end, it had still not agreed to do so, meaning that Eritrea was not represented at the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva in December.

In December an international armed conflict broke out between Eritrea and Yemen over the Hanish Islands, during which Yemeni soldiers and civilians were taken prisoner by Eritrean forces. The ICRC expressed its readiness to carry out its humanitarian mandate and reminded the parties that the rules of the Geneva Conventions and those related to the conduct of hostilities enshrined in Additional Protocol I belonged to customary law and therefore had to be respected, even if Eritrea was not a party thereto. It was subsequently asked to act as neutral intermediary between the two sides and on 30 December repatriated 196 Yemeni servicemen and 17 Yemeni civilians from Asmara to Sana’a, on a chartered plane bearing the red cross emblem. On 28 and 29 December delegates had visited and interviewed each of the civilians and prisoners of war in private; throughout the operation they enjoyed the full cooperation of the Eritrean and Yemeni governments.1

1 See also Yemen pp. 249-251.
In the second half of the year the ICRC reached an agreement with the emerging "Red Cross Society of Eritrea" to set up a project similar to Circus Ethiopia in order to raise awareness of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the ICRC's activities.

During the first six months of 1995 the ICRC continued to support the prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Asmara. From then on the workshop was able to function without ICRC assistance.

**ETHIOPIA**

In 1995, as the period of transition came to an end and general elections, though boycotted by many opposition parties, were held nationwide for the regional and federal parliaments, the new structure of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia took shape. Nevertheless, the new regional set-up within the country was not to the liking of several of the ethnic groups that make up Ethiopian society: dissatisfaction was shown by opposition parties representing different ethnic groups in the regions, in particular the OLF*, the IFLO* and the ONLF*, and a number of armed clashes between opposition fighters and government forces occurred during the year.

Ethiopia's main problems in 1995 were threefold. First of all, the threat to internal stability, as mentioned above. Secondly, an insufficient level of food production, making substantial imports necessary. The third problem concerned stability in the whole region, which appeared to be at risk as relations between Eritrea and the Sudan reached rock bottom and relations between Ethiopia and the Sudan deteriorated seriously.

**Activities for detainees**

Some 1,900 detainees held in connection with the change of regime in 1991, and registered by the ICRC, remained behind bars at the end of 1995. The trials of some of them, though started at the end of 1994, progressed but very slowly. By virtue of its status of special observer, the ICRC sent a representative to follow the court sessions of the trials, in order to ensure that the fundamental judicial guarantees provided for by international humanitarian law were respected. Some of the defendants were charged with grave violations of humanitarian law.

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* OLF: Oromo Liberation Front
* IFLO: Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia
* ONLF: Ogaden National Liberation Front
In 1995 delegates visited all detainees held in connection with the change of regime or for State security reasons in 119 places of detention throughout the country, including military camps, police stations, and government prisons.

During and after visits the ICRC endeavoured to obtain commitments from the authorities concerned to improve conditions of detention, in particular to assume greater responsibility for the health of detainees (see below), and where necessary to ensure that they were afforded correct treatment.

Tracing activities

Tracing activities continued as in previous years for detainees and for refugees. During 1995 there was a considerable rise in the number of refugees in Ethiopia, mainly due to the fighting in Somaliland and in southern Sudan. There was a slight increase in the number of Red Cross messages handled.

Health activities

As part of its programme of detention visits the ICRC monitored health conditions in places of detention, providing medical supplies and advising prison, police or military authorities on health needs. Having met with some success in Jimma, Addis Ababa and Harar, the ICRC encouraged local health authorities to completely overhaul medical services in prisons elsewhere.

Water and sanitation requirements were assessed and improved in 11 detention centres to help bolster a tuberculosis control programme run in conjunction with the prison services, the main causes of ill health being inadequate access to clean water, and underdeveloped or nonexistent sewage systems. During the year prison laboratory technicians were given theoretical and practical training on TB screening by the ICRC, using the Pasteur Institute’s facilities in Addis Ababa.

The ICRC maintained its support for prosthetic/orthotic workshops in Addis Ababa, Debre Zeit and Harar. ICRC technicians based at the Prosthetic-Orthotic Centre in Addis Ababa also assisted in the training of 29 prosthetic/orthotic technicians from Angola, Cambodia, Cameroon, Eritrea, Ghana, India, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in the use of polypropylene techniques for the production of orthopaedic appliances.

Activities for civilians

Besides its protection, medical and tracing activities for detainees, the ICRC continued to follow developments in problem regions and, when necessary, gave emergency assistance to civilians who had been affected by violence related to armed confrontation between the army and opposition movements.
In these regions the ICRC provided its assistance in conjunction with local branches of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

Cooperation with the National Society

On the basis of new letters of understanding signed with the Ethiopian Red Cross, the ICRC continued to cooperate with the National Society in the domains of branch development, tracing, first aid and dissemination. Small-scale income generation projects were started in several of the branches.

Dissemination

Highlights of the ICRC's dissemination work in Ethiopia in 1995 included a regional seminar organized jointly with the OAU in Addis Ababa in February, bringing together representatives of 13 English-speaking African countries to discuss landmines and the 1980 UN Weapons Convention; a symposium entitled “Dignity for All”, from 9 to 10 June, which was attended by representatives of government ministries as well as most of the NGOs in Addis Ababa; and a dissemination course held in Addis Ababa in June for future instructors of the Ethiopian Armed Forces. Later in the year the ICRC obtained permission to disseminate the basic rules of international humanitarian law among soldiers stationed in the newly named “Somali National Regional State”, formerly Ogaden. Delegates were able to give lectures in all brigades in the region and approximately 2,000 military, more than 20 percent of government troops based in Ogaden, attended the different three-hour sessions.

A letter of understanding was signed with the “Circus of Ethiopia”, a local non-governmental organization composed of street children, which advocates the prevention of child beating and whose performances inform the public about a number of topics, including health issues such as AIDS and personal hygiene. From February on, the circus began spreading the message that the red cross emblem should be protected and telling people what the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement does to benefit the population. In addition to travelling around the country, the show was recorded and broadcast on television. New sketches on landmines and TB awareness were prepared for the 1996 show.

A series of 28 ICRC dissemination spots was broadcast during the year on national radio, via the Educational Mass Media Agency.
SOMALIA

At the start of 1995, there was widespread anticipation of another apocalyptic situation in Somalia, with fears of renewed conflict and very little confidence that stability would be maintained in the country after the UNOSOM II* withdrawal in March. However, once it became clear that the UN troops’ withdrawal had not, as expected, led to chaos, hopes of reaching a broad-based political settlement ran high.

Unfortunately these hopes were short-lived, because in April already the Hawadle recaptured Belet Huen, taken by General Aidid’s SNA* movement in July 1994. In May, the animosity between Aidid and his former financier Osman Atto came to a head when Atto was elected chairman of the USC*/SNA, and the split between the two main players in the SNA became decisive. This prompted Aidid to declare himself President of Somalia and to set up a self-styled national government. The threat of renewed fighting became a reality in September, when General Aidid’s army seized Baidoa, the capital of the nation’s most productive agricultural region, thus altering the balance of power between the factions. There was little bloodshed, as local clans were not united, but resistance soon built up and new clashes were reported up to the end of the year.

After the capture of Baidoa it was thought that Aidid would try to gain control of other areas of the rich central/western part of Somalia, while rival clans would form alliances to hinder such developments. Indeed, the forever-shifting alliances that characterize Somalia continued to be key in determining the country’s future. Meanwhile, the ongoing feud between Aidid in South Mogadishu and Ali Mahdi in the North gave rise to frequent armed clashes. In October fighting intensified between the two rivals, and the port in South Mogadishu was closed. Fighting also flared up in the Galgudud region between the Murusade and Abgal sub-clans, displacing an estimated 8,000 people.

* UNOSOM II: United Nations Operations in Somalia
* SNA: Somali National Alliance
* USC: United Somali Congress
In 1995 Sharia law was increasingly viewed as a viable option in different parts of the country. In North Mogadishu, for example, Ali Mahdi no longer talked of democracy, but of setting up a system of fundamentalist governors. Fundamentalism rose in popularity in 1995 as its radical punishments had proved to be at least partially effective in reducing armed banditry. Fundamentalist groups also gained support on account of their useful relief work. A major attraction of Sharia law was that it cut across clan loyalties.

Somaliland

Heavy fighting had erupted in Somaliland at the end of 1994, mainly between the Habr Gerhaji and the government. The conflict had initially broken out over control of Hargeisa airport, but soon degenerated into a major clan dispute over the question of federalism versus independence for north-western Somalia. More than 150,000 people were displaced by the fighting in late 1994 and in January 1995 around Hargeisa, and a further 150,000 were displaced in late March in the Burao area. The ICRC quickly moved in to assist these people with medical and other relief. Delegates also visited people detained by both parties in connection with the conflict.

The ICRC closely monitored developments in the north-west of the country up to the end of the year, as weapons had still not been laid down. It provided medical supplies and other assistance to hospitals in Beer and Odweyne, and to health posts in locations affected by the conflict.

Activities for the civilian population

Although the conflict in Somalia was extremely localized in 1995 and reached nowhere near the levels seen in 1991/92, mainly because the vast arsenals of heavy weapons left over from the Siyad Barre government had been more or less depleted, it had serious consequences for the civilian population. The fighting was geographically restricted, but since it had a direct and immediate effect on trade (for example, cutting off access to ports) it affected a much wider area. This signalled a need for immediate action, properly targeted and as far as possible preventive, to avoid widespread disaster and the inevitable return to large-scale assistance programmes.

Prospects for Somali agriculture had looked quite favourable following a bumper harvest in 1994 in the Juba Valley and the Bay and Shebelle regions, which are the traditional breadbasket of the country. Unfortunately, the fighting and low rainfall in certain areas were such that the 1995 harvest was not even half that of 1994. Surveys carried out by the ICRC in May in the Juba
Valley revealed a disastrous nutritional situation. Lack of food, unsafe drinking water and the long-term effects of monotonous diets were the major causes, and the ICRC had to carry out food distributions in Lower Juba. Furthermore, Somali refugees returning from Kenya and arriving in this area also needed assistance, since they had used up their departure rations from UNHCR.

Further ICRC surveys in October showed a very high incidence of severe malnutrition, painting a more alarming picture than surveys carried out by other humanitarian organizations. The ICRC accordingly decided to step up its food aid programme in Lower Juba for both returnees and the resident population. By the end of the year some 55,000 people in Lower Juba had received food or other assistance. Two major food distributions were also carried out in the Kismayo area.

The ICRC’s newly expanded relief programme was directed at specific groups affected by the conflict in Somalia, particularly displaced people and returnees. It was designed not just to supply limited emergency food rations to vulnerable groups, but also to provide assistance in rehabilitating agriculture, livestock rearing and fishing, so as to enable these groups to regain self-sufficiency and forestall the need for more substantial and long-term food distributions in the future.

The ICRC also started closely monitoring the precarious food situation in certain areas, in order to anticipate needs, and it undertook to share its findings with other humanitarian organizations.

Agricultural assistance

Every year the food situation in Somalia is highly unstable. Even in times of peace a successful harvest is never guaranteed, and the population frequently has to rely on food stocks from previous harvests. For the increasing numbers of people who returned to their home regions in 1995 and obviously did not have such stocks to fall back on, the first harvest was crucial. Unfortunately this harvest was dismal in many areas. As livestock numbers had also been depleted, because of the needs engendered by an increased population in certain areas, the ICRC saw that assistance was vital in this sphere as well. It therefore began preparations to facilitate transportation of veterinary drugs to isolated areas inland.

Health activities

Throughout the year the ICRC continued its medical programme aimed at restoring and maintaining health care for communities affected by the conflict. Existing hospitals and health posts received basic drugs and other medical supplies, and expertise was passed on to local doctors and nurses. Substantial
support was given to the Somali Red Crescent hospital at Key Saney in North Mogadishu and to Benadir and Digfer hospitals in South Mogadishu, which regularly admitted people wounded in the fighting and lacked basic supplies.

Water supply and sanitation projects were carried out around the country, including the rehabilitation and equipping of existing boreholes and hand-dug wells, particularly in Mogadishu, the Juba Valley and Somaliland, and in hospitals in Dusa Mareb and Galcaio.

**Protection activities for civilians and detainees**

The ICRC continued to play its role of neutral intermediary between the various parties. It appealed to them to respect international humanitarian law and spare the lives of civilians during clashes. Working in accordance with standard ICRC procedures, delegates visited detainees held by the warring parties in Somalia and particularly in Somaliland (over 400). Repeat visits were carried out at regular intervals to monitor the detainees' treatment and nutritional and medical condition. Basic medicines and personal hygiene items were provided by the ICRC where needed.

**Tracing activities**

Yet again the ICRC's Red Cross message service continued to be Somalia's only regular and reliable means of communication, both within the country and abroad. The volume of messages collected and distributed remained high, though lower than in 1994, as many refugees returned home.

**Dissemination and information**

Throughout the year the delegation endeavoured to spread awareness of the ICRC's neutrality and specific mandate and of the basic rules of international humanitarian law, by conducting a widespread and multi-faceted dissemination programme specially tailored for Somali culture and targeted primarily at opinion-makers, militias and young people. This included a project whereby four Somali historians began researching traditional Somali values in warfare which might correspond to those of humanitarian law. Special efforts were made to reinforce the dissemination programmes run by the Somali Red Crescent Society. Local drama productions to promote its activities and those of the ICRC were launched in all local Red Crescent branches.

At the same time the delegation kept the media, donors and other humanitarian organizations abreast of ICRC activities in Somalia both through direct contact and by regularly releasing updated written information.
AFRICA

SUDAN

The armed conflict in the Sudan grew even more complex in 1995. In addition to the ongoing conflict between the government in Khartoum and the opposition in the south, a second type of armed confrontation gained in intensity and complexity in the form of inter-opposition fighting between the many splintered factions in the south, where alliances shifted and dissolved almost from one day to the next, and individual units often appeared to act in a completely independent way. This battle for power between ever-dividing and merging factions inevitably inflicted additional suffering on the civilians of southern Sudan and had a serious impact on their livelihood. The picture was further clouded by cross-border incursions, especially on either side of the Ugandan border.

A major offensive was launched by the SPLA* on 23 October, affecting a vast region situated between the Ugandan border and Juba. At the end of the month the airport in Juba was closed to all civilian traffic, including humanitarian flights. From 23 November all humanitarian aircraft were prohibited from flying to destinations in southern Sudan. At this point the ICRC evacuated its field staff from all the places they were working in except Juba.

On 30 November the head of delegation was received by the head of State security in Khartoum. The ICRC’s flight plan for December was accepted and medical evacuations by air, which had been forbidden up until then, were also authorized. Other humanitarian organizations were able to recommence flights in southern Sudan, with the exception of a “no-fly zone”, also applicable to the ICRC, encompassing areas where fighting was still going on. Despite this favourable development, on 5 December, when the ICRC received written

* SPLA: Sudanese People’s Liberation Army
In 1995 the ICRC:

- collected 61,000 Red Cross messages and distributed 60,000;
- provided a total of 150,000 people with 84,000 farming tools, 400 tonnes of seed, 79,000 spools of twine and 322,000 metres of mosquito netting;
- distributed medical supplies to 70 health-care facilities in the south;
- admitted 1,958 patients and performed 5,259 surgical operations at Lokichokio hospital;
- performed around 2,000 surgical operations at the Juba Teaching Hospital;
- fitted 710 war amputees with artificial limbs and manufactured 1,263 prostheses at the prosthetic/orthotic workshops at Lokichokio and in Khartoum.

Activities for the civilian population

Civilians once again bore the brunt of the conflict in 1995. Many saw their villages razed to the ground, their children taken away, their relatives killed, their crops burned and their cattle stolen. Many more were (often repeatedly) forced to flee to places where they had no means of subsistence, and frequently had to rely on relief organizations to survive.

The ICRC continued to assist Sudanese civilians affected by the conflict. It gave them material aid, including seed, tools and fishing tackle, to help them...
regain a degree of self-sufficiency, thereby improving their chances of survival and preventing them from becoming dependent on external aid. Blankets, soap, cooking equipment and other relief items were handed out to newly displaced civilians who had lost everything and to victims of looting and destruction.

In addition to providing material aid, delegates pursued their efforts to persuade the authorities and rebel movements to respect civilians and the basic rules and principles of international humanitarian law. As in previous years, the ICRC nonetheless had considerable difficulty obtaining access to all areas affected by the conflict. While authorization to fly to some of the localities on the ICRC’s monthly flight plans was systematically refused by the Sudanese government, the institution was denied access to other locations by the armed opposition groups. This had an immediate effect on the living conditions of civilians in those areas. Existing assistance programmes were sometimes jeopardized because delegates were unable to return to the area to follow up the work they had begun. Requests to evacuate the wounded by air were often denied. Such disregard for the plight of conflict victims being in direct violation of international humanitarian law, this issue was one of the items at the top of the ICRC’s agenda for talks with the relevant authorities in Khartoum and in the field. Repeated representations were made throughout the year to obtain permission to reach all victims of the conflict.

Health activities

The ICRC surgical hospital at Lokichokio, in north-western Kenya, and the one run by the Sudanese Ministry of Health in Juba, where an ICRC surgical team was posted and which the ICRC provided with medicines and other medical supplies, remained the two main referral hospitals for people wounded in the fighting in southern Sudan, and for serious cases which could not be treated in local health posts. The Lokichokio facility was expanded considerably in 1995, so that it would be able to handle a large-scale emergency. Inpatient capacity was brought up to 540.

The ICRC’s prosthetic/orthotic workshop at Lokichokio was likewise expanded during the year to cope with demand and continued to fit amputees with artificial limbs and other orthopaedic appliances. Technical advice was also given to the prosthetic/orthotic centre in Khartoum.

Building up the capacity of health posts in isolated areas to provide primary health care and preventive services was an important part of the ICRC’s medical programme in 1995. The ICRC provided the expertise and material assistance required for such activities and also improved the local water supply.
and sanitation systems through the construction of wells, rehabilitation of boreholes and installation of hand-pumps.

In Omdurman the ICRC supplied safe drinking water to displaced people living in camps.

Activities for detainees

The Sudanese government continued to deny the ICRC access to people detained in connection with the conflict, and all the institution's efforts remained in vain. In May the government revoked its approval, given in August 1994, for ICRC visits to people held in connection with the conflict. During a meeting at ICRC headquarters in Geneva between the ICRC President and the Sudanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs on 15 May, the President reiterated the pressing need to carry out such visits. A new memorandum was submitted to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs on 17 June, requesting immediate access to people detained in connection with the conflict and reiterating the ICRC's offer of services for visits to those incarcerated for reasons linked to State security, whatever their status. By year's end the ICRC had still not received the necessary authorization.

Delegates were unable to repeat visits, suspended since August 1994, to detainees held by the SPLA, as the authorities in question would not allow them to interview detainees in private. Nevertheless, towards the end of the year dialogue on these matters resumed with the SPLA.

Tracing activities

The ICRC continued to operate its network of tracing offices throughout the Sudan. A large number of messages was sent between people living in Kakuma refugee camp in northern Kenya and their families in villages in southern Sudan, and between displaced people in camps near Khartoum and their families in the south. Messages were also exchanged between Sudanese refugees in the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zaire and their families back home. The National Societies of all these countries were actively involved in this effort.

Dissemination

Dissemination work focused on programmes directed at the civil and military authorities in Khartoum, and joint programmes were carried out with branches of the Sudanese Red Crescent in the south.
NAIROBI
Regional Delegation
(Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda)

The work of the ICRC’s regional delegation in Nairobi continued to expand in 1995, not only in connection with growing activities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, but also because of the regional delegation’s role as a coordinating centre for specialist and support services for other ICRC operations in the region, particularly those in Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, the Sudan and Zaire. Providing services for these operations accounted for over 80 percent of the regional delegation’s activity in 1995; it included agricultural and veterinary expertise, water/sanitation work, tracing, logistics/air operations, procurement and management of emergency stocks, the running of a regional technical workshop, transport services, administrative and staff support, and liaison with the media. All of these services proved, as in previous years, to be much more effective and economical when carried out in Nairobi rather than in Geneva, and in the event of an emergency the ICRC’s response could be much quicker. Furthermore, some of the services assumed varying degrees of coordination responsibility for certain operational delegations; for example, the tracing staff in Nairobi were in charge of centralizing data on unaccompanied children in the Great Lakes region.

DJIBOUTI

A peace agreement signed between the government and the FRUD* opposition on 26 December 1994 had put an end to three years of internal armed conflict. Although not completely calm, the situation was relatively stable in 1995.

In June the ICRC visited four security detainees, including two who were seen for the first time, at the central prison.

During the year the ICRC’s office in Djibouti served as a logistics base for the operation in Somaliland.

KENYA

A polarization of political opinion emerged in Kenya in 1995 and opposition to the government became more outspoken than ever before. The February Eighteenth Movement made it known that its aim was to oust the President from office. As a result, Kenya’s relations with Uganda became strained, as Nairobi accused Kampala of harbouring the Movement’s leader.

* FRUD: Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy
Interethnic violence and clashes over land appeared to have abated by year's end, although 100,000 people were still displaced in the Rift Valley. These disturbances were connected with the central issues of land allocation and voting rights, which were put on ice by the authorities, leaving the door open to greater tension.

During the year the ICRC's main activities in Kenya included the distribution of assistance through the Kenya Red Cross Society to displaced families in parts of the Rift Valley affected by political violence; hydrogeological studies, carried out at Lokichokio and in the Moi N'Dabi settlement to investigate underground possibilities for water supply for the rising numbers of displaced people; first-aid and disaster preparedness training for local Red Cross volunteers; a campaign to enhance respect for the red cross emblem, conducted with the invaluable support of the National Society; and further tracing work for Somali refugees.

TANZANIA

The most important concern of the ICRC in Tanzania in 1995 was the fate of some 750,000 Rwandan and Burundian refugees along the western border who were restricted to refugee camps under the guard of Tanzanian soldiers, and denied the possibility to work. The uncertainty facing these people grew in September when the Tanzanian government informed UNHCR that it expected a near-complete repatriation by mid-1996.

The ICRC's main activity in the Ngara region of Tanzania was tracing, though no cross-border operations could be carried out to reunite families as the border remained closed. Nonetheless, in June the ICRC arranged for eight children in refugee camps in Zaire to be flown to Tanzania to rejoin their families, and a similar operation was carried out in the opposite direction. Over the year the volume of Red Cross messages collected and distributed in the Ngara area increased considerably (for tracing statistics, see Rwanda).

Also in Ngara the ICRC, together with the Tanzania Red Cross National Society and the Federation, began work on a joint “Red Cross Programme” for a local radio station aimed at refugees and the resident population. A series of dissemination workshops was also organized for some 500 Tanzanian Red Cross volunteers working in the refugee camps.

UGANDA

On the economic front Uganda fared better than most African nations, but at the same time suffered a resurgence of armed opposition to the government, in the insidious form so common in Uganda in the 1980s with the abduction of children, the terrorizing of civilians and the indiscriminate laying of mines, once
again affecting the West Nile and Northern provinces of the country. The LRA, believed to receive support from the Sudanese government in retaliation for Kampala’s support for the SPLA (see Sudan), was said to be behind the terror campaign aimed at destabilizing the Ugandan government. Long-standing rumours of armed attacks to be launched from Zairian and Sudanese soil by the West Nile Bank Front were finally confirmed in 1995, though the attacks occurred only on a small scale.

The ICRC posted a delegate to the north of the country in mid-1995 to monitor the humanitarian situation there. Visits were made to people arrested in connection with the conflict and insurgency-related incidents. At the same time the ICRC attempted to establish direct contact with the LRA, but this proved very difficult until October, when delegates finally met representatives of the movement. Their aim was to promote respect for basic rules of humanitarian law and improve security. The ICRC’s activities in northern Uganda, including the provision of non-food assistance to civilians affected by clashes, were carried out in close cooperation with the Uganda Red Cross Society.

Disturbances involving anti-government rebel movements in other areas were noted earlier in the year, but these died down following military intervention.

Other ICRC activities in Uganda in 1995 involved tracing work in connection with the Rwandan crisis, including registering and keeping track of unaccompanied children living in camps in southern Uganda. The ICRC’s formal requests for access to detainees classified as “NRA* deserters” remained unanswered during the year under review, though visits were allowed to other categories of security detainees and reports were duly handed over to the Minister of the Interior. In June the authorities requested the ICRC to act as facilitator between donor embassies and agencies to try and ensure an optimal use of resources in the prisons.

* NRA: National Resistance Army
In Peru, families whose main bread-winners are imprisoned or have disappeared in connection with the ongoing unrest turn to the ICRC. They receive material assistance and moral support to help them recover from the immediate shock of a family emergency. The ICRC also offers to exchange Red Cross messages between detainees and their close relatives and facilitates family visits.
The Americas

ICRC delegations or missions:
Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Peru

ICRC regional delegations:
Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Guatemala City, Washington

Staff
ICRC expatriates: 74
National Societies: 6
Local employees: 176

Total expenditure
Sfr 21,095,282

Expenditure breakdown
Protection/tracing: 12,264,618
Relief: 456,048
Medical assistance: 2,654,310
Cooperation with National Societies: 456,942
Dissemination: 1,755,606
Operational support: 2,237,743
Overheads: 1,270,015

1 Average figures calculated on an annual basis.
2 Under ICRC contract, as at December 1995.
The worsening violence in Colombia was one of the main ICRC concerns in the Americas in 1995. According to some sources, up to 40,000 violent deaths were recorded during the year, and there was no end in sight to the severe problems caused by the political violence, the drug trade and common and organized crime, including thousands of abductions and disappearances. In addition to the widespread tension resulting from these problems, 1995 saw a proliferation of paramilitary groups in many regions of the country. The ICRC maintained its dialogue with the government and the armed opposition, developed its presence in the most affected areas and initiated contacts with members of these paramilitary groups. During the year its operation in Colombia became the largest in the Americas.

The ICRC's swift response when the international conflict between Ecuador and Peru broke out in January highlighted the importance of operational preparedness and dissemination work. The delegations in Lima and Brasilia stood ready to take action, and ICRC delegates were sent in a matter of days to Quito and to the disputed border region. But operational preparedness in itself was not sufficient: knowledge of the institution's role in such situations among the political and military leaders of the two countries was essential in paving the way for ICRC action. The delegation in Lima and the mission set up in Quito could thus work in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, which are applicable in international conflicts. This enabled the ICRC to visit prisoners of war and interned civilians, arrange for their repatriation and play an important role in surveying needs among civilians and in acting as a neutral intermediary between the parties.

The ICRC proposed its services on two other occasions in 1995. In April, when tension rose between the trade union movement and the government in Bolivia, the ICRC's offer was immediately accepted, and delegates were visiting trade unionists in detention within days. Later in the year another offer of services was made to the Guatemalan government, this time aimed at conducting activities to protect people affected by the internal violence in that country. Although these activities did not begin in 1995, the offer did serve as a basis for initiating dissemination efforts in the north, and prospects for a development of operational activities looked favourable by the end of the year.

Spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law and of the ICRC's role and tasks remained one of the cornerstones of the work done by the regional delegations in Brasilia, Buenos Aires and Guatemala City. Special regional seminars were held for government representatives on the protection of civilians in situations of violence (see the report on Buenos Aires, below) and for high-level members of the military on dissemination of humanitarian law among the armed forces (see the report on Guatemala City, below), with attendance from nearly all the countries of the Americas. ICRC delegates
found that the message they conveyed passed quickly and was generally well received throughout the continent.

Once again in 1995, the internal conflict in Peru was limited to two regions in the central Selva. On the other hand, the number of people arrested in connection with two decades of internal violence remained high, at over 5,000, and one of the main concerns of the ICRC was the severity of detention conditions endured by many security detainees.
The year saw no improvement in the security situation in Colombia. The rate of violent deaths nationwide, already the highest in the world, rose still further to about 40,000 per year, and the number of abductions remained high. As in the past, much of the killing and kidnapping was attributable to crime, to a long history and entrenched culture of violence, and to the drug trade. The political violence too worsened.

The end of 1994 and the beginning of 1995 brought hope for peace negotiations between the government and the armed opposition. On numerous occasions the ICRC offered its services as a neutral and impartial intermediary in order to facilitate the peace process. But developments in 1995, including the resignation of the Commissioner for Peace in August, forced the preparatory talks into a deadlock, and the negotiations never got off the ground. By year's end there was little hope of talks taking place in the immediate future.

Both sides contributed to the escalation in political violence. Numerous massacres took place in the Urabá region, and elsewhere tension mounted and many paramilitary groups emerged. Attacks by the armed opposition became more frequent in mid-year.

The spate of massacres in the Urabá region was due to clashes over rights to fertile land and also partly to in-fighting among political groups vying for control of trade unions active in the area's banana plantations, which resulted in hundreds of deaths. All the victims of these massacres were civilians. The ICRC responded by strengthening its presence in Urabá. In the second half of the year it opened a sub-delegation in Barranquilla and another in Medellín, the capital of the department of Antioquia, one of the most affected regions.

The government, increasingly beleaguered by political scandals, did not stop the proliferation of paramilitary groups in the north, the Magdalena Medio region and the western Amazon plains. These groups often attacked people suspected of being members or supporters of the armed opposition. Again,
most of the victims were civilians. The delegation initiated contacts with representatives of these paramilitary groups.

Extra-judicial executions, forced disappearances and hostage-taking, all of which are violations of humanitarian law, remained commonplace throughout the country, as did the displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians.

After an extensive national debate on humanitarian law, the Colombian government, Congress and courts confirmed the country's accession to Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions in 1995. The accession officially took place on 14 August 1995, when the relevant instruments were sent to the Swiss government, and was to take effect six months later, on 14 February 1996.

The worsening violence in the country makes it impossible to measure the practical impact of Colombia's adherence to Protocol II; but its acceptance in principle by the government and the armed opposition groups, together with other measures taken in 1994 to improve awareness of human rights and other issues, did much to spread knowledge of the way in which the ICRC functions and to facilitate the delegation's work in the country.

The delegation was thus able to maintain regular contact with the civilian and military authorities and with the armed opposition to draw attention to violations of humanitarian law committed by their units or combatants and to propose ways of preventing their recurrence. Reports containing observations about respect for the provisions of humanitarian law and recommendations for improving the situation were handed over to the highest government authorities and the armed opposition in October. Delegates also brought these matters up with representatives of the various parties, including brigade commanders, prison directors and representatives of the armed opposition at the local level.

Protection of civilians

With expatriate staff at its delegation, sub-delegations and field offices in Bogotá, Apartadó, Bucaramanga, Barranquilla (since August), Medellín (since November), Montería (until October), Popayán, Saravena and Villavicencio, the ICRC closely followed the situation in the most affected areas of the country. When reports of abuses or tension reached the delegation the ICRC responded by sending out field missions, and delegates recorded allegations of incidents involving violations of humanitarian law committed by army troops, members of the armed opposition or paramilitary forces. To protect the victims and to ensure confidentiality, the delegation applied very strict criteria in collecting and making use of such information, which was conveyed to the authorities or the opposition only with the consent of the civilians reporting the
allegations. Cases concerning a total of 353 civilians were handled in 1995; these related to incidents which took place during the year. The collection of data relating to events in 1995 did not stop at the end of the year, but continued into 1996. The ICRC was authorized to pass on detailed information concerning the cases of 385 civilians to the forces or groups allegedly responsible for violations; some of these cases related to incidents that had occurred in 1994.

When civilians were the target of serious threats by one of the parties to the conflict the ICRC offered to pay for their transport to safer areas.

Activities for detainees and other people deprived of their freedom

The ICRC had systematic access to people held for security reasons. Delegates carried out 742 visits to 348 places of detention, including facilities under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, the police, the army and the Administrative Department of Security (DAS). During these visits the ICRC provided clothing, toiletries, cleaning materials and recreational items for detainees, along with medicines and other medical supplies.

The ICRC’s continuous monitoring of the arrest notification system confirmed that the prison system was not responsible for the numerous disappearances in the country; the delegation thus focused its protection activities on the treatment of people prior to their transfer to permanent places of detention in an effort to stop such disappearances. The delegation’s visits to prisoners also enabled it to compile reports on conditions of detention.

The delegation covered the cost of transport to enable family members to visit their relatives in prison and paid for tickets home for prisoners after their release. A total of 2,540 transport vouchers were issued.

As in the past, the delegation stood ready to assist in the release of people captured or kidnapped by the armed opposition. In 1995, ICRC delegates assisted in the release of 11 people.

Tracing activities

Most of the ICRC’s tracing activities concentrated on work for detainees and the protection of civilians. The ICRC kept track of all inmates visited by delegates, checked on the arrest notification system set up by the authorities and handled information regarding people who had disappeared and other victims of alleged violations of humanitarian law. A total of 68 tracing cases were opened and 56 were closed. At the end of the year there were 104 cases still pending.
Medical activities

The delegation paid for the medical treatment of 63 people injured as a result of the political violence. It also distributed medical supplies to health posts and other facilities in the field when their stocks were depleted owing to armed clashes.

Relief activities

During field missions delegates provided assistance to over 1,700 civilians affected by the political violence. This included clothing, mattresses, kitchen utensils and food.

Dissemination

The delegation worked in close cooperation with the Colombian Red Cross Society to carry out numerous dissemination programmes for audiences such as the military, the police, prison guards, civilian authorities, clergymen, health workers and members of the National Society.

The ICRC and the Colombian Red Cross participated in the organization of several events, including, in February, a nation-wide International Humanitarian Law Week which brought together, for the first time, former members of guerrilla groups and military personnel. The ICRC and the National Society also signed dissemination agreements with the Ministry of Defence, which is responsible for the National Police, and the DAS. Dozens of seminars and workshops were conducted with units run by the Ministry and the DAS and their training facilities in the field.

In rural areas affected by the violence, the ICRC itself held hundreds of dissemination sessions, several of which were aimed at reaching members of the armed opposition.

In July the delegation in Bogotá began issuing a monthly brochure entitled *ICRC Latin America Bulletin*, intended for the media, the public and government representatives throughout the continent.

ECUADOR-PERU BORDER CONFLICT

When fighting erupted in late January between the armed forces of Ecuador and Peru the ICRC immediately took action to ensure that it was able to work on both sides. In Peru, where the institution already had an operational delegation, contacts were maintained with government officials, and the delegation worked with local chapters of the Peruvian Red Cross to survey possible needs for humanitarian assistance in the border region. As for
operations in Ecuador, the ICRC's regional delegate based in Brasilia arrived in Quito on 28 January and immediately initiated a dialogue with the government authorities. This led to the establishment of an ICRC mission in the Ecuadorean capital. Delegates worked closely with the Ecuadorean Red Cross to survey needs in the border area and helped the National Society carry out an assistance programme for people affected by the fighting, including displaced persons.

Invoking humanitarian law

At the end of January, in mid-March and again in June the ICRC sent memoranda to the governments of Ecuador and Peru. The first, issued on 30 January, reminded them of their obligation to observe the fundamental standards of humanitarian law and explained ICRC procedures for visits to prisoners of war and other individuals deprived of their freedom. Two memoranda issued in mid-March addressed respectively the question of landmines (which were responsible for a large number of casualties during the fighting and seriously affected the lives of civilians in the border region) and the ICRC's concerns about missing people, mortal remains and the fate of civilians and others protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention. By March the military situation had calmed down, but there were still some prisoners of war and civilian internees held by either side. On 8 June the ICRC issued another memorandum, this time specifically referring to the obligation of the parties to release prisoners of war without delay after the hostilities ended.

Final memoranda were submitted to the highest authorities of the two countries in August. These addressed remaining issues of humanitarian concern, including problems related to missing people, mortal remains and residual landmines in the border area.

Visits to people deprived of their freedom

During the first eight months of the year the ICRC visited 52 Ecuadoreans held in Peru and 29 Peruvians in captivity in Ecuador, including respectively six and nine prisoners of war and dozens of interned civilians on both sides. The ICRC took part in the repatriation of a total of nine Ecuadoreans and 18 Peruvians.

HAITI

The international forces which had arrived in the country in September 1994 remained stationed there throughout 1995. Command of these forces passed from the United States military to the United Nations in April. In addition, a
large number of international advisers assisted in restructuring almost all the
government services. Indeed, since the 1994 intervention and the subsequent
restoration of the democratically elected Presidency had put an end to three
years of military rule, a great deal of reorganization was required. This was true
for the police and prison service, as thousands of new prison guards and
policemen were recruited and trained, or retrained, during the year.

Activities for detainees

The ICRC’s work centred around visits to places of detention, where
conditions remained extremely precarious. Throughout the year the ICRC
monitored the situation in the National Penitentiary, which housed up to 970
inmates (including up to 400 in a single hall), and in other jails and prisons
throughout the country. It advised the new authorities on how to ensure
acceptable conditions of detention, while laying considerable emphasis on the
fact that it was up to the Haitian authorities to provide for the requirements of
prisoners. At the end of the year conditions at the National Penitentiary and
the National Fort (where minors and women were incarcerated) deteriorated
owing to vitamin deficiencies, resulting in the death of a number of prisoners.
The ICRC transferred medical staff from Bogotá to Port-au-Prince to help the
authorities restore a proper diet for the inmates and sent letters to the Prime
Minister and the Minister of Justice to draw attention to this problem.

A summary report on detention conditions in Haitian prisons was submitted
to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice in October.

At the beginning of the year 25 people were being detained in connection
with the military intervention at the Joint Detention Facility run by the United
States forces. The ICRC followed their cases individually throughout the year.
In March they were handed over to the Haitian authorities. At the end of 1995
seven of them were still being held by the country’s authorities.

In September and October, respectively, the ICRC submitted to the United
States authorities in Port-au-Prince and in Washington a summary report on
its visits to people detained by the United States military in Haiti.

To help ensure a rapid improvement in conditions of detention, the ICRC
provided medical and sanitation assistance, in particular to the National
Penitentiary, where it built an infirmary and restored the water supply and
sewage systems.

Dissemination

Following the exiled President’s return to the country, the ICRC had excellent
opportunities to spread knowledge of the humanitarian principles, the aim
being to prevent violations of humanitarian law. It organized dissemination
sessions for all members of the new police force and prison service, United Nations troops stationed in Haiti and detainees.

Cooperation with the National Society

In 1995 the ICRC set about helping to improve the structure and strengthen the credibility of the Haitian National Red Cross Society, a goal which had been unrealistic in previous years owing to the political climate and the problems resulting from the internal violence. Together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC thus initiated a series of activities aimed at strengthening the National Society’s operational capacity, by developing its membership, backing fund-raising campaigns and improving its internal structures.

MEXICO

In February the government’s military offensive in Chiapas led to the arrest of dozens of people suspected of being EZLN* members and brought about a change on the political and military scene. The army retook large areas of Chiapas and the government issued arrest warrants for the leaders of the EZLN. The delegation moved its medical team from Guadalupe Tepeyac to San José del Río in March, while maintaining another team in San Miguel. The main ICRC mission remained in San Cristóbal de las Casas. By mid-March, the tension had eased considerably. The Congress of the Union passed a law for dialogue and reconciliation, which suspended the effect of the warrants and served as a basis for future talks.

As the situation calmed down and other organizations were able to work in Chiapas, in mid-year the ICRC progressively handed over its assistance programmes, including medical and relief programmes for displaced people and others affected by the events, to the Mexican Red Cross. The ICRC continued to be called upon, in its capacity as a neutral and impartial intermediary, to provide transport and ensure the safety of EZLN representatives when they met government officials for peace talks. The delegation provided such transport 11 times in 1995.

From 1 to 4 August the ICRC President, accompanied by the Delegate General for the Americas, was in Mexico, where he held talks with the highest authorities, including the President of the Republic, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Health, and the Vice-Minister of the Interior.

* EZLN: Zapatista National Liberation Army
Since there was no longer a need for a specific ICRC presence in Chiapas, in mid-year the ICRC decided to reduce the number of its staff in the country from seven to three, and later to one delegate, based in the capital. As from October its operation in Mexico was administered from the Guatemala City regional delegation.

Activities for detainees

As soon as tension rose in early 1995 and the government began arresting people accused of collaborating with the EZLN, the ICRC again offered its services to the Mexican authorities. It issued a memorandum on 15 February requesting authorization to visit people held in connection with the events. The Delegate General for the Americas travelled to Mexico in late February for talks with representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior and Defence. The discussions focused, among other things, on ICRC visits to detainees in Mexico.

The ICRC conducted visits to these people throughout the year. Its delegates saw a total of 23 individuals held in ten places of detention, in Puebla, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Veracruz and the capital. The authorities received ICRC reports on these visits in March and July.

Medical and relief activities

ICRC medical staff were working together with Mexican Red Cross staff in San Miguel and Guadalupe Tepeyac at the beginning of the year and provided medical services, including vaccinations and consultations, to thousands of people in remote areas. When tension increased in February the ICRC temporarily suspended its medical and relief activities, but quickly resumed them to survey needs among displaced people.

The ICRC and the Mexican Red Cross provided food, soap, jerricans, tortilla presses, blankets and kitchen sets for displaced people in Chiapas and others affected by the situation. In early 1995 up to 14,000 people were receiving such assistance. By July all medical and relief activities had been handed over to the National Society.
In 1995 the internal violence that had brought the country to crisis point a few years earlier abated even further, as the government continued to make progress in its struggle against armed opposition groups. By the end of the year over 5,000 people were being held in detention in connection with the internal conflict. The only regions which remained seriously affected by the violence were the Huallaga valley and part of the Ucayali region, near Tingo María, and certain areas of the central Selva region, where armed groups and the military were still active.

Given the limited scope of the fighting in comparison with past years, the ICRC restructured its presence, concentrating expatriate staff in the regions concerned (namely at the Tingo María and La Merced sub-delegations) and at the delegation in Lima. At the end of the year the ICRC maintained small local offices in various cities where tracing and other activities were still required. These offices were staffed by local employees and were regularly visited by delegates throughout the year.

Visiting people deprived of their freedom as a result of the internal conflict clearly became the main thrust of the ICRC’s work in the country. Visits were conducted by expatriates based at the delegation in Lima or by those based in Tingo María and La Merced. In addition, the delegation continued to monitor respect for judicial guarantees, and it closely followed the situation of members of the medical profession accused of cooperating with the armed opposition because they treated wounded people.

Activities for detainees

One of the ICRC’s principal concerns as regards the protection of prisoners was the extreme severity of detention conditions. By late 1995 nearly half of the
people held in connection with the internal conflict were in high-security prison sections. These were completely isolated from other sections and conditions there were particularly harsh. Since the vast majority of security prisoners were being held in major cities up to four or five days' return journey from their places of origin, and because they were mainly from low-income or impoverished backgrounds, their families often could not afford the trip. The ICRC therefore reimbursed travel expenses of family members visiting detained relatives.

As regards the treatment of prisoners and conditions of detention, the delegation regularly submitted written reports and made oral recommendations to the authorities with a view to improving these conditions.

In June the delegation submitted three summary reports, respectively to the Ministry of Justice (representing the Presidency of the Republic), the Ministry of the Interior and the armed forces. These reports covered ICRC activities conducted in 1994 to protect prisoners. The report to the armed forces also dealt with the protection of civilians.

Delegates carried out an average of 75 visits per month to places of detention run by the Ministries of Justice, the Interior and Defence. During these visits they registered prisoners seen for the first time, including those under interrogation, and provided recreational and educational equipment, personal hygiene items, blankets and medical supplies, as needed. At the end of the year the ICRC was visiting approximately 5,000 prisoners in Peru.

Activities for the civilian population

The regular presence of ICRC expatriate staff in the two main areas affected by the internal conflict made it possible to collect information on alleged violations of humanitarian law. This information was then confidentially transmitted to the competent military or civilian authorities in order to help prevent a recurrence of such incidents.

The ICRC also provided material assistance to civilian victims of the violence, including widows, orphans, people whose property had been destroyed and displaced persons.

Tracing activities

The ICRC’s principal tracing activities were to keep track of the whereabouts of prisoners, to maintain contact between inmates and their families and, when necessary, to issue travel vouchers for family visits. A small number of cases involving missing people were also handled in 1995. The ICRC moreover assisted in restoring ties between family members who had been separated for years as a result of the internal conflict in the central Selva region.
Medical activities

The delegation paid for the treatment of people injured in incidents related to the internal conflict and hospitalized in medical facilities run by the Ministry of Health. It provided medical supplies to hospitals and health posts in areas affected by the fighting, and evacuated people requiring specialized treatment to major towns and cities. The delegation supplied orthopaedic appliances for seven people who had lost limbs in incidents related to the internal conflict. In addition, ICRC medical staff took part in visits to places of detention.

Dissemination

A number of dissemination sessions were held each month for the military, the police and the general population, both in regions still affected by the fighting and at various military academies, universities and schools in the capital and the country's main cities.

Cooperation with the National Society

The restructuring of the Peruvian Red Cross continued in 1995, with assistance from the ICRC and the Federation. An ICRC delegate seconded by the Norwegian Red Cross was assigned the task of developing cooperation with the National Society. As part of the restructuring process the Society adopted new statutes, which at the end of 1995 were still to be approved by the government. At year's end much remained to be done for the Peruvian Red Cross to fulfil its role as an operational National Society.

BRASILIA
Regional delegation
(Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela)

The ICRC regional delegation was instrumental in meeting needs for humanitarian assistance and ensuring the necessary follow-up after the border dispute between Ecuador and Peru broke out in January (for information on the ICRC’s activities concerning the international conflict between Ecuador and Peru, please see page 103).

In addition, the ICRC maintained its efforts to spread knowledge of humanitarian law, notably among the military and the police and in academic circles in Brazil, Ecuador and Venezuela, and continued to encourage the Venezuelan government to accede to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.
BRAZIL

The ICRC held dissemination sessions for 2,150 soldiers and officers of units undergoing military training in preparation for United Nations peacekeeping missions in Angola and for students at military training centres and academies, including the ECEME (the army’s central military academy), the naval war school and air force academies. A regular training programme for military police cadets of the state of Rio de Janeiro commenced in July.

Dissemination of humanitarian law for university staff and students included events held at the University of São Paulo (including the law faculty), the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, the Paulista University in São Paulo, the University of Brasilia and San Francisco University in São Paulo. Some courses and seminars were organized for other audiences, including a meeting of jurists from all over the Americas, government officials (such as the members of the Federal Council on Crime and Penitentiary Policy, a body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice), state prosecutors and ministers.

ECUADOR

For an account of the ICRC’s activities concerning the international conflict between Ecuador and Peru, please see page 103).

In May the ICRC visited seven Colombian nationals who were detained for alleged involvement in attacks committed in Ecuador by the FARC* in December 1993. A summary report on this visit was submitted to the Ecuadorean authorities in August.

Throughout the year, the Ecuadorean Red Cross conducted dissemination and training sessions on humanitarian law for the country’s armed forces, under a cooperation programme between the National Society and the ICRC. All told, some 3,600 people took part in these sessions.

VENEZUELA

The 15th Inter-American Conference of the Red Cross took place in Caracas from 30 January to 2 February and coincided with the celebration of the centenary of the Venezuelan Red Cross. The Conference was attended by National Society representatives from throughout the Americas and by the highest officials of the Federation and the ICRC. The latter was represented by its President, Vice-President and Delegate General for the Americas. The Conference appealed to the governments of Ecuador and Peru to respect the

* FARC: Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces
provisions of humanitarian law and to settle their border dispute in a peaceful manner.

During his stay in Caracas the ICRC President held talks with the Ministers of Foreign Relations and Defence and discussed a variety of issues, including Venezuela’s accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

The regional delegate later had follow-up meetings on these subjects with the joint chiefs of staff and with representatives of the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Relations, and took part in dissemination sessions at Santa María University, the military academy and the officers’ training school in Caracas.

BUENOS AIRES
Regional delegation
(Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay)

The regional delegation and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, organized an inter-American seminar on the protection of people in situations of violence, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 28 to 30 June. Some 50 government representatives from all the Spanish-speaking countries of the continent, Belize, Brazil and Spain attended, along with representatives of the National Societies of Bolivia, Colombia and Spain.

The final resolution adopted by the seminar invited governments to strengthen humanitarian law by acceding to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the 1980 United Nations Weapons Convention and other instruments, and to include in their national legislation specific provisions to prevent or stop violations of humanitarian law. The ICRC was represented at the seminar by the Delegate General for the Americas and the head of its legal division.

The regional delegation participated in joint military exercises conducted in August by the armed forces of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, the United States and Uruguay. The exercises, which simulated peace-keeping operations, were based on the experiences of units sent on United Nations missions by these countries.

The ICRC took part in the work of interministerial committees established in all the countries of the region, including various working sessions of the Committee set up in Argentina and the inaugural meeting of the Committee established in Chile.

Throughout the year the regional delegation was involved in dissemination activities for the armed forces in all the countries covered, including for troops sent by Argentina and Uruguay on United Nations peace-keeping missions.
Sessions were also held for students and staff at various universities in Chile, the Catholic Universities in Montevideo and Asunción, the University of the Saviour and the University of Buenos Aires, and for diplomats at the Argentine Council for International Relations in Buenos Aires.

**BOLIVIA**

In April the worsening social situation and the declaration of a state of siege resulted in the detention of a number of trade unionists. The ICRC made an offer of services on 26 April, requesting access to these detainees. Authorization was immediately granted, and an ICRC team visited 162 of them at three places of detention in the period between 29 April and 1 May. The detainees were able to send Red Cross messages to their families. A report on these visits was submitted to the authorities in mid-May.

**CHILE**

In January delegates visited 115 security detainees at the main penitentiaries in Chile, including 21 who were seen for the first time. A summary report on these visits was handed over to the Chilean authorities in March. During another visit conducted on 16 November, delegates went to the two main places of detention in Santiago, but did not register any new detainees.

On 10 November the ICRC concluded a cooperation agreement with the government of Chile, specifying that the government’s annual contribution would cover a fixed proportion of the cost of ICRC operations, in addition to Chile’s regular support for the ICRC’s headquarters budget.

**GUATEMALA CITY**

Regional delegation
(Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico [from September], Nicaragua, Panama and other countries in the Caribbean)

From 25 to 29 September the ICRC delegation in Guatemala City held a seminar on the dissemination of humanitarian law for the military and security forces of the entire Latin American region. Representatives of 19 countries attended (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico [as an observer], Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela). This was the third seminar of this kind organized by the ICRC, after events held
in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in 1992 and Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 1993. The seminar included, for the first time, senior officers responsible for training and other high-ranking officials from the entire continent. It also addressed themes such as the ICRC's campaign against the use of landmines, United Nations peace-keeping operations and ways to prevent war crimes.

The regional delegation called on the governments of Nicaragua, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago to ratify both Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, and those of Cuba and Mexico to ratify Protocol II. It also helped organize a number of meetings and seminars for members of governments and National Societies of the region. For example, on 6 and 7 April the ICRC held the first regional meeting of dissemination directors from the Spanish-speaking countries of the Caribbean and Central America, and a second meeting was held in Havana, Cuba, on 16 and 17 October. At the end of October a similar meeting was held for English-speaking countries in the Caribbean. It addressed the topics of dissemination, communication and tracing, and was organized in Saint Lucia in cooperation with the country's National Society.

The ICRC took part in events organized by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, based in San José, Costa Rica. These included seminars for directors of military academies and for directors and human rights instructors of police academies of Central America, held respectively in San Salvador, El Salvador, and Gamboa, Panama, as well as the 13th interdisciplinary course on human rights, which took place at the Institute's headquarters.

Among the delegation's regular dissemination activities were a number of sessions or seminars for the military and/or police forces (in Costa Rica, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Saint Lucia) and for university students, the press, the public and members of National Societies in those and other countries. The delegation launched dissemination activities in Jamaica. During the year the ICRC worked closely with the Dominican Red Cross to develop its dissemination services and organized a five-day seminar in November for 30 high-ranking members of the country's military.

CUBA

The regional delegation maintained contacts with the Cuban government, discussing Cuba's possible ratification of Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions, the potential need for ICRC assistance in enabling Cuban nationals at the United States naval base in Guantanamo Bay to communicate with their families in Cuba, and the possibility of ICRC visits to security detainees. The delegation also provided support for the centre for the dissemination of international humanitarian law in Havana, run jointly by the
ICRC, the Cuban Red Cross and the Cuban armed forces, and took part in dissemination sessions for the Cuban military and others. Monthly courses for Cuban military personnel began at the centre in February.

Throughout 1995 the delegation worked closely with the Cuban Red Cross to develop its tracing and other services.

GRENADA

In mid-May the ICRC visited 17 prisoners at Richmond Hill, incarcerated since the United States military intervention of 1983.

GUATEMALA

On 3 March the President of Guatemala visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva, where he held talks with the President of the ICRC and other members of the Committee (the ICRC’s governing body). They discussed the possibility of ICRC operations in Guatemala, where the situation remained tense. Throughout 1995 the regional delegation maintained contacts with senior government representatives, including the President of the Republic, and other officials to express the ICRC’s readiness to provide for the protection of civilians and detainees affected by the internal violence. In June a formal offer of services was made to the Ministry of the Interior.

Beginning in October, the ICRC conducted dissemination sessions for members of the Guatemalan military in the north of the country, including Quiché. In all, about 3,000 soldiers and 350 officers attended 44 sessions in the last two months of the year.

HONDURAS

On 16 February the Honduran government officially deposited instruments of ratification for the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. The ratification took effect six months later, on 16 August.

PANAMA

In September an ICRC delegate visited seven people held in two places of detention in Panama as a result of the United States military intervention of 1989.

Panama ratified the Additional Protocols; the relevant instruments were deposited with the Swiss government on 18 September, and the ratification was to take effect six months later, on 18 March 1996.
WASHINGTON
Regional delegation
(Canada, United States)

The regional delegation in Washington opened in June. Its main aims are to maintain and strengthen relations with the governments and National Societies of Canada and the United States and to disseminate humanitarian law and information on the ICRC and the Movement. During the second half of the year it developed contacts between the ICRC and various organizations in North America, including the Organization of American States and the World Bank (headquartered in Washington) and numerous non-governmental organizations.
The aftermath: the guns have fallen silent but the hidden menace remains. How many more generations will suffer the effects of careless and wanton scattering of landmines? In Asia the ICRC fitted 5564 amputees with artificial limbs in 1995, bringing hope of a more active and self-sufficient life. Thousands are still waiting...
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 expatriates¹: 166
National Societies¹: 86
Local employees²: 1,606

Total expenditure
Sfr 66,164,392

Expenditure breakdown  Sfr
Protection/Tracing:  22,427,920
Relief:  12,698,466
Medical assistance:  16,692,907
Cooperation with National Societies:  1,766,046
Dissemination:  2,330,725
Operational support:  6,520,872
Overheads:  3,727,456

¹ Average numbers calculated on an annual basis.
² Under ICRC contract, as at December 1995.
Despite concern that tension in various parts of Asia might lead to the outbreak of new conflicts, such fears proved unfounded in the course of the past year. On the other hand, no lasting settlement was found to the long-drawn-out hostilities which continued to plague several countries in the region. For the victims, 1995 turned out to be yet another year fraught with tragedy. Much of the suffering could have been avoided had the warring parties shown greater respect for the basic tenets of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC made no progress in its negotiations on detention-related matters with either Myanmar or the People’s Republic of China. The institution did not succeed in establishing the terms of an agreement with the Myanmar authorities concerning visits to detainees and, having completed its prosthetic/orthotic programme for the war-disabled, the ICRC decided to close its office in Yangon. Although this put an end to the institution’s permanent presence in the country, the ICRC hoped to be able to re-establish its dialogue with the authorities in the near future. In China, the government postponed sine die the third round of talks with the ICRC, which were to be conducted along the same lines as those held in Beijing in 1994. At the end of the year, there was no indication that the discussions might resume.

However, an important development took place in 1995 for the ICRC: its negotiations with the Indian government culminated in the signing of an agreement granting delegates access to all detainees held in connection with the situation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. In accordance with the institution’s customary working procedures, activities for the protection of prisoners and detainees continued in Afghanistan (for those held by the principal factions), Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The ICRC was hard-pressed in its efforts to protect and assist civilians caught up in the turmoil of conflict, especially in Afghanistan. It took repeated steps — whether in Kabul, Kandahar or Jalalabad — to remind the parties of their obligations towards the civilian population. Delegates did their utmost to cover the vital needs of both the resident population and displaced persons throughout the country by supplying food and other essential items, conducting various agricultural programmes, providing large-scale assistance to medical and surgical facilities and fitting amputees with artificial limbs in four regional centres. Operations resumed in Kandahar and rehabilitation work began on the Mirwais hospital’s surgical department with a view to the ICRC’s eventual withdrawal from the hospital in Quetta (Pakistan).

In Sri Lanka, an unprecedented wave of violence swept the north of the country following the breakdown in the peace process. The ICRC itself was not spared: its ship was hit by a mine and sank off the Jaffna peninsula. The military campaign launched by the government towards the end of the year led
to the capture of Jaffna town by the army and caused the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Together with the few non-governmental organizations that remained on the spot, the ICRC set up an emergency operation to provide medical care, sanitation facilities and material aid for the victims, and made further efforts to ensure that food and medical supplies furnished by the government were regularly shipped to the area.

In East Timor, in addition to their detention-related activities, delegates continued to assist the civilian population, in particular by setting up and maintaining water and sanitation facilities.

Meanwhile, the ICRC pursued the gradual downscaling of its activities in Cambodia. Responsibility for support to the Mongkol Borei hospital was handed over to the Norwegian Red Cross in April, but the ICRC remained actively involved in the prosthetic/orthotic programme for war-disabled in the country. As in 1994, the institution gave extensive assistance to the National Blood Transfusion Centre in Phnom Penh, while seeking a partner to take over this vital task in the long term. In 1995 delegates were unable to establish contact with the Khmer Rouge.

In Viet Nam, the ICRC put an end to its permanent presence at the prosthetic/orthotic centre in Ho Chi Minh City in March, while continuing to provide material support for the numerous destitute amputees at the centre. Steps were taken to find a Viet Nam-based foundation to run this project in the long term.

Tracing activities for detainees and their relatives as well as for families split up as a result of conflict continued throughout Asia. However, the ICRC made no progress in its attempts to enable Korean family members separated for the past 45 years to exchange Red Cross messages.

The ICRC’s efforts to raise awareness of international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles had a positive impact on various target audiences, such as the armed forces, academic circles and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. As a result of steps taken to encourage States to become party to the instruments of humanitarian law, the Federated States of Micronesia acceded to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols in September and Mongolia ratified Additional Protocols I and II in December.
Despite various peace initiatives instigated in the course of the year, including those of the United Nations, the conflict in Afghanistan raged on. As in 1994, it was the civilian population, particularly that of Kabul, which bore the brunt of the fighting.

The battle between the warring parties for control of the Afghan capital dragged on into 1995. Kabulis were subjected to regular air attacks and civilians found themselves caught in the middle of artillery exchanges. The advance of the Taliban, a fighting force made up of Islamic students which had emerged in 1994, from Kandahar in the south-east towards the outskirts of Kabul resulted in a major shift in the front lines. The Taliban's progression into the south-west of the capital was short-lived, however. In May government troops pushed the front line to around 30 kilometres to the south, thereby putting Kabul practically out of reach of any opposition rocket attacks for the first time in almost three years.

The civilian population in the Afghan capital then enjoyed a short period of relative calm, with small businesses and bazars picking up as the summer approached. However, several residential areas remained uninhabitable and littered with mines and unexploded ordnance which claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians. Most Kabulis remained without basic infrastructure, such as sanitation, water or electricity. This situation was aggravated by the movement of many locally displaced people from public buildings to newly accessible front-line zones and the influx of 200,000 returnees from the eastern provinces and Pakistan.

After months of fighting for the control of the south-western provinces, the Taliban eventually gained the upper hand over the combined forces of Commander Massoud and Ismael Khan, the governor of Herat province. Both sides inflicted heavy losses and as the front lines shifted rapidly a large number
of civilians were killed or injured by mines. The Taliban succeeded in taking the provinces of Farah, Helmand and Nimroz and in September captured the historic city of Herat.

In the north forces loyal to the government clashed with General Dostum's Jumbesh militia. At one point almost all the provinces from Badghis to Baghlan were affected by the conflict.

Only the three eastern provinces administered by the Nangarhar shura remained quiet owing to their neutral and independent policy.

By the end of September Kabul had once again become the target of a major offensive led by the Taliban from the south. The presence of the government forces was then limited to the Afghan capital and four north-eastern provinces.

Renewed efforts to mobilise donor support for the rehabilitation of the ailing country failed to generate sufficient funds. The civilian population in large areas of Afghanistan, and particularly in Kabul, continued to pay the price for the ongoing conflict and the international community's lack of interest in their plight. As too often in the past, no political settlement was in sight and the conflict was destined to drag on into its 17th year.

AFGHANISTAN

The ICRC maintained its presence on Afghan soil in 1995, along with a handful of other humanitarian organisations. A number of agencies, based in Pakistan, were also actively involved in emergency and development projects in Kabul and the provinces. In close cooperation with the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC developed a global approach of the whole Movement to meet the most urgent needs of the Afghan people. Discussions in 1995 were to lead to the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Federation and the ICRC in January 1996 regarding the institutions' specific activities and mandate in relation to the Afghan context.

Activities for the civilian population

The ICRC delegation made representations to the parties concerned on a number of occasions to protest against indiscriminate shelling, sniper fire and similar incidents. For instance, during the violence that raged in Kabul's Karte Seh area in March, medical facilities and personnel came under artillery fire and cases of looting and harassment of the population were reported. In November two aircraft dropped bombs on four key locations in the city, killing over 50 civilians and wounding 150 others, many of whom were children. The

IN 1995 THE ICRC:

- provided medical assistance to some 65 hospitals and health facilities treating the war-wounded throughout the country;
- manufactured 3,710 prostheses and 558 orthoses in its prosthetic/orthotic centres in Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif and fitted 2,216 new patients with artificial limbs;
- distributed more than 12,000 tonnes of food and other assistance to around 160,000 vulnerable and displaced people in Kabul, Samarkhel camp and the eastern provinces, as well as in other locations on an ad hoc basis, depending on the needs created by the fighting;
- handed out 25 tonnes of seed to 446 families in Badakhshan province, while 65,000 families benefited from various agronomic programmes (tool and seed distribution, pest control, cleaning of irrigation systems) carried out around Kabul;
- visited 3,934 detainees in the hands of the government and all the major factions in 50 places of detention;
- collected and distributed some 14,000 Red Cross messages;
- carried out an extensive dissemination programme throughout the country, distributing over 60,000 publications on mine awareness, humanitarian principles and the Movement's activities;
- enhanced its efforts to consolidate the Afghan Red Crescent Society.
ICRC repeatedly appealed to all the parties to the conflict to observe the basic rules of international humanitarian law, and especially to respect the lives and possessions of civilians, medical facilities and personnel.

Relief activities

The ICRC continued to transport food and relief goods from Peshawar (Pakistan) to Afghanistan. As in 1994, it spared no effort to negotiate the passage of convoys carrying emergency supplies. Despite a blockade imposed upon Kabul, private contractors hired by the ICRC were able to bring in relief items for distribution to the most vulnerable people in the city and the eastern provinces, including the Samarkhel refugee camp near Jalalabad. In April the running of this camp was handed over to the Swedish Red Cross as a project delegation, with the ICRC retaining overall responsibility. Some 7,200 families living there received monthly ICRC food rations, which were distributed by the ARCS.

Owing to the precarious security situation, many relief agencies were reluctant to take up activities in Kabul, although a number of organizations did run or prepare programmes in aid of the city's population. As most people who had been displaced within Kabul and returnees from Jalalabad and Pakistan had begun to go back to their former homes, the ICRC reoriented its relief programme for displaced people in April to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the capital, such as the families of disabled breadwinners, widows, recent returnees and the utterly destitute. In May delegates carried out a survey which confirmed the nutritional needs revealed by the previous survey, conducted in January, and identified about 30,000 families as vulnerable. The ICRC then set up a joint programme with the ARCS, registered an initial 5,000 families whose breadwinners had been disabled, and supplied them with food. In all, the ICRC distributed some 3,300 tonnes of relief items in 1995 to 84,000 people living in Kabul. Despite these efforts the blockade imposed on the capital, rampant inflation and a lack of fuel continued to take their toll on the civilian population. Surveys conducted at the end of the year indicated that food and material needs, especially among widows and the poorest families, were not yet being met.

A programme providing food for 5,400 war-disabled people was carried out in Nangarhar and Laghman provinces. This was almost entirely run by the local ARCS branches.

In Bamyan, Badghis and Parwan provinces the ICRC, with the help of the local Red Crescent, conducted one-off assistance operations for about 4,000 families who had fled conflict areas.
Agricultural programme

During the year the ICRC launched a series of experimental activities in the economic and agricultural sectors designed to enable the population to regain a degree of self-sufficiency and prevent a further decline in the precarious food situation in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

These agricultural and income-generating projects included centres for urban craftsmen producing farming tools, programmes aimed at raising the food production capacity of selected communities and making arable land usable again by restoring irrigation canals and wells. Seed and farming tools were also distributed. In Badakhshan province, hard hit by the effects of the conflict and natural disasters, an emergency seed distribution programme reached 450 vulnerable families in 30 villages in the north-east. In Baghram, to the north of Kabul, a farming complex was set up where 25 hectares of land were worked by 50 returnee families, with technical advice provided by the ICRC. In all, some 65,000 families benefited from these new projects.

Activities for detainees

As front lines stabilized and security conditions improved in 1995 the ICRC succeeded in building up sufficient contacts with the government authorities and opposition groups to develop a programme of visits, already initiated in 1994, to detainees held in the north and in Kabul. It subsequently extended its visits to the rest of the country and was granted access to prisoners detained by all the major parties to the conflict. Delegates checked on conditions of detention, registered detainees and gave them the opportunity to write Red Cross messages to their families.

Before the onset of the bitterly cold winter months, the ICRC developed a programme to provide detainees throughout Afghanistan with blankets, mattresses and plastic sheeting.

In August the delegation organized a workshop in Kabul for prison directors and similar officials to discuss detention-related problems. At the end of the year a seminar on health issues was set up with the prison authorities and medical staff and was attended by several senior representatives of the ministries concerned. In order to improve the detainees’ living conditions, the ICRC extended its material and medical assistance and carried out basic rehabilitation work, mainly in the field of water and sanitation.

Medical activities

The offensives launched against Kabul continued to take a heavy toll among the civilian population. Almost 90 percent of casualties were non-combatants.
As a result of the hostilities during the first half of 1995, which reached a peak in March, more than 11,000 people with war-related injuries were admitted to the eight major surgical hospitals regularly assisted by the ICRC. The 280-bed Karte Seh hospital (in south-western Kabul) and the 250-bed Wazir Akbar Khan hospital (in the city centre) admitted 2,943 and 4,550 patients respectively in 1995, of whom 1,876 and 3,186 were war-wounded. Both hospitals were supported entirely by the ICRC.

Regardless of the political changes, the staff at the ICRC’s first-aid post in Charasyab, a village to the south of Kabul, continued to operate under ICRC supervision. The first-aid post in Mir Bachakot, to the north of the capital, acted as a clearing centre for the transfer of wounded to hospitals in Kabul, while casualties arriving at the Charasyab, Pul-i-Alam and Sheikhabad first-aid centres were evacuated, sometimes across front lines, to hospitals in Ghazni, Kandahar and Quetta (Pakistan).

The ICRC continued to support the 240-bed surgical department of the Public Health Hospital in Jalalabad with medical supplies, food and fuel. An ICRC team was stationed there for six months to give extensive training in war surgery techniques.

The ICRC stepped up its medical assistance in the southern provinces. This included refurbishing the surgical department of the Ghazni provincial hospital to enable it to function as a referral hospital for war-wounded from the region. A second first-aid post, in addition to the one in Sheikhabad, was set up in Pul-i-Alam to cover the length of the front line.

In Kandahar a central facility was clearly required to take care of surgical emergencies in an area inhabited by some 1.5 million people. Work began in July to rehabilitate the town’s hospital, which should include a 150-bed surgical ward. Pending completion, a first-aid post was opened to evacuate the war-wounded from the different front lines to the ICRC hospital in Quetta (Pakistan).

In northern Afghanistan, the ICRC provided assistance to seven hospitals and seven clinics, mainly in Mazar-i-Sharif and Pul-i-Khumri.

With the upsurge of hostilities in March and August in western Afghanistan, the ICRC stepped up its support for the military hospital at Shindand, where most of the fighting took place, and medical facilities in Ghor and Badghis provinces. In Herat ICRC staff distributed emergency supplies and helped in the hospitals receiving the war-wounded.

The ICRC also assisted two ARCS hospitals in Kabul and Kunduz and 36 clinics in the provinces. In all, more than 65 hospitals and health facilities treating the war-wounded throughout Afghanistan were given ICRC aid, irrespective of the party in control.
Programme for the war-disabled

As the conflict escalated and the landmine scourge went on taking its fearful toll, the number of amputees steadily rose during the year. The ICRC ran prosthetic/orthotic centres in Kabul, Jalalabad, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif, which produced orthopaedic appliances and fitted amputees with artificial limbs. As the Ali Abad centre in Kabul was badly damaged, the ICRC transferred its activities to the Wazir Akbar Khan hospital. The workshop there managed to increase its output of traditional components and orthopaedic appliances and supplied components and raw materials to the three workshops in the ICRC sub-delegations and to four other workshops not run by the ICRC. The in-patient department was in operation as from September. The centre in Jalalabad, which employs disabled staff, became fully operational in July. The centre in Herat covered not only the western region, but also provided prostheses and orthoses to many patients from Kandahar. The centre in Mazar-i-Sharif fitted amputees from the north-western provinces and its physiotherapy department offered treatment for polio and paraplegic patients which was not available elsewhere in the region.

Water and sanitation

In view of the deteriorating sanitary conditions in Kabul, the ICRC continued its water and sanitation activities there. These consisted in digging and protecting wells, disposing of waste, constructing latrines and washing facilities, combating malaria and running health education programmes. In the summer, sanitation teams chlorinated and monitored 35,000 wells as part of a cholera prevention campaign and remained prepared to set up a 700-bed centre to accommodate cholera patients in the event of an outbreak. ICRC water and sanitation engineers also worked in ICRC-assisted health facilities and places of detention throughout Afghanistan.

Tracing activities

In 1995 the number of Red Cross messages handled by the ICRC in Afghanistan increased almost tenfold over the previous year. This significant rise was partly due to the high level of detention-related activities which gave detainees the opportunity of contacting their relatives by means of Red Cross messages. Delegates also registered the detainees, entered their particulars into a database and followed up on each individual case.

As the national postal service had not yet been restored and new areas of Afghanistan became accessible to the ICRC, a network for the exchange of Red Cross messages was set up. This covered 19 of the country’s 32 provinces and
was carried out in cooperation with some local ARCS branches. However, in 1995 the ICRC was still not in a position to accept tracing requests.

Cooperation with the National Society and the Federation

Cooperation with the ARCS progressed considerably in 1995. As the National Society was present almost everywhere in the country, it was the ICRC’s main partner. The institution’s relief, medical, tracing and dissemination programmes were successfully carried out in close collaboration with the ARCS.

The ICRC provided material and financial assistance to Red Crescent provincial branches — including incentive bonuses for staff and the coverage of fuel and maintenance costs for vehicles — and gave logistic support to six dispensaries and four mobile clinics in Kabul run by the ARCS and funded by the Federation. The ICRC also financed rehabilitation work in Kabul’s Marastoon and supplied food to this home for the destitute. Supervision of a joint ARCS/British Red Cross workshop for the maintenance of the Society’s vehicles, opened in September 1994, was handed over to the British Red Cross in the form of a project delegation.

The ICRC’s support for the ARCS public relations department was essential for the production of the first issue of a new quarterly magazine and a bimonthly newsletter designed to strengthen the unity of the National Society, which underwent restructuring following the nomination of a new President and Secretary-General in July.

The ICRC also stepped up its coordination and cooperation with the Federation in the north, east and west of the country, where action to meet urgent development needs remained a priority.

Dissemination

Together with the ARCS, the ICRC set up a dissemination network to spread knowledge of basic humanitarian rules among combatants, Red Crescent staff and the population in Kabul and the provinces. To adapt its message as much as possible to local values and customs, the ICRC worked in consultation with the region’s universities, artists, journalists and radio and TV stations. To this end, the ICRC organized a seminar in Jalalabad in October, which was attended by 150 participants.

Messages to promote rules for combatants, respect for medical facilities, landmine awareness and knowledge of the ICRC’s daily activities were broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The delegation contributed regularly to the BBC’s Afghan Education Development Project in
Peshawar (Pakistan) by giving humanitarian input to the story lines for the serial *New Home, New Life*. Extracts from the cartoon series accompanying the radio programme and based on the popular figure of Ali Gul were compiled into a special issue published under the auspices of the BBC and the ICRC.

Several adaptations of ICRC publications into Dari and Pashto were completed in the course of the year, such as the institution’s special brochure on Afghanistan, and 6,000 wall and 20,000 pocket calendars. Printed dissemination material was handed out at checkpoints and during seed distributions.

The problem of mines and unexploded devices in Kabul was of particular concern to the delegation. In cooperation with the city’s municipality and with technical support from the Halo Trust, district officials were trained and mine awareness posters produced. All ICRC local staff received detailed briefings. Posters were also set up around Samarkhel camp to warn people gathering firewood in the surrounding area and children looking for play areas. A revised mine awareness brochure was also prepared.

**PAKISTAN**

The ICRC in Pakistan continued to provide essential support for the institution’s operations in Afghanistan. The delegation in Islamabad maintained close contacts with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), the authorities, diplomats and international organizations with a view to promoting the ICRC’s role and work, particularly in Afghanistan, but also in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

As in 1994, the sub-delegation in Peshawar served as a logistics base and transit point for ICRC medical and relief operations for the Afghan conflict and secured regular access for road convoys to Kabul and Jalalabad. The ICRC continued to run the hospital in Quetta and support the paraplegic centre in Peshawar managed by the National Society.

With the ICRC returning to Kandahar (Afghanistan) after a four-year absence, the Quetta sub-delegation was involved in helping to resume activities and maintain a physical presence there until the delegation in Afghanistan was in a position to take over.

Between 5 and 10 April the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific visited Pakistan, where he met the Acting Foreign Secretary to discuss the situation in Kashmir, the ratification of the Additional Protocols and the 1980 UN Weapons Convention. He also held talks regarding the situation in Afghanistan with the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan.
Medical activities

Given the continued fighting in Afghanistan and the increasing number of paraplegic and tetraplegic patients, the ICRC maintained its support for the PRCS paraplegic centre in Peshawar. The centre provided treatment for a monthly average of 60 patients and the ICRC covered the costs of treating all Afghan nationals and 15 Pakistani patients per month.

The ICRC surgical hospital in Quetta had one of its busiest years with a 60 percent increase in activity as compared with 1994. In October the hospital was stretched to its limits when a record number of war-wounded were evacuated from the Taliban front lines near Kabul. During this time the two surgical teams and ward nurses were reinforced by an additional surgeon, anaesthetist and nurse. In total, the hospital, which treated war casualties from south-western Afghanistan and Kandahar province, admitted 2,130 patients, carried out 5,024 surgical operations and gave 4,445 outpatient consultations. The hospital in Quetta was to be maintained until the Mirwais hospital in Kandahar became fully operational. With the establishment of the first-aid post in Kandahar in June 1995, the Chaman first-aid centre received fewer patients for evacuation to Quetta. However, it continued to prove useful for logistic and organizational purposes.

Tracing activities

The delegation arranged for the exchange of 750 Red Cross messages, mostly in relation to the conflict in Afghanistan. It also issued travel documents for 885 refugees accepted for resettlement in host countries.

Dissemination

The first jointly organized ICRC/PRCS seminar on humanitarian law for the armed forces was held in April 1995. It was attended by some 180 officers as well as the country’s Chief Justice and the Chairman of the National Society. The final report in its printed form was widely circulated. Contacts were also maintained with the various authorities concerned in order to persuade Pakistan to ratify the Additional Protocols.
SRI LANKA

On 6 January 1995 an agreement, which led to a cessation of hostilities two days later, was signed between the Sri Lankan President and the LTTE* leader. This was the culmination of talks held in the autumn of 1994 between the new government and the LTTE. During the negotiations the ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary in an exchange of correspondence between the two parties.

Hope that the situation in the country would finally improve was, however, short-lived. Intense fighting resumed after two vessels of the Sri Lankan navy were sunk in Trincomalee on 19 April in a suicide attack by LTTE commandos. The ICRC stepped up its activities in order to cope with this escalation of violence, particularly in the north.

The renewed outbreak of fighting had immediate effects on the delivery of supplies to the Jaffna peninsula. The government reimposed a ban on various items, including medicines, on which restrictions had been lifted during the truce. Civilians in Jaffna became increasingly dependent on the ICRC’s neutral role in protecting government vessels transporting medicines, food and other essential goods.

Numerous clashes between the security forces and the LTTE broke out between July and September, particularly on the Jaffna peninsula. Tens of thousands of people fled their homes, and hundreds were killed or wounded. The Jaffna Teaching Hospital and the hospital in Point Pedro were stretched to the limit because of the heavy influx of casualties.

In October government troops launched a major offensive against the town of Jaffna. Some 300,000 to 400,000 civilians left their homes and most of them sought refuge in the area of Chavakachcheri, 15 kilometres south-east of Jaffna. The peninsula’s metropolis became a ghost town. Many of the

* LTTE: Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Tamil opposition
IN 1995, THE ICRC:

- had access to 1,974 detainees in 282 places of detention;
- transported to the Jaffna peninsula a monthly average of 8,000 tonnes of essential goods supplied by the government;
- located 316 persons, arranged for the exchange of 22,800 Red Cross messages, reunited 83 families and transported 595 people between the Jaffna peninsula and the south;
- assisted nine mobile health clinics and seven primary health centres run by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in conflict areas;
- conducted an extensive dissemination programme throughout the country, reaching 3,000 recruits and 468 instructors in army training centres and a total of 1,883 army, air force and police personnel and 142 members of the LTTE during field sessions; also distributed some 145,000 booklets on the law of war and 17,000 manuals for instructors to members of the armed forces and the LTTE.

Activities for the civilian population

In 1995 the protection of the civilian population remained a major concern for the ICRC. From April on several serious incidents, including the planting of explosive devices in Colombo, claimed large numbers of civilian victims. Delegates collected information on all these incidents and made oral and written representations to both parties. The ICRC reminded them of their obligation to respect humanitarian law, and in particular to spare civilians and their property during military operations.

As violence flared up again, the ICRC's role as a neutral intermediary became all the more vital for the civilian population since the institution was the sole independent link between government- and LTTE-controlled areas.

In August the government-run passenger ferry Iris Mona was hijacked off the coast of Mullaitivu. One passenger died in the assault, and 133 others were visited by the ICRC while they were held captive in Jaffna. When the passengers were freed, the ICRC organized their transport to the islands to the west of Jaffna or to Colombo. Two passengers and the ferry's eight crew members remained in LTTE custody at the end of the year.
Until the army launched its offensive against the peninsula’s main town in October, the ICRC continued to protect the Jaffna Teaching Hospital and the safety zone around it. This zone had been established in 1990 with the consent of all the parties in order to ensure that in the event of fighting the sick and wounded would have access to medical care and the hospital area would be spared from attack. This protection ceased de facto on 14 November when all the remaining patients and medical personnel were evacuated to the Point Pedro hospital and ICRC staff temporarily moved to new office facilities in the same area.

Although the ICRC had ceased its regular truck convoys to Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu in 1994, it occasionally used the red cross emblem to protect government trucks carrying medical supplies for health facilities in Kilinochchi. At the authorities’ request in the autumn of 1995, the sub-delegation in Batticaloa started to protect government convoys transporting relief supplies for civilians living in areas from which the security forces had withdrawn.

As in previous years, the Jaffna peninsula remained totally cut off from the rest of the country, and the population there was dependent on government supplies, such as food, kerosene, medicines and other essential items. These were brought in by government-chartered vessels with red cross markings and sailing under ICRC protection. After a number of incidents in July the institution suspended its protection of these ships until late August, when a temporary agreement was reached with the government.

In February the ICRC chartered a ship called the Sea Dancer, which made a weekly round trip between Trincomalee and Point Pedro to transport medical supplies, as well as passengers requiring medical treatment in Colombo or wishing to be reunited with their families. The supplies were provided by the government for the Jaffna Teaching Hospital and the Regional Directorate of Health Services. On 4 June the Sea Dancer sank after hitting a mine as it entered the port of Kankesanturai, a navy base in the north of the Jaffna peninsula. One member of the crew was killed and two others were injured. The ICRC subsequently chartered another ship, the MV Habarana, which made its first trip on 5 August. The transport of patients had to be postponed, however, owing to the deterioration of the military situation in the north. In October the ship also began carrying flour supplied by the government. Following the army offensive on the peninsula, the Habarana set sail for Point Pedro with consignments of urgently needed relief supplies for the newly displaced. The supplies included 1,500 tonnes of flour, 40 tonnes of medicines provided by the Sri Lankan government, 10,000 square metres of plastic sheeting made available by the ICRC and relief goods for international organizations working in the area. The ICRC also sent cooking pots, jerricans,

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**Sri Lanka**

**Total expenditure in 1995:**

Sfr 11,071,735

- Protection/Tracing: 67.0%
- Medical: 10.2%
- Operational support: 3.8%
- Overheads: 2.7%
- Cooperation with National Societies: 10.4%
- Dissemination: 5.9%
soap, blankets and mats for the most vulnerable among the displaced, as well as large tents to accommodate dispensaries in the Chavakachcheri area.

Medical activities

The resumption of hostilities led the delegation to propose a “medical package” to the government in June. It included sending surgical teams to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital and the government-run hospital in Trincomalee. On condition that their security would be guaranteed, the ICRC offered to evacuate the wounded from Kilinochchi to Vavuniya. It also stated its willingness to transport wounded members of the armed forces on its ship from the Jaffna peninsula to Trincomalee, but received no reply from the government. The ICRC, nevertheless, increased its stock of emergency medical supplies so as to enable government-assisted health facilities to cope with the influx of wounded.

When hundreds of thousands of civilians fled the Jaffna peninsula in October and November and patients and staff at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital were evacuated to Point Pedro hospital, water and sanitation work became a priority in order to prevent an outbreak of waterborne diseases among the displaced. An ICRC water and sanitation engineer conducted a survey in the densely populated Chavakachcheri area to check on access to clean water and waste disposal. Urgent supplies, including three tonnes of pipes, pumps, water reservoirs and other materials, were transported to the peninsula and used to construct water distribution points.

A mobile health team of the Sri Lanka Red Cross was active in the Chavakachcheri camps with support from the ICRC. A small number of medical personnel from the Jaffna Teaching Hospital worked under ICRC protection in the town’s small, overcrowded hospital. As further assistance was required, two ICRC nurses and a doctor were sent out to help cope with the influx of displaced people, to open dispensaries and support the hospital. Following a medical survey in Kilinochchi, an additional mobile health team was set up to try and meet the needs of the displaced.

Activities for detainees

During the first three months of the year the number of arrests by the security forces decreased and several hundred suspects were set free. Fifteen policemen and one soldier held for almost five years by the LTTE were also released. However, the ICRC did not succeed in obtaining access to Tamil detainees held by the LTTE.
The renewed outbreak of hostilities resulted in a significant increase in the number of people detained under the Emergency Regulations, thus prompting the ICRC to step up its detention-related activities. Delegates carried out a number of visits to places of detention under government jurisdiction throughout the country, including prisons, police stations, army camps and other detention centres. They monitored conditions of detention, focusing on the way detainees were treated in physical and psychological terms. They checked the detainees’ state of health, where necessary, and arranged for them to exchange Red Cross messages with their families. Oral and written representations were then made to the authorities concerned. The ICRC also visited 85 people held by the LTTE and conducted 17 visits to detainees held in connection with the JVP* uprising of 1987-1990.

Towards the end of the year an ICRC team went to Palali army camp, in the north-west of the peninsula, to resume tracing services and to visit detainees held by the Sri Lankan security forces.

Tracing activities
At the beginning of 1995 the level of tracing activities remained stable. Delegates accompanied children and elderly people who were transported between Jaffna and Colombo to be reunited with their families, as well as the sick or wounded in need of specialized medical treatment in the capital. If no notification had been given to detainees’ families by the authorities, the ICRC informed them of their relatives’ incarceration. Members of families split up by the conflict were able to contact each other through Red Cross messages.

From May onwards, because of the sharp rise in the number of arrests and the increased number of displaced, many more people approached the ICRC in search of news of their next of kin. No tracing requests were accepted, however, as it was not possible to carry out any active search among the displaced population.

Cooperation with the National Society
As a result of internal problems which paralysed its headquarters, the leadership of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) changed twice during the year. Regular contact was maintained with the Federation to address this issue. However, the crisis did not affect the tasks carried out jointly by the ICRC and SLRCS branches in conflict areas.

The ICRC continued to support the Society’s medical activities in conflict zones. Throughout the year it assisted and supervised nine mobile health

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* JVP: Janatha Vimukti Peramuna party, Sinhalese opposition
teams in the north and east (two in Jaffna, two in Mullaitivu and one each in Kilinochchi, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara and on Mannar mainland), which provided medical care for civilians living far from any medical facility. The main diseases they dealt with were acute respiratory disorders, infestation with worms, anaemia, skin diseases and malaria. In addition, the teams offered health education and encouraged preventive medicine. A public health inspector oversaw hygiene conditions and sanitary installations and checked on the chlorination of wells. An additional mobile health team was set up in Kilinochchi to meet the medical needs of the displaced. The ICRC also provided both financial and material support to seven primary health care centres set up by the SLRCS on Mannar mainland and regularly supervised a training programme organized for the staff of these centres.

In cooperation with the local SLRCS branch in Jaffna, a small emergency stock of food was maintained to assist some 10,000 people, if necessary, during one month.

Dissemination

The ICRC organized numerous sessions to promote knowledge of humanitarian law among the Sri Lankan armed forces, the police, the Special Task Forces and LTTE combatants. However, the resumption of hostilities in April made it difficult to reach combatants in the field.

In addition to the booklets on the law of war and manuals for instructors distributed to the armed forces and the LTTE, the delegation handed out 23,000 wall calendars with the slogan “Keep children out of war” and 160,000 pocket calendars on the ICRC’s activities in Sri Lanka. Some 2,500 diaries containing information on humanitarian law and the ICRC’s activities were also produced for distribution to officers.

NEW DELHI
Regional delegation
(Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal)

BANGLADESH

In 1995 the truce, agreed upon in 1994, held between the army and the Shanti Bahini, who had been active in the area for the past 20 years. Despite improvements in the security situation, the number of refugees returning from the Indian state of Tripura remained very low. Material assistance was provided by the government and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to the
Jumma returnees. This was considered sufficient and there was no serious concern for their security.

At the end of September the regional delegate went to Dhaka and met high-ranking officials of the National Society and the Federation to discuss possible fields of cooperation and development for 1996.

BHUTAN

In May and September an ICRC team conducted a round of visits to all people detained for “anti-national” activities. Delegates visited a total of 114 detainees, four of whom were seen for the first time, in two places of detention. The visits were carried out in full accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the government and the ICRC in 1993. Talks on matters related to detention were held before and after the visits with the authorities concerned. The team was also granted an audience with King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan.

A half-day seminar on international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles was arranged for 20 senior representatives of the police, army, Ministry of Law and Justice and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

INDIA

Following several discussions and working sessions with government representatives, on 22 June the ICRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian government, which granted delegates access to all people arrested in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Actual visits began on 30 October. To handle this new activity, the institution reinforced its expatriate staff in the New Delhi delegation.

The ICRC also pursued its dialogue with senior representatives of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) concerning support for the National Society's future work in Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation continued to follow the situation in Tamil Nadu, where tens of thousands of Sri Lankan refugees live in camps. Dissemination sessions were organized for all NGOs involved in their rehabilitation.

Activities for detainees

On 30 October delegates based in New Delhi began the first ICRC visit to detainees held in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. By the end of the year the ICRC had visited 693 detainees in ten places of detention. Teams of delegates, doctors and interpreters assessed the detainees’ material and psychological conditions of detention and the treatment accorded to them
following their arrest. Delegates also offered inmates the opportunity of contacting their families through Red Cross messages.

**Dissemination**

The ICRC stepped up its efforts to spread knowledge of humanitarian law among various target groups in India. A specialist in dissemination to the armed forces, seconded by the British Red Cross, joined the delegation in June and immediately began work. Three courses on the basic provisions of humanitarian law and human rights law were organized for officers and instructors of the Border Security Forces, one of the main paramilitary forces in the country. In cooperation with the Indian Centre for Humanitarian Law and Research, the ICRC held seminars to promote knowledge of humanitarian law among university professors. The delegation also worked with the IRCS to organize one national and two regional workshops for the National Society’s senior levels of management and dissemination officers. Following these workshops three other sessions were held jointly with state branches.

Several ICRC brochures and three video film scripts were translated and dubbed into the main languages spoken on the subcontinent. Some material was prepared especially for the Kashmiri context in order to support the work of delegates there. Leaflets were published, explaining the ICRC’s standard procedures during visits to detainees and setting out the institution’s general mandate.

University lecturers began research on Indian literature, folk art and theatre in order to pinpoint the existence of principles and ideas corresponding to the Movement’s Fundamental Principles. This material was to be used to produce a series of posters.

**Media liaison office**

Throughout the year the media liaison office, which had been opened in May 1994, developed a network of contacts among the international and Indian media and among the press attachés of diplomatic missions. The office also conducted a sustained media awareness campaign of ICRC institutional themes, especially regarding the ICRC’s stand on anti-personnel mines. It assisted in the production of a 16-minute ICRC documentary film entitled *A Conscious Step*. The film draws attention to mine victims in Myanmar and highlights the joint ICRC/Myanmar Red Cross Society/Ministry of Health programme.

**MYANMAR**

The ICRC held extensive talks with government representatives with the aim of concluding a Memorandum of Understanding on the question of visits to
detainees. However, by mid-1995 it became clear that delegates would not be allowed to visit prisoners in keeping with the ICRC's standard procedures and that the Memorandum would not be signed in the near future. The ICRC therefore decided to close its office in Yangon on 31 July 1995. The institution informed the authorities that it would always be ready and willing to resume the dialogue, should the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) decide to cooperate in this matter.

Following military operations against the Karen National Union strongholds in January and February, the ICRC approached the authorities with a proposal to conduct a survey in the area to assess medical needs, together with a representative of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS). Authorization was not granted, however.

Despite the progress made in promoting humanitarian law among military instructors in 1995, attempts to persuade the Department of Military Training to incorporate the law of war into its curriculum failed. In February and July the ICRC organized dissemination sessions in Mandalay and Yangon for National Society members involved in training. In cooperation with the MRCS, another dissemination session was held in April for the students of the capital’s nursing college.

Medical activities

The ICRC's project for the war-disabled in Myanmar drew to a close in June 1995, after ten years of work. The ICRC finished introducing the polypropylene technique into the four workshops (two civilian and two military) in Yangon, Mandalay, Mingaladon and Pyin-Oo-Lwin. This new technology helps to upgrade the quality of artificial limbs while increasing the productivity. A training programme organized by the ICRC enabled civilian and military technicians to produce prostheses on their own, which meant that ICRC technicians were no longer required. The institution informed the Myanmar authorities that it would, however, be prepared to send out one of its specialists on an ad hoc basis whenever necessary. In 1995, a total of 552 prostheses and 332 orthoses were manufactured and 478 new patients were fitted with artificial appliances. This brought to 12,750 the number of prostheses and orthoses produced for over 6,700 amputees since 1986.

In recent years the ICRC had helped establish a service whereby civilian amputees in outlying areas were selected, transported, housed and fitted with orthopaedic appliances. The Republic of Korea National Red Cross agreed to take over the funding of this programme implemented by the MRCS and the Myanmar Ministry of Health and supervised by the New Delhi regional delegation.
NEPAL

The ICRC worked closely with the Nepal Red Cross Society to maintain a tracing and mail service between Bhutanese refugees in Nepal and their relatives in places of detention in Bhutan. A delegate visited the refugee camps in the north-east of the country (Jhapa district) where he held an information session on the ICRC's mandate and activities, which was also attended by camp social workers and National Society members.

The delegation conducted a training course on humanitarian law for Red Cross staff and organized a seminar for officers of the Royal Nepalese Army attending a course at the Command and Staff College near Kathmandu.

During the year the ICRC took formal steps to revive the discussion within the government on Nepal's accession to the Additional Protocols of 1977.
South-East Asia

CAMBODIA

As in 1994, occasional fighting between Khmer Rouge combatants and the Cambodian Royal Armed Forces in the north and north-west continued to hamper security. Small insurgent groups carried out sporadic attacks on roads, bridges and isolated military posts. Although no major offensives were launched in 1995, clashes near Anlong Veng and Preah Vihear occurred at the beginning of the year and hostilities increased at the end of the dry season.

The displaced population, which over the last two years had decreased to some 90,000 people, was concentrated in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces, where the situation remained tense. Their needs were met by the World Food Programme and the Cambodian Red Cross Society (CRCS).

Anti-personnel mines, mainly scattered in the north and north-west, continued to take their deadly toll among the civilian population. The ICRC therefore supported initiatives to raise awareness of the danger of mines and to discourage their use by the armed forces and the Khmer Rouge. However, new mines were still being planted and thousands of civilians risked losing limbs or their lives while farming the land or looking for firewood or water.

In May the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific visited Cambodia where he met King Sihanouk, the Second Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. His aim was to secure approval to use the horrendous effects of the countless landmines in the country as an example in support of the ICRC's efforts to achieve a total ban on mines at the Review Conference of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention. The Delegate General also reminded the authorities of the importance of acceding to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

Despite the original deadline set for January 1995, Khmer Rouge combatants were still amnestied by the government throughout the year. Most
of the Khmer Rouge deserters met by delegates were either returned to civilian life or else integrated into the Royal Armed Forces.

The institution did its utmost to try and obtain access to all detainees held in connection with the ongoing conflict. However, it was unable to gain access to Khmer Rouge-controlled zones. All efforts by the ICRC delegations in both Cambodia and Thailand to resume a dialogue with the Khmer Rouge remained in vain.

Although the delegation maintained its core activities related to protection, tracing, dissemination and medical assistance, the ICRC downscaled its expatriate staff from 31 to 18 in order to maintain optimum efficiency. The institution continued to look for a partner to take over its blood transfusion programme and made plans for further rationalization of its tracing service.

Activities for detainees

In 1995 delegates continued to visit detainees within the ICRC’s mandate in places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior and the armed forces in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap provinces. However, access to security detainees in Phnom Penh was regularly restricted. This prompted the ICRC to make written and oral representations to the relevant authorities. During their visits, delegates enabled all detainees, including common-law prisoners, to establish links with their families by exchanging Red Cross messages with them.

Activities for the civilian population

Following clashes in the north and north-west of the country, some 23,000 people fled to Sisophon in June and July. In cooperation with the Cambodian Red Cross, the ICRC registered some of the displaced and distributed plastic sheeting for shelter. Food distributions were organized under the World Food Programme/CRCS food-for-work programme. In May the ICRC reduced its medical assistance to displaced people in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces as their needs were largely covered by other non-governmental organizations.

Tracing activities

Although the overall number of tracing requests decreased in 1995, especially within Cambodia, the ICRC’s tracing service was still necessary to restore links between people living in the country and their relatives abroad. One quarter of the pending cases were resolved. Almost half of these were solved outside Cambodia with the help of the National Societies of Australia, France and the United States, while most of the others were settled thanks to
the network of local ICRC-trained staff working in the provinces. The
delegation also did its utmost to facilitate the exchange of Red Cross messages
between separated family members.

Medical activities

After supporting the Mongkol Borei civilian hospital in Banteay Meanchey
province for over four years, the ICRC withdrew at the end of March 1995. The
Norwegian Red Cross took over the institution’s medical activities there
and launched a comprehensive development programme to assist the whole
hospital for a minimum period of two years. The sub-delegation in Mongkol
Borei became a local office in July, and activities in Banteay Meanchey
province were coordinated from the sub-delegation in Battambang.

In view of the appalling conditions in certain military hospitals and the
inadequate care given to wounded soldiers, the ICRC provided these hospitals
with basic material assistance. In addition, an emergency stock was built up in
Aranyaprathet so that Thai hospitals along the border could cope with a
possible influx of Cambodian war-wounded.

Despite sustained mine-clearing efforts, landmines continued to take a heavy
toll among the Cambodian population. Rehabilitation work for the war-
disabled thus remained a priority for the ICRC. Its prosthetic/orthotic centre in
Battambang went on assembling artificial limbs and fitting amputees. A total
of 1,070 prostheses were manufactured in the course of the year. The ICRC’s
workshop in Phnom Penh stepped up its production of components used by
various non-governmental organizations also making artificial limbs in
Cambodia. In 1995 a total of 4,072 orthopaedic components were donated to
these organizations.

In association with the Ministry of Health, the ICRC continued to run the
National Blood Transfusion Centre in the capital and to supervise the
12 provincial centres, including two that were opened in 1995 in Kampot and
Kompong Thom. In order to boost the recruitment of blood donors, an ICRC
bus went from place to place in Phnom Penh collecting blood from donors.
Steps were taken to find a reliable partner to take over this blood transfusion
programme in the long term.

Dissemination

During the course of the year the ICRC organized regular dissemination
sessions for government troops and the police force. Several documents
relating to humanitarian law and the Movement were translated into Khmer.
As the ICRC did not have access to Khmer Rouge-controlled zones, delegates
were unable to conduct any dissemination activities in these areas.
With the arrival of a dissemination delegate for Cambodia in August, the ICRC's efforts to promote understanding of and respect for humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles among various target groups gained new momentum and a wide-ranging plan of action was drawn up. A basis for close cooperation was established with the National Society and other organizations, including the Federation and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights. In order to adapt dissemination messages to the country's social and cultural context, the ICRC initiated cross-cultural research with various Cambodian partners.

The ICRC produced a video on anti-personnel mines entitled *Crucial Steps*. Over 200 copies were distributed to ministries, government offices, embassies and non-governmental organizations. In addition, radio spots on the ICRC's prosthetic/orthotic programmes for the war-disabled were regularly broadcast in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces.

Two dissemination seminars on the law of war and the red cross emblem were held in both Battambang and Siem Reap for officers and soldiers of the Cambodian Royal Armed Forces. A four-day dissemination workshop was also organized for 20 dissemination and development staff members from provincial Red Cross branches.

**BANGKOK**
Regional delegation
(Laos, Thailand, Viet Nam)

**LAOS**

During a visit to Vientiane, the ICRC resumed contact with the authorities in order to develop a dialogue on possible visits to security detainees. During discussions in April with the Lao Red Cross, it raised the possibility of conducting dissemination seminars for National Society staff and the armed forces.

**THAILAND**

The ICRC regional delegation in Bangkok continued to monitor the situation along the borders with Cambodia and Myanmar.

The normalization of relations between the Cambodian and Thai governments and the calm that ensued had a favourable impact on the humanitarian situation along the border between the two countries. Towards the end of the year the delegation therefore began to make the necessary preparations to close
the ICRC's set-up in Aranyaprathet. As the Thai government had officially cut off relations with the Khmer Rouge, it was no longer possible for delegates based in Bangkok or Phnom Penh to obtain access to Khmer Rouge-controlled zones via Thai territory, despite repeated representations to senior Thai officials.

The ICRC continued its visits to Cambodian illegal immigrants held in Thai prisons, to enable them to maintain links with their families by means of Red Cross messages. As from mid-April this programme was handed over to the tracing service of the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) and the authorities were informed accordingly.

In February and June two ICRC/TRCS teams carried out missions to transit sites along the stretch of Thai border running between Myanmar's Shan State to the north and Karen State to the south. The aim was to evaluate the humanitarian situation of some 90,000 displaced people from Myanmar. No ICRC assistance was considered necessary as needs were met by a number of NGOs and the Thai Red Cross. However, incursions into the camps by armed groups prompted the delegation to discuss this issue with the Thai authorities and organizations active in the area.

The delegation also approached Karen representatives in Bangkok to promote the fundamental rules of humanitarian law and to discuss how best to disseminate them. The ICRC planned to produce a publication on first aid and basic rules for behaviour in combat and distribute it to all combatants and leaders within the Karen movement.

Contact was re-initiated with the Ministry of Defence, the Faculty of Law of Chulalongkorn University and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote Thailand's accession to the Additional Protocols. Discussions with the National Society centred on the ICRC's active support for the creation of an international humanitarian law study centre in Bangkok. A Help 95 (Health Emergencies in Large Populations) course was organized in Bangkok by the ICRC Medical Division, in cooperation with the TRCS.

In 1995 the delegation recruited and trained a media liaison officer to cover the South-East Asia region. A network of contacts was developed with the international and Thai media to promote the ICRC's activities and image. Projects included media coverage of humanitarian issues in Cambodia, such as the effects of the landmine scourge.

Tracing activities

Tracing activities in Bangkok consisted mostly in handling tracing requests for former Cambodian refugees and processing replies coming in from National Societies, particularly those of Australia, France and the United States.
The delegation also dealt with a small number of tracing requests and Red Cross messages relating to Thailand, Laos and Viet Nam.

VIET NAM

Despite attempts made by the regional delegation in 1995 following the mission of the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific in December 1994, no progress was achieved on the issue of visits to security detainees. Detention matters, the implementation of humanitarian law, including Viet Nam's accession to Additional Protocol II, as well as the campaign for a total ban on anti-personnel mines were discussed in meetings with representatives from the Ministries of the Interior and Foreign Affairs. Talks began with the Ministry of National Defence to introduce humanitarian law courses as part of military training.

In cooperation with the Defence Ministry and the Red Cross branch in Ho Chi Minh City, the ICRC was actively involved in a four-day dissemination seminar for 60 high-ranking officers of the Vietnamese army.

In 1995 the ICRC financed two tracing courses for over 100 people working in this sector in seven provinces. The delegation used this opportunity to promote humanitarian law among the participants, who included the Secretary-General of the Red Cross of Viet Nam.

In March the regional delegate was in Ho Chi Minh City to close the ICRC office there and to finalize the institution's withdrawal from the programme for the war-disabled. Attempts were made throughout the year to find an organization to take over this project, in which the ICRC had been actively involved for five years. Eventually the American Red Cross indicated its willingness to guarantee the continuation of the programme as from April 1996. Until then, the ICRC would continue to finance the production of prostheses and the fitting of destitute amputees (150 prostheses a month) through its Special Fund for the Disabled. A local employee served as liaison and the project was supervised regularly by the coordinator in Cambodia. In 1995 the centre fitted 2,432 patients with artificial limbs which had been manufactured there. At year's end some 4,000 people remained on the waiting list. The ICRC will continue to promote the establishment of a Viet Nam-based foundation to run this project on a long-term basis.
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)

As in previous years the regional delegation in Hong Kong focused on co­
operation with the various National Societies and dissemination of humani­
tarian law among the armed forces, the media, civil servants and academic
 circles. To this end, numerous contacts were developed and a number of work­
shops and seminars were organized in the region. Countries which had not yet
become party to the Additional Protocols were encouraged to do so.

The essay and drawing competition, “Red Cross in my mind”, launched in
China in November 1994, was a great success. In August the regional dele­
gation organized a session in Beijing that brought together the final jury for this
competition aimed at raising awareness of the Red Cross Principles and image
among young people from China, Hong Kong and Macao. Out of the
7,600,000 entries, the jury selected 114 essays and 134 drawings. This project
culminated in the publication of the winning entries and also served to increase
contact between the Chinese National Society and the Red Cross branches of
Hong Kong and Macao.

In cooperation with the relevant services at ICRC headquarters, the regional
dlegation prepared a study visit to Geneva for representatives of the National
Societies of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic
of Korea, Mongolia and Viet Nam. The visit took place between 23 October
and 3 November and the group attended presentations on the dissemination of
humanitarian law and on the institution's mandate and activities throughout
the world.

The Hong Kong delegation also coordinated tracing activities in the region,
particularly in China, the two Koreas and Mongolia. These included dealing
with tracing requests, issuing travel documents, facilitating the exchange of Red
Cross messages and assisting the National Societies in developing their tracing
services.

In order to optimize financial and human resources, the ICRC took the
decision to transfer its regional delegation from Hong Kong to Bangkok in the
course of 1996. It plans to maintain a sub-delegation in Hong Kong with one
delegate in charge.
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Discussions between the Chinese authorities and the ICRC regarding visits to security detainees remained at a deadlock in 1995, since the process involving expert meetings on standard ICRC working procedures and national legal requirements was suspended sine die. However, ties with the headquarters and branches of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) were strengthened, particularly in the field of dissemination. In May the Vice-President of the National Society visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva and was received by the institution’s Vice-President. They discussed relations between the ICRC and the Chinese Red Cross.

An ICRC mission was carried out to Fujian, Guangdong and Hunan provinces and to the autonomous region of Guangxi Zhuang to evaluate the material and training needs of tracing services there. In cooperation with the National Society, a training course on humanitarian law, the Movement and the Fundamental Principles was organized between 30 July and 5 August in Taiyuan (Shanxi province). This course was the third in a series begun in 1994. It was attended by 110 people, including the heads of 29 Red Cross branches, a dozen participants from the National Society’s headquarters and its Secretary-General.

Discussions continued with representatives of the armed forces regarding training on humanitarian law for high-ranking officers. A course bringing together 40 participants was held at the naval academy in Canton in November, with the participation of an ICRC expert from the Division for Dissemination to the Armed Forces based in Geneva.

In addition to the essay and drawing competition (see above), six documents promoting humanitarian law were produced in China, including the Basic rules of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

The Hong Kong delegation was actively involved in the ICRC’s preparations for the 4th UN World Conference on Women, which was held in Beijing in September.1

HONG KONG

Contacts with the Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross focused on its participation in the essay and drawing competition, statutory issues and the promotion of humanitarian law.

JAPAN

The regional delegation’s work in Japan centred on spreading knowledge of humanitarian law in cooperation with the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS),

1 See The law and legal considerations, p. 266.
particularly among academic circles. The regional delegate chaired meetings at a symposium entitled "The new dimensions of UN peace-keeping operations", which was organized in Tokyo by the UN University and the International Peace Academy under the patronage of the Japanese government. This event brought together several leading political and diplomatic figures from Japan and the UN.

On the 50th anniversary of the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima, the regional delegate gave a presentation on the ICRC to a session of the "Pugwash Science and World Affairs Conference", which was held in the city and attended by 200 participants from 39 countries.

The regional delegation did its utmost to persuade the Japanese government to ratify the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, but no progress was made during the year.

Discussions continued with the National Society on the possibility of setting up an ICRC media liaison office in Tokyo.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Despite the ICRC's efforts to find a new approach to the problem of the countless families separated since the Korean war, no Red Cross messages could be exchanged between North and South Korea.

The regional delegation and ICRC headquarters closely followed the naval incident that broke out between the two countries and made representations to the authorities concerned.

In cooperation with North Korea's National Society the ICRC issued two publications promoting humanitarian law and the Red Cross Principles.

A training course for high-ranking representatives of the National Society, scheduled for November, had to be postponed because of the heavy floods which struck the region.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The ICRC stepped up its cooperation with South Korea’s Red Cross, particularly in the field of dissemination and training. The institution participated in a training programme organized by the National Society for senior representatives of the provincial branches, and a seminar on humanitarian law was organized jointly for diplomats, and professors and students of the country's various law faculties. Publications were produced in Korean to heighten awareness of the Red Cross Principles.

In May the regional delegate accompanied a member of the Committee (the ICRC's governing body) to Seoul for the "First Convention on Voluntary Work for Asia and the Pacific", organized by the Republic's National Red Cross on
the occasion of its 90th anniversary. The Committee member addressed representatives of the 31 National Societies in the region during the opening ceremony.

Discussions with the authorities and Red Cross representatives focused on the exchange of Red Cross messages between the two Koreas and the naval incident involving North and South Korea.

MACAO

Contacts were maintained with the Macao Red Cross, a branch of the Portuguese Red Cross, concerning a project for a university course on humanitarian law. This was prepared under the auspices of the territory’s highest authorities, together with the regional delegation, the Macao branch of the Red Cross and the University of Macao. It was held in September and was attended by students and lecturers at the Faculty of Law, magistrates, lawyers and members of the military. The branch’s participation in the competition “Red Cross in my mind” also ranked high on the regional delegation’s agenda.

MONGOLIA

The regional delegation kept up its relations with the authorities and the Red Cross of Mongolia regarding the promotion of humanitarian law. In March the regional delegate took part in an information workshop for the local media, conducted jointly by the ICRC and the National Society. Some 20 television and newspaper journalists attended this session, which was the first of its kind in the country.

In October the regional delegate ensured the smooth running of a training programme for Red Cross youth leaders, which was organized in conjunction with the Federation. He also made an introductory presentation on humanitarian law at the Faculty of Law of Ulan Bator University and at a private university in the capital.

The regional delegation worked closely with the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Mongolian government to prepare for the country’s ratification of the Additional Protocols. Mongolia became party to these instruments in December.

In December a civil servant attached to the Ministry of Foreign Relations underwent a period of training on humanitarian law with the ICRC.

TAIWAN

In 1995 the ICRC increased its cooperation with the local Red Cross to promote both training and knowledge of humanitarian law. Together with local Red Cross representatives the ICRC participated in a meeting at the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs on dissemination of humanitarian law. In November further discussions on the matter were held in Taipei with the same participants.

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

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
ICRC and Federation representatives made a joint visit in September to the emerging Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society to discuss its admission to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The ICRC and Federation regional delegations, in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur respectively, intended to step up their cooperation with the “Brunei Red Crescent” to enable it to fulfill the Movement’s statutory conditions for recognition in the near future.

INDONESIA
Delegates conducted a visit once every six months to all categories of security detainee and provided the inmates with material and medical assistance whenever necessary. The ICRC maintained its presence in Aceh and its staff were able to move about quite freely. However, as in 1994, the institution’s permanent presence in the northern Sumatran province remained subject to approval from the Indonesian authorities. Following the upsurge of violence in Irian Jaya, the ICRC carried out several missions to the region to monitor the situation there.

The Jakarta regional delegation made some progress regarding the promotion of humanitarian law among the troops and developed its contacts with academic circles and the National Society.

Activities for detainees
In addition to their six-monthly visits to all categories of security detainees in Aceh, delegates also conducted their annual visit to security prisoners in Sulawesi, Kalimantan, Java and Irian Jaya.

In northern Aceh and Aceh Pidie the ICRC team visited former detainees in their villages. They also talked to families of detainees who were anxious about their relatives’ whereabouts. The ICRC subsequently made the necessary
arrangements for family visits to security prisoners, which were organized for all detainees serving sentences far away from their homes, including Irianese detainees held in Java.

In all places visited delegates monitored conditions of detention, provided material and medical assistance when necessary and offered inmates the opportunity to write Red Cross messages to their families. In all, the ICRC visited a total of 170 detainees in 25 places of detention throughout Indonesia. Around 90 prisoners benefited from the family visits programme.

Activities for the civilian population

The ICRC carried out two missions to the Mindiptana border region in Irian Jaya. In February delegates visited people who had previously been repatriated to Irian Jaya from UNHCR camps in Papua New Guinea. The regional delegate and the Secretary-General of the Indonesian Red Cross Society (PMI) joined the February mission. Their aim was to foster cooperation between the two institutions in that area and to evaluate the joint programmes carried out there, such as the development of PMI branches which provide the ICRC with logistic support, liaise with the civilian population and help organize family visits to security detainees. In late March the ICRC took part in a repatriation operation in the area. A delegate joined a mission comprising a UNHCR official from Papua New Guinea and clan leaders from refugee camps who travelled to Irian Jaya to evaluate conditions prior to a possible return of large numbers of refugees under the UNHCR Voluntary Repatriation Plan. Visits were also carried out to a number of Irianese families that had returned from Papua New Guinea to the Mamberamo area. In May and June the ICRC went to the Timika/Tembagapura area to try and establish the whereabouts of people who were said to have been arrested or to have surrendered to the authorities. A report containing the delegates’ findings was submitted to the Indonesian authorities.

In July a survey was carried out in the Hoya area, which had experienced security problems, and a report on the ICRC’s findings and recommendations was subsequently handed over to the Indonesian authorities. In December a follow-up mission in the same region showed that some of the recommendations had been implemented by the army. The ICRC distributed blankets and plastic sheeting to the civilian population and also provided some livestock.

In comparison with 1994, delegates maintained a more frequent presence in Aceh, where they focused on problems of humanitarian concern encountered by civilians. Whenever necessary, the ICRC informed the relevant authorities of matters requiring action on their part.
Tracing activities
The ICRC’s tracing service in Jakarta provided support for the regional delegation’s detention-related activities, following up on each individual detainee. It concentrated its efforts on collecting allegations of disappearances and of civilians being separated from their families in Aceh and Irian Jaya.

Dissemination
Following meetings with the armed forces’ Legal Department, a working group was formed to study possible improvements in the teaching of humanitarian law as part of military training. The regional delegation attended the group’s discussions in an advisory capacity.

The ICRC increased its cooperation with academic circles in Indonesia. The regional delegation presented the institution’s activities and dissemination programme during a seminar on humanitarian law organized at the University of Trisakti, Jakarta, by the Centre of Studies of Humanitarian Law.

Ties were strengthened with the National Society regarding the promotion of humanitarian law in the country. A delegate gave talks on humanitarian law at two PMI seminars for 60 senior representatives of local Red Cross branches. In addition, the ICRC invited the Society’s Secretary-General to attend a seminar on humanitarian law for National Society leaders, organized by the Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva.

EAST TIMOR
In 1995 the situation in East Timor remained tense. When incidents occurred the ICRC rapidly went to the scene in order to act as a neutral intermediary between the authorities and the civilian population and to monitor respect for humanitarian law. In early January a dispute between a Timorese and a Sulawesi citizen in the town of Baucau resulted in unrest and the death of five people. Tension then spread to the territory’s capital where a demonstration at the University of Dili led to several arrests. A few days later Indonesian troops killed six people in a village near Liquiza. Two soldiers were charged with violating regulations and convicted by a civil court to respectively four and four-and-a-half years’ imprisonment for their responsibility in the killing. More arrests were subsequently made in connection with the deteriorating security situation. Whenever the need arose, the ICRC visited newly arrested individuals and maintained a dialogue with the central and provincial authorities.

Security measures were tightened between July and September to ensure that there would be no disruption of the 50th anniversary celebrations of Indonesian independence and the 20th anniversary of the Indonesian armed forces’ intervention in East Timor. The period was marked by a string of
disturbances, which resulted in a number of deaths and arrests. In early September rioting spread across East Timor after an Indonesian official made a derogatory remark about Catholicism. Angry mobs burned and pillaged shops owned by Muslim immigrants in Dili, Viqueque and Bobonaro. The disturbances lasted for about one week. As from September a number of Timorese sought asylum in the embassies of France, Japan, the Netherlands and Russia. They were all subsequently transferred to Portugal under ICRC auspices.

Activities for detainees

Delegates carried out frequent visits to security detainees in places of detention run by the armed forces, the police and the Ministry of Justice. They also saw Timorese detainees in Java. In 1995, a total of 166 detainees were visited in 19 places of detention.

In all the places visited, the delegates checked on conditions of detention and treatment, provided material and medical assistance where necessary and gave detainees the opportunity to contact their relatives by means of Red Cross messages. The ICRC also organized and financed two series of family visits for those held far from home.

Activities for the civilian population

Delegates based in Dili were able to have access to the local population. In the course of their work, they assessed the situation and contacted the relevant authorities concerning security on the island.

Tracing activities

As in previous years the ICRC’s tracing service was responsible for the registration and individual follow-up of detainees. It also handled tracing requests concerning 141 people; these included cases relating to missing persons, many of which had been brought over from 1994. The ICRC transferred to Portugal 43 Timorese who had sought asylum in a number of embassies. Delegates organized their journey, issued travel documents for them and contacted the Portuguese Red Cross, which welcomed them on their arrival in Lisbon.

Water and sanitation

The ICRC/PMI water and sanitation programme, launched in 1988, was consolidated in 1995. Projects ranged from the building of simple wells to the construction of distribution networks providing water to several hamlets
kilometres away from each other. Forty former projects, spanning the eight years since the programme began, underwent maintenance and repair work. An expatriate engineer provided technical advice, guaranteed quality and gave training. The communities concerned, which also participated in the work, received health education aimed primarily at mothers and children. A nutritional survey was carried out and the results were submitted to the authorities.

Dissemination

Sessions to promote knowledge of humanitarian law and the Movement were regularly held for the armed forces, the police, students and National Society members and staff.

MALAYSIA

The regional delegation focused on spreading awareness of humanitarian law and on training National Society staff.

In contrast to 1994, the ICRC did not conduct a round of visits to detainees held under the Internal Security Act. However, in May a seminar was organized in Sabah with National Society members and prison authorities, including the Director General of Prisons, with the aim of setting up a Red Crescent prison assistance programme including health education and material support to the worst-off detainees, mainly illegal immigrants.

Cooperation with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) continued in 1995, particularly in the field of dissemination to the armed forces and other target groups, such as diplomats and civil servants. In conjunction with a legal expert from ICRC headquarters, the regional delegation made a presentation in April to 150 cadets at the Staff College on the ICRC’s mandate in modern armed conflicts. Although the majority of participants were Malaysian, some 17 countries were represented.

The ICRC and the MRCS continued to organize joint training seminars for senior staff from the National Society’s headquarters and provincial branches. In January the regional delegate conducted a two-day mission to Kuala Lumpur where he met National Society representatives to finalize ICRC/MRCS projects. Discussions focused on the promotion of humanitarian law and the training of staff working in MRCS branches. In Ipoh two courses on humanitarian law were attended by a total of 60 participants, including 30 future instructors from various Red Crescent branches. The presentations also covered the structure of the Movement and ICRC and Federation activities. The Federation’s regional information delegate took part in one of
the workshops. A third course for National Society staff was organized in November.

SINGAPORE

The ICRC maintained contact with the Singapore Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Defence with a view to promoting instruction in humanitarian law among the military. Delegates took part in a training course organized for Red Cross volunteers from both Singapore and Malaysia.

The National Society donated orthopaedic material for the Calmette Hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. This enabled the surgical staff at the hospital to carry out operations such as bone repairs and joint replacements and also facilitated the training of future Cambodian surgeons.

MANILA
Regional delegation
(Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, territories and colonies of the Pacific)

The regional delegation kept up its relations with National Societies and governments in the region to encourage adhesion to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols by those Pacific States which had not yet done so. In September the Federated States of Micronesia acceded to these treaties, which were ratified by Palau’s parliament in August. At the end of the year, however, the relevant instruments had not yet been deposited with the Swiss government. Other topics of discussion included the 1980 UN Weapons Convention, the ICRC’s activities worldwide and the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC also offered support to the National Societies in their efforts to promote knowledge of and respect for humanitarian law.

AUSTRALIA

The regional delegate conducted six missions to Australia in the course of the year. He discussed the ICRC’s activities and mandate with members of the Australian Red Cross Society (ARCS), the Federation’s representative in
Sydney, reporters from radio and television stations, and members of the written press.

During the “International Missing Persons Conference” in April, the regional delegate gave a speech on humanitarian law, and in May he participated as a guest speaker in the “National Law Week” organized by the ARCS in Sydney. In July he delivered a paper entitled “Fulfilment of the Humanitarian Mandate in the Context of Peace-Keeping” at a conference commemorating the UN’s 50th anniversary, which was organized by the Trobe University in Melbourne for government officials, representatives from major international organizations and legal experts from Asian universities. A separate meeting was held with the Chief of Staff of the Australian Defence Force to discuss the ICRC’s activities in contexts where peace-keeping forces had been in operation (for example, in Cambodia and the former Yugoslavia).

Together with key staff from the Australian Red Cross, the regional delegate took part in the “Kangaroo ’95” military exercise held in Darwin in August. Through role-play he illustrated the ICRC’s traditional function during hostilities. The exercise also included troops from the United States, the United Kingdom, Indonesia and other countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

During a trip to Perth in October the regional delegate conducted a seminar with some 30 participants from the Society’s Western Australia Division and a round table on humanitarian law with the Committee members concerned. Another round table was held with the Commander and senior officers of the Australian Special Forces (SAS), based in the city, on the ICRC’s working principles in field activities and the institution’s relations with UN peace-keeping contingents.

The media liaison office in Sydney, opened in December 1994, took on the task of promoting the ICRC’s image and activities in the Asia and Pacific region.

FIJI

In February the regional delegate opened the second workshop on war injuries, which was financed by the ICRC and organized by the Fiji Red Cross Society. Participants came from the Fiji military and police forces scheduled to join UN peace-keeping contingents in Angola and the Middle East.

A three-day training seminar on humanitarian law was held in November and was attended by high-ranking officers of the defence forces of Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. One officer from the Fiji armed forces was sent to participate in a course on humanitarian law held in San Remo, Italy.

The regional delegate also conducted two seminars on the Movement, humanitarian law, the Fundamental Principles and the red cross emblem for
civil servants from various government departments and members of the board and administration of the Fiji Red Cross.

NEW ZEALAND

In May the regional delegate took part in a three-day basic training course for future delegates of the New Zealand Red Cross Society to be seconded to the ICRC or the Federation. He also participated in the opening ceremony of a poster competition sponsored by the National Society to draw attention to the scourge of landmines.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The ICRC continued to monitor the situation in Bougainville, which remained the only security problem in the Pacific region. In January delegates went to two detention centres and visited 19 detainees held in connection with the crisis on the island.

During a joint mission Federation and ICRC representatives made extensive contacts at all levels of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) with the aim of strengthening personal and working relations, particularly with members of the Council and the administration.

The regional delegate carried out a one-month mission to Papua New Guinea in order to launch a joint ICRC/PNGRCS dissemination project. A dissemination department was set up and training provided for a newly appointed dissemination officer.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippine government continued to hold peace talks with various opposition parties. A general agreement, granting unconditional amnesty to military rebels, was signed in October following three years of negotiations. The third round of formal peace talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front, held in Jakarta from 27 November to 3 December, produced tangible results on several key issues, but did not resolve the controversy regarding the setting up of an autonomous government in Mindanao.

Mindanao was especially tense in the wake of the raid on the town of Ipil, which left 53 dead, many wounded and the commercial centre in rubble. The island was subject to violence involving not only the army, the police, militias, and leftist and Moro armed groups, but also private armies and vigilantes.

Tens of thousands of people were displaced in 1995, mainly because of ongoing military operations against Muslim rebels who were reportedly strengthening their forces in Mindanao and on the islands of Basilan and Sulu.
Following a six-month impasse in negotiations, left-wing opposition groups agreed in principle to resume peace talks with the government in 1996. However, towards the end of the year an “all-out war” was declared against the “Alex Boncayao Brigade”, a communist group which admitted to the ambush-killing of two prominent Filipino-Chinese businessmen in Manila.

The situation in the Visayas remained relatively calm, but sporadic incidents continued to erupt in Luzon, particularly in Bicol, between left-wing groups and the security forces.

Activities for detainees

The ICRC pursued its visits to all detainees held in connection with insurgency-related incidents. Delegates visited a total of 446 detainees, of whom 132 were registered for the first time. An ICRC field nurse followed the progress of all inmates with special medical problems and supervised the disinfection of some places of detention.

Tracing activities

The tracing service continued to register and monitor the individual cases of security detainees. In all, the ICRC collected and distributed 74 Red Cross messages and issued travel documents for five refugees accepted by host countries for resettlement.

The family visits programme, run jointly by the ICRC and the Philippine National Red Cross, proceeded smoothly, enabling some 215 detainees to receive visits from their relatives.

Dissemination

As all the country’s military and police academies included humanitarian law in their curricula, the ICRC concentrated its dissemination efforts on other target groups, such as Red Cross staff, students and the media. Over 3,000 publications were distributed to these groups. In April the regional delegate and an ICRC legal expert on humanitarian law took part in a human rights workshop in Manila, which was organized by the Institute of Strategic and Development Studies for ASEAN member and would-be member countries.

At the end of September a five-day course on humanitarian law was held by the ICRC and the Philippines’ Commission on Human Rights for over 50 participants, including army and police officers, jail personnel, as well as correction, military and prosecution officers. This course was held with the support of two Geneva-based legal and dissemination specialists at the Local Government Academy in Laguna province.
Over 9,000 copies of documents on international humanitarian law were provided to the Commission for its continuing series of seminars for officers of the air force, army and police. In addition, some 10,000 copies of the *Code of Conduct for Combatants* were printed for distribution to various sectors of the Philippine armed forces and to combatants of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS**

The regional delegate, together with the representative of the Federation, conducted a mission to the Solomon Islands to discuss the humanitarian situation in Bougainville, the conditions of Bougainville refugees in the Solomon Islands and their possible repatriation. These issues were also raised with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Home Affairs.
Self-sufficiency helps to restore the dignity lost in the horrors of war. If people are given the chance to work towards the future by growing their own food instead of relying solely on food rations, they may find the strength to pull through. In 1995 the ICRC distributed 8,145 tonnes of seed worldwide, over a quarter of which went to the former Yugoslavia.
Western and Central Europe
and the Balkans

ICRC delegations:
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia,
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,
Former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia

Staff
ICRC expatriates¹: 157
National Societies¹: 100
Local employees²: 767

Total expenditure
Sfr 117,687,211

Expenditure breakdown
Sfr
Protection/tracing: 23,052,086
Relief: 43,852,691
Medical assistance: 36,635,076
Cooperation with
National Societies: 951,705
Dissemination: 2,464,542
Operational support: 5,004,815
Overheads: 5,726,296

¹ Average figures calculated on an annual basis.
² Under ICRC contract, as at December 1995.

Please see map
of the Former
Yugoslavia
The world’s attention in 1995 was once again drawn to Europe and the horrific happenings in the former Yugoslavia. The brief calm that had descended over the region at the beginning of the year soon shattered and violence erupted once again. The attacks on Sarajevo, the expulsions in the wake of the fall of Srebrenica and Zepa, the storming of the former Sectors in Croatia and offensives in western and central Bosnia, all contributed to create one of the worst crises the Balkans had ever known.

This rapid succession of crises meant that the ICRC had to step up operations well beyond what had thus far been envisaged. With many national, international and non-governmental aid organizations already working in the former Yugoslavia, obtaining additional support from the donor community was no easy task. Widespread recognition of the ICRC’s impartiality, independence and neutrality, however, coupled with the fact that at times it was the only humanitarian agency to remain in certain areas, played a large part in ensuring it received the support so sorely needed for its operations.

Early in the year the ICRC set up stocks of emergency relief supplies in key areas. This enabled it to provide immediate aid to those in need. Even so, considerable efforts had to be made to mobilize further resources and establish the logistics needed to deliver emergency supplies to nearly half a million displaced people towards the end of the year. National Societies were approached to fund and implement programmes under ICRC auspices, and local Red Cross branches carried out operational programmes with input from Red Cross Societies outside the region. In Bosnian Serb-held areas of Bosnia the ICRC remained the implementing agency.

One of the ICRC’s overriding priorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina was to obtain the protection of civilians and detainees. This proved a major challenge in the face of “ethnic cleansing” policies that became more entrenched as the year wore on. The number of people evicted from their homes or fleeing ever-worsening security conditions rendered the task even more difficult for those distributing relief and medical supplies, Red Cross tracing staff and water and sanitation teams. The “ethnic cleansing” process became an “ethnic engineering” policy by the second half of the year when mass population movements were triggered by decisions reached at the negotiating table rather than under the threat or even the use of violence. The ICRC frequently had to remind the warring parties to spare civilians and their property and to allow humanitarian aid to reach the victims; it also had to adapt its approach to protecting vulnerable groups in situ.

Under the terms of the Peace Agreement signed in Paris in December, the ICRC was entrusted with the task of monitoring the rapid and orderly release of all detainees held in connection with the conflict once hostilities were over and shedding light on the fate of the missing, including the largest single group
of 8,000 men from Srebrenica. As another harsh winter set in, it also began planning immediate emergency relief for a population wearied and impoverished by four years of conflict. A memorandum of understanding, signed by the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in March and defining their respective spheres of activity, united the Movement in its approach to the humanitarian aspects of the peace-building process. A plan for the rehabilitation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was set up in consultation with the World Bank and others. By the end of the year, with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) handover to the NATO Implementation Force (IFOR), and troops in place, the future of the region, though still uncertain, looked more promising.

Meanwhile, the situation in other parts of Europe remained fairly calm. The ICRC maintained close links with the National Societies of the region, with particular emphasis on promoting knowledge and acceptance of the principles of humanitarian law, especially among the armed forces. Plans for a new regional delegation to cover the countries of Central Europe were backed by a series of missions to find a suitable location.

In Western Europe, the situation in Northern Ireland remained stable as a result of the parties’ agreement to refrain from violent action. The ICRC carried out a round of prison visits there in November. In Turkey the ICRC persisted in its efforts to gain access to both detainees and the civilian population in the south-east of the country. When the Turkish armed forces entered northern Iraq in April, the ICRC conducted a survey, the results of which were presented to the Turkish authorities.

Close ties were also maintained with the European Union and the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO). As a result of a series of representations made to the various governments by the ICRC in conjunction with the European Parliament, resolutions were adopted calling for a ban on the use of anti-personnel mines and blinding laser weapons.

Throughout Western and Central Europe and the Balkans, and particularly in the light of the tragic events in the former Yugoslavia, the ICRC laid special emphasis during the year on dissemination and information programmes, while pursuing its customary activities for detainees and civilians affected by hostilities.
Western Europe

The ICRC maintained close contact with the governments and National Red Cross Societies of Western Europe throughout the year, promoting cooperation and greater awareness of the humanitarian principles and mobilizing resources for war victims in other parts of the world. The institution's President, Vice-Presidents and Directors, members of the Committee (the ICRC’s governing body) and the delegates concerned with the region carried out frequent missions to foster dialogue with the various States and their National Societies and strengthen cooperation with them. ICRC representatives gave numerous talks and seminars aimed at spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law and the ICRC’s activities worldwide, for academic, political, military and religious circles, diplomats, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and the media and communications sector. Throughout the year, there were numerous meetings between the ICRC President and other representatives of the institution, National Societies and government officials in preparation for the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. This was jointly organized by the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and was the key event of the year with its theme of humanitarian challenges facing the Movement on the eve of the twenty-first century.1

The ICRC President carried out missions to various countries to increase awareness of the problems facing the institution and promote knowledge of its mandate and work. Official visits took him to Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Holy See, Italy, Germany, Liechtenstein, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.2 While in Austria to attend the Review Conference of the 1980 United Nations Weapons Convention,3 he met the President of the Republic and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. During his visit to Rome the ICRC President had talks with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Health and other government officials. At the Vatican, he participated in the closing round-table discussion of the 10th International Conference organized by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral, Assistance to Health Care Workers. The President also travelled to Portugal, where he had meetings with the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs and other government representatives. In

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1 See ICRC action within the Movement, pp. 292-298.
2 See also p. 168.
3 See The law and legal considerations, pp. 268-270.
Germany he met the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and in Norway he held talks with high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ICRC remained in close contact with the Swiss Federal authorities in Bern. In November the members of the institution’s Executive Board went there for their annual discussions with the Federal authorities, in particular the President of the Confederation, the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Head of the Federal Military Department and a number of other high-ranking officials.

The 13th annual summer course on international humanitarian law, organized by the ICRC Legal Division and the Polish Red Cross, was held in English in Warsaw, Poland, from 1 to 11 August. The same course, this time in French and organized in conjunction with the French Red Cross, was held in Lyon, France, from 11 to 21 September.

During all his missions, the ICRC President held talks with senior National Society staff, in which he emphasized the importance of cooperation within the Movement, while stressing the need to clarify the distinct roles to be played by its individual components. In the United Kingdom he attended the ceremony marking the 125th anniversary of the British Red Cross, and in Portugal he participated in the 130th anniversary celebrations of the Portuguese Red Cross.

Throughout the year the President, Vice-Presidents, Committee members and other ICRC representatives received Heads of State, Ministers and other senior government officials from a number of Western European countries at ICRC headquarters. Close contacts were also maintained with the Permanent Missions based in Geneva.

EUROPEAN UNION

The ICRC and ECHO* have now established close working relations, not only in Brussels but also in the field where ECHO is setting up more and more local offices. In addition to substantial support from ECHO during the year under review, the ICRC continued to receive food aid from the European Commission through the Directorate General for Development.

In 1995 the ICRC President carried out several missions to countries forming part of the European Union. On 23 May he addressed the European Parliament at a symposium held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. In October he went to Madrid for his traditional visit to the capital of the State holding the presidency of the European Union, where he was received by the country’s highest authorities. On 20 and 21 November he

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* ECHO: European Community Humanitarian Office
was in Brussels for a meeting with the new President of the Commission. During his visit he also had talks with senior officials of Common Foreign and Security Policy at the European Council and Commission, as well as the Director of ECHO.

On 14 December the ICRC President attended the humanitarian summit in Madrid which brought together representatives of the current two largest donors (the European Union and the United States), major humanitarian agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations from both Europe and North Europe. The summit closed with a declaration signed by the participants and calling on States not only to provide even stronger support for humanitarian action, but also to take more effective steps to prevent crises in the humanitarian sphere.

The ICRC maintained its fruitful cooperation with the European Parliament, in particular with the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Development, as well as with the European forum for the active prevention of conflicts, set up in Strasbourg in 1994 by various Parliament members. A number of representations made to the relevant bodies contributed to Parliament’s decision to adopt resolutions calling for a total ban on anti-personnel mines and blinding laser weapons.

The ICRC also regularly took part in the work of the Red Cross/European Union liaison office, which represents the interests of the National Societies of the 15 Member States and the Federation in Brussels.

SPAIN

During his mission to Spain in October (see also above), the ICRC President held talks with the Prime Minister and reiterated the ICRC’s availability to resume its visits to detainees, which had been carried out since 1972 but were suspended in 1986.

UNITED KINGDOM

In Northern Ireland the cease-fire held throughout 1995, although political talks did not make any notable progress.

From 30 October to 14 November, ICRC delegates visited detainees held in connection with the events in Northern Ireland in the province’s five prisons. The ICRC has regularly conducted visits, in accordance with its standard procedures, to these prisons since 1972. The last complete series of visits took place in 1992, with an interim visit to the Belfast and Maze prisons in 1994.
The Former Yugoslavia

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
AND CROATIA

The year began on a note of cautious optimism following the signing of a four-month cease-fire agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 31 December 1994. An atmosphere of relative restraint seemed to settle over most of Bosnia and Herzegovina although fighting in the Bihac enclave, which flared up in mid-October 1994, spilled over into the new year. In many areas access to people in need remained extremely difficult and, with a severe winter looming, the situation of civilians, displaced people and refugees was desperate. UN-controlled ‘blue roads’ into Sarajevo for convoys bringing humanitarian assistance were opened up, and the ICRC took advantage of the lull in the hostilities to plan for emergency stocks to be set up in strategic locations, to deploy additional staff in certain areas and to take measures to provide extra protection for their offices.

Pursuant to Article 8 of the 31 December cease-fire agreement, the warring parties held regular meetings in the presence of ICRC delegates at Sarajevo airport to discuss possibilities for the exchange of detainees. The Central Commission for Prisoners and Persons Unaccounted for, established under ICRC auspices in implementation of the agreement, yielded few tangible results during the course of the year as political considerations far outweighed humanitarian concerns. As a result delegates continued to be denied access to several places of detention, very few detainees were released, and scant information about persons unaccounted for was forthcoming.

The situation in Croatia eased temporarily when, as a result of intensive negotiations, the United Nations’ mandate and the deadline for the UNPROFOR* withdrawal from all four UNPAs,* originally scheduled for

* UNPROFOR: United Nations Protection Force
* UNPAs: United Nations Protected Areas later known as Sectors North, South, West and East (from end March)
IN 1995 THE ICRC:

- visited over 5,300 detainees throughout the former Yugoslavia: some 2,500 in Bosnia and Herzegovina in approximately 80 places of detention and some 2,600 in Croatia in approximately 50 places of detention;
- visited some 200 detainees in 13 places of detention in the Republic of Serbia;
- handled over 3,805,600 Red Cross messages;
- regularly provided 236 health facilities with emergency surgical supplies and essential medicines for chronic diseases;
- distributed relief supplies to over 350,000 people directly affected by the fighting;
- held 27 dissemination sessions for 1,456 members of the armed forces and 39 sessions for 621 members of local Red Cross organizations;
- held tracing seminars for over 500 tracing officers;
- reunited over 620 people with their families.

31 March, was extended. The UN Security Council passed a resolution establishing UNCRO*, and the new mandate, up to end November consisted of a three-step plan incorporating the implementation of the March 1994 cease-fire accord between Croatian and local Serb authorities, the setting up of an economic agreement and control of the international borders. However, despite the presence of UN contingents, tension mounted along the dividing lines and new strategic alliances were formed in the Sectors — the Serbs in the Sectors forming an alliance with the Bosnian Serbs, while the Croatian army and the Bosnian government army set up joint military headquarters under the command of the Croatian Chief of Staff.

In March the situation took a rapid turn for the worse. Renewed hostilities broke out in Bosnia and Herzegovina, effectively bringing the cease-fire to an ignominious end well before the projected April deadline, and the airlift into Sarajevo had to be halted pending an improvement in security conditions. The expulsion of minority groups from Bijeljina resumed in early April after more than four months' respite and people were forced to cross the front line between Bijeljina and Tuzla on foot. ICRC delegates based in Tuzla provided medical and other assistance as they arrived, and the ICRC delegation in Pale made representations to the Bosnian Serb authorities urging them to put an end to this practice.

Meanwhile, the cease-fire agreement signed in March 1994 between Croatian and local Serb authorities in all four UNPAs was shattered when hostilities broke out at the beginning of May. Originally portrayed as a limited police operation, the Croatian Operation Flash was in fact a military confrontation between the Croatian authorities and the authorities of the self-proclaimed "Republic of Serbian Krajina". As a result, western Slavonia came under Croatian control and some 12,000 Serb refugees fled to northern Bosnia and, from there, to Sectors North and East. Serb forces from Knin retaliated by launching two cluster missile attacks against the Croatian capital.

Tension surged in May between Bosnian government forces and Bosnian Serbs in Sarajevo. Murderous hostilities raged in the Bihac area, the eastern Bosnian pockets of Gorazde and Srebrenica, along the Posavina corridor, near Mount Ozren and Doboj (east of Tuzla), in Tmovo and the Kalinovik area, south of Sarajevo, and in Grahovo, north of Livno. The target of continued sporadic shelling, the Bosnian government-held town of Tuzla received one particularly serious attack which resulted in heavy casualties, with dozens of civilians being killed or wounded. In violation of the 20-km exclusion zone established by the United Nations in February 1994, Sarajevo came under

* UNCRO: United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia
heavy fire. The city was entirely cut off and unable to receive vital supplies, including gas, water and electricity. A United Nations ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs went unacknowledged and, on 26 and 27 May, NATO* forces carried out retaliatory airstrikes against Bosnian Serb ammunition stocks in the Pale area. The Bosnian Serbs reacted by capturing hundreds of United Nations military observers and UNPROFOR personnel stationed in their territory.

In mid-June, in view of the deteriorating situation and its serious repercussions on the ongoing negotiations and the humanitarian outlook, the ICRC President urged all parties involved to agree on a minimum of humanitarian consensus and respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, to exercise restraint in their treatment of civilians and captured combatants and to guarantee the inhabitants of the besieged city of Sarajevo at least minimum conditions of survival: clean water, food and medicines. At the same time the ICRC contacted the parties to remind them of its mandate, to reiterate its readiness to act as a neutral intermediary and to re-emphasize their obligations under the Geneva Conventions towards detainees. In late June the ICRC was able to bring some medical and surgical supplies into Sarajevo for medical facilities treating the war-wounded on both sides. This emergency operation was short-lived, however, as despite the authorities’ permission and ICRC vehicles clearly marked with the red cross emblem, delegates were fired on while driving through no-man’s land, and cross-line activities had to be suspended until security conditions improved.

The second half of the year saw a radical change in the military and political outlook, and consequently in the humanitarian situation in the former Yugoslavia. The first in a new series of crises was the fall of the Bosnian government-held, UN “safe areas” of Srebrenica and Zepa to Bosnian Serb forces in July. Mass expulsions of the populations from these areas ensued, while thousands of men of combat age, both soldiers and civilians, were separated from their families and arrested. Most of them still remained unaccounted for by year’s end.

When bilateral talks in Geneva failed to defuse the continuing build-up of tension in Croatia over the status of Sectors North and South, the Croatian armed forces launched Operation Storm in early August. The takeover of the two Sectors by the Croatians provoked a massive outpouring of more than 170,000 Serbs across Bosnian Serb-held territories in Bosnia. As many as 30,000 remained in Banja Luka, while the rest made their way along the Posavina corridor towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The two-and-a-half year siege of the Bosnian government-held enclave of Bihac was lifted as a

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* NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization
result of this military operation and regular access to the city was restored. Most of the inhabitants of Velika Kladusa (30,000 people) in the former Bihac enclave, many of them loyal to the dissident Bosnian Muslim leader, Fikret Abdic, subsequently also fled the area when the Bosnian government 5th Army Corps took Velika Kladusa. They made their way across the border to Kupljensko, where they were halted by Croatian authorities.

Despite serious security hazards, the ICRC was the only humanitarian organization to remain present throughout the Croatian offensive in Sectors North and South. In early August the ICRC President visited the former Yugoslavia to obtain assurances from the authorities in Belgrade, Pale, Sarajevo and Zagreb that the ICRC would be allowed to assist and endeavour to ensure the protection of all conflict victims in the region, in accordance with its mandate.

The shelling of a Sarajevo marketplace on 28 August triggered the move from peace-keeping to peace-making operations. A joint British/French rapid reaction force was deployed on Mount Igman and NATO airstrikes against Bosnian Serb military and strategic communications posts, arms depots, weapons factories and other military installations around Sarajevo were launched on 30 August. A period of relative calm ensued. Although the city remained without electricity, gas or water, the re-opening of the UN-controlled “blue roads” into the city meant that commercial lorries bringing food, fuel and other goods had access to Sarajevo. Relief was also flown in by UN planes for the first time since April. In September, the ICRC was the first international organization to make a survey of the Bosnian Serb-controlled parts and suburbs of Sarajevo and to bring in urgently needed supplies of blankets, plastic sheeting and candles, as well as medicines and surgical material, since that area had become inaccessible following the NATO airstrikes.

Elsewhere in central and western Bosnia the Croatian, Bosnian Croat and Bosnian government forces were making considerable territorial gains, and by the end of September the results of these hostilities were seriously aggravating the humanitarian situation. The ICRC office and delegations in Banja Luka, Pale and Sarajevo were under enormous pressure to provide relief, medical, water and sanitation services, as well as protection for civilians and to maintain contact between separated relatives through Red Cross messages. The ICRC’s policy of maintaining decentralized emergency stocks throughout the region proved extremely useful in ensuring a rapid supply of medicines, food, blankets, tents, plastic sheeting, hygiene items and water and sanitation equipment during periods of major crisis.

During and following these military operations, the international community, led by the United States, resumed political negotiations with a view to settling the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Talks were held in Geneva and New York during the month of September with representatives from Bosnia
and Herzegovina and Croatia and the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic, leading the Serb delegation representing the Bosnian Serbs.

On 5 October a cease-fire agreement was signed by the parties to the conflict but did not take effect until 12 October, when the Bosnian government’s condition that gas and electricity be restored in Sarajevo was met. Hostilities did not abate, however, nor did the cease-fire have any immediate effect on the expulsion and harassment of civilians. The parties actively continued with hostilities in western Bosnia and to the south-east of Sarajevo towards Trnovo, Gorazde and on and around Mount Ozren (west of Tuzla) and ethnic minorities continued to be forced out. Fearing for their safety, large numbers of Serbs also fled certain areas. Although the cease-fire was generally respected as of 16 October, the human tide of Serb displaced and Muslim and Croat expelled continued to swell.

Under pressure from the United States, and in the presence of mediators from Europe, Russia and the US, the leaders of all the parties to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia met for talks in Dayton, Ohio, on 1 November. The ICRC worked hard during this negotiation process, holding meetings behind the scenes to ensure that humanitarian issues, such as the plight of displaced populations, the treatment of ethnic minorities, the unconditional release of detainees and information on people unaccounted for, were recognized and given all due attention. The institution’s position on population movements is very much in line with that of UNHCR, which is responsible for refugees in host countries. The return of people to their home areas must be voluntary, and must not be used to consolidate military conquests; conversely, voluntary return should be facilitated regardless of military gains. The return process should be well organized and properly phased while taking account of the returnees’ basic requirements, and in particular the security of the areas.

The agreement reached in Dayton on 21 November by the Presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia was signed in Paris on 14 December. Prior to this the ICRC President, accompanied by the Delegate General for Western and Central Europe, attended the Conference on the implementation of the peace agreement, held in London in early December. There he presented the ICRC’s humanitarian agenda for the peace process, highlighting the following crucial points: the release of detainees; clarification of the fate of persons unaccounted for, especially those from Srebrenica; respect for the safety and dignity of vulnerable groups, minorities and returnees; and support for vulnerable groups and public health structures.

In the former Yugoslavia, large-scale population movements continued to inflate the already considerable humanitarian requirements facing the ICRC. The priority was to provide immediate aid to help uprooted and newly resettled populations through the winter. A reconstruction plan for Bosnia and
Herzegovina, laid down at a meeting in Brussels on 18 and 19 December, was scheduled to begin in early 1996.

**Srebrenica**

One of the most sensitive and distressing events of the entire conflict in the former Yugoslavia is that of the missing people from Srebrenica. When the UN “safe areas” of Srebrenica and Zepa were taken by Bosnian Serb forces in July, the Muslim populations were rounded up and expelled. In Srebrenica some 3,000 men were separated from their families and arrested. Outside the enclaves, notably in Tuzla, ICRC delegates were besieged with queries about missing family members. Barred from the area, which was declared a “war zone”, the ICRC made repeated written representations to and had meetings with the highest Bosnian Serb civilian and military authorities. It requested immediate authorization for its delegates to visit all detainees, whether civilians or captured combatants, as had been agreed by the parties at the outset of hostilities. The ICRC was given permission to evacuate some 25 wounded and sick from the enclave to Tuzla. However, by mid-July delegates had still not been allowed access to detainees, and the ICRC President contacted not only the Bosnian Serb authorities on this matter but also the authorities of the Republic of Serbia and the Bosnian government. At the London Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina on 21 July, reference was also made to the need for the ICRC to gain immediate access to detainees from Srebrenica and for the parties to commit themselves to cooperating in the humanitarian effort and to honour their obligations under humanitarian law.

Throughout, the ICRC’s top priority was to locate and register these detainees and inform their next of kin of their situation. Towards the end of July, when prison visits were authorized, the ICRC found only very few detainees from Srebrenica. Also on the institution’s priority list were the almost 5,000 men who were not reported arrested, but had left the Srebrenica enclave prior to its seizure and were making their way to Bosnian government-held territory. The total absence of any reliable information about the thousands of men missing gave rise to grave concern. While various reports and numerous eyewitness accounts indicated that all these men were dead, ICRC delegates from time to time came across Srebrenica men being held in Bosnian Serb prisons. The families lived in hope of receiving information which was not forthcoming. The ICRC could only persist in its approaches to the authorities to be given specific information so that it could inform the families.

A visit by the ICRC President to the area and further contacts with the authorities as concern grew over the whereabouts and fate of the some 3,000 arrested by the Bosnian Serb authorities and the missing 5,000 who had
fled the area still did not result in full and unimpeded ICRC access to detainees and places of detention. Delegates compiled lists from interviews with the families who had arrived from Srebrenica, among others, in order to gather reliable information on people unaccounted for and possible places of detention. This information, recorded in ICRC databanks, was presented to the Bosnian government and Bosnian Serb authorities in early October. With the advent of the cease-fire and negotiations leading up to the Dayton peace agreement the ICRC hoped that the parties would provide information on the fate of people unaccounted for, and that delegates would be able to locate and visit those listed as missing. The institution worked hard to have numerous humanitarian issues incorporated into the agreement, in particular that regarding the fate of prisoners and all persons unaccounted for, and stated its willingness to facilitate the release of all detainees as well as assist the parties in tracing and exchanging information on missing persons.

Despite the institution’s openness and transparent approach regarding the issue with all the parties concerned and its unremitting efforts to find answers for the suffering and bewildered families of the missing, the overwhelming numbers of people unaccounted for remained almost unchanged. Even though the ICRC was convinced by the end of the period under review that most of these people were dead, it would continue to push for clear answers and information so that the families living in anguish and anxious for news could at least know for certain what had become of their loved ones.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Activities for the civilian population

ICRC delegates based in 30 delegations, sub-delegations and offices throughout the former Yugoslavia continued to do their utmost to ensure the protection of the civilians from harassment and the threat of expulsion. The protection of minorities in Bosnian Serb-held areas, and also, on a much smaller scale, in central Bosnia, remained the focus of ICRC action, especially in the light of a clearly discernible trend towards ethnic reconfiguration throughout the hostilities which uprooted entire populations and resettled them according to the political requirements of “ethnic purity”. With the imminent prospect of a peace settlement in early October, the process of “ethnic cleansing” was even speeded up; after the peace agreement was signed, an “ethnic engineering” policy came into play where the further displacement of much of the population was brought about using administrative measures rather than violence.

The systematic use of detainees and civilians belonging to minority groups for work on the front lines continued to give the ICRC serious cause for
concern throughout the year, particularly in northern Bosnia. The institution made numerous verbal and written representations to the three authorities regarding the treatment of civilians and ethnic minorities and the conditions in which they were being held. Comprehensive written reports on the situation of minorities were submitted by the ICRC to the Bosnian Serb authorities in Pale.

Over the course of the year the ICRC supplied 6,662 tonnes of food and 4,967 tonnes of other relief to both displaced people and residents affected by the conflict. Food parcels, hygiene items, children’s clothes, blankets and jerricans were distributed to the newly displaced, as were rolls of plastic sheeting and tarpaulins to repair houses damaged by shelling. Until the siege of the Bihac enclave was lifted in August the ICRC had been one of the very few international organizations permanently based in the area and bringing in regular convoys of relief and medical supplies. When military activity there increased and the food situation became critical, emergency stocks in Velika Kladusa and Bihac enabled the ICRC to respond rapidly. Enough food was delivered to keep the ICRC/local Red Cross public kitchen running, and up to 5,000 of the most vulnerable members of the community were provided with one hot meal a day. In total more than 336 tonnes of food were distributed to the public kitchen, local Red Cross organizations and hospitals, as well as 14 tonnes of other assistance. The ICRC agricultural programme was developed to help some 250,000 families throughout Bosnia and the UNPAs start producing their own food again. Over 2,580 tonnes of potato, corn and vegetable seed were delivered along with other items such as fertilizer, pesticides, basic farming tools, preserving agents and, in colder areas, plastic sheeting. This programme, with funding from ECHO and the Austrian Red Cross, has been running for two consecutive winters, monitored by an ICRC agronomist, and was completed in April. Timing was crucial so as to enable beneficiaries to follow the seasonal sowing and planting pattern.

Evictions from Bijeljina, Banja Luka and Prijedor caused massive population displacements. Where the ICRC was unable to prevent this from happening, it endeavoured to persuade authorities that all family members should be able to leave together, with their belongings and without being subjected to administrative harassment. These conditions were rarely respected and, in the case of Srebrenica, some 3,000 men of fighting age were prevented from accompanying their families and subsequently disappeared. The 35,000 people expelled from Srebrenica and Zepa headed towards Zenica and Tuzla, and the ICRC provided them with emergency food supplies, tents, blankets, hygiene items and jerricans.

In the wake of the hostilities in the former Sectors North, South and West, 30,000 Serbs who had fled the area remained in Banja Luka, where they were joined by more than 120,000 displaced people fleeing the Croatian, Bosnian
Croat and Bosnian government advance in central and western Bosnia. With stocks already in the area the ICRC was able to provide food and other assistance for some 85,000 displaced people both in public buildings and along the roads. However, ethnic minorities in the area came under threat because of this massive influx of people and found themselves turned out of their homes by the incoming refugees. The ICRC tried to ensure their safety as well as provide relief for new arrivals. ICRC delegates maintained their presence in sensitive areas and continued to make approaches to all the civilian and military authorities, urging them to respect civilians and their property and to take all necessary preventive and corrective measures to protect members of minorities and vulnerable communities. Large numbers of displaced people had to be accommodated in camps, collection centres, schools and private homes, and were given food and other supplies, water, and medical and sanitation assistance. In August an airlift was organized from Zagreb to Belgrade; it transported a total of 350 tonnes of food, 22.5 tonnes of medical supplies, 17.5 tonnes of sanitation equipment, tents, blankets and kitchen sets to be trucked from Belgrade to Bijeljina and Banja Luka. Regular road convoys started again in early September. Between mid-September and the end of the year the ICRC assisted more than 150,000 people in the Banja Luka region, and medical facilities received supplies to help them cope with the large influx of wounded.

Those expelled from Banja Luka and the surrounding areas were forced to cross the front lines to Zenica and its surroundings. The Bosnian government subsequently transferred a number of them on to Bosanski Petrovac, which had been abandoned earlier when its Serb population fled. Most of the displaced were women, children and elderly people, the men having been kept behind by the Bosnian Serbs to work on the front lines. The ICRC continued to make representations at the highest level to locate missing Bosnian Croat and Muslim men separated from their families when these were evicted. At the end of the year, the authorities finally supplied lists of those people, some of whom the ICRC managed to visit.

The situation in Sarajevo improved considerably after the signing of the cease-fire agreement on 5 October. Throughout three and a half years of hostilities the Bosnian capital had been consistently used as a pawn in the parties’ bid for supremacy. The ICRC provided as much relief as security conditions would permit to both sides of Sarajevo, by both land and air, but the city was completely cut off for six months from March to October and stocks fell to distressingly low levels.

The ICRC also delivered emergency assistance, including food, blankets and hygiene items to towns and villages in the area, with the help of local Red Cross organizations. Water supplies and sanitation facilities were also set up for over
20,000 displaced Serbs who found refuge at the Omarska camp in northern Bosnia. Trucks shuttled back and forth from Belgrade to keep stocks replenished although, with Bosnian Serb troop movement along the road to Banja Luka, the convoys had difficulty getting through.

Activities for detainees

In agreements signed in May and June 1992, the three warring parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina had undertaken to respect the provisions of international humanitarian law, and specifically those dealing with the treatment of detainees. The ICRC encountered numerous difficulties, however, in discharging its mandate, especially in the context of mass arrests and detention of civilians that formed an integral part of the “ethnic cleansing” process. It was often refused access to detainees and to places of detention for long periods of time despite repeated requests to authorities to be allowed to carry out its duties on behalf of people held by all sides.

Nevertheless, in the course of the year the ICRC visited some 2,500 detainees held in 77 places of detention under the control of the Bosnian Croat, Bosnian government and Bosnian Serb authorities, and the forces of Fikret Abdic in the Bihac area. Following the capture of some 350 United Nations military observers and UNPROFOR troops after NATO airstrikes against Bosnian Serb targets in the Pale area, the ICRC had access to some UN personnel held by the Bosnian Serbs, and Bosnian Serb soldiers captured by UNPROFOR. During all visits ICRC delegates checked on the detainees’ physical condition and treatment and intervened on their behalf when necessary. They also distributed material assistance and gave detainees the opportunity to send Red Cross messages to their families.

One aspect of the ICRC mandate is to facilitate the parties’ unconditional release of all prisoners detained in connection with the conflict once the hostilities are ended. During the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, however, partly because of the duration of the hostilities, and also to fulfil its mandate and try to ensure that detainees’ wishes were respected, the ICRC stated that it would be present at exchanges of prisoners under certain conditions. From the start of the conflict the warring parties had been quick to establish exchange commissions which drew up lists of all prisoners available for barter with the opposing forces; in many cases, civilians were arrested solely for exchange purposes and traded sometimes even for fuel or alcohol. The ICRC stipulated that it would only be present at exchanges if certain conditions for detainees were complied with, and if the institution was allowed to interview detainees in private to ensure that their choice of destination was respected by the parties.
After the cessation of active hostilities the ICRC once again emphasized the engagement undertaken by the parties, and indeed their duty as stipulated in international humanitarian law, to unconditionally release all detainees. Thus the Dayton peace accord incorporates a number of provisions in respect of detainees, including notification to the ICRC, among others, of all combatants and civilians held in relation to the conflict; full access for ICRC delegates to all places of detention at least 48 hours before detainees are released in order to interview them in private and confirm that they have freely chosen their end destinations; and the release and transfer of all detainees by 19 January 1996.

Tracing activities

Since the outbreak of hostilities in the former Yugoslavia 17,507,000 Red Cross messages have been handled by the Red Cross tracing network, making this tracing operation the ICRC’s largest since World War II.

The network is one of the cornerstones in the ICRC’s tracing activities in the former Yugoslavia, especially in the light of the widespread mass population movements in this conflict. At times it provided the only means of locating and establishing contact between family members, displaced people and detainees and went a long way towards alleviating some of the stress and anxiety associated with not knowing where and how relatives were faring in a situation riven with tension and hostility. Over the course of the year 3,805,600 messages were exchanged by the network.

"Radio Link", a joint programme run by the ICRC and the BBC World Service, which has been on the air since July 1994, continued to broadcast names of missing people in local language programmes for those who had not succeeded in making contact with lost relatives by means of Red Cross messages. The programme was also taken up by local radio stations throughout the former Yugoslavia.

Training courses were organized throughout the former Yugoslavia for local Red Cross tracing officers, with special emphasis on a task in which they had not participated before — the collecting of tracing requests. Working in cooperation with local Red Cross branches and National Societies, the ICRC began to collect such requests from the families of people unaccounted for and to submit them to the authorities concerned. No practical results were forthcoming, however, despite the fact that under the cease-fire agreement signed in Sarajevo in December 1994 the authorities had agreed to start gathering tracing requests and exchanging information about people who had gone missing during the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, within the framework of the Central Commission for Prisoners and Persons Unaccounted for. One of the ICRC’s main concerns was to try and ascertain the fate of those missing after the fall of
Srebrenica: some 8,000 requests were put together and, after detailed analysis, it was established that 5,000 of them dealt with people who were said to have fled the enclave before it was taken by the Bosnian Serb forces. An unknown number of these individuals then managed to reach Bosnian government-held territory; the remaining 3,000 cases related to people who, according to eyewitnesses, had been arrested by the Bosnian Serb forces in Srebrenica.

Another major activity was to reunite families split up by the conflict. Although there were difficulties in obtaining the requisite departure, transit and entry authorizations and the military situation in the region deteriorated from April on, the ICRC continued to carry out family reunifications and, under a joint programme with UNHCR and IOM*, it pursued its efforts to enable people to rejoin relatives released from detention as from 1992 and resettled in a third country. Since the beginning of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, the ICRC, in conjunction with local Red Cross branches has monitored 1,169 cases of registered unaccompanied children in order to keep track of their whereabouts, locate their parents and eventually reunite them with their next-of-kin.

From 27 to 30 March those in charge of the tracing services of the Croatian, Slovenian and Yugoslav Red Cross Societies, and the Red Cross organizations on all sides in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the then UNPAs, met under ICRC auspices at the Swiss Red Cross training centre in Nottwil, Switzerland. This provided participants with a well-timed opportunity to share their experiences and working problems.

Medical activities

The ICRC maintained a three-pronged approach in its medical activities for victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia: the main focus of its work remained the surgical assistance programme for facilities treating the war-wounded in conflict zones; ad hoc aid, including a repair and maintenance programme, went to establishments lacking essential surgical equipment; and medical facilities in the Bihac area, Bosnian Serb-controlled parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Sectors received essential drugs for the treatment of chronic diseases.

For two years the ICRC has been maintaining emergency stocks of medicines and surgical equipment in a number of key areas in the region. This enabled it to move fast and effectively with supplies for the treatment of the wounded and refugees during the crises of July, August and September. ICRC field nurses distributed regular supplies to 287 health facilities throughout the

* IOM: International Organization for Migration
former Yugoslavia, most of them located in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under another distribution programme, essential drugs for chronic diseases were delivered to 92 medical establishments in the Bosnian Serb-controlled parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. From mid-January the ICRC was able to organize weekly convoys with sanitation equipment, medical supplies and essential medicines for chronic diseases to the Bihac enclave, which had been barred from humanitarian aid since the upsurge in hostilities there in October 1994. Regular assessments were carried out by an ICRC field nurse in the Bihac and Velika Kladusa hospitals, and supplies delivered when needed.

Owing to the blockade of Sarajevo, the ICRC was unable to replenish its stocks after February and, despite careful management, medical supplies dwindled fast, reaching an absolute low by the third week of June. Following laborious discussions with the parties to the conflict, in late June the ICRC was able to truck in 12.5 tonnes of medical supplies to treat war casualties. In September access to the city by road and by air became possible again, and by the end of the month there were enough stocks to cover the treatment of 3,000 war-wounded.

During the mass expulsions that followed the fall of Srebrenica and Zepa the ICRC provided additional medical supplies to health facilities in the area, as well as dressing materials and essential drugs for first-aid and triage points set up along the road from the front line to Tuzla. The ICRC also negotiated passage and transportation for 88 wounded people who had to be evacuated from hospitals in Srebrenica.

Following the Croatian army offensive and the exodus of the Serb population from former Sectors North and South to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia via the Bosnian Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia, the ICRC delivered surgical supplies and essential drugs for chronic diseases to medical establishments in Bosnia that were taking care of the war-wounded and refugees in need of first aid. Assistance was also provided along the route taken by the refugees to mobile health teams staffed by local personnel and medical staff from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

A strictly controlled ICRC medical transfer programme from Bihac to reference hospitals in Zagreb handled fewer cases after the Croatian offensive in August. However, some patients continued to be taken from both Bihac and Banja Luka to Zagreb. Transfers from Banja Luka stopped altogether from 4 August.

Water and sanitation

ICRC water and sanitation engineers worked in 115 locations throughout the conflict region, providing equipment and expertise to help ensure an
adequate supply of safe water and acceptable sanitary conditions for the displaced population. They took emergency action in the refugee centres and camps around Tuzla and in the camps created for the displaced from Srebrenica and Zepa; they provided supplies of clean drinking water and jerricans for the tide of Serb refugees along the roads leading from former Sectors North and South; they delivered bladder tanks, jerricans, distribution ramps and water treatment chemicals to centres in the Banja Luka area and also worked on building latrines and improving sanitary conditions there.

By providing technical and material assistance to local water authorities and creating innovative projects, the ICRC, working in cooperation with participating National Societies, sought to ensure a permanent supply of safe drinking water for the whole population, including the inhabitants of war-ravaged cities, refugees and displaced people. All the necessary equipment was supplied to water boards, hospitals, local Red Cross branches, epidemiological centres, detention facilities and refugee camps. Old or damaged installations were refurbished, spare parts and pumping equipment were provided, emergency water distribution points were set up, high-capacity storage tanks for up to 5,000 litres were installed and water treatment units, water treatment chemicals and household chlorine tablets were distributed to all the major water works in Bosnia and Herzegovina and former Sectors North and South. During the course of the year, four National Societies were involved in ongoing projects in over 19 different locations (see Joint Projects with National Societies). Total expenditure on these projects amounted to around 70% of all National Society donations in the field of water and sanitation for 1995.

Joint projects with National Societies

Various National Red Cross Societies continued to support the ICRC’s operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UNPAs, later known as Sectors North, South and East. National Society staff members seconded to the ICRC were involved in medical and sanitation projects and relief programmes and took part in a number of other activities ranging from tracing to dissemination and information work. The National Societies of Denmark, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom participated in ICRC-delegated water and sanitation projects. These projects, carried out in cooperation with the ICRC, included the German Red Cross comprehensive programme for the rehabilitation of water and sewerage networks and cathodic protection in Sarajevo, which had started in 1994. The British Red Cross engaged its resources on water projects in Mostar, Konjic, Nevesinje and Pale. The Swedish Red Cross funded and implemented projects in Tuzla, Derventa, Bihac and the Velika Kladusa area, and the Danish Red Cross carried out assessments for network rehabilitation
in Mostar. Norway and Austria made donations in cash or kind for medical, food and seed programmes.

A number of National Societies also carried out bilateral projects. These included public kitchen and school food programmes and water and sanitation projects geared towards rehabilitation. In early October, after a five-month break for security reasons, the German Red Cross relaunched the public kitchen programme run in collaboration with the ICRC, providing one hot meal a day to some 10,000 of the most socially disadvantaged in Sarajevo on both sides of the divided city. The school assistance programme, which supplied sandwiches and milk to some 46,000 children aged 7 to 14 from both sides of Sarajevo, recommenced on 18 October; it had been suspended in March when the schools were closed for security reasons. The German Red Cross ran a similar programme in Mostar. Under a Netherlands Red Cross programme gas-fired heating was provided to schools in Sarajevo thus enabling 13,000 primary schoolchildren to work in heated classrooms from the start of the winter months.

Cooperation with local Red Cross organizations

Local Red Cross organizations played an important part in the ICRC's fieldwork, particularly in its relief distributions to displaced people, efforts to restore family ties (see Tracing activities) and medical work and dissemination activities. They were given support in the form of training and word-processing and office equipment. The ICRC requested the help of various National Societies to enable local Red Cross organizations to continue their own food distributions and public health activities (see Joint Projects with National Societies). These National Societies also provided food and donations for local Red Cross social programmes for vulnerable groups.

Dissemination and information

As always, the ICRC made special efforts to promote greater understanding and acceptance of the basic humanitarian rules to be observed in times of armed conflict and to explain the role of the Red Cross and its activities to combatants and civilians. Interviews with the media, seminars for members of the armed forces and the militias and lectures for local Red Cross workers, high school students, medical personnel, United Nations officers, the staff of international organizations and the public at large all contributed to raising awareness of the importance of humane conduct and of the work of the ICRC, and particularly its impartiality and neutrality in providing assistance to people in need on all sides of the conflict.
The most important objectives of the ICRC's dissemination campaign in the former Yugoslavia were to achieve better recognition of the ICRC's mandate so as to facilitate its access to all conflict victims and to promote knowledge of the fundamental humanitarian principles. Training sessions for the military and the police in Sarajevo, Mostar, Zenica and Tuzla were held and presentations were made to combatants in Bihac where printed dissemination material was also distributed.

The ICRC used the extensive local media network to make its operations known to a wider audience. In central Bosnia articles were published in the Bosnian army bimonthly newspaper, as well as in other journals. TV interviews, radio news items and special ICRC slots also served to broadcast the ICRC's message.

CROATIA

In addition to coordinating ICRC activities in Croatia, the delegation in Zagreb and the sub-delegation in Split served as logistics bases and provided support for the operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as did the sub-delegation in Knin and the offices in Vojnic, Okucani, Dalj and Osijek (see Bosnia and Herzegovina and below).

Activities for the civilian population

Delegates monitored the situation of Serb minorities in Croatia, particularly in the former Sectors North and South and West after these areas had fallen under the direct control of the Croatian government, and of Croatian minorities in eastern Slavonia, and took action on their behalf when necessary. National Societies and local Red Cross organizations working with the ICRC's support cooperated in launching a number of new relief programmes for those most in need, including pensioners and the disabled. Individual food parcels and hygiene kits were distributed and public kitchens were set up.

During and after the hostilities in western Slavonia, the displacement of more than 12,000 local Serbs to northern Bosnia and the remaining Sectors increased the strain on the local Muslim and Croat minorities in those areas. Delegates made frequent representations to local authorities to prevent their situation from worsening and to reduce the risk of expulsion, ill-treatment and harassment. Local ICRC offices supplied food, blankets, candles and other essential items for the displaced. When Croatian troops overran Sectors North and South, over 200,000 local Serbs fled via Bosanski Petrovac and Banja Luka towards Serbia. Water distribution and first-aid points were set up along the road and in Banja Luka (see Bosnia and Herzegovina, Activities for the civilian population). Some 30,000 of these people remained in Banja Luka while
another 170,000 made their way along the Posavina corridor towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The ICRC provided protection for the 9,000 mostly elderly Serbs remaining in former Sectors North and South. When most of the population fled these people refused to leave and took shelter in hamlets and isolated farmhouses. From August to October ICRC mobile teams patrolled the area to maintain a protective presence in the face of numerous killings and the burning and looting of houses which took place following the fall of the Sectors to the Croatian forces. They also provided food and medical supplies. The ICRC made repeated representations to the Croatian authorities to try and guarantee the safety of these people.

Towards the end of October, the ICRC carried out a census of those remaining in the former Sectors. This was made available to the Croatian Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which were running a joint medical and social welfare programme in the area, while the ICRC continued to monitor security conditions and distribute Red Cross messages. A number of frail and sick people, and those without adequate shelter for the coming winter, were taken to hospital, and the ICRC distributed food and other relief to the remaining population.

The 20,000 to 25,000 people who fled the Bosnian town of Velika Kladusa in August and were halted in their flight at Kupljensko by the Croatian forces were forced to remain there as refugees. The appalling living conditions in the camp were exacerbated by the deteriorating weather conditions. The ICRC’s first priority was to draw public attention to the extreme hardship and mounting tension in the camp, and indeed it was the first international organization to be allowed access to the premises despite the blockade imposed by the Croatian forces. In the hope of finding a solution to this increasingly alarming problem, the ICRC President wrote to the Croatian President urging him to ensure that the most pressing needs were met. Towards the end of the year a permanent ICRC representative was assigned to the camp to draw attention to the plight of its occupants and thereby enhance their protection. The ICRC repeatedly called on the Croatian authorities to improve the conditions there. Because of the harrowing circumstances, several thousand people left the camp to return home to Velika Kladusa regardless of possible reprisals on the part of authorities or their former neighbours. ICRC personnel also remained in Velika Kladusa to assess the returnees’ security situation.

Activities for detainees

Between January and July, the ICRC visited Croatian detainees held by the local Serb authorities in the former Sectors North and South. In the course of
the year, regular visits were made to one place of detention in eastern Slavonia. A total of 45 detainees held by the local Serb authorities were visited by the ICRC.

During their offensive on western Slavonia in early May, the Croatian forces rounded up local Serb men and placed them in six collective centres. Teams of delegates were sent to these temporary facilities to register all detainees (some 1,400 people); this helped the ICRC to keep track of their whereabouts and to assess their treatment and conditions of detention. It gave them assistance where necessary and endeavoured to put them in touch with their families by means of Red Cross messages. Most of these detainees were released within a month, the remainder being transferred to prisons pending judicial proceedings.

Following the fall of Sectors North and South, the ICRC visited some 1,100 local Serbs detained in seven places, including Knin, by the Croatian authorities, which had proceeded to screen all men of draft age. A number of these people were subsequently released while others were transferred to permanent detention centres. Good cooperation on the part of the authorities meant that delegates were able to continue visiting both the screening centres and the permanent facilities in order to assess the detention situation in Croatia, while making regular representations to the Croatian authorities regarding the treatment and conditions of detention of prisoners visited by the ICRC. In all, approximately 2,550 detainees held by the Croatian authorities were visited in about 40 places of detention. The Croatian authorities granted an amnesty for some of the Serb detainees arrested in May and then, on 31 December, they granted another for around 450 Serb detainees arrested in August. At the end of the year about 400 local Serb prisoners were still in detention, some under the accusation of war crimes.

Medical activities

In order to help the most vulnerable communities on all sides of the confrontation lines take care of people wounded in the fighting, the ICRC launched a pilot first-aid project, in cooperation with branches of the Croatian Red Cross and the local Red Cross in eastern Slavonia and in the Orasje pocket (see Cooperation with the National Society and local Red Cross organizations).

Following the takeover of Sectors North and South in August, the Croatian Ministry of Health assumed responsibility for health services in the area. A full medical survey was carried out and ICRC assistance in the form of surgical supplies and essential drugs for chronic diseases were provided to medical facilities according to needs. In Knin urgently required supplies were provided
for local doctors and UN personnel. The ICRC also delivered medical supplies and first-aid material to the newly established camp at Kupljensko and during the following week set up basic health services in cooperation with medical personnel from the World Health Organization, the United Nations, Médecins sans Frontières and other non-governmental organizations working among the refugees. Surgical supplies to treat the war-wounded and essential drugs for chronic diseases continued to be delivered by ICRC field nurses to medical facilities throughout the region.

**Joint projects with National Societies**

Water and sanitation projects and public kitchen programmes for vulnerable groups were carried out by the British, Danish and Swedish Red Cross Societies in eastern Slavonia and Sectors North and South. At the beginning of December the National Societies of Denmark and Sweden launched bilateral relief programmes run with the ICRC for the local Serb population remaining in former Sectors North and South following the Croatian offensive there in August.

**Cooperation with the National Society and local Red Cross organizations**

In March the ICRC launched a joint project with the Croatian Red Cross and local branches in the Sectors entitled *First aid along confrontation lines*. The project was designed to help communities along front lines cope with emergencies by themselves. Training and equipment was provided for teams of Red Cross volunteers, who were taught first-aid skills and followed courses about the guiding principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the rights and duties of first-aid workers in conflict situations. In order to promote the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, ICRC delegates, working together with the national Red Cross headquarters and local branches, organized numerous courses for Red Cross workers in eastern Slavonia, Sectors North and South.

Training sessions continued to be held during the year for tracing officers from local Red Cross branches to help them with the practical aspects of restoring family ties and to explain the Red Cross message network and the ICRC’s mandate and activities in the field.

**Dissemination**

Presentations on the law of war were held for all members of the armed forces in the region, and the ICRC distributed large quantities of dissemination
material on the humanitarian rules to Croatian army field units. ICRC humanitarian law publications dealing with the protection of civilians were handed out to the armed forces, the police and the local Red Cross.

In November an agreement establishing a new programme for the dissemination of international humanitarian law among the Croatian armed forces was signed by the Croatian Minister of Defence and the ICRC.

The last quarter of the year was devoted to preparing a campaign, in cooperation with the local Red Cross in eastern Slavonia, to encourage reconciliation and a better understanding between ethnic groups. In Zagreb, preparations were under way to set up a series of workshops for volunteers and young teachers giving courses on basic humanitarian values to schoolchildren. The ICRC made extensive use of the local media — through radio news items and interviews, TV broadcasts and articles in the press — to promote its activities and role in the region.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA
(Serbia, Montenegro)

ICRC delegates in Belgrade, Podgorica and Pristina provided substantial support for the operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while closely monitoring the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and particularly in Kosovo. They were also closely involved in dealing with the humanitarian crisis that arose from the events in western Slavonia. After the ICRC made an appeal on 16 May calling on the warring parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to reach a minimum humanitarian consensus, the ICRC President visited the President of the Republic of Serbia on 21 June to request his support in ensuring the protection of civilians and ICRC access to all victims of the conflict.

In December a ceremony was held in Cetinje to commemorate the first ICRC mission to the area 120 years ago and the founding soon after of the Red Cross Societies of Montenegro and Serbia, which together now constitute the Yugoslav Red Cross. It was attended by representatives of the Yugoslav government, the Republic of Montenegro, the Yugoslav Red Cross and the Federation, and by the ICRC head of delegation in Belgrade.

Activities for civilians

The 170,000 refugees who crossed into Serbia in the wake of the fall of the former Sectors North and South in August were received and relocated by the Yugoslav Red Cross, the Federation and UNHCR. As they moved through Banja Luka and along the Posavina corridor, in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
towards the border, the ICRC provided food and first-aid at points set up along the roads.

From August on the ICRC conducted regular visits to over 750 men who had fled Zepa for the Federal Republic, and some 35 from Srebrenica, who were being held in refugee camps in Slijivovica and Mitrovo Polje, in order to monitor their situation and living conditions. They were given material assistance and the opportunity to exchange Red Cross messages with their families.

Activities for detainees

In 1995 ICRC delegates visited about 200 detainees in 13 places of detention in the Republic of Serbia. Among these were some 120 new detainees, policemen of Albanian ethnic origin, arrested at the end of 1994 in connection with the situation in Kosovo.

Medical activities

Under the surgical assistance programme covering the whole of the former Yugoslavia, the ICRC regularly distributed surgical supplies and medicines to hospitals and other facilities treating the war-wounded evacuated to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Surgical and medical assistance was given to health establishments in eastern Slavonia. The Red Cross of Serbia and the Red Cross of Montenegro continued to receive financial support to enable them to purchase drugs to treat chronic diseases among refugees. Medical equipment and medicines were transferred to the delegations in Pale, Trebinje, Bijeljina and Banja Luka for use by ICRC delegations in eastern and north-western Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Cooperation with the National Society

Training seminars for Yugoslav Red Cross dissemination staff continued throughout the year although preparations for them were slow on account of the events in Bosnia in July and in Sectors North and South in August. The ICRC helped fund and organize National Society dissemination seminars for members of the medical profession, tracing staff and local Red Cross dissemination officers.

The ICRC delegation in Belgrade carried out an investigative study of the experience gained by local Red Cross branches in cooperating and working under the aegis of international humanitarian organizations. The results of this study should be of great help to the ICRC in developing local contacts and
strategies, and in furthering collaboration between the local branches and outside aid agencies.

Dissemination

No major progress was made on the agreement obtained in 1994 from the Federal Minister of Defence to launch a comprehensive five-year programme to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law among the Yugoslav armed forces. The ICRC therefore pursued its representations to the authorities with a view to formalizing the establishment of this programme. The institution's efforts in the dissemination field mainly focused on establishing direct lines of communication with the Yugoslav army, and at maintaining regular contacts with civilian decision-makers.

A huge media demand for information during and following the events in Sectors North and South meant that the ICRC's information services in Belgrade were giving, on average, 150 national and international interviews a week. The ICRC's activities and mandate thus received unprecedented coverage and, as media from the Federal Republic could be picked up in Bosnia and Herzegovina, this may have helped the ICRC in its efforts to reach victims of the hostilities there.

The Serbo-Croat edition of Warrior without weapons, the World War II memoirs of an ICRC delegate, was presented at the Belgrade international press centre, as well as the ICRC film Working against the odds, early in the year.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The delegation in Skopje continued to promote dissemination and tracing work in the region and to develop contacts with the authorities of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and neighbouring countries. Dissemination programmes were conducted for the armed forces, National Societies, schools and universities in the region. As a result of the delegation's efforts to strengthen cooperation with the law faculty of Skopje University, the faculty agreed to start offering courses on international humanitarian law and presentations on the ICRC.

The Red Cross in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was recognized by the ICRC on 1 November and admitted to the Federation on 27 November.
Central Europe and the Balkans

The ICRC stepped up its efforts to promote knowledge and acceptance of the principles of humanitarian law in Central Europe and the Balkans, especially among the armed forces and in particular in the light of the long-term humanitarian, political and military consequences of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The delegation in Skopje, in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, was particularly active in this field.

The ICRC regularly carried out missions to Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary and other countries in the region to foster contacts with their governments and National Societies and to exchange views on possible cooperation adapted to the specific needs of the region.

In conjunction with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC organized a regional training course for dissemination officers from Central European Societies, which was held in Warsaw, Poland, in June. Bilateral dissemination programmes were carried out in Slovenia, Bulgaria and Poland with ICRC support, and training with National Societies and their local branches formed an important part of the institution’s dissemination activities. The ICRC also contributed to the translation and printing of publications by a number of National Societies. Efforts to introduce international humanitarian law in law faculties were successfully undertaken in several universities.

A series of missions was conducted throughout Central Europe and the Balkans to gather the information needed to decide on the location of a new regional delegation. Thus far, activities concerning the region have been covered from Geneva.

The ICRC President went to Poland to take part in the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp, held in Warsaw and Auschwitz on 26 and 27 January respectively.

In May the President and the Regional Delegate based in Geneva travelled to Bulgaria to attend the General Assembly of the National Society and, while there, they met the President of the Republic, the President of the Parliament and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

In Albania, four Albanian nationals of Greek ethnic origin detained in Tirana since June 1994 for violations of State security were visited by ICRC delegates in early January. The detainees were released by the authorities shortly afterwards. The Regional Delegate was in the country in June for meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Justice, during which he conveyed the ICRC’s interest in carrying out visits to security detainees. He also attended the second General Assembly of the National Society. The
11th Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Balkan countries was held in Tirana from 25 to 27 September. Participants from the ICRC included a member of the Committee (the ICRC's governing body), the Delegate General and the Regional Delegate. During his stay the Committee member had talks with the President of the Republic.

In late June the Regional Delegate travelled to Greece where he met representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence, and in October he was in Hungary to liaise again with representatives of the Federation and the National Society over the projected opening of a new ICRC regional delegation in 1996.

TURKEY

Early in the year the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) contacted the Swiss government with a declaration of intent to respect the Geneva Conventions and the two Protocols additional to the Conventions.

In March, the Turkish army launched a major operation in northern Iraq. The ICRC appealed to the Turkish military authorities and to all parties involved to observe the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law, and made a request for immediate access to the area. The green light was given for a survey to be carried out by the ICRC in the zones in northern Iraq controlled by the Turkish army, including access to Iraqi civilians and prisoners. An ICRC team of two delegates and a doctor conducted their assessment there from 20 March to 12 May. The ICRC subsequently submitted a summary report on the humanitarian situation in northern Iraq during this period to the Turkish authorities. It also continued to monitor the situation closely and kept the Turkish authorities informed of its findings.

The Delegate General and the Regional Delegate travelled to Ankara in September to discuss this report with the representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. The talks also focused on future cooperation between the ICRC and the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

There was no progress during 1995 on the question of ICRC access to prisons in Turkey and to the civilian population affected by the situation in the south-eastern part of the country.
War not only injures countless combatants and civilians, it also severely disrupts local health services and jeopardizes their ability to treat the wounded. In times of conflict the ICRC helps to keep local medical facilities running by bringing in urgently needed medicines, surgical supplies and spare parts, not to mention food and fuel when they too are needed. In 1995 hospitals and dispensaries in the northern Caucasus received some 2,600,000 Swiss francs worth of ICRC medical supplies.
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\(^1\): 136
National Societies\(^1\): 80
Local employees\(^2\): 555

**Total expenditure**
Sfr 82,116,035

**Expenditure breakdown**  \(\text{Sfr}\)
Protection/tracing: 11,822,311
Relief: 50,187,736
Medical assistance: 8,119,132
Cooperation with National Societies: 602,441
Dissemination: 3,152,271
Operational support: 4,347,166
Overheads: 3,884,978

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\(\text{1}^\) Average figures calculated on an annual basis.
\(\text{2}^\) Under ICRC contract, as at December 1995.
The situation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia was relatively calm in 1995, with the exception of Chechnya, in the southern part of the Russian Federation, where the first six months of the year were marked by an upsurge in hostilities. The ICRC mounted an extensive relief operation in southern Russia for conflict victims and displaced people in Chechnya and the neighbouring republics in early 1995. When conditions stabilized somewhat in June/July the ICRC shifted the focus of its assistance to the most vulnerable groups, but then had to resume its large-scale emergency relief, medical, water supply and sanitation activities following the outbreak of violence in the town of Gudermes, in eastern Chechnya, in December.

The ICRC also provided assistance for people affected by the Nagorny Karabakh and Abkhaz conflicts and sought to protect the different categories of people detained in these contexts, as well as security detainees, when and where it was given access to them, and ethnic minorities who were often subjected to harassment and discrimination. The Red Cross message service was particularly active across the front line between Georgia and Abkhazia, with more than 57,500 messages exchanged during the year.

In coordination with other organizations the ICRC concentrated a large part of its efforts on rehabilitating seriously damaged medical facilities in Chechnya. It continued providing emergency supplies to hospitals treating war-wounded and conflict-related injuries even after cease-fire agreements had put a stop to active hostilities. Programmes for the rehabilitation of the war-disabled were implemented or developed in Baku, Tbilisi and Gagra in Abkhazia to help cope with the increasing number of people injured by landmines. Throughout the year water supply and sanitation activities formed an important part of the ICRC's work, not only in Chechnya in southern Russia, but also in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Together with Médecins sans Frontières (Belgium), ICRC delegates in particular provided safe drinking water in Chechnya for some 300,000 inhabitants of Grozny, thus helping to prevent the outbreak and spread of epidemics in the city. In Georgia and Armenia, water supply and sanitation programmes were aimed mostly at improving conditions in the hospitals, and in Azerbaijan a survey was carried out to assess the need for further work on water installations.

The regional delegation in Moscow continued to develop its Russian-language publications programme and its dissemination activities for the armed forces, schools and universities. Its efforts largely concentrated on promoting the basic humanitarian rules in countries where there were no active hostilities or fighting had abated, thus paving the way to a better understanding of humanitarian concerns and contributing to the prevention of a resurgence in violence. The ICRC systematically adopted an inter-cultural approach in developing
school programmes and focused on the link between the institution’s universal humanitarian message and traditional values grounded in local culture.

ICRC delegates provided information, training and material support for the tracing services of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies throughout Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and particularly in the Baltic States, Belarus and Ukraine.

A headquarters agreement for the establishment of a new ICRC regional delegation in Kyiv was signed in December. At year’s end the regional delegate in charge of activities in the Baltic States, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine was still based at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

In the self-proclaimed “Dniestr Republic”, in Moldova, the ICRC continued to make representations to authorities to be allowed to carry out visits to the four detainees of the “Ilascu” group, whom delegates had last seen in October 1993.

The situation in Tajikistan remained at a stalemate and continual armed clashes between government troops and opposition forces were a major stumbling block in the inter-Tajik peace talks. The ICRC actively sought to gain access to detainees held on either side and also focused on protecting displaced people returning to their places of origin.

The Tashkent regional delegation, covering Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, concentrated on promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law and strengthening the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and organizations in the region through various cooperation programmes and the provision of financial assistance, particularly in the area of tracing activities.
Eastern Europe

The regional delegate in charge of ICRC activities in the Baltic States, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine was based at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. The institution’s main concern over the course of the year was to build up and reinforce contacts with authorities and cooperation with the various National Red Cross Societies of the region, particularly in dissemination and in restoring family ties. The ICRC decided to set up a regional delegation for the above-mentioned countries in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv in 1995. At the end of August the regional delegate for Eastern Europe and the future head of the Kyiv regional delegation travelled to Belarus, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania where they met representatives of the respective governments and National Societies to discuss the regional delegation’s future activities. The headquarters agreement concerning the Kyiv delegation was signed on 5 December in Geneva by the government of Ukraine, represented by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the ICRC President, during the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Training, technical advice and material support for National Society tracing services were some of the key activities conducted by the ICRC in the region. Cooperation agreements concerning tracing work were signed with the National Societies of Belarus, Estonia, Moldova and Ukraine (see Ukraine), and the ICRC pledged to provide material and financial aid, as well as training, for their respective tracing services. Courses on the law of war were also organized for members of the armed forces of Belarus and for the Ukrainian armed forces.

A joint ICRC/OSCE* seminar on implementation measures of international humanitarian law was held in Riga, Latvia, in November. The Deputy Delegate General for Eastern Europe and Central Asia attended the seminar, which brought together, among other participants, representatives of National Societies and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Social Affairs and Health of the Baltic countries. This meeting was the third in a series of regional seminars; the first two were held in Minsk, Belarus, in July 1994 and in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in September 1995 (see Tashkent).

BELARUS

Courses on the law of war were organized for the first time in February for members of the armed forces of Belarus, and a delegate gave a presentation on the ICRC and its activities. At the end of October, 37 local Red Cross committee

* OSCE: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
leaders took part in a seminar on the ICRC and the Movement, set up jointly by the ICRC and the National Society. Those participating were given the opportunity to describe the activities conducted by their respective local committees.

The Red Cross Society of Belarus was recognized by the ICRC on 1 November and thus became part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

LITHUANIA

The regional delegate to be based in Kyiv and the former regional delegate based in Geneva visited Lithuania to examine the question of that country’s accession to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their two 1977 Additional Protocols.

MOLDOVA

During the year the ICRC continued to make representations to the authorities of the self-proclaimed “Dniestr Republic” to be allowed access to the remaining four detainees of the “Iiascu group”, last visited by ICRC delegates in October 1993. There had originally been five persons detained but the ICRC was informed that one had been released in July 1994.

UKRAINE

A regional preparatory conference in view of the 1996 International Conference on refugees, returnees and displaced persons and related migratory movements in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the neighbouring countries concerned was held in Kyiv at the end of September; it was organized by UNHCR, the OSCE and IOM* and attended by the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. An ICRC representative spoke about humanitarian law in relation to the problem of population movements and put forward the idea that respect for this law amounted to preventive action in this area. This preparatory conference was preceded by two similar meetings: in Tbilisi, Georgia, and in Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan, held in early and late July respectively.

A seminar on humanitarian law was conducted for the armed forces in September; this also gave the ICRC the opportunity to present its plans for future dissemination courses. The institution provided material and financial support for the National Society tracing activities and funded a traineeship position with the tracing service of the Russian Red Cross Society.

* IOM: International Organization for Migration
MOSCOW
Regional delegation
(covering the Russian Federation and, for certain activities, all countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia)

As in previous years, the Moscow regional delegation, opened in 1992, was in charge of dissemination programmes for the armed forces, information and training for Red Cross and Red Crescent Society tracing services in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Throughout the year it continued to give priority to dissemination of international humanitarian law. The main target groups were the military, the National Societies and their local committees, and the academic and educational sectors. During the year a delegate in charge of dissemination to the armed forces and two delegates responsible for dissemination in schools and universities throughout Eastern Europe and Central Asia were permanently based in Moscow.

A series of memoranda of understanding were signed between the ICRC and the Russian Red Cross Society in April, and the cooperation programme between the ICRC and the tracing and dissemination services of the Russian Red Cross, begun in 1993, was extended for another three years. In support of the work of neighbouring regional delegations, ICRC staff carried out a number of missions to the Baltic States, Belarus, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan to assess the needs of the various Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and especially the local committees working in conflict situations, for training and technical advice in tracing work.

The ICRC continued to develop its extensive Russian-language publications programme. By the end of the year over 50 ICRC publications were available, with a print-run of 83,000 copies. In addition, 80,000 booklets explaining the humanitarian rules and the work of the ICRC were to be included in first-aid
kits for combatants in areas of tension in Eastern Europe and Central Asia; 10,000 such kits were handed out to combatants at various checkpoints throughout the northern Caucasus during the year.

Another important component of the Moscow delegation's work is to maintain contacts with the Russian authorities, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the media; these contacts proved essential on a number of occasions in facilitating ICRC operations in the Caucasus, Tajikistan and the former Yugoslavia, and especially in connection with the conflict and mounting tension in Chechnya, in southern Russia.

**Dissemination**

In the light of the extremely tense situation in the Caucasus special emphasis was placed throughout the year on spreading awareness of the law of war, particularly those rules concerning respect for civilians and people detained in connection with conflict, among the armed forces in this region where there was little knowledge of humanitarian law. Dissemination efforts were largely geared to explaining the significance of the red cross and red crescent emblems and the protection they afforded to conflict victims and the humanitarian workers who came to their aid. In the course of their field work, delegates also regularly explained the ICRC's role as a neutral and impartial intermediary in the context of the Chechen armed conflict. Dissemination seminars organized for Russian Federation troops under the responsibility of the Ministries of Defence and the Interior and for border guard units stationed in the northern Caucasus proved to be particularly important.

Elsewhere in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), presentations and courses on the law of war were held for the armed forces, including in military academies in Moscow, as well as in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. These courses were also aimed at training officers and military instructors so that they could in turn pass on their knowledge to troops in the field. At the end of October the President of the ICRC invited high-ranking officers from the Russian Federation, India, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States to a round-table discussion on humanitarian law and its implementation by the military; one of the objectives was to emphasize the crucial role of the armed forces in applying the rules of international humanitarian law.

An ICRC programme aimed at promoting universal humanitarian values among schoolchildren was launched in several newly independent States with a view to introducing the teaching of the humanitarian principles into secondary school curricula over a period of several years. The new ICRC textbooks introduce the humanitarian principles through the teaching of literature and
contain exercises requiring active involvement of the pupils in the discussion of ethical issues. A teacher’s manual is included and all teachers participating in the programme follow introductory seminars. Having distributed 20,000 textbooks and manuals based on materials produced in Geneva, the regional delegation in Moscow went on to draw up a completely new pilot manual with the help of local specialists, and 144,000 exercise books and 6,400 teachers’ manuals were printed for distribution in Moscow, the northern Caucasus and eight other areas of the Russian Federation.

The ICRC maintained close links with universities and higher education institutions throughout the CIS, in particular with the Moscow State University and the Moscow Diplomatic Academy, among others. Its overall goal was to introduce courses on humanitarian law into the law and journalism faculties of those universities. To this end, sets of reference texts were translated by the ICRC and presented to university libraries. The institution also received special invitations to address several prestigious annual meetings, including those of the Russian Association of International Law and the Academic Vice-Deans of Russian Universities, and participated in Council of Europe and UNESCO conferences.

An information delegate kept in regular contact with the local and foreign press, both in Moscow and in the field, to increase public awareness and acceptance of the ICRC’s humanitarian work in the northern Caucasus. Media representatives showed great interest in covering ICRC field activities, such as its water and sanitation and medical assistance programmes, and more general subjects, for example presentations on the Movement. ICRC films and interviews were broadcast on the occasion of Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May. The ICRC’s travelling exhibition, Humanity in the Midst of War, gave delegates the opportunity to inform officials and members of the media about the ICRC’s tasks as the show passed through Moscow, Nalchik, Nizhniy Novgorod and Yekaterinburg. Visitors to the exhibition included members of local government and locally based armed forces. Another booklet, entitled Who are we, the delegates of the ICRC, and a set of five pocket calendars with humanitarian law messages were also translated into Russian and distributed to soldiers at checkpoints and to field commanders in the conflict area in the northern Caucasus.

In 1995 the biggest challenge for the institution in the area of dissemination remained the huge distances involved when it came to contacting far-flung local committees of the Russian Red Cross. However, despite all the logistical problems, ICRC staff managed to hold seminars throughout the region covered by the delegation and to maintain links with district branches in order to promote cooperation in dissemination matters, give advice on questions of internal organization and discuss the basis of dissemination work and ways of
strengthening respect for the Fundamental Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles. The series of seminars begun in 1993 entered its second phase in 1995: a regional network of dissemination officers in charge of strengthening the image and identity of the Red Cross and giving it a higher public profile was set up during three seminars held in Siberia, the Urals and Moscow.

**Chechen conflict**

The escalation in hostilities in Chechnya in the second half of 1994 and the open advance of Federal troops on Grozny in December 1994 had marked the beginning of a large-scale ICRC humanitarian operation directed from the institution's sub-delegation in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria) and its offices in Nazran (Ingushetia) and Khasavyurt (Daghestan). In relation to this conflict the ICRC emphasized the applicability of Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocol II thereto. In a meeting in Geneva with the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs in mid-January, the ICRC President stressed in particular the obligation of the parties under international humanitarian law to spare civilians and their property. The ICRC also presented a memorandum asking for a humanitarian truce to enable civilians, casualties and mortal remains to be evacuated from Grozny. The ICRC at that time also reiterated a request for access to all prisoners held on both sides in relation to the conflict and for the authorities to smooth out various administrative and customs problems that prevented the institution from providing humanitarian aid quickly where it was most needed. By the end of June Russian Federal troops held most of the territory, including Grozny and the towns of Argun, Shali and Gudermes. The mountainous regions and some villages in the southern plains remained under the control of the pro-Dudayev fighters.

Civilians fleeing hostilities early in the year sought refuge in the neighbouring republics: some 100,000 in Ingushetia and as many in Daghestan; others made their way towards North Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkaria and elsewhere in southern Russia; and another 200,000 or so fled to southern Chechnya. At the beginning of April these people started to return, although continued pressure from Federal troops driving the Chechen separatist fighters back into the mountains triggered successive new waves of displaced persons to Daghestan and Ingushetia. By early June the main separatist strongholds of Nozhayurt, Vedeno and Shatoi had been captured by Federal troops. The subsequent taking of some 1,500 hostages by Chechen separatist fighters in Budennovsk was followed by peace talks at the end of June. By late July a cease-fire agreement had been hammered out between the parties, at which point the situation stabilized somewhat. The ICRC was then able to begin repairs on hospitals and other medical facilities throughout the region and shift
the emphasis of its assistance programmes from relief for the general population affected by the hostilities to aid for the most vulnerable members of the displaced community and other needy people not only in Chechnya, but also in Daghestan and Ingushetia.

Negotiations between Russian authorities and Chechen separatist combatants reached a deadlock from early October, with a gradual but constant increase in security incidents which hampered the efforts of ICRC delegates, particularly in Grozny. The situation in Chechnya underwent a sudden deterioration in December. The decision to hold presidential elections, in conjunction with legislative elections to be held in the Russian Federation, caused an upsurge in the violence all over Chechnya; this in turn prompted all international humanitarian organizations, with the exception of the ICRC, temporarily to suspend their activities in Grozny from mid-December. The Chechen separatist forces launched an offensive on 14 December and took control of part of the Federal-held town of Gudermes. Federal troops reacted by unleashing a large-scale attack to recapture the town, causing 25% of the population to take flight. The ICRC gave whatever medical assistance it could for the wounded in the surrounding area, and distributed relief supplies to displaced people arriving in Daghestan. As soon as access to Gudermes became possible the ICRC provided the population with relief and medical supplies, and water and sanitation assistance.

Activities for the civilian population

Throughout the year the institution made repeated appeals to all the parties to respect the basic humanitarian rules and to ensure that civilians and people detained in connection with the hostilities were well treated. Following acceptance of an ICRC memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister in February, urging the authorities to facilitate a humanitarian truce so that wounded combatants and civilians and the dead could be evacuated from Grozny, the ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary in the removal of mortal remains. In view of the intensity of the fighting and the flagrant violations of international humanitarian law, delegates remained on the alert to prevent whatever acts of brutality they could from being committed against the population, as well as the indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas. ICRC delegates intervened on numerous occasions in the field during the hostilities and their aftermath to try and protect civilians from abuse on the part of the warring parties and made representations to this end at all levels.

A major relief operation was launched in the northern Caucasus at the beginning of the year to provide more than 250,000 displaced people in Chechnya, Daghestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia and
elsewhere in the region with family and individual food parcels and aid in the form of blankets, soap, warm clothes and plastic sheeting. Of Grozny's remaining 120,000 inhabitants, 70,000 depended on ICRC assistance as of February; this was provided at distribution points set up and manned by volunteers. In mid-April the inhabitants who had left began returning to the city as conditions improved in the north of Chechnya and by May the population had once more increased to over 200,000 (former population 400,000) and normal life began to resume. Between March and June displaced people fleeing the slowly southward-moving conflict also received food aid in Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia and other neighbouring regions in the Russian Federation. Consecutive waves of approximately 70,000 and 30,000 displaced people fled to Ingushetia in April and May respectively. The ICRC distributed three rounds of food parcels for the displaced in Ingushetia with the help of the local Red Crescent, and provided cooking pots, soap, blankets, plastic sheeting and clothing for those not staying with host families but sheltering in public buildings. Elsewhere the delivery of humanitarian aid was hampered by problems in obtaining the necessary permission for the passage of humanitarian convoys both in Daghestan and in southern Chechnya. Fierce fighting and poor security conditions in most of southern Chechnya prevented ICRC relief supplies from reaching much of this area, although by the end of May most regions became accessible again.

Over the year more than half a million people in Chechnya and in the neighbouring republics of Daghestan and Ingushetia, as well as in Grozny and surrounding areas, received family parcels. An increasing number of displaced people who were returning to Chechnya received non-food packages. Distributions of children's clothing were carried out in the south.

Towards the end of 1995 delegates had difficulty in carrying out relief distributions in Grozny and were at times physically threatened. In southern Chechnya, where access was not always guaranteed and the delivery of humanitarian aid also became increasingly difficult, some of the distributions had to be cancelled for security reasons. Following the large-scale military operation in Gudermes from 14 to 25 December, the number of displaced swelled rapidly to 20,000 to 25,000 individuals: of these 15,000 to 20,000 took refuge in Khasavyurt, Daghestan, with host families and some 6,000 people found shelter in empty public buildings, where they were provided with food and blankets. Although it did not succeed in persuading the Federal troops and Chechen separatist fighters to agree on a cease-fire for humanitarian reasons, on 26 December the ICRC finally managed to gain authorization for a convoy of 15 tonnes of relief supplies — including food, blankets, candles, plastic sheeting and children's clothing for 2,000 people — to have access to the town. This was followed by two further convoys, respectively carrying 50 tonnes and
32 tonnes of food and other aid for 11,000 people, on 30 December 1995 and 4 January 1996.

Activities for detainees

In the course of the year ICRC delegates visited 700 detainees in 25 places of detention in Chechnya and the neighbouring republics.

The ICRC found that authorization to carry out visits to detainees held by the Russian authorities was sporadically suspended, but over the year it did manage to visit some 530 people in permanent places of detention and transit detention centres. Delegates provided non-food assistance and forwarded Red Cross messages when the need arose.

The ICRC was able to visit Russian Federation detainees held by Chechen separatist forces early in the year, but between March and June military operations made such visits impossible. Contact was restored with the Chechen separatist fighters at the end of June and visits to detainees held by them were resumed in August. In 1995 the ICRC visited some 170 people held by Chechen separatist combatants.

Tracing activities

Following the battle for Grozny, which lasted from December 1994 to February 1995, the ICRC launched a large-scale operation to restore family ties between people separated as a result of the conflict. For the tens of thousands of people left behind in Grozny, and those who fled the city and other parts of Chechnya, the Red Cross tracing network was the only means of communicating with relatives with whom they had lost all contact. In Grozny itself delegates set up a Red Cross message network comprising 18 collection and distribution points throughout the city. Some 30,000 messages were exchanged until the postal services resumed between Chechnya and the outside world in early June. This in part obviated the need for the ICRC network and the number of messages declined. Delegates did, however, continue to deliver Red Cross messages for detainees.

Throughout 1995 the ICRC worked to increase its contacts with the parties concerned in order to obtain information about people reported missing in Chechnya.

Medical activities

In the summer of 1994, in anticipation of a further deterioration in the situation in Chechnya, the ICRC had begun supplying emergency medical assistance to hospitals in the region, to help them to cope with the in-
creasing numbers of war-wounded. Following the escalation in hostilities in December 1994, this aid was stepped up to cover overburdened facilities caring for displaced people in Daghestan, Ingushetia and the Stavropol region. Medicines to treat chronic diseases such as diabetes, asthma, thyroid and cardiovascular conditions were also distributed to various hospitals in the neighbouring republics and in Stavropol Krai. After the cease-fire agreement was reached in late July the ICRC carried out repairs to Hospital No. 4 in Grozny so that it could resume functioning; many other hospitals in the city had been damaged beyond repair. Some 20 hospitals and ten health facilities and first-aid posts regularly received emergency medicines and surgical supplies and basic drugs for primary health care, while a team of medical delegates continually monitored their needs. In neighbouring Daghestan the ICRC assisted nine outpatient clinics and four hospitals in the Khasavyurt area, where 60,000 displaced Chechens had sought refuge. Medical facilities caring for the displaced also received ICRC aid in Ingushetia and Stavropol Krai.

When the displaced began returning to their homes the ICRC wound down its activities in the neighbouring republics and focused on restoring the badly damaged medical infrastructure. Rehabilitation work was carried out in Hospital No. 4 in Grozny and other medical establishments in Argun, Gudermes, Shali, Urus Martan and Shatoi and the power supply and sanitation conditions were upgraded. The hospitals also received both specialized equipment and more general supplies, as well as urgently needed medicines for chronic diseases.

The ICRC provided assistance to the polyclinic in Budennovsk during the hostage crisis in June, to help care for inhabitants injured in the course of events. Following the outbreak of hostilities in Gudermes on 14 December, two tonnes of emergency medical supplies were delivered towards the end of the month, first to the area surrounding the city and, when access was restored, to the city itself.

During their visits to detention centres, ICRC medical personnel assessed the detainees' health and provided the centres' medical services with basic equipment and medicines.

Water and sanitation

The intense fighting, especially at the beginning of the year, caused serious damage to electricity supply lines, pumping stations and water pipes. The water distribution network for Grozny and an area within a 50-km radius of the city had almost completely broken down. The shortage of drinking water, in a region where cholera and diphtheria are endemic, became a source of serious concern, particularly with the return of warmer weather. The ICRC accordingly set up a water distribution network, which in the early stages used 12 tankers to transport 120,000 litres of drinking water daily from Goragorsk, 50 km west of Grozny, to
a dozen distribution points and reservoirs in the city. In July the distribution system was operating at peak output: more than 750,000 litres of water to meet the needs of 100,000 people were trucked in every day from a nearby station, chlorinated and delivered to 50 distribution points throughout the city by 15 ICRC tanker trucks. Chlorinated water was also supplied to Médecins sans Frontières (Belgium) and Merlin (a British medical relief agency) for distribution in places where those agencies were working. ICRC water and sanitation experts went to villages to the south of Grozny to assess the water supply situation there: wells were sunk and equipped to supply damaged schools and hospitals, and water distribution systems were set up in some of the villages.

When fighting erupted in Gudermes on 14 December, the ICRC immediately began trucking in 64,000 litres of drinking water a day, as the destruction of power lines had put the local pumping station out of operation. An ICRC water and sanitation engineer remained in the city to plan repairs to the water distribution system.

Cooperation with the National Society

A cooperation agreement was signed with the Russian Red Cross, whereby the National Society’s tracing service was to forward family messages collected at ICRC offices in the northern Caucasus to addressees in the Russian Federation. Tracing activities and relief programmes were carried out in close cooperation with the local Red Cross and Red Crescent committees in Ingushetia (where there were more than 100,000 displaced people), North Ossetia and Kabardino-Balkaria (7,500 and 6,000 displaced people respectively). The Ingush Republic had already had to cope with people displaced as a result of the Ossetian-Ingush confrontation, and a memorandum of understanding between the ICRC and the local Ingush committee stipulated that the ICRC would provide the necessary financial, administrative and logistic support for it to carry out its share of relief work.

Under one of its most ambitious cooperation programmes with National Societies, the ICRC drafted a series of memoranda of understanding with local committees in the northern Caucasus, detailing the cooperation in relief, tracing and medical activities and the general assistance to be furnished by the institution. Ultimately, this programme aims to strengthen the operational capacities of these branches by helping them define and develop community relevant activities and thereby, in the longer term, find local financial support. The ICRC funded a local Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross home nursing programme for 35 nurses who make regular visits to some 300 elderly and disabled people in Grozny. As of 25 December a community kitchen
programme providing people with one hot meal a day was implemented in Grozny in the parts of the city worst affected by the recent fighting.

**Ingushetia and North Ossetia**

The North Ossetian-Ingush conflict, while no longer active, was still not resolved in 1995. The ICRC therefore continued to monitor the situation in the region, particularly in the Prigorodny region. Delegates carried out visits to three Ingush detainees held in relation to this conflict.

**The Caucasus**

**ARMENIA/AZERBAIJAN**

The cease-fire agreed upon in May 1994 was generally respected in 1995 although clashes broke out almost weekly, with the worst occurring in March and in September, on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. A number of civilians and combatants were wounded or killed in the fighting and civilian buildings were damaged. Sporadic incidents also took place during the year on the front lines between Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh. The number of refugees and displaced people in Azerbaijan remained well in excess of 700,000 and became a major concern as winter approached. ICRC operations concentrated on the front-line districts and the Fizuli district in particular.

In February the Minsk Group, set up by the OSCE in 1992, met in Moscow to begin a new round of discussions aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement to the long-standing conflict, but once again no results were achieved on the political front. The ICRC was present on the final day of the meeting when humanitarian questions were on the agenda. A second series of talks held in June in Helsinki after the Minsk Group’s visit to Yerevan and Stepanakert in April and June led to some progress in the drafting of a general security agreement designed to pave the way for official negotiations regarding the status of Nagorny Karabakh; and the ICRC also participated in November at another meeting of the Minsk Group when humanitarian issues were being discussed. In another encouraging development, Armenian and Azerbaijani officials held their first bilateral talks without mediators at the end of the year; both parties described their meeting as positive.

In early April the ICRC President paid an official visit to Armenia, during which he held talks with the Head of State, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In Yerevan he also met the President of the Nagorny Karabakh parliament. He then went on to Azerbaijan where he had discussions...
with the President, the Foreign Minister and the Minister for Labour and Social Welfare.

The ICRC was one of a large number of international humanitarian organizations providing different types of assistance in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorný Karabakh. In keeping with its mandate, the institution focused on various issues, such as access to and the protection of prisoners held in relation to the conflict and people detained for security or ethnic reasons; the prevention of discrimination against civilian minorities; assistance to vulnerable groups on the front lines and efforts to restore family ties through the Red Cross message network.

Activities for detainees

The ICRC continued to visit both civilians and combatants held in relation to the hostilities, and requested that they be released at the end of active hostilities, as provided for under international humanitarian law. In both Armenia and Azerbaijan delegates encountered some difficulties in carrying out their visits, as detaining authorities had not systematically notified them of people arrested and did not permit visits to be conducted in all places of detention. As a result of the numerous representations made by the institution, some 150 prisoners held by the three parties to the conflict, and previously visited by the ICRC, were released and repatriated in several operations carried out under ICRC auspices. The largest of these took place in May when some 90 prisoners were freed. Further prisoners were released without the ICRC’s participation. However, at year’s end, delegates were still visiting over 70 individuals detained in relation to the conflict and who should have been released, as active hostilities had ceased over a year and a half before.

The ICRC also visited Azerbaijani citizens of Armenian origin and Russian nationals detained in Azerbaijan and continued to seek authorization to carry out visits to detainees held for security reasons. In Armenia the ICRC reached
an agreement with the authorities concerning visits to detainees falling under the ICRC mandate and these were planned to start in February 1996.

Activities for the civilian population

The ICRC closely monitored the treatment of civilians, and minorities in particular, and stood ready to take action with the authorities to protect these people from discrimination. This included assisting ethnic Armenians living in Azerbaijan, mainly in Baku, in their efforts to obtain the same government benefits as Azeri citizens, in particular regarding pensions and official documents. In other cases the ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary in arranging for the repatriation of people or their transport between the different countries of the region.

Armenia

In April and May the ICRC distributed food parcels, candles and shoes to 3,330 families (17,000 people) who had lost their breadwinners as a result of the hostilities. Another distribution to the same group took place in September, this time including 2,500 war disabled. The ICRC programme for vulnerable groups directly affected by the conflict — approximately 8,000 families living in the north-eastern border districts — went on through the winter of 1994/1995; it was carried out by the American Red Cross with the help of the Armenian Red Cross Society and provided food parcels, flour, cooking oil, soap and candles to these families.

Azerbaijan

The ICRC provided food parcels every two months to 3,500 vulnerable families living in the eight front-line districts of Barda, Terter, Agdam, Kasakh, Tovuz, Gedabekh, Agstafa and Fizuli. This operation was taken over in October as an ICRC-delegated project by the American Red Cross, working in cooperation with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society. The new programme was aimed at providing food and other items to some 8,000 resident families with members falling into the following five categories of vulnerable individuals: invalids, the elderly, widows and orphans and the destitute.

The ICRC continued to distribute food and other relief supplies for the entire population in the Fizuli district until May. The district was particularly hard hit by the fighting, which left part of the area under Azerbaijani control and the other part under Karabakh control. As some of the population was gradually regaining self-sufficiency, the ICRC’s activities targeted about 15,000 displaced people and 10,000 particularly vulnerable individuals among the returnee and local population.
Delegates conducted a survey in Nagorny Karabakh in the course of the year to assess needs in the enclave. Despite the cease-fire, the effects of the armed conflict and the consequences of recent economic reform had resulted in hardship for large segments of the population. Few humanitarian organizations were present in the region and poverty became a growing concern. The ICRC focused its assistance on vulnerable groups, and in June launched a relief programme for 27,000 elderly people throughout the territory. Over the summer a general distribution of supplies was carried out in Stepanakert for some 55,000 people, followed by another relief distribution for 18,000 elderly people in rural areas throughout Nagorny Karabakh; this also included large families in need. In addition, food aid was provided to a number of prisons.

The autonomous republic of Nakhichevan, which suffered considerable hardship under the blockade resulting from the conflict, received ICRC assistance in February and June in the form of 6,000 blankets and 25,000 candles to help the population through harsh winter months.

**Tracing activities**

Since the beginning of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict Red Cross messages have provided the only means of contact between detainees and their families. Large numbers of civilians with no other means of corresponding with family members have also benefited from this service. Over the year 8,866 Red Cross messages were exchanged.

As part of its efforts to trace missing persons and restore family ties, the ICRC continued to try and convince the parties of their responsibility to provide information on people unaccounted for, and in particular to shed some light on the fate of several hundred servicemen listed as missing after the final phase of hostilities between December 1993 and May 1994. In May 1995 it submitted a memorandum to the authorities concerned to remind them of their obligation to respect the relevant rules of international humanitarian law. Delegates gathered the names of missing persons from relatives and travelled to remote regions to contact people who were unable to come to ICRC offices to register their tracing requests. In August the names of 488 missing people were passed on to the Armenian, Azerbaijani and Nagorny Karabakh authorities.

**Health activities**

Apart from the two outbreaks of fighting in March and September the front lines remained quiet and the number of war casualties declined. Most of the people wounded during the year were victims of either landmine explosions or snipers' bullets.
Medical needs in Armenia were covered by the local health care system or other organizations, and ICRC medical activities were concerned solely with detainees. In Azerbaijan the number of war-wounded diminished noticeably. The ICRC continued its tours of hospitals on both sides of the front line but was able to reduce its medical assistance. ICRC distributions of medical supplies to prison dispensaries and to hospitals treating detainees, along with representations to the authorities to improve certain conditions, led to better health among the detainee population. An experimental programme to combat tuberculosis in the prison hospital run by the Ministry of Justice in Baku was launched in June, with 84 patients under treatment by year's end.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in Baku and the Azerbaijan Red Crescent, the ICRC set up a project aimed at providing hundreds of war amputees in the region with artificial limbs. Once the prosthetic/orthotic centre had been completed, ICRC specialists began producing orthopaedic appliances and holding training courses for local staff as of May. The first prostheses were ready in August and 108 people had received their artificial limbs by the end of 1995.

In Nagorny Karabakh the ICRC provided facilities treating the war-wounded with medical supplies when needed. There were considerably fewer requirements than in the previous year as a result of the cease-fire. A programme to restore water supply systems in the enclave had begun in October 1994. The facilities of several medical establishments were upgraded during 1995 and sanitary facilities were repaired or replaced by ICRC engineers. In Azerbaijan an assessment of the water distribution network was carried out in the Fizuli district late in the year with a view to possible ICRC involvement in the rehabilitation of installations.

Dissemination

Following the cease-fire in 1994 the ICRC had stepped up its activities on both sides of the front line to spread knowledge of humanitarian law, focusing on the link between this and traditional values rooted in local culture. Dissemination courses were organized regularly in 1995 for the military in Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh. In Azerbaijan humanitarian law was incorporated into army training programmes and ICRC presentations were given to members of the armed forces. During a mission to Nakhichevan in March delegates gave talks on humanitarian law and distributed dissemination brochures and first-aid kits, each containing a booklet on the basic humanitarian rules, to 1,700 troops and border guards under the responsibility of the Ministries of Defence and the Interior, respectively.
The ICRC continued to produce publications in Armenian and Azeri for use by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the two countries and for distribution to the general public. These publications took different and original forms: calendars, strip cartoons, and a puppet play based on a popular Armenian epic for children in Nagorny Karabakh; and a video clip highlighting the need to respect one’s fellow human beings at all times was composed by an Armenian artist and sung by various well-known performers. First-aid kits containing booklets on the basic rules to be observed by combatants and triangular armbands illustrating the essential rules of behaviour in combat were distributed to the military in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation, including the northern Caucasus.

The ICRC pilot programme for secondary schools, developed for the various newly independent States, was launched in both Armenia and Azerbaijan: the textbooks introduce humanitarian ethics and international humanitarian law through the teaching of literature. A first version was distributed to 30,000 students in both countries in 1995, and by the end of the year work was almost finished on a totally new textbook based on Armenian and Azeri literature, to be handed out in 1996.

The ICRC also used TV slots to remind combatants of the importance of respecting civilian lives and property, prisoners and the red cross and red crescent emblems.

Cooperation with National Societies

In November both the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society and the Armenian Red Cross Society were officially recognized as full members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Cooperation agreements were signed with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent to refurbish a local dormitory for those patients attending the rehabilitation centre for the war-disabled set up by the ICRC. In October the ICRC programme for the distribution of family parcels in districts on the front lines was taken over as an ICRC-delegated project by the American Red Cross, in cooperation with the local Red Crescent.

The Armenian Red Cross worked with the American Red Cross in another ICRC-delegated project to distribute sugar and jar lids for bottling fruit and vegetables. Local Red Cross staff also participated, with the ICRC delegation, in the schools programme and served as information officers.

Special projects were implemented by the ICRC to help develop the skills of the Armenian Red Cross and the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Societies in the fields of relief and dissemination work, and to provide training and material support for their respective tracing services. In September representatives of those services attended in a tracing seminar in Tbilisi.
GEORGIA

No major hostilities had broken out since the establishment of the cease-fire between Georgia and the Abkhaz separatists in May 1994 and the creation of a buffer zone along the Inguri river, monitored by CIS peace-keeping forces under UNOMIG* supervision. However, in 1995 sporadic armed clashes between Abkhaz and various Georgian para-military groups occurred along the dividing line, killing a number of civilians and combatants on or near the front lines. Hostages, mostly civilians, were also taken by both sides, though they were subsequently released. In May the mandate of the peace-keeping forces was extended to the end of the year.

The ongoing negotiations failed to remove the two main obstacles to resolving the conflict: first, the status of Abkhazia; and second, arrangements for the return of over 250,000 displaced people who had fled to western Georgia after the capture of Sukhumi by Abkhaz forces in September 1993.

One of the principal ICRC concerns over the course of the year was the situation of civilians in general and that of the non-Abkhaz communities living in Abkhazia, in particular Georgians and Russians. In view of the hazardous security conditions, the upsurge in violence and crime, and the fact that Abkhazia remained isolated as a result of the economic embargo imposed by Russia at the end of 1994, the ICRC largely focused its activities in this region on relief and medical assistance, water and sanitation programmes, and on the protection of non-Abkhaz communities.

Dissemination became an increasingly important component of the work of ICRC delegates throughout the Caucasus. Special efforts were made to draw parallels between the ICRC message and the values rooted in local culture in order to reach the institution’s various target groups, including the military.

One of the most serious consequences of the past hostilities was the problem of landmines throughout the southern Caucasus. The ICRC’s

* UNOMIG: United Nations Monitoring and Observation Mission in Georgia
database concerning landmine victims, and close cooperation with the Halo Trust mine-clearing agency and Médecins sans Frontières (France) in Abkhazia, served to identify mine-infested areas and the people most at risk. The ICRC also expanded its work and support for prosthetic/orthotic facilities to help them deal with the increasing number of war amputees.

The disbanding of the Mkhedrioni militia and the arrest of their leader following a failed assassination attempt against the Georgian President in late August, the entry into force of a new constitution in October, and the President’s re-election in November all contributed to a return to greater stability, which became noticeable in Tbilisi by the end of 1995.

Over the year the ICRC maintained a permanent presence in Tbilisi, Zugdidi, Kutaisi, Sukhumi and Gagra. Tbilisi continued to serve as a logistics base for ICRC activities in Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the delegation there occasionally provided additional staff for the northern Caucasus.

Activities for the civilian population

The protection of minority groups, in particular the situation of the non-Abkhaz communities living in Abkhazia, remained the ICRC’s main priority. These groups included Georgians, Mingrelians and Russians, and the institution made every possible representation to the authorities to urge them to ensure the safety of these people. The 35,000 Mingrelians in the Gali area enjoyed some degree of protection as a result of the presence of UNOMIG military observers, CIS peace-keepers and UNHCR. However, more than 40,000 elderly Georgians and Russians living in other parts of Abkhazia relied solely on ICRC help.

The assistance programme for pensioners continued to reach 50,000 to 56,000 elderly people in Abkhazia. Four food-parcel distributions were carried out over the course of the year, while 13 community kitchens in Gulripsh, Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli provided meals for more than 5,000 vulnerable people each month.

In South Ossetia and western Georgia 5,826 food parcels and 141,891 individual parcels were distributed to internally displaced people and elderly pensioners living alone. Towards the end of the year, the gradual return to stability enabled the ICRC to phase out its food aid, which was taken over by other humanitarian agencies. The ICRC nevertheless continued to monitor the situation and maintained its contingency stocks in Tbilisi.

Activities for detainees

In 1995 ICRC delegates carried out visits to people detained in Tbilisi, Abkhazia and other parts of western Georgia. They saw some 180 detainees held in relation to the Georgian/Abkhaz internal armed conflict or as a result
of the fighting between government troops and supporters of the former Georgian President that had taken place in Tbilisi in early 1992 and in Mingrelia in the autumn of 1993.

As the ICRC was not always able to conduct visits to certain categories of detainees — particularly in Tbilisi — in accordance with its standard working procedures, it made representations to the highest authorities with a view to securing such guarantees.

During his visit to Georgia in April, the ICRC President received official authorization for delegates to visit almost all security detainees, and in May and July they were able to carry out the first complete visit to the main security prison in Tbilisi.

The attempt on the Georgian President’s life at the end of August set off a new series of arrests, and the ICRC started negotiating access to the individuals concerned, although by the end of the year it had been able to visit and register only a very few of them.

Tracing activities

Over the year 114,784 Red Cross messages, (i.e. an average of 10,000 a month) were exchanged through the Red Cross message network. The demand was especially high on both sides of the front line between Georgia and Abkhazia because of the absence of postal services.

About 160 individuals were transferred, at their own request, to different parts of the country. As most of the requests were motivated by deteriorating living conditions among the minorities living in Abkhazia, the criteria governing eligibility for transfer had to be broadened to encompass these individuals. Many elderly people asked to be transferred so that they could stay with relatives in other parts of Georgia — some of them on medical grounds and others for reasons prompted by the prevailing insecurity, the fact of living alone or the lack of financial resources.

Health activities

Owing to Abkhazia’s economic isolation, there was a general shortage of medicines in the region, especially drugs to treat chronic diseases. Delegates monitored the situation over the year and furnished two major health facilities and a dispensary in Sukhumi with medical supplies. The ICRC also provided fuel and financial support to help cover personnel costs, so that local medical staff could hold daily consultations and make home visits. Throughout Georgia the health situation was poor and outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as diphtheria and tuberculosis, were common.
The number of war-wounded — most of them civilians — as a result of clashes along the front line between Georgia and Abkhazia, rose slightly in early 1995, mainly in the Gali district. Starting in February the ICRC increased its stocks of medicines and medical supplies in Sukhumi in preparation for any renewed upsurge in the fighting. New contingency stocks were also set up in Gagra and Zugdidi, and an ICRC field nurse regularly went to facilities treating the war-wounded to deliver urgently needed medical and surgical supplies.

ICRC prosthetic/orthotic workshops launched in Tbilisi and Gagra in July 1994 were manufacturing artificial limbs by March 1995. Training courses for local staff were implemented, including patient management and physiotherapy programmes for those receiving prostheses. About two-thirds of the people requiring prosthetic/orthotic treatment for conflict-related injuries were landmine victims. In all, 206 people were fitted with artificial limbs over the year, with some 540 officially remaining on the waiting list.

By June an ICRC water and sanitation project aimed at improving conditions in four hospitals in Abkhazia had been completed: roofs were repaired, and water pipes and sanitary facilities were installed to step up the hospitals' working capacity.

**Dissemination**

The promotion of international humanitarian law remained an ICRC priority and special efforts were made to incorporate local culture and traditions in dissemination material. A 1995 calendar, with pictures and text drawn from local art and literature, was printed and distributed locally and 25,000 first-aid kits, each containing a booklet on the basic humanitarian rules, were distributed to the armed forces on both sides of the front line.

Fifty-two seminars were organized for civil and military authorities in Georgia and Abkhazia, CIS peace-keeping forces and United Nations observers. Publications on humanitarian law were translated into the local languages and films on ICRC activities were dubbed for use by local Red Cross committees.

A pilot programme, carried out in 84 schools in Tbilisi and reaching over 3,000 12-year-olds, aimed to teach solidarity, tolerance and respect for minorities in six hours of story-telling and practical exercises. The programme was later extended to Zugdidi in western Georgia. A new and greatly improved teaching cycle promoting humanitarian values through lessons based on Georgian history and literature was also in preparation.

In September, in cooperation with Georgian state television, the ICRC produced a 40-minute documentary on the work of its delegates in Georgia, entitled *A symbol of hope*. Video-clips on landmine awareness were also shown in Abkhazia and other parts of western Georgia.
Central Asia

TAJIKISTAN

As a result of the cease-fire concluded in September 1994 under United Nations auspices, the situation in Tajikistan remained relatively stable, although there was a noticeable increase in the violent clashes between Russian Border Guards and Tajik government forces on one side, and Tajik Islamic opposition fighters on the other. These broke out particularly in the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region, the Tavildara area, the Garm valley and on the southern border with Afghanistan, causing deaths and injuries on both sides. Civilians in northern Afghan areas were also reportedly affected by these hostilities.

In April the government forces responded by deploying additional troops along the Tavildara-Khorog road, and in the Tavildara region and the Garm valley; by August they had regained control of nearly all the road leading from Tavildara to Khorog. Opposition fighters remained concentrated in the Vanch and Yazgulam valleys. In May 1995 the cease-fire agreement was extended once again to the end of August 1995, and then to the end of February 1996. In June occasional skirmishes caused tension to rise in the Kurgan-Tyube region; these culminated in an outbreak of hostilities in September between two brigades formerly belonging to the opposition and then incorporated into the Tajik army. In late October there were violent confrontations in the Tavildara valley between government and opposition forces, following failed negotiations to demilitarize an area to the east of Tavildara. Sporadic fighting also took place in the Garm area.

High-level consultations between the Tajik government and representatives of the opposition were held in Moscow in April, with the participation of observers from Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan. These were followed by a fourth round of inter-Tajik talks on reconciliation, originally planned for December 1994, which took place under UN auspices in the Kazak capital of Almaty from 22 May to 1 June. In
addition to the observers who attended the high-level consultations in Moscow, this series of inter-Tajik talks was attended by representatives from the OSCE, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the ICRC as observers. The ICRC used this forum to share its humanitarian concerns.

As a result of this fourth round of discussions the two sides “agreed, with a view to strengthening confidence-building measures, to exchange an equal number of detainees and prisoners of war by 29 July 1995 and to ensure unobstructed access of representatives of the ICRC and members of the Joint Commission to places where detainees and prisoners of war were being held”. By year’s end, the provisions of this accord had still not been implemented. However, following the second extension of the cease-fire agreement, the Tajik President and the opposition leader reached an understanding on principles for restoring peace in the country, and it was planned that a consultative forum of Tajik people would convene to debate political and social issues during the fifth round of inter-Tajik talks.

The ICRC Deputy Delegate General for Eastern Europe and Central Asia visited Tajikistan in May, followed by the Delegate General in September. Both representatives raised the issue of the institution’s access to all people arrested in connection with the 1992 hostilities and the subsequent violence in the country. The fifth round of inter-Tajik talks to be held at Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan, at the end of November were suspended pending an investigation into the ongoing government offensive in the Mionadu valley. On 13 December the warring parties committed themselves to respecting the cease-fire but it was decided that the talks would be postponed to the following year. The investigation committee underlined the adverse effects of the fighting on the local population, and the ICRC made representations to the Minister of Defence to be granted authorization to conduct a survey in this area and provide emergency relief for 1,200 people in need.

Activities for the civilian population

The ICRC’s main focus during the year was on programmes for displaced persons returning to their homes, mostly in the Hatlon Oblast. Delegates carried out regular missions to Gorno-Badakhshan, the Mionadu valley and the Tavildara area to monitor security conditions there and to endeavour to ensure that the rights of some 10,000 people displaced within Gorno-Badakhshan who wanted to return to their homes in the Hatlon Oblast were respected. Security conditions for returnees and displaced people were acceptable throughout the south of the Hatlon Oblast; even so the institution contacted local authorities to remind them of their obligations to ensure the
proper resettlement and safety of the returnees. ICRC offices were opened in Kolkhozabad, Khorog and Tavildara, and transit centres in Kalai-Khum, Khorog and Obi Garm provided shelter, blankets and hot meals for those awaiting transport to their places of origin. On arrival, these people were provided with family parcels to tide them over the initial re-integration period. Since March some 3,000 displaced had returned from Gorno-Badakhshan under a government resettlement programme, in which the ICRC cooperated with UNHCR and IOM by setting up the transit centres along the way. Over the year 6,599 food parcels were distributed, mainly to displaced people returning from Gorno-Badakhshan and the Garm valley to the centre of the country. The hardship resulting from the hostilities there in October 1994 prompted the ICRC to organize a distribution of warm clothes for children in the Mionadu valley. It also delivered flour, sugar and cooking oil provided by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to elderly people in Tavildara, Chidara and the Mionadu valley due to the conflict situation prevailing in those areas.

Following the flare-up in the Tavildara valley in late October, several hundred people took to the hills in the Mionadu region. Despite the difficult working conditions the ICRC provided emergency food and medical assistance in the affected areas, namely the Tavildara region and the Garm and Mionadu valleys.

In late October, the ICRC launched the first phase of a seed distribution programme designed to help people regain some measure of self-sufficiency in these isolated and mountainous regions, which had been directly affected by hostilities during the summer and autumn of 1994. It began by distributing 37 tonnes of wheat seed to 1,660 families for immediate planting. A further 3.8 tonnes were placed at the disposal of the local authorities to help families that the ICRC could not reach because of hazardous security conditions.

Activities for detainees

Despite negotiations at the highest level the ICRC was unable to obtain regular access in accordance with its standard procedure to detainees arrested by the government in connection with the 1992 hostilities and subsequent violence in the country. Delegates were, however, able to carry out visits in accordance with the ICRC's standard working procedure, to 22 people held by opposition groups in the Vanch valley, Khorog and on Afghan territory.

Tracing activities

As refugees could communicate with their families through informal channels and the UNHCR programme for Tajik refugees, and since postal links
were functioning between Gorno-Badakhshan and other parts of the country, the demand for Red Cross messages remained low. Family messages were collected from and distributed to people living in areas not accessible to the tracing services of the Tajik Red Crescent, and ICRC delegates also arranged for the exchange of messages between detainees and their relatives.

Up until May the ICRC monitored the situation of more than 60 Afghan students sent to study in Tajikistan because of the conflict in their own country. UNHCR subsequently took over responsibility for these people when they were granted refugee status. The ICRC, nevertheless, continued to help maintain contact between them and their families through Red Cross messages.

Medical activities
Throughout the year the ICRC carried out surveys in Tajikistan to monitor the situation from a medical standpoint and distribute urgently needed supplies to hospitals and health facilities treating the war-wounded. A permanent emergency stock enabled the institution to respond quickly to needs, especially in sensitive and remote areas, such as Darwaz, Tavildara, Vanch and Yazgulam. Following a survey concluded in December 1994, medical supplies were provided in early 1995 to the four hospitals treating war-wounded in Dushanbe and to a number of health facilities in Tavildara, Mionadu and Sagirdasht. After the violent clashes in the western districts of Gorno-Badakhshan towards the middle of the year and the flare-up in late October in the Tavildara area, the ICRC distributed emergency supplies to several facilities treating casualties and ensured that the referral hospitals in Dushanbe and health establishments in Darwaz, Tavildara, Vanch and Yazgulam had sufficient stocks of medicines and surgical materials.

Some medical assistance was also given to displaced people returning from Gorno-Badakhshan and making their way from Khorog to Dushanbe.

Dissemination
In order to afford better protection for the civilian population and to limit suffering caused by the conflict, the ICRC laid particular emphasis on promoting dissemination of international humanitarian law and knowledge of its delegates’ activities throughout the country. It accordingly developed its contacts with the Ministry of the Interior and with commanders of the opposition forces in Gorno-Badakhshan, with a view to giving talks on humanitarian law and the Red Cross and Red Crescent principles. Delegates took part in various IOM-sponsored seminars on emergency management, where they were able to explain the ICRC’s work to local community leaders and civil servants from various ministries. They also organized dissemination sessions
and presentations to increase awareness of humanitarian law among government officials from various parts of the country, officers and soldiers of the Russian Border Guards based in Dushanbe, members of the Islamic Renaissance movement and the self-defence forces of Badakhshan stationed in the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region. ICRC publications and dissemination material were also distributed in the course of the year.

Cooperation with the National Society

In April the ICRC conducted a regional seminar on dissemination of humanitarian law for members of the Tajik Red Crescent and representatives of government ministries concerned with ICRC activities in the country. The Red Crescent appointed a dissemination/information officer the following month, which considerably enhanced cooperation with the ICRC in the field of dissemination. A series of seminars were held for regional Red Crescent committees in Kurgan-Tyube, Kulyab and Gorno-Badakhshan. The ICRC supplied technical equipment for these three committees, as well as for the central committee’s efforts at both national and regional levels. It also continued to support the tracing services of the Tajik Red Crescent, which included financing the tracing officer’s post.

TASHKENT
Regional delegation
(Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

The four republics covered by the regional delegation in Tashkent remained untroubled by armed conflict throughout 1995, even though they experienced serious economic and social problems due in part to the break-up of the Soviet system and in part to crime and drug trafficking.

The ICRC concentrated on preventive action, which included promoting knowledge of the basic tenets of international humanitarian law among the armed forces, the authorities, the National Societies of the region and academic circles, as well as explaining the activities of the ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the general public. With the aim of introducing humanitarian law as a compulsory subject of military training, in February the ICRC organized a course for future military instructors at Turkmenistan’s military training academy (the first course ever held in the country had taken place in December the previous year). Similar courses were given for members of the armed forces of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and for Russian armed forces stationed in the region. The President of Kazakhstan visited
ICRC headquarters in Geneva in early June. Among the topics he discussed with the ICRC President were the importance of respect for humanitarian law and its dissemination to the armed forces, and the question of the double emblem used by the Kazak Red Crescent and Red Cross.

In April and May the ICRC regional delegate visited several regions of Kazakhstan to conduct courses on humanitarian law and the activities of the Movement for members of the local Kazak Red Crescent and Red Cross, which received TV and video sets, photocopiers and other equipment to help them in their dissemination work. These courses were also attended by the local authorities. The regional delegate and a dissemination delegate travelled to Kyrgyzstan in June and had talks with the Minister for Culture and Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Ministers for Defence and Justice. Jointly with representatives of the Kyrgyz Red Crescent, the delegates gave journalists detailed explanations on the role of the ICRC and the Red Crescent and Red Cross committees throughout the region. They then went on to Kazakhstan, where they met representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and the Presidential Guard to discuss the development of dissemination activities for their respective troops. This mission coincided with a five-day course on humanitarian law given for officers of the Russian Border Guards by the Moscow-based dissemination delegate and an ICRC-trained instructor. The development of dissemination work for the troops was also discussed during the course. A regional seminar for dissemination officers from the National Societies and Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations of Central Asia (including the Red Crescent of Tajikistan), was held at the end of November.

In the course of the year the ICRC tracing delegate based in Moscow travelled to each of the four republics and to Tajikistan to visit the various National Society tracing services. The ICRC provided financial assistance to cover the salary of one tracing officer in each of the services and other costs involved in tracing activities.

The institution maintained contacts with universities in the region to encourage the introduction of humanitarian law into the academic syllabus and organized several lectures for students and professors in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan over the year. With a view to gradually including Central Asian countries in the programme aimed at fostering respect for humanitarian values through the teaching of literature in secondary schools, specialists started work on an Uzbek-language textbook to be introduced in Uzbekistan in 1996.

A joint ICRC/UNESCO Regional Seminar on the implementation of international humanitarian law and cultural heritage law took place in Tashkent from 25 to 29 September. This provided the ICRC with a valuable opportunity to impress upon leading figures from the political, academic and scientific worlds the importance of incorporating humanitarian law in their
respective domestic legislation and of increasing efforts to include instruction in humanitarian law in the training of their countries' armed forces. The seminar was attended by government officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice, Education and Culture, the ICRC Deputy Director for Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement and a representative from the Legal Division, delegates in the field and Red Cross and Red Crescent representatives from the five countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan).

In November ICRC delegates carried out a survey mission in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to assess the capacity of the local Red Crescent committees to function in conflict situations. This was especially relevant in Kyrgyzstan, where tension was rising in the lead-up to Presidential elections. The National Society of Uzbekistan held its 70th anniversary celebrations on 14 November.

The Red Crescent Societies of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were recognized by the ICRC on 25 August 1995, thus becoming part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
Civilians go on paying the price long after the war is over. In Iraq vulnerable groups have been increasingly exposed to malnutrition and disease, which is aggravated by the poor conditions of hygiene due to insufficient fresh water and ineffective waste water disposal. In 1995 the ICRC continued to help the Iraqi water authorities maintain at least a minimum of water and sanitation facilities.
The Near East

**ICRC delegations:**
Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria

The Gulf

**ICRC delegations:**
Iraq, Yemen

**ICRC regional delegation:**
Kuwait

North Africa

**ICRC delegation:**
Egypt

**ICRC regional delegation:**
Tunis

**Staff**
ICRC expatriates\(^1\): 74
National Societies\(^1\): 10
Local employees\(^2\): 298

**Total expenditure**
Sfr 33,021,456

**Expenditure breakdown**

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\(1\) Average figures calculated on an annual basis.

\(2\) Under ICRC contract, as at December 1995.
In recent years the political environment in the Middle East has changed considerably. The interim agreements concluded as a result of the Arab-Israeli peace process have led to significant developments in the field, and some of them have affected the ICRC’s activities. In 1995, a good many of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention nevertheless remained as relevant as ever, in view of the transitional nature of the situation in some parts of the region. The ICRC, which has maintained a continuous presence in Israel and the occupied territories since 1967, continued to make representations to the occupying power with a view to ensuring that people living under occupation, including detainees, were treated in accordance with the principles of international humanitarian law.

Following the signing of the Declaration of Principles by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in September 1993, the ICRC had set up a structure in the autonomous territories under Palestinian authority. During 1995 contacts and negotiations with the Palestinian authorities were stepped up with a view to gaining authorization for ICRC delegates to visit all detainees under Palestinian jurisdiction.

The ICRC also pursued its programmes to assist and develop the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” (PRCS). These focused on supporting and strengthening the emergency medical department of the PRCS and disseminating the Movement’s principles, and were supported by several National Societies.

In October, for the first time in more than ten years of unremitting efforts, ICRC delegates were able to visit prisoners held at the Khiam detention centre, in the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon.

In Iraq, the consequences of the embargo for the most vulnerable sections of the civilian population continued to give serious cause for concern. The ICRC pursued its water supply and sanitation programmes throughout the country in an effort to counter the constant deterioration in sanitation conditions. To assist war amputees and civilian landmine victims, it developed prosthesis production capacities in Basra, Najaf and Mosul.

After Turkey launched a military operation in northern Iraq in March, the ICRC discussed with the Turkish authorities their obligations under the Geneva Conventions to respect the civilian population in the area. The institution’s observations and recommendations regarding the humanitarian implications of this military operation were submitted in a report to the competent authorities.

A resurgence of tension in the area as a result of inter-Kurdish clashes led the ICRC to expand its activities for the protection of detainees and the provision of medical assistance to the war-wounded. In its contacts with all
the parties the ICRC laid particular stress on the rules of conduct for combatants and on respect for wounded civilians and combatants.

A long-standing problem that remained unsolved was the plight of thousands of prisoners of war captured during the Iran/Iraq war who had still not been repatriated. Very little came in 1995 of the memorandum which the ICRC had submitted at the end of 1994 to several States party to the Geneva Conventions, specifying the belligerents' remaining obligations under those treaties. The ICRC remained at the parties’ disposal to help settle the outstanding humanitarian issues.

The Gulf war also had serious consequences in humanitarian terms, and by year’s end the fate of hundreds of Kuwaiti, Saudi and Iraqi nationals still remained unknown. The Tripartite Commission and the Technical Sub-Committee set up by the ICRC to try and resolve this problem continued to meet regularly in Geneva or on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

In Saudi Arabia the ICRC did not succeed in its attempts to obtain authorization to visit the thousands of Iraqi civilians interned in Rafha camp.

In connection with the Western Sahara conflict delegates again visited Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front and Sahrawis in Moroccan hands, and repatriated 185 of the Moroccans. The question of the release of all remaining detainees was still unresolved, though the cease-fire had come into force more than five years ago and some of the prisoners had been in captivity for over 20 years.

A substantive dialogue resumed with the government in Algeria, enabling the ICRC to gain a better understanding of the complexity of the situation in the country, where the importance of ensuring respect for the Fundamental Principles was self-evident. The ICRC developed closer working relationships with the Algerian Red Crescent.

In connection with the ICRC’s campaign against anti-personnel landmines, the institution was gratified to note that the Organization of the Islamic Conference in December adopted a resolution calling for the complete elimination of such weapons.¹

¹ See also p. 44 and pp. 268-270.
The process of establishing autonomy for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, launched by the Declaration of Principles signed in October 1993 by Israel and the Palestinians, took its course in 1995 with the signing, on 28 September, of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Interim Agreement provided for the expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, and included, in particular, the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and the redeployment of the IDF* from six main towns and 450 villages of the West Bank and from part of Hebron.

Redeployment was temporarily frozen after the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister on 4 November. The IDF resumed redeployment on 8 November and, in conformity with the Interim Agreement, by the end of the year had withdrawn from major West Bank towns, with the exception of Hebron and East Jerusalem. Elections were due to be held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 20 January 1996. As a direct result of the Agreement, over 880 Palestinians were released from Israeli detention in October.

In January, July and August bomb attacks were targeted at civilians inside Israel, killing 75 Israelis in all. The ICRC made two public appeals for the civilian population to be spared and for an end to acts of indiscriminate violence.

The Gaza Strip was closed off for nearly half of 1995 as a security measure. This exacerbated the economic hardship experienced by the population there, the majority of whom were unable to work in Israel for much of the time.

* IDF: Israel Defence Force
The President of the ICRC, accompanied by the Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa, paid an official visit in June to Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories. He met the Israeli President, Prime Minister, Minister and Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and General Chief of Staff, with whom he discussed implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the ICRC’s concern about the humanitarian issues which continued to affect the people of the region. In Gaza, he held talks with the President of the Palestinian Authority, and raised matters relating to the ICRC's visits to detainees held by the Palestinian authorities. During his visit the ICRC President also met the Presidents of the “Magen David Adom” and the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” (PRCS).

In March 1995 the ICRC and the Federation signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the coordination of the Movement’s activities in the occupied and the autonomous territories. Subsequently, the Federation had a representative based in the ICRC’s Jerusalem sub-delegation. During the year the ICRC, in consultation with the Federation, continued to be responsible for coordinating National Society projects in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Two National Societies carried out projects in the area and four National Societies provided staff to help implement ICRC projects.

The ICRC remained at the disposal of the parties concerned to act as a neutral intermediary in order to help determine the fate of Israelis, Lebanese nationals and Palestinians reported missing in action in Lebanon. No progress was made in this regard.

Activities for civilians protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention

Throughout the year the ICRC delegation maintained its activities for civilians protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. Delegates monitored application of the Convention and made an average of five representations a month to the Israeli authorities, mainly regarding cases of ill-treatment of protected persons, the use of live ammunition by Israeli security forces in situations in which it appeared to be unjustified, and acts of violence by settlers. The ICRC was still concerned about the continued presence of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, with the resulting potential for tension and violence due to the close proximity of Israeli and Palestinian communities and the presence of Israeli troops to protect settlers. During the year ICRC delegates provided tents to 13 families whose houses had been destroyed by the IDF for security or administrative reasons.

IN 1995 THE ICRC:

- had access to all Palestinian detainees held by the Israeli authorities: the total decreased from 6,223 to 4,900 between January and December;
- in Israel and the occupied territories, carried out 363 visits to 59 places of detention, including to detainees under interrogation;
- ran the family visits programme, in cooperation with the PRCS, thus enabling around 130,000 people to visit Palestinian relatives in Israeli-run places of detention;
- handled 8,156 Red Cross messages, including 6,682 between detainees and their relatives in countries having no diplomatic links with Israel, issued 21,138 certificates of detention and arranged for 120 powers of attorney;
- arranged for 2 repatriations to Lebanon and 4 to Syria;
- arranged for 28 transfers between Syria and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights to enable 1,145 people to cross the demarcation line;
- in the autonomous territories, visited 638 detainees in 21 places of detention.
In May the ICRC handed over to the Israeli authorities a summary report on implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories.

Civilians living in the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon and near the front line continued to be affected by military operations in the area (see Lebanon). The delegation made representations to the Israeli authorities regarding the conduct of hostilities and alleged failure by the IDF and the SLA* to respect international humanitarian law. On two occasions during the year the ICRC accompanied "Magen David Adom" representatives on survey missions to the north of Israel, following attacks from Lebanon in which rockets had fallen in civilian areas, causing deaths and injuries. The information collected on these missions enabled the ICRC delegation in Beirut to make representations to the appropriate parties regarding the conduct of hostilities.

Activities for detainees in Israel and the occupied territories

An average of just over 6,000 Palestinians were detained by Israel between January and September. Over 880 were released in October in connection with the Interim Agreement, and on 31 December 4,929 Palestinians were being held. Delegates visited 59 places of detention in 1995 to monitor conditions of detention and treatment, paying particular attention to the treatment of detainees under interrogation. They reported their findings to the Israeli authorities. In April the ICRC issued a communication to the press following the death of a Palestinian detainee under interrogation and calling for such detainees to be treated in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The delegation's legal expert attended public hearings in the trials of security detainees and remained in contact with their lawyers and the Israeli judicial authorities to ensure that the guarantees to which protected persons are entitled were respected.

The family visits programme, financed by the ICRC and run in cooperation with the PRCS, was seriously disrupted by the closures of the West Bank and especially the Gaza Strip. On many occasions the visits could not take place, meaning that some detainees did not see their families for several months. Under the annual programme of family visits for foreign detainees held in Israeli-run detention centres, a series of visits to Jordanian detainees was arranged for their family members residing in Jordan. It enabled a total of 97 Jordanians to see 24 relatives in six places of detention.

In the course of their visits to facilities under Israeli responsibility, ICRC delegates distributed assistance in the form of medicines and leisure items.

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* SLA: South Lebanon Army
In June a large number of Palestinian detainees launched a hunger strike in an attempt to obtain their release and were supported by sit-ins at ICRC offices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Demonstrations on the streets in some towns in the occupied West Bank led to serious clashes with the Israeli security forces. Delegates stepped up their medical visits to detainees during the strike, which ended in early July.

The ICRC was still denied access in 1995 to two Lebanese nationals detained in Israel. After more than ten years of unremitting efforts, involving constant negotiations and discussions with the Israeli authorities and the head of the SLA, the ICRC was finally granted authorization to visit Khiam detention centre in the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon.

Activities for detainees in the autonomous territories

Following the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding by the ICRC and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) "for the benefit of" the Palestinian Authority in July 1994, the ICRC carried out detention-related activities in the autonomous territories. Under the terms of the memorandum the institution was granted access, in accordance with its customary working procedures, to detainees under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority.

In 1995 the ICRC visited 638 detainees in 21 places of detention. By the end of the year, however, it had not yet been granted access to all detainees in all detention facilities. In December a summary report on matters relating to the ICRC's visits to detainees under Palestinian jurisdiction was submitted to the authorities. Discussions on such issues had been held with various authorities during the year, notably the President of the Palestinian Authority.

Tracing activities

As before, the ICRC played its role of neutral intermediary between Israel and the Arab countries with which it still had no diplomatic relations, arranging for the exchange of Red Cross messages and radio messages between civilians in Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories and their families in such countries. The ICRC delegations in Israel and Syria made the appropriate representations to enable 1,145 people to cross the demarcation line between the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and Syria. By year's end, however, 73 people from the Golan Heights were still awaiting permission from the Israeli authorities to cross the line to visit relatives in Syria.

The ICRC kept up tracing activities for detainees, by collecting data on them through notification by the detaining authorities, registration cards filled in by detainees during ICRC visits and information volunteered by their families. The data was then circulated to the network of ICRC offices so that families
could be informed of their detained relatives’ whereabouts. In 1995 the ICRC responded to more than 80,000 requests from families for information on detained relatives, issued certificates of detention enabling detainees’ families and former detainees to obtain certain benefits, and arranged for detainees to sign powers of attorney enabling their families to settle their affairs for them.

**Medical activities**

ICRC doctors monitored medical conditions in Israeli prisons and detention centres, and concentrated on detainees under interrogation. During his visit in June, the ICRC President handed over to the Israeli authorities a list of 29 seriously ill, disabled or mentally sick detainees and asked for them to be released on humanitarian grounds. A further request concerning the remaining 24 – five having been freed in the meantime – was submitted at the end of the year.

Over 1995 the ICRC gradually scaled down its programme to assist Palestinian NGOs providing primary health care for the population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip who had difficulty in covering the nominal charges levied. The programme was phased out at the end of the year. The ICRC paid 25 percent of the salaries of staff working in the clinics concerned, and throughout the year the Finnish, French and Icelandic Red Cross Societies seconded nurses to work in the field.

**Dissemination**

In October, for the first time, the ICRC was able to arrange a dissemination session for Israeli army officers from operational units, which was attended by 38 officers. During the year other sessions were held for officers from the Israeli border police and IDF trainee legal officers. During his visit to Israel in June, the ICRC President gave an address at Tel Aviv University entitled “Humanitarian challenges today: the ICRC view”, aimed at diplomatic, academic and press circles.

In April an Arabic-speaking ICRC expert on humanitarian law from Geneva headquarters toured universities in the West Bank and Gaza, gave lectures to students and held round tables and discussion groups for professors, journalists and various other professionals in the legal, security and detention-related fields. It was the first time that a tour of this kind was organized in the occupied and the autonomous territories. A presentation on the ICRC’s detention-related work was held on 23 November for about 40 members of the Palestinian Preventive Security in Jericho.

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1 See the ICRC's 1994 Annual Report, p. 226.
Cooperation with the “Magen David Adom”

The ICRC maintained close contacts with the “Magen David Adom”, and a member of the Committee, the ICRC’s governing body, met its President on 7 February. At the request of the “Magen David Adom” and the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society”, the institution organized the first working meeting, on 21 September, between their two presidents, which a Federation representative also attended. Discussions centred on ways and means of cooperating in the future, particularly in emergency and volunteer services.

Cooperation with the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society”

The ICRC helped to strengthen the PRCS’s emergency medical service in the Gaza Strip and West Bank by replacing ambulances, paying 50 percent of running costs and installing a radio communication system. In September/October the German Red Cross conducted a survey to determine, along with the PRCS, how the emergency medical service should be developed in 1996.

The ICRC, with staff seconded by the Finnish Red Cross, supported the PRCS in setting up a dissemination department and trained staff in the various branches to propagate the Red Cross and Red Crescent principles.

JORDAN

In 1995 Jordan and Israel concluded a series of agreements with a view to the gradual implementation of the peace accord signed on 26 October 1994. The ICRC’s activities in Jordan continued to focus on visits to security detainees, tracing activities and the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

As in previous years, the delegation in Amman served as the logistic base for the ICRC’s water and sanitation, prosthetic/orthotic and emergency medical assistance programmes in Iraq.

On 11 June the ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa and the head of delegation were received by the Crown Prince, who reiterated his support for the activities carried out by the institution in the Hashemite Kingdom. The ICRC representatives also met the Prime Minister, and handed him a report on visits carried out in 1994 to security detainees held at the GID.*

Activities for detainees

The ICRC delegation paid regular visits to 416 security detainees under interrogation at the GID. Early in the year, delegates encountered some

* GID: General Intelligence Directorate

IN 1995 THE ICRC:

- carried out 47 visits to 502 detainees in 7 places of detention, registering 450 for the first time;
- handled 7,403 Red Cross messages, opened around 100 tracing cases and resolved 68, issued 217 certificates of detention and 120 travel documents, and forwarded 660 documents to and from the Israeli-occupied territories;
- in support of the Jordan Red Crescent, facilitated 61 transfers by ambulance on medical and humanitarian grounds;
- arranged for 29 Jordanians held in Kuwait Central Prison to be visited by 36 of their family members residing in Jordan;
- organized family visits for 97 Jordanians to visit 24 close relatives in Israeli-run places of detention.
difficulties in gaining access to all detainees and had to suspend their visits for six weeks. Following representations to the relevant authorities, visits resumed on the regular twice-monthly basis.

In April a complete series of visits was made to five correctional and rehabilitation centres under the responsibility of the Public Security Directorate and to the Zarqa Military Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre. Several ad hoc visits were carried out throughout the year in connection with individual cases. The delegates submitted reports on their visits to the authorities concerned and, whenever requested, arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between detainees and their families. In all, 502 detainees were visited in 1995.

Tracing activities

Although as a result of the peace treaty postal services were established between Jordan, on the one hand, and Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, on the other, the ICRC continued to forward official personal documents and urgent messages between Palestinians in the occupied and the autonomous territories and their relatives in Jordan. Red Cross messages were exchanged between families in Jordan and their relatives detained in Jordan or in detention facilities under Israeli responsibility.

In cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society”, the ICRC continued to organize urgent transfers by ambulance of sick and handicapped people.

As before, Red Cross messages were exchanged between Jordanian detainees held in Kuwait Central Prison as a result of the Gulf war and their families in Jordan (see Kuwait).

Dissemination

During the year the ICRC expanded its dissemination activities for various target audiences such as the media, military and police academies, security forces, schools and universities.

In December, in cooperation with the Jordanian Press Association, the delegation organized a two-day seminar for Jordanian journalists and other media representatives on the theme “Humanitarian Values and the Mediatization of Humanitarian Action”. Early in 1995 sessions were held on humanitarian law, the Movement and ICRC activities for 2,384 members of the Jordanian army who were due to serve as UN peace-keepers in the former Yugoslavia. For the first time, in September, a session was held to inform new recruits and officers of the GID about humanitarian law, the ICRC and its detention-related activities. Contacts were also maintained with the police
academy and various Jordanian universities and institutions, where delegates delivered lectures on humanitarian law, its relation to human rights law and the principles common to humanitarian law and the Arabic and Islamic cultural heritage.

In cooperation with the National Society and the Ministry of Education, the ICRC gave presentations on basic principles of humanitarian law and the Movement to more than 2,000 schoolchildren, students and teachers. In August a training workshop was organized for dissemination supervisors from the Jordan Red Crescent and attended by representatives from the National Society.

In 1995 the delegation in Jordan stepped up its efforts to increase awareness among government officials and media representatives of the humanitarian aspects of the Review Conference of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention, in particular as regards the scourge of landmines.

LEBANON

Military operations in southern Lebanon continued throughout 1995, with serious consequences in humanitarian terms for civilians in the Israeli-occupied zone and near the front line. Over 20 civilians were killed and 120 wounded in armed clashes between the IDF/SLA and Lebanese resistance movements. Early in the year the Israeli navy enforced a blockade, which was maintained throughout the year, on the southern coast of Lebanon, preventing fishermen from earning their living.

The ICRC President attended the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Lebanese Red Cross Society from 8 to 11 July. He took the opportunity to hold official meetings with various government contacts, in particular the Prime Minister. In the course of these meetings the ICRC was informed that there was no need, at that time, for the institution to visit detainees held in Lebanon for security reasons, as requested in its offer of services presented in November 1994.

The President also went to the Palestinian camp of Ein-El-Helweh in Sidon, where 80,000 refugees were living in extremely precarious conditions. Tensions between various groups and parties on occasion gave rise to armed clashes which mainly affected civilians.

In violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, two protected persons detained by Israel were expelled to southern Lebanon in mid-April at the end of their prison terms. Although the Palestinian Authority was prepared to receive them, the Israeli government did not approve their release to the autonomous

IN 1995 THE ICRC:
- visited 201 detainees in Khiam detention centre;
- handled 8,819 Red Cross messages;
- carried out 18 transfers out of the Israeli-occupied zone;
- issued 1,381 certificates of detention;
- between January and March, fitted 24 new patients with prostheses and 18 with orthoses, manufactured 61 prostheses and 43 orthoses, and made 23 repairs to artificial limbs.
territories. ICRC delegates visited them regularly at the UNIFIL* compound and ensured that they were able to exchange Red Cross messages with their families. At the end of the year the ICRC was still making representations in order to find a humanitarian solution for these people.

The Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa visited Lebanon from 19 to 23 December. He discussed developments in the region and the issue of Palestinian refugees with the Minister for Refugee Affairs and the Minister of Health, and the introduction of international humanitarian law into Lebanese legislation with senior army officers. He also met the President of the Lebanese Red Cross and the Federation representative in Lebanon to examine the question of ICRC/Federation cooperation in the country. The topic was also stressed at a meeting of donor National Societies organized on 5 July in Beirut by the Federation and the Lebanese Red Cross, which the ICRC attended, to discuss funding of programmes to develop the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” and the Lebanese Red Cross.

Protection of the civilian population

ICRC delegates in the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon collected information on alleged violations of humanitarian law, and representations were made to the parties in conflict urging them to spare civilian lives. The delegation negotiated temporary truces with all the parties in order to carry out its humanitarian activities, which included retrieving the bodies of fallen combatants, in cooperation with Lebanese Red Cross first-aid teams, having damaged water mains and pumps repaired and arranging for fishing vessels confiscated by the Israeli navy to be returned to their owners. Delegates also distributed ad hoc material assistance to those affected by the conflict.

After a particularly serious clash broke out on 12 June in the Ein-El-Helweh Palestinian refugee camp near Sidon, killing 16 Palestinians and wounding 50 others, material assistance was given to families whose homes had been destroyed or damaged in the fighting. Delegates met leaders of the various factions to elicit their support in having Al-Qods Hospital declared strictly off-limits to armed fighters. They also discussed the conduct of hostilities.

Activities for detainees

In January, for the first time since the opening in 1984 of Khiam detention centre in the Israeli-occupied zone, the ICRC started to organize family visits

* United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
to the detainees held there. The ICRC was responsible for visits by families living outside the zone, while the SLA arranged visits for those living inside it. Red Cross messages were exchanged and family parcels distributed. Later in the year, when the ICRC was allowed access to detainees in Khiam detention centre (see Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories), delegates conducted their first visit there from 9 to 24 October, during which they registered 191 detainees. A further ten newly arrested detainees were registered in the course of four subsequent ad hoc visits.

Throughout 1995 the ICRC maintained contacts with Hezbollah representatives with a view to gaining access to SLA members detained by the movement. On several occasions it was authorized only to organize the exchange of Red Cross messages between the detainees and their families and to forward family parcels to the detainees. In addition, it was able to arrange occasional family visits.

Tracing activities

The ICRC's tracing work in Lebanon involved processing information on detainees in Khiam detention centre, organizing family visits and tracing services for them, and arranging the return home of detainees released from the centre.

In November the ICRC forwarded family parcels to Lebanese detainees in Israel, but was not allowed to organize family visits for them.

Delegates arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages and official documents between family members separated as a result of the conflict and/or without other means of communication, and dealt with tracing requests for people reportedly arrested by parties to the conflict.

Medical activities

The five mobile clinics run by the ICRC and staffed by Lebanese medical teams gave a total of 2,329 consultations during the year to people in seven villages in and close to the occupied zone who found it virtually impossible to reach medical facilities. The ICRC gave emergency medical assistance to hospitals, dispensaries and first-aid posts along the front line.

Following clashes in Palestinian refugee camps, delegates distributed medical supplies to hospitals inside the camps which were not run by the PRCS.

As from 1 April the ICRC ceased its assistance to the two prosthetic/orthotic centres in Beit Chebab and Sidon. The centres continued to operate independently and the ICRC planned to carry out occasional missions to ensure the necessary technical follow-up.
Cooperation with the National Society

The ICRC assisted the Lebanese Red Cross Society by supporting its ambulance service in the conflict area in the south of the country and its dispensaries inside the occupied zone. It financed running costs and provided medical assistance.

In November, a workshop was organized by the Lebanese Red Cross, in cooperation with the ICRC, to train dissemination officers among National Society members. Presentations were made on the Movement, humanitarian law and dissemination techniques.

Dissemination

During the year the ICRC held dissemination sessions for cadets and instructors at the Lebanese army staff college, Palestinian combatants in Ein-El-Helweh camp, UNIFIL officers and new members of Lebanese Red Cross first-aid teams. A conference on humanitarian law was organized at the Lebanese University in Beirut with the participation of the ICRC President.

SYRIA

The Golan Heights remained occupied by Israel and, as before, the ICRC delegation in Syria, in cooperation with the delegation in Israel, acted as a neutral intermediary, arranging in particular for the transfer of people across the demarcation line between the occupied Golan Heights and Syria (see Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories for details).

Tracing services were provided for people affected by the Arab-Israeli conflict. The delegation forwarded official documents to and from the Golan Heights and Syria, and handled Red Cross messages and tracing requests for Palestinians.

In October a meeting was held between the ICRC, the Federation and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to discuss the National Society’s plans for 1996 and to agree on coordinated support for its activities. The ICRC’s assistance for the Red Crescent’s maternal and child health care programme, which consisted in providing milk powder and wheat soya milk, was to be taken over by the Federation at the beginning of 1996.

ICRC support for the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” prosthetic/orthotic workshop came to an end in March, as planned, and the German Red Cross took over responsibility for financing the centre’s activities for three years as from April. During the 18-month ICRC programme, polypropylene technology had been introduced and the technicians trained in its use.
The delegation also focused on dissemination activities in Syria. In 1995 it organized one seminar on international humanitarian law for the Syrian armed forces and one for the UN forces stationed on the Golan Heights. Along with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the delegation for the first time set up a stand at the Damascus International Book Fair in September, with ICRC publications on display.

The Gulf

IRAN

The ICRC kept an office in Tehran, with a staff of locally hired employees. Relations with the Iranian authorities concerning unresolved humanitarian issues left over from the Iran/Iraq war were maintained from Geneva headquarters (see Aftermath of the Iran/Iraq war).

IRAQ

The embargo imposed on Iraq in connection with the Gulf war remained in force throughout 1995, and no steps were taken under UN Resolution 986 allowing Iraqi oil sales which, *inter alia*, would enable the country to purchase essential humanitarian supplies. The Iraqi population experienced increasing hardship: although the government provided food rations covering up to 60 percent of people's basic needs, it was up to households to supplement them with their own purchases. This proved more and more difficult for a growing section of the population as their purchasing power continued to fall. Vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and the very young, were increasingly exposed to malnutrition and disease. At the same time, the country's medical services were no longer functioning properly owing to a lack of basic drugs and equipment. Poor conditions of hygiene, which lead to a higher incidence of disease, were aggravated by insufficient fresh water and ineffective waste water disposal, as it has been difficult in recent years to obtain essential spare parts for water supply and treatment facilities and to carry out the necessary maintenance work.

In response to the situation, the ICRC in 1995 continued to help improve water and sanitation facilities. Its aim was to contribute towards the water authorities' efforts to maintain a minimum service in ensuring the provision of good-quality water and the proper evacuation of waste water that are essential for public health. The ICRC also supported three prosthetic/orthotic centres in

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<th>Iraq Total expenditure in 1995:</th>
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- **Medical:** 60.1%
- **Prosthetic/Orthotic:** 1.5%
- **Protection/Tracing:** 6.0%
- **Overheads:** 3.4%
- **Dissemination:** 29.0%
- **Operational support:** 6.0%
Iraq. For their part, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the Federation continued food distributions to some of those most affected and medical assistance programmes for Iraqi hospitals.

Furthermore, the ICRC delegation kept up its contacts with the authorities aimed at resolving the outstanding humanitarian issues concerning the Gulf war and the Iran/Iraq war. It also upgraded its activities in northern Iraq. (See Aftermath of the Gulf war, Aftermath of the Iran/Iraq war and Northern Iraq.)

The Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa visited Iraq, including northern Iraq, in May. He met the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed the unresolved issues of humanitarian concern, in particular relating to prisoners taken in the Iran/Iraq war and people unaccounted for as a result of the Gulf war, and detention-related issues (civilians held in Abu Ghraib and Iranian prisoners in Ramadi). He also held talks with the President of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

Activities for detainees

. At the end of June the Iraqi authorities announced that the ICRC would no longer be authorized to visit non-Iraqi nationals detained in Abu Ghraib detention centre near Baghdad, although since 1991 the institution had had regular access to such prisoners, many of whom are entitled to protection under the Fourth Geneva Convention. A number of these individuals were detained in Abu Ghraib for illegal entry into Iraq; of these, nine Kuwaitis and five Saudis were subsequently released, and repatriated by the ICRC.

In February the ICRC visited 64 Iranian servicemen detained since 1991 in a camp in the city of Ramadi, but was not allowed to resume visits to these people on a regular basis. During the visit, delegates arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between the detainees and their families in Iran.
Tracing activities

As before, the ICRC strove to restore and maintain contact between separated family members by handling Red Cross messages for people living in Iraq and their families in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other countries without diplomatic links with Iraq. Most of these activities were carried out in cooperation with the tracing service of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. The ICRC continued to support the development of this service.

The delegation also handled messages for detainees in Iraq and their families abroad, and for detainees held in other countries and their families in Iraq. It processed tracing requests, organized repatriations and acted as a neutral intermediary in the forwarding of information on people unaccounted for as a result of the Gulf war (see *Aftermath of the Gulf war*).

Water and sanitation

Early in the year two ICRC sanitation engineers, working in close consultation with local engineers, carried out an extensive survey of water treatment stations throughout the country and selected a number of projects in the 18 governorates (i.e. including northern Iraq), for which the ICRC planned to import the parts needed to keep a minimum supply of water going and rehabilitate sewage facilities. The equipment and materials were imported via Jordan. The ICRC organized teams of locally recruited engineers and technicians to implement the programme under the supervision of one of its engineers, and set up a workshop in Baghdad to do repairs.

By the end of the year only part of the programme had been carried out, as the process from assessment to implementation is extremely lengthy. Nevertheless, five rehabilitation projects in the Diyala, Maisan and Salaheddin governorates were completed, and 90 percent of the equipment destined for the Baghdad Water Supply Administration had arrived and been partially installed by the local authority. The programme carried on into 1996.

Programme for the war-disabled

The ICRC kept up its support to government prosthetic/orthotic centres in Basra and Najaf, and, in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, set up a new one in Mosul, using facilities and equipment supplied after the Gulf war by the Swedish Red Cross. It also undertook construction work to expand the centre to meet local needs. The Swedish Red Cross financed the project for the second half of the year, and was also to fund it for the first six months of 1996. Some 700 patients benefited from the services provided in the three centres.
The ICRC supplied the Basra, Mosul and Najaf centres with polypropylene components manufactured in its Baghdad workshop and trained local staff. It also gave financial and technical support for the prosthetic/orthotic training programme run by the Ministry of Higher Education in the capital. Preparations started for the opening of an ICRC centre in Arbil in response to estimated needs in northern Iraq, and the French Red Cross provided the funding to set it up.

Cooperation with the National Society

The delegation continued its long-standing cooperation with and technical back-up for the National Society on tracing activities and supported the Red Crescent prosthetic/orthotic centre in Mosul by supplying materials, components and training for technicians. Otherwise, it participated in the Society’s dissemination activities, particularly for young people, gave financial assistance for and contributed to the National Society’s monthly bulletin, and carried out maintenance work on the fleet of over 20 Iraqi Red Crescent vehicles originally donated by the ICRC.

Northern Iraq

The population in northern Iraq continued to suffer from the worsening economic situation and political instability, which led to the outbreak of several violent conflicts. From 19 March to early May the Turkish armed forces conducted a major operation against the Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) in the region. In early July the Turkish army launched another military operation — on a smaller scale — into the northern part of the Arbil governorate, and the situation remained volatile along the Iraqi-Turkish border.

In addition, clashes which had started in December 1994, mainly between the two main Kurdish parties (the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan), carried on well into 1995. A ceasefire tacitly agreed in August in order to facilitate peace negotiations was still holding at the end of the year, barring sporadic fighting. At the end of August a new conflict erupted, this time between the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the PKK, and fighting continued until a cease-fire was concluded in December.

Owing to the conflict situation in northern Iraq, the ICRC assumed responsibility for the general coordination of the Movement’s activities in the area, liaising in particular with the Federation and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

IN 1995 THE ICRC:
- carried out 122 visits to 1,689 civilian and military detainees held in 47 places of detention in northern Iraq;
- arranged for the exchange of over 500 Red Cross messages between separated family members, half of them between detainees and their next-of-kin.
Activities for the civilian population

The civilian population in northern Iraq bore the brunt of the hostilities – which flared up at different places each time – and suffered the combined effects of these various conflicts: arrests, displacement, destruction of private property and crops, injuries and deaths. Between end-March and early May, delegates based in Dohuk and Arbil conducted surveys and collected allegations of violations of humanitarian law in northern Iraq, where the Turkish army was operating. This information was then conveyed in writing to the Turkish government, along with a reminder of the obligation to respect the humanitarian rules. Similarly, delegates gathered reports and allegations in connection with inter-Kurdish clashes and relayed these to the various Kurdish groups, appealing to them to respect the rules of behaviour in combat and afford the civilian population and non-combatants the protection to which they were entitled.

Activities for detainees

The ICRC enlarged its teams in the three offices in Arbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah, and stepped up detention-related activities and contacts with Kurdish groups. In the course of these contacts, delegates reiterated their request to all parties concerned for access to all detainees held in connection with the various conflicts and increased the number of visits to such people. They conducted over 100 visits to dozens of places of detention, and saw nearly 1,700 detainees, including, in June, two Turkish soldiers detained by the PKK, who had been captured during clashes with the Turkish army in September 1994.

At the beginning of March fierce clashes broke out along the demarcation lines between the Iraqi government army and peshmergas from various Kurdish groups, and several hundred Iraqi soldiers were captured. The ICRC was quickly granted access to them and provided material assistance in places where they were being detained, mainly in Arbil. By 21 October all of them had been released.

Medical activities

In northern Iraq delegates provided hospitals with emergency medical and surgical supplies to treat a total of 936 war-wounded.

Towards the end of the year around 400 cases of cholera were reported in Sulaymaniyah, and a field hospital was set up there by several NGOs working in cooperation with the local health department. The ICRC gave emergency medical assistance to this hospital, which was subsequently handed over to the health authorities when the situation was deemed to be under control.
Dissemination

The increased presence of delegates in northern Iraq enabled them to develop dissemination activities there. The ICRC’s “Code of Conduct for Combatants” was translated into Kurdish and distributed to 2,000 combatants, mainly officers, and courses were organized in June for some 100 Kurdish commanders. In November, sessions on the ICRC’s protection activities were held in 13 places of detention for nearly 400 participants.

AFTERMATH OF THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR

Concerning the outstanding humanitarian issues connected with the Iran/Iraq war, the ICRC was unable to obtain any information as to the plight of some 19,000 Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs) who in 1990, according to its records, had still been under the responsibility of the Iranian authorities. About two-thirds of them had been visited and registered by the ICRC and one-third were known to the institution on the basis of Red Cross messages. Seven years after the end of the hostilities, the issue, including the question of repatriation, remained unresolved, although in August 100 Iraqi POWs were handed over by Iran to the Iraqi authorities in the presence of the ICRC. They were part of a group of 1,442 POWs who had last been seen by the institution in 1993 and who had expressed their wish to return home.

The Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa raised the issue with the Iraqi Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs when he visited Iraq in May. The ICRC maintained its request to the Iraqi authorities that they should account for 474 Iranians on whom the institution had collected information. It did obtain information on one Iranian POW held in Iraq and, for the first time in 15 years, was granted access to him. A delegate visited him three times during the year and was able to arrange for him to exchange Red Cross messages and photos with his family.

Otherwise, scant progress was made in 1995, despite the memorandum addressed by the ICRC in 1994 to Iran and Iraq, to a number of signatory States of the Geneva Conventions, to the UN Secretary-General and to the Organization of the Islamic Conference, requesting that the relevant articles of the Geneva Conventions be implemented, particularly those concerning the repatriation of POWs still in captivity.

The ICRC reiterated the fact that it remained at the disposal of the two parties to help resolve the humanitarian issues still outstanding, while taking note of the fact that during the year the parties held bilateral discussions on the matter.

In Geneva, where all the information relating to the POWs is centralized, the ICRC handled 350 tracing requests and issued 101 certificates of detention.
AFTERMATH OF THE GULF WAR

In an effort to settle the humanitarian issues still unresolved after the Gulf war, in particular that of the some 650 individuals (Kuwaitis, Saudis, Iraqis and others) unaccounted for, representatives from Iraq and the Coalition (France, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States) attended three meetings of the Tripartite Commission chaired by the ICRC on 7 April, 3 and 4 August and 28 November. At the August session it was decided that the meetings of the Technical Sub-Committee, which had been set up, *inter alia*, to speed up the process of exchanging information and had up to then been held in January, February and March in Geneva, should take place in the demilitarized zone on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. The Sub-Committee subsequently met on the border once a month from August to December, with meetings continuing into 1996.

The issue was also taken up at several high-level meetings during the year. The Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa twice met the Iraqi Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. In May he visited Kuwait, where he discussed the matter with the Under-Secretary of State and the Director of the International Organizations Department, and held a meeting with the ambassadors of France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In December the ICRC, acting in its capacity of neutral intermediary, led a team including 11 United States experts to the crash site of a United States pilot lost in 1991 during the Gulf war. The mission was organized and carried out with the cooperation and support of the Iraqi authorities.

KUWAIT
Regional delegation
(Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates)

KUWAIT
Activities for detainees
ICRC delegates continued to visit places of detention holding people in connection with the Gulf war, and saw more than 600 detainees during the year. The majority of those visited were Iraqi, Jordanian, Yemeni and Sudanese nationals, Palestinians with only travel documents and stateless persons.

IN 1995 THE ICRC:
- visited 620 detainees in 17 places of detention in Kuwait, registering 208 for the first time;
- handled about 20,000 Red Cross messages and issued 288 certificates of detention and 144 travel documents.
Delegates had access to people held in detention facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of the Interior (police stations, prisons and deportation centres), Defence and Social Affairs.

Through its private talks with detainees and its contacts with the authorities, the ICRC sought to ensure that people under deportation orders (non-Kuwaiti residents of the country and illegal immigrants) were not expelled to a country where they had reason to fear persecution, that they had the opportunity to settle their personal affairs and were allowed to take their belongings with them, and that they were not separated from their close relatives. During the year 160 protected persons were expelled along with their families. The closure of the border between Iraq and Kuwait in February 1995 meant that the number of those expelled directly to Iraq subsequently fell considerably.

The major trials of Kuwaiti and other nationals accused of security offences were concluded at the end of March 1995, and the delegation therefore ended its monitoring of respect for fundamental judicial guarantees.

Following negotiations with the Jordanian and Kuwaiti authorities, the ICRC in June organized the first-ever family visits to Jordanian detainees held since 1991 at the central prison in Kuwait. A second visit took place in September. In all, 29 detainees were visited by 36 of their family members.

**Tracing activities**

The delegation took part in the efforts still being made to trace people unaccounted for as a result of the Gulf war. It maintained regular contacts with the National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs and processed information in connection with the Tripartite Commission and Technical Subcommittee meetings (see *Aftermath of the Gulf war*). It also continued to handle thousands of Red Cross messages to maintain contact between separated families in Kuwait and Iraq (some 20,000 in 1995).

**Dissemination**

In March 1995 the delegation arranged a session on international humanitarian law at the Law Faculty of the University of Kuwait. It took part in seminars organized by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society and the Kuwaiti Institute for Scientific Research.

**SAUDI ARABIA**

The ICRC pursued its contacts with the Saudi authorities aimed at regaining access to the thousands of Iraqi civilians living in Rafha camp. The Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa, accompanied by the regional delegate, carried out a mission to Riyadh and held talks with the Director...
General of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Governor of Riyadh and the Director General for Coalition Affairs at the Ministry of Defence. The regional delegate also raised the matter in the course of several other missions to Saudi Arabia during the year.

The regional delegation maintained contact with the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society, the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Islamic Development Bank based in Jeddah.

YEMEN

During the year the ICRC stepped up its activities for the civilian population and for detainees in the central prisons and in places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Criminal Investigation Department and the Political Security Administration. It also focused on dissemination activities for the armed forces, the Yemeni Red Crescent Society and the general public. In September it launched a project to help mentally ill detainees in Sana’a central prison. Many of the delegation’s activities, notably this project, assistance in prisons, and a landmines awareness campaign, were carried out in cooperation with the National Society.

When an armed confrontation broke out in mid-December between Yemen and Eritrea over the Hanish islands, the ICRC appealed for respect for the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and offered its services to the two countries. It was accepted as a neutral intermediary by both parties, and was able to register and, on 30 December, repatriate 196 Yemeni POWs taken by the Eritrean armed forces and 17 Yemeni civilians.\(^1\)

Activities for the civilian population

Following a number of accidents involving landmines and other unexploded munitions in the south of the country, the ICRC and the Yemeni Red Crescent Society organized a preventive campaign in 70 primary and secondary schools in the governorates of Aden, Abyan and Lahej. A straightforward and easily understandable message on the dangers of such devices was developed and passed on by 75 volunteers from the National Society to about 66,500 schoolchildren. Yemeni television lent its support by broadcasting films and interviews about mines, especially in the run-up to the Review Conference of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention held in Vienna in September.

The ICRC carried out tracing work for Somali refugees living in Yemen. It processed tracing requests and arranged for the refugees to exchange Red

\(^1\) See also Eritrea p. 81.
Cross messages with their relatives. The search for family members in Somalia and Kenya was carried out in cooperation with the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Activities for detainees

In 1995 the ICRC made repeated visits to central prisons and to places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Criminal Investigation Department and the Political Security Administration. In March, for the first time, delegates were granted access to people held by the Department of Military Justice. In all, more than 7,000 detainees were visited in 37 places of detention. During the year, three summary reports on conditions of detention were handed over to the appropriate authorities. In the course of their visits, and with the National Society's help, delegates delivered a substantial amount of material assistance to detainees, as well as medicines to treat the most common medical complaints encountered amongst the detainee population, dressings and injection sets.

At the end of September the ICRC completed major sanitation work on the country's three largest prisons, in Sana'a, Taiz and Hodeida, and more modest projects in three other central prisons. The programme, coordinated by an expatriate water and sanitation engineer, aimed to upgrade water supply facilities and waste water disposal systems. More than 70 percent of detainees in Yemen's prisons were estimated to have benefited from the improvements.

In September the ICRC launched a project, developed in partnership with the Yemeni authorities and the Red Crescent Society, to assist mentally ill detainees in the psychiatric section of Sana'a central prison. Once the section's premises and courtyard - in particular, the sanitation facilities - had been renovated and fitted out, a psychiatrist and chief nurse, both recruited by the ICRC in Yemen, and 30 Red Crescent volunteers, trained in mental health care during a two-week ICRC course in August, began providing care to around 100 mentally ill detainees. The project was supervised by an ICRC psychiatrist based in Geneva, who paid regular visits to Yemen.
Medical activities

In addition to the water and sanitation and psychiatric projects mentioned above, delegates provided medical assistance early in the year to six Yemeni Red Crescent clinics, three government hospitals and homes for the elderly and handicapped children.

Dissemination

The delegation organized two introductory sessions on humanitarian law and an instructors’ training session for about sixty officers and senior officers of the Yemeni army. It also arranged a workshop on the Movement and dissemination techniques for 15 members of the Yemeni Red Crescent, and gave financial assistance to the National Society towards some of its publications.

North Africa

EGYPT

The delegation in Cairo continued to promote humanitarian values aimed at ensuring protection of conflict victims. To this end the delegation maintained close contact with the appropriate authorities and circles in Egypt, and brought out extensive dissemination material in the form of printed and audiovisual productions in Arabic, for use throughout the region.

The delegation continued its tradition of producing a “humanitarian” calendar. The 1995 version recalled agreements concluded between kings or rulers in different eras of Middle Eastern history, thus again seeking to draw parallels between local traditions and the values set out in humanitarian law so as to show the universality of these values. A series of children’s strip cartoons illustrating humanitarian law was published in a national newspaper with a weekly distribution of 100,000.

On the audiovisual side, a radio series entitled *Humanitarian tales* told real-life stories of war victims and those providing humanitarian aid, such as volunteers from National Societies, ICRC delegates and local employees. The film *Voices from the Aftermath*, a collection of stories about women and children whose lives had been affected by war, was shot in various countries in the region, and produced in collaboration with Geneva headquarters.

A delegate to the armed forces was in Cairo from mid-August to mid-December to organize a number of training seminars for officers and to
arrange courses and workshops for instructors to the armed forces in Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus and Sana'a.

The delegation’s tracing activities consisted mainly in the forwarding of tracing requests and Red Cross messages for Egyptians living in Iraq and people from the Horn of Africa. The tracing agency in Cairo also issued travel documents for refugees accepted by the embassies of host countries, mainly Africans and Iraqis emigrating to the United States, Canada or Australia.

TUNIS
Regional delegation
(Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco/Western Sahara, Tunisia)

In North Africa, the situation of people still detained in connection with the Western Sahara conflict and the humanitarian implications of the crisis in Algeria were a source of ongoing concern to the ICRC.

The regional delegation in Tunis coordinated the institution’s activities carried out in connection with these issues. Through their network of contacts with government authorities, the armed forces and academic circles in the countries covered, delegates were also involved in spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law and the history, principles, ideals and activities of the Movement. They promoted ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and recognition of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. The delegation also encouraged governments and National Societies to take steps to follow up the Review Conference of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention, the 26th International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference and public awareness campaigns carried out by the ICRC such as those on water in war and anti-personnel mines. The ICRC moreover wished to encourage wider acceptance of the tasks entrusted to it by the international community.

During the year delegates stepped up their cooperation with Red Crescent Societies in the region. In particular, they participated in Tunisian Red Crescent seminars and in May organized with the National Society an exhibition of posters on the theme “Solidarity with women victims of war” to celebrate World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. In Morocco the regional delegate gave a talk on humanitarian law at a seminar on the protection of women, organized by the Moroccan Red Crescent with ICRC support, and in Libya the ICRC cooperated with the Libyan Red Crescent in setting up a documentation centre.
Several missions were carried out to Mauritania to maintain contacts with the authorities and the Mauritanian Red Crescent and to arrange dissemination activities. An ICRC delegate made a presentation on humanitarian law at Nouakchott University in April. In the course of the missions and through various contacts, the delegate assessed the situation regarding refugees from northern Mali living in south-eastern Mauritania.

ALGERIA

In 1995 violence in Algeria continued to claim lives, most of them civilian, and the ICRC remained seriously concerned about the situation there. The institution’s Director of Operations and Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa visited the country in March, in pursuance of efforts to resume visits to detainees, suspended in 1992. They met the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Justice and officials from the Ministry of the Interior, who gave favourable consideration to the idea of the ICRC carrying out detention-related activities in the country. However, the practical procedures still had to be discussed. The regional delegate carried out follow-up missions to Algeria in the course of the year.

During their March mission, the ICRC representatives also met the President of the Algerian Red Crescent. They discussed the possibility for the ICRC – while waiting for the practical considerations to be finalized – to cooperate with the National Society, notably on dissemination work. In order to help improve the Red Crescent’s operational capacity, the ICRC provided financial assistance towards a humanitarian law documentation centre and programmes for underprivileged and vulnerable sections of the Algerian population.

MOROCCO/WESTERN SAHARA

The ICRC remained concerned about the plight of prisoners taken in connection with the Western Sahara conflict, many of whom had been in captivity for twenty years. Under the UN settlement plan, the cease-fire in effect since September 1991 was to be followed by the registration of all those eligible to vote in a referendum on self-determination for the people of Western Sahara and the repatriation of all prisoners, but the referendum has repeatedly been delayed. The ICRC remained firm in its view that all prisoners should be released in conformity with international humanitarian law, regardless of whether a political solution was found.

In November delegates repatriated 185 Moroccan prisoners who had been handed over to the ICRC by the Polisario Front. They were those who remained of a group of 200 whose names the Front had put forward for

IN 1995 THE ICRC:

- carried out 2 visits to 905 prisoners held by the Polisario Front;
- carried out 3 visits to 78 prisoners held by the Moroccan authorities;
- repatriated 185 Moroccan prisoners who had been handed over to it by the Polisario Front;
- handled 32,962 Red Cross messages for prisoners held by the Polisario Front and those held in Morocco.
repatriation since 1989: the others had died in the meantime or were no longer in captivity. An ICRC team, including a doctor, subsequently carried out a follow-up visit to the former prisoners at the Ben Guerir military base in Morocco. By the end of the year all of them had returned to their families, except ten who still needed medical care and remained in hospitals in Rabat and Marrakesh. No progress was made regarding the repatriation of 24 other Moroccan prisoners considered by the ICRC as serious medical cases.

The ICRC reiterated its readiness to conduct another visit to all of the approximately 2,000 Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front and in particular those whom it had not seen since 1993. In December an ICRC team carried out a visit to the Tindouf area of southern Algeria and saw a group of 720 Moroccan prisoners (visits to the remainder were planned for the near future). The delegates registered 24 of them for the first time since their capture and collected over 3,500 Red Cross messages, with prisoners' photos attached, to pass on to their families.

Delegates twice visited 72 Sahrawis held by the Moroccan authorities in Agadir, in June and November. Red Cross messages bearing photos of the prisoners were collected to be sent to the families.

By the end of 1995, the ICRC had carried out seven visits since 1978 to Sahrawis held in Morocco, registering a total of 93. In 11 visits between 1975 and the end of 1995, the institution had registered 2,173 Moroccans held by the Polisario Front.
"Keeping hope alive" was the message of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

In the face of widespread tragedy, the Movement has an enormous challenge to face. Yet hope lies in simple things like clean water, which is just as important as food.

In 1995 the ICRC had teams working in 20 conflict situations to restore water supply systems and help dispose of waste. National Societies played an important part in many of the institution's water and sanitation projects.
The year 1995 was marked by the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which met in Geneva from 3 to 7 December and brought together over 1,200 delegates representing 143 States, 166 National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and 60 organizations invited to attend as observers. It was a particularly momentous event, because political controversies had prevented the International Conference from meeting for nine years and because the previous Conference, in 1986, had left a bitter taste, owing to some serious incidents connected with the participation of South Africa, which had disrupted the proceedings.

To ensure the perpetuation of a tradition dating back more than a century it was therefore crucial that the Conference should take place in the best possible conditions, and this was indeed achieved. After extensive consultations and preparations conducted with the valuable support of the Swiss government, the Conference proceeded in a constructive atmosphere and concluded its work by adopting five resolutions which may be regarded as a new contract of humanity between States and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: the protagonists thus undertook to join forces with a view to ensuring greater respect for international humanitarian law and strengthening humanitarian action.

The 26th International Conference had been preceded by a meeting, also in Geneva, of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, held from 23 to 27 January as a follow-up to the 1993 International Conference for the Protection of War Victims.\footnote{See the ICRC’s 1993 Annual Report, pp. 236-237.} The ICRC took an active part in the proceedings, and a number of National Societies and their Federation were also associated in them. The group of experts put forward a set of proposals designed to enhance respect for humanitarian law; its recommendations were submitted to the 26th International Conference, which adopted them.

Another major event held in 1995 was the Review Conference of the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons. This treaty forms part of international humanitarian law. It is therefore of special relevance to the ICRC, since it contains rules with regard to weapons, particularly anti-personnel landmines, which wreak havoc especially among civilians. The Review Conference, which had been preceded by four preparatory meetings, took place in Vienna from 25 September to 13 October. Although it reached no agreement on new provisions for the prohibition, or at least the restriction, of the use of anti-personnel landmines, it nevertheless made appreciable progress by adopting
a Protocol banning anti-personnel laser weapons intended to cause permanent blindness. This instrument, based on the extensive preparatory work of experts meeting under the auspices of the ICRC, gives grounds for hope that, for once, a terrifying weapon has been prohibited before actually being put into use.2

A third important meeting that commanded a great deal of effort on the part of the ICRC was the Council of Delegates of the Movement, which was held on 1 and 2 December and focused on two main topics, namely preparations for the 26th International Conference and the future of the Movement. The Council adopted a series of provisions for strengthening cohesion within the Movement in order to help the latter meet new challenges in a rapidly changing world. It also declared itself in favour of a total ban on anti-personnel mines.3

From a general point of view, these major gatherings helped to improve the legal protection of war victims and to enhance the Movement's unity.

Despite the workload involved in organizing the three meetings, the ICRC stepped up its efforts to promote greater awareness of humanitarian law, both through courses and in its daily activities in the field. Progress in this area is described in the chapters of this report relating to ICRC operations.

The institution also continued its work aimed at clarifying the content of humanitarian law and ensuring that it was adapted to the conditions of modern warfare; it lay particular emphasis on the applicability of humanitarian law to United Nations peace-keeping and peace-making forces, the protection of women and children in armed conflicts, rules applicable to war at sea and the prohibition of anti-personnel mines and blinding laser weapons. In pursuance of one of the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, the ICRC set up an Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law, which States may consult for advice on any measure pertaining to the implementation of humanitarian law.

Turning now to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the ICRC strengthened its functional cooperation with the Federation through regular meetings between the senior officials of the two institutions. It was also pleased to be able to contribute to the work of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission established under Resolution 1 of the Birmingham Council of Delegates in 1993. The Commission's recommendations, adopted by the 1995 Council of Delegates, should help the Movement to meet the challenges facing it on the threshold of the third millennium.

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2 See pp. 268-271.
3 See pp. 292-298.
THE LAW AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

PROMOTION OF THE TREATIES
OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

States party to the Geneva Conventions
of 12 August 1949: 186

On 19 September 1995, the Federated States of Micronesia acceded to the four Geneva Conventions, bringing the number of States Parties to 186.
Lithuania remains bound by the 1929 Geneva Conventions only.

States party to Protocols I and II additional
to the Geneva Conventions: 143 and 134 respectively

In the course of 1995, nine States became party to one or both Protocols of 8 June 1977 additional to the Geneva Conventions.

Additional Protocols I and II: Honduras (16 February), Cape Verde (16 March), Zambia (4 May), Panama (18 September), Federated States of Micronesia (19 September), Swaziland (2 November), South Africa (21 November) and Mongolia (6 December).

Additional Protocol II: Colombia (14 August).

None of these States, with the exception of Mongolia, made reservations or declarations of interpretation.

The latest ratifications and accessions brought the number of States party to the two Additional Protocols of 1977 to 143 and 134 respectively. The treaties thus attained an encouraging degree of acceptance. Nonetheless, in 1995 the ICRC pursued its campaign to convince all the States not yet bound by these instruments to become party to them. By adopting the recommendations drawn up following the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent urged States that had not yet ratified or acceded to the 1977 Protocols to do so as soon as possible.

It should be remembered that Protocol I relates to international armed conflicts and Protocol II to non-international armed conflicts.

1 See p. 295.
International Fact-Finding Commission

During the year under review Cape Verde, the Czech Republic, Mongolia, Romania and Slovakia filed the declaration recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission to enquire into alleged violations of international humanitarian law treaties, as provided for in Article 90 of Additional Protocol I, thus bringing to 47 the number of States party to Protocol I which have made that declaration.

1980 United Nations Weapons Convention

International interest in the issue of anti-personnel landmines and the process leading up to the first Review Conference of States party to the 1980 United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which held its opening session in Vienna in September-October 1995, prompted 16 more States to become party to this treaty. The 23 States that adhered to the Convention between January 1993 and December 1995 nearly doubled the overall number of States Parties (57); of the 14 which became party to the instrument in 1995, eleven declared themselves bound by all three of the Convention’s Protocols, namely Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Romania, South Africa, Togo, Uganda and the United Kingdom. Two others, Israel and the United States, declared themselves bound by Protocol I on non-detectable fragments and Protocol II on mines, booby-traps and other devices, but not by Protocol III covering incendiary weapons. Jordan declared itself bound by only Protocols I and III. The Vienna Review Conference did not succeed in reaching consensus on new regulations governing anti-personnel landmines. On the other hand, a major breakthrough was made with the banning of anti-personnel laser weapons, and an additional fourth Protocol on blinding laser weapons was annexed to the Convention.

RESPECT FOR AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Implementation of international humanitarian law

If international humanitarian law is to be fully respected, States must incorporate it into their national law by adopting the necessary legislative and

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3 See pp. 268-271.
regulatory measures. Such measures, which are aimed in particular at guaranteeing the protection of the red cross/red crescent emblem and providing for the repression of violations of humanitarian law, should be adopted in peacetime.

Advisory services

Throughout 1995 the ICRC continued to urge States party to the Geneva Conventions to adopt national measures in peacetime to give effect to international humanitarian law. In its contacts with the States and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies the ICRC stressed that all relevant data on measures taken or contemplated should be forwarded to it, in order to facilitate an exchange of information.

The Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, which met in Geneva in January 1995, recommended that the ICRC strengthen its capacity to advise and assist States in this sphere.

Acting on that recommendation, in July 1995 the ICRC set up a new unit, called the Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law, which fits into the institution's general structure, both at headquarters and in the field. At headquarters the unit is attached to the Legal Division and comprises a head of advisory services and two lawyers, one specialized in civil and one in common law. The unit operates in a decentralized manner, with the assistance of lawyers based in each of the various geographical regions. A documentation centre has been set up to gather relevant data and facilitate the exchange thereof. The existing information is being fed into the data bank on humanitarian law and will be available on CD-ROM in late 1996.

The Advisory Service’s aim is to assist civilian and military authorities in adopting enforcement laws and regulations and in introducing the implementation of humanitarian law into their national structures, so that the law may be effectively applied and any breaches thereof duly punished. It is therefore intended to step up the activities that the ICRC has been carrying out for several years in this field and to provide greater help to the authorities in discharging their obligations in that respect.

In 1995 the ICRC organized two regional seminars on the implementation of humanitarian law at the national level. The first, held from 25 to 29 September in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, was set up jointly with UNESCO, and its theme was broadened to include the protection of cultural objects in time of armed conflict. The seminar brought together senior government officials, both civilian and military, and representatives of academic circles and of the Red Cross/Red Crescent from five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan itself. This was the first
time that the ICRC conducted a meeting of this kind in cooperation with UNESCO.

The second seminar was held on 22 and 23 November in Riga, Latvia; again, this was the first session of this type to be organized in conjunction with the Office for democratic institutions and human rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and was intended for the Baltic countries, namely Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. As in Tashkent, the seminar was attended by senior civilian and military officials, and by representatives of academic circles and the Red Cross.

The two seminars provided the opportunity to assess measures adopted at the national level and to promote the setting-up of interministerial committees. The latter are in charge of examining domestic legislation pertaining to obligations under humanitarian law treaties and of proposing measures to be taken in that respect.

On 8 and 9 November, the ICRC organized a meeting on national implementation measures, which was attended by representatives of National Societies with experience in the matter and a number of delegates from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The participants agreed that cooperation between the ICRC's Advisory Service and other components of the Movement should be encouraged.

In its various contacts throughout the year the ICRC regularly stressed the importance of adopting measures to implement humanitarian law at the national level and continued to do its utmost to help States meet their obligations.

In conformity with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, as from 1996 the ICRC will be drawing up detailed reports on advisory services rendered and on the information obtained, analysed and exchanged in this area.

International repression mechanisms

Over the past few years there have been a number of developments regarding the repression of breaches of international humanitarian law, mainly as a result of the setting-up of ad hoc international tribunals and the progress made on creating a permanent international criminal court.

In 1995 the ICRC took part in some of the meetings on the two ad hoc tribunals (for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda) established by the United Nations Security Council and had constructive exchanges of views on the question of interpretation of humanitarian law. While stressing the importance of the role that ad hoc tribunals could play in applying humanitarian law, the ICRC reaffirmed its support for the creation of a permanent
international criminal court which would be competent, _inter alia_, to prosecute war crimes. Concerning the possibility of its delegates being called to testify before such tribunals, the ICRC explained that this would be incompatible with its mandate, that it might undermine the institution's credibility and, ultimately, harm the interests of the victims.

Regarding the setting-up of a permanent international criminal court, the ICRC examined in particular the definition of war crimes given in two existing draft texts: a draft statute for such a court, prepared by the United Nations International Law Commission and examined by an _ad hoc_ Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, and a draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind, also drawn up by the International Law Commission. The ICRC pointed out that the texts should take into account all the grave breaches set out in the Geneva Conventions and in Additional Protocol I, and that the terms of reference of the future court should be extended to include grave breaches committed during non-international armed conflicts.

**International Fact-Finding Commission**

The International Fact-Finding Commission, provided for in Article 90 of Additional Protocol I, is an important means of implementing humanitarian law. Its competence _ipso facto_ has been recognized by 47 States already. The Commission was established on 12 March 1992; it is made up of 15 members, and the secretariat facilities are provided by the Swiss government. Its composition and operating procedure are clearly defined and regulated. Any State which has accepted the Commission's competence may request that an investigation be made into facts constituting violations of humanitarian law. The consent of the party against which allegations are being made is necessary whenever the Commission's competence has not been already recognized by both States concerned. Thus far no specific cases have been referred to the Commission, so that unfortunately it has not yet been able to go into operation.

**Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims**

Acting on a decision adopted by the International Conference for the Protection of Victims of War, held in Geneva in 1993, the Swiss Federal Council convened a meeting of experts to examine practical means of promoting

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greater respect for and compliance with humanitarian law. Representatives of more than a hundred governments and some 30 governmental and non-governmental organizations met in Geneva from 23 to 27 January 1995 to study a working document prepared by the host country; the ICRC, for its part, presented to the gathering a document containing concrete proposals. After intensive discussions and negotiations, the group of experts agreed on a series of recommendations; these were then submitted to the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which approved them.

Several of the recommendations deal with measures designed to help prevent violations of humanitarian law:

- making instruments of humanitarian law universally accepted (including Article 90 of Protocol I);
- improving and stepping up dissemination of humanitarian law, both among the military and among the civilian population;
- inviting States to provide the ICRC with all pertinent information regarding the implementation of humanitarian law, and inviting the ICRC to promote the exchange of such information and provide advisory services in this field.

The experts also agreed on measures to be taken to ensure respect for humanitarian law in case of armed conflict. They recommended that the depositary State convene periodic meetings of States party to the Geneva Conventions in order to discuss general problems regarding the application of the law by them and by parties to armed conflicts. The representative of Switzerland declared the latter ready to assume that task. The experts also invited the ICRC to examine a number of questions concerning current application of humanitarian law.

Protection of children in armed conflicts

The ICRC pursued its efforts aimed at securing greater respect for rules on the protection of children in armed conflicts.

In cooperation with the Henry Dunant Institute and the Federation, the ICRC took an active part in drawing up a Plan of Action on the role of the Movement in behalf of child victims of armed conflict. The plan contains specific proposals for action that the Movement could take to ensure greater involvement and a better coordination of activities in this field. The Plan of Action was submitted to the Council of Delegates when it met in Geneva on 1 and 2 December 1995; after discussion, the text was adopted by the Council.

The ICRC also addressed the United Nations General Assembly to remind the international community of the need to respect current rules protecting children and to support efforts being made to provide greater protection for
children, both from the legal standpoint and by means of direct action in conflict areas.

**Protection of women in armed conflicts**

In time of war women not only have to shoulder the responsibilities of menfolk who are away at the front but are themselves not spared by the hostilities, which all too frequently claim victims among the civilian population. Last but by no means least, it is alarming to see that sexual violence against women during armed conflicts is becoming commonplace.

In order to show its concern and to add its voice to all others demanding greater protection for women in wartime, the ICRC took part in the fourth World Conference on Women, which was held in Beijing, China, from 4 to 15 September 1995, and in the parallel forum bringing together non-governmental organizations. In several preparatory documents it submitted, the ICRC sought to raise the participants’ awareness of the need for States fully to respect the rules of humanitarian law protecting women and to repress any violations of those rules. This was taken into account in the final document, which is very firm on this point.

The protection of women in armed conflicts was also on the agenda of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. In its resolution relating to the protection of the civilian population in time of armed conflict, the Conference condemned all acts of sexual violence in such circumstances, reaffirming that rape in the conduct of hostilities constituted a war crime and that those responsible for such acts must be brought to justice.

The ICRC will make certain that resolutions concerning women in armed conflicts do not remain a dead letter. As part of their duties, ICRC delegates in the field intervene where necessary to put an end to violations of humanitarian rules protecting women.

**Applicability of international humanitarian law to United Nations peace-keeping and peace-making forces**

United Nations peace-keeping operations are no longer confined to maintaining or strengthening peace through activities such as supervising cease-fire agreements or patrolling demarcation lines. They have become much more frequent and complex. In many cases UN forces are even asked to conduct — as part of their mandate or in application of their right to self-defence — veritable military operations. The applicability of international humanitarian law to peace-keeping or peace-enforcement forces, which has
long been of concern to the ICRC, has thus become a question of great topical interest.

The ICRC has always maintained that all provisions of humanitarian law are applicable when UN contingents have recourse to force. In the United Nations’ opinion, on the other hand, its forces are bound only by the “principles and spirit” of humanitarian law treaties.

Consequently, in keeping with its mandate to monitor the strict application of humanitarian law, the ICRC has continued to study the question of applicability.

To this end, in March and October 1995 the ICRC organized two meetings of experts from military and academic circles, former commanders of United Nations forces and officials from the services concerned at the UN Secretariat. The participants reviewed all the provisions of humanitarian law to determine their applicability to peace-keeping forces (especially rules relating to the conduct of hostilities and to the protection of the civilian population, detainees and medical personnel).

The resulting document, entitled *International humanitarian law for forces conducting United Nations peace-keeping operations*, was finalized at the second meeting of experts. The document was the subject of informal consultations with the UN Secretariat and was to be officially forwarded in 1996 to the UN Secretary-General for distribution among peace-keeping and peace-making contingents.

The text provides that United Nations troops are obliged to observe the rules of humanitarian law whenever they resort to force against organized armed groups. It sets out the content and scope of the “principles and spirit” of humanitarian law whereby the United Nations agrees to be bound, and lists a series of provisions covering the various categories of protected persons.

The above work was mentioned at the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which in one of its resolutions welcomed the results achieved.

**Identification of medical transports**

Pursuant to Resolution III adopted by the 25th International Conference, the ICRC continued its work to improve means of identification of medical transports in times of conflict. During the year it took part in several meetings of experts at specialized international agencies such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

In view of the development of new technologies in the area of identification, the ICRC conducted tests on the visibility of the red cross made of thermal tape
visible in the infrared spectrum. A series of aerial observation tests were carried out at sea and on land, using an infrared thermal imaging camera.


In January 1995, the group of governmental experts responsible for preparing the Review Conference met for the fourth and last time before the actual Conference. The group agreed on a draft amended Protocol II on landmines and on an informal draft Protocol on blinding laser weapons, both of which contained a number of alternative texts.

The ICRC took an active part in this meeting, and in June it submitted to States and other organizations participating in the Review Conference a “non-paper” in which it discussed the various alternative proposals in the draft texts adopted by the group of governmental experts, while reiterating its position that only a total ban on anti-personnel mines would be an effective solution to the problem.

The Review Conference itself met in Vienna from 25 September to 13 October 1995 and the ICRC formally took part as an observer. In this capacity it was able to attend and speak at all official meetings of the Conference as well as submit written proposals.

The Review Conference adopted a new fourth Protocol on blinding laser weapons but was unable to conclude its work on landmines. The Conference was therefore adjourned and decided to meet again from 15 to 19 January and from 22 April to 3 May 1996.

Mines

The proposed new text for Protocol II adopted by the group of governmental experts and submitted to the Review Conference would have essentially introduced the following extra rules:

- all anti-personnel mines must be detectable;
- remotely-delivered mines must contain a self-destruct mechanism;
- hand- or vehicle-emplaced anti-personnel mines must either self-destruct or be used within marked, guarded and fenced minefields. However, these limitations on the use of “dumb” mines are waived if direct enemy action “makes it impossible to comply”;
- at the end of hostilities the mine layer is in principle required to remove or pay for the removal of the mines;
- protective measures should be provided for humanitarian organizations working in mined areas;
• applicability of the Protocol should extend to non-international armed conflicts or its provisions should apply “in all circumstances”;

• certain implementation mechanisms should be introduced.

There was, however, major disagreement as to the type of implementation provisions to be introduced and uncertainty as to a number of other fundamental issues, such as the definition of detectability, the reliability rate and maximum life span of self-destruct mines, whether anti-tank mines should be further regulated and whether a provision restricting the transfer of mines should be introduced.

These uncertainties became critical during negotiations at the Review Conference. In addition to this, a number of States made entirely new proposals, some of them far-reaching, such as a complete ban on the use of anti-personnel mines in internal armed conflicts and a total prohibition of the use of remotely-delivered mines. Such proposals were in effect put forward as an alternative to introducing new technical requirements for mines. Indeed, many of the States which were willing to accept certain technical specifications indicated that they needed a grace period in order to introduce mines with a minimum metal content and with self-destruct or self-neutralizing mechanisms; periods of up to 15 years were suggested. Apart from States favouring additional restrictions on the use of mines, the number of States supporting a total ban on anti-personnel mines grew to 16, five more than in January. The widely differing views of the participating States meant that it was not possible to reach consensus in Vienna. It was decided that negotiations on Protocol II would continue in the resumed sessions in January and April 1996.

At the opening session of the Review Conference, the President of the ICRC delivered a speech in which he stressed that the only realistic solution to the landmine crisis was total prohibition of the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. He urged participants to join those in favour of such a ban, namely, in addition to the 16 States, the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, the European Parliament, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, several UN agencies and hundreds of non-governmental organizations.

Throughout the year the ICRC was active in gathering support for a ban on landmines and for greater ratification of the 1980 Weapons Convention, including its Protocol II. In particular it organized four regional seminars in Africa on the subject and actively coordinated with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies elsewhere in the world to raise awareness of this issue at the national level. Many National Societies led active campaigns, often in conjunction with other national non-governmental organizations. The most impressive result of this effort was in Belgium, where legislation was adopted banning the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines.
end of 1995 the meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference called for the “complete elimination” of such weapons.

The landmine question was on the agenda of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which adopted a resolution urging States to become party to the 1980 Convention, welcoming national moratoria on the transfer of landmines, confirming the goal of the international community to achieve the eventual elimination of mines and requesting that greater efforts be made for mine clearance. The Council of Delegates, meeting on 1 and 2 December, also adopted a resolution in favour of a total ban on anti-personnel landmines and determined that the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement would work to the best of its ability to bring about such a ban.

New Protocol IV on blinding laser weapons

Prior to the Vienna Review Conference, the ICRC had pursued its bilateral contacts and efforts to raise public awareness in order to achieve consensus in favour of a new Protocol on blinding laser weapons. It participated actively in the negotiations in Vienna, which led to the adoption of a Protocol banning the use and transfer of laser weapons designed to cause permanent blindness and requiring parties to take all feasible precautions in the use of other laser systems on the battlefield to avoid the incidence of blindness. At the close of the Conference, the ICRC heralded this development as a victory of civilization over barbarity. The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva adopted a resolution welcoming this new instrument and urging States to declare themselves bound by its provisions at the earliest possible date. This resolution also recognizes that the negotiators in Vienna intended Protocol IV to apply not only to international armed conflicts, as provided for in the framework Convention, but also to non-international conflicts. For technical reasons this is not included in the Protocol as it stands: indeed, it had been decided to use the same wording as that in amended Article 1 of Protocol II on landmines, but negotiations on Protocol II had not yet been completed.

Other weapons

The ICRC continued to follow developments concerning other weapons, although for the purposes of the Review Conference it concentrated its efforts on mines and laser weapons. The resolution adopted by the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent notes that proper attention should also be given to other existing conventional weapons, such as naval mines and small calibre weapons, and also to future weapons. Indeed, at the
Review Conference the governments of Sweden and Switzerland had submitted draft Protocols on naval mines and small calibre weapons, respectively. The negotiators did include in the draft final document of the Conference a reference to the need to consider other weapons.

The law of war at sea

The San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea, along with its commentary, entitled the Explanation, was published in 1995 by Cambridge University Press and the Manual (without the Explanation) was also reproduced in the November-December issue of the International Review of the Red Cross. It will be recalled that the Manual is essentially a restatement, by an international group of experts, of contemporary customary law. The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopted a resolution urging States to draft national manuals on the law of armed conflict at sea and in so doing to take into account as far as possible the provisions of the San Remo Manual.

Humanitarian assistance

When the civilian population of a State on the territory of which an armed conflict is taking place suffers serious hardship, the State in question has a duty to accept a relief operation which is exclusively humanitarian and impartial in nature and is conducted without any adverse distinction being made. Throughout 1995 the ICRC continued to remind States of this obligation, provided for under humanitarian law. It also pursued its analysis of the question of neutrality as applied to humanitarian assistance; its goal was to promote an objective understanding of neutral humanitarian aid, especially in the case of relief provided in connection with a collective action undertaken or decided on by the United Nations.

Displaced persons

In 1995 the ICRC pursued its operational and law-related activities in behalf of people displaced within their own countries. As victims of armed conflict or disturbances, which are the main causes of involuntary population movements, the displaced are protected by international humanitarian law and covered by the overall protection and assistance mandate of the ICRC; as such, they are entitled to various forms of help. For the institution, internally displaced persons are one of several categories of victims. Its activities in their behalf are described in the relevant operational chapters.
The ICRC also reminded the parties to various conflicts of their obligation to respect humanitarian law; if the law were strictly complied with, there would be fewer displacements of people, both within and outside their national borders. Indeed, in time of armed conflict the civilian population as a whole must be spared, and humanitarian law expressly prohibits forced population movements. The policy of "ethnic cleansing", which makes the departure of entire population groups the main stake of a war, is therefore an especially grave violation of humanitarian law.

During the year the ICRC took part in discussions in various international fora on the subject of displaced persons: in particular, it pursued its dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Secretary-General's representative for the matter, and participated as an observer in the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee's task force on internally displaced persons.

In February the ICRC took part in a round table on displaced persons organized by Norway. The same month it addressed the Human Rights Commission on the subject, as it did on the occasion of the UNHCR Executive Committee in October and the United Nations General Assembly in November. The ICRC also followed with great interest the preparatory work of the Regional Conference on the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and on related population movements in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the neighbouring countries concerned: it thus attended several informal gatherings, a meeting of experts and sub-regional conferences in Ashkabad (Turkmenistan), Budapest (Hungary), Kyiv (Ukraine) and Tbilisi (Georgia).

From 23 to 25 October the ICRC organized a symposium on internally displaced persons, at which some 70 State representatives and delegates of intergovernmental and non-governmental agencies discussed the operational and legal aspects of the problem.

The question of refugees and displaced persons was also on the agenda of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was encouraged to pursue its activities in accordance with its Fundamental Principles, in particular neutrality, impartiality and independence.

Environment

For the first time in the past four years, there were not many meetings devoted wholly or in part to questions regarding protection of the environment in time of armed conflict.

On the other hand, special efforts were made to disseminate the Guidelines for military manuals and instructions on the protection of the environment in times
of armed conflict, especially in view of the fact that in its resolution 49/50 the UN General Assembly invited States to promote broad circulation of their content and to consider the possibility of incorporating them in their respective military instruction manuals.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REALM OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The ICRC pursued its cooperation with various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the subject of dissemination and national measures for the implementation of humanitarian law. In particular, it continued to collaborate with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, which in 1995 celebrated 25 years of existence. The ICRC attended the Institute’s 20th Round Table, which helped prepare the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and also took part in the 11th international course on refugee law.

As usual, the ICRC attended the training session organized by the Tunis-based Arab Institute of Human Rights on the topic of human rights and humanitarian law, the 26th teaching session of the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, and seminars on humanitarian law organized for diplomats at the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies and New York University.

In addition, the ICRC took part in a number of courses, meetings and seminars held by organizations concerned with humanitarian law, such as the African Society of International and Comparative Law in Kampala, Uganda, the American Society of International Law in Washington, USA, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the International Peace Research Institute in Geneva, Switzerland, the Institut für Friedenssicherungsrecht und humanitäres Völkerrecht in Bochum, Germany, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in San José, Costa Rica, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Lund, Sweden, the Bundesakademie für Sichersheitspolitik in Bonn, Germany, and various universities the world over.

HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENTS

In 1995 the ICRC signed headquarters agreements with the following countries: South Africa (23 February) — the new agreement replacing a previous one dating from 1978, the Republic of Congo (17 May) and Ukraine (5 December). At the end of the year several other agreements were under negotiation.
Headquarters agreements entered into by the ICRC establish the legal status of the institution’s delegations in the countries concerned, which derives from the international mandate conferred on the ICRC by the States. The institution thus has a status analogous to that of intergovernmental organizations and enjoys various immunities and privileges, which enable it to discharge its mandate with full independence. In 1990, the United Nations General Assembly had granted the ICRC observer status, thereby confirming its legal personality and international character.
STATES PARTY TO THE
GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND
THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

The following tables show which States were party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to the two Additional Protocols of 1977, as at 31 December 1995. They also indicate which States had made the optional declaration under Article 90 of 1977 Protocol I, recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. The names of the countries given in the tables may differ from their official names.

The dates indicated are those on which the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received the official instrument from the State that was ratifying, acceding to or succeeding to the Conventions and/or Protocols or accepting the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. Apart from the exceptions mentioned in the footnotes at the end of the tables, for all States the entry into force of the Conventions and of the Protocols occurs six months after the date given in the present document; for States which have made a declaration of succession, entry into force takes place retroactively, on the day of their accession to independence.

Abbreviations

Ratification (R): a treaty is generally open for signature for a certain time following the conference which has adopted it. However, a signature is not binding on a State unless it has been endorsed by ratification. The time limits having elapsed, the Conventions and the Protocols are no longer open for signature. The States which have not signed them may at any time accede or, where appropriate, succeed to them.

Accession (A): instead of signing and then ratifying a treaty, a State may become party to it by the single act called accession.

Declaration of Succession (S): a newly independent State may declare that it will abide by a treaty which was applicable to it prior to its independence. A State may also declare that it will provisionally abide by such treaties during the time it deems necessary to examine their texts carefully and to decide on accession or succession to some or all of them (declaration of provisional application). At present no State is bound by such a declaration.

Reservation/Declaration (R/D): a unilateral statement, however phrased or named, made by a State when ratifying, acceding or succeeding to a treaty, whereby it purports to exclude or to modify the legal effect of certain provisions of the treaty in their application to that State (provided that such reservations are not incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty).

Declaration provided for under Article 90 of Protocol I (D 90): prior acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1995

- States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions: 186
- States party to the 1977 Additional Protocol I: 143
- States having made the declaration under Article 90 of Protocol I: 47
- States party to the 1977 Additional Protocol II: 134
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Lithuania

Party to the 1929 Geneva Conventions (sick and wounded, prisoners of war).

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 Organis- zation, 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".

1 Djibouti's declaration of succession in respect of the First Convention was dated 26 January 1978.
2 On accession to Protocol II, France made a communication concerning Protocol I.
3 Entry into force on 7 December 1978.
4 Entry into force on 7 December 1978.
5 Entered into force on 23 September 1966, the Republic of Korea having invoked Art. 62/61/141/157 common respectively to the First, Second, Third and Fourth Conventions (immediate effect).
6 An instrument of accession to the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols was deposited by the United Nations Council for Namibia on 18 October 1983. In an instrument deposited on 22 August 1991, Namibia declared its succession to the Geneva Conventions, which were previously applicable pursuant to South Africa's accession on 31 March 1952.
7 The First Geneva Convention was ratified on 7 March 1951.
8 Accession to the Fourth Geneva Convention on 23 February 1959 (Ceylon had signed only the First, Second, and Third Conventions).
9 Entry into force on 21 October 1950.
Although 1995 brought hopes for the peaceful settlement or stabilization of some conflicts, wanton and ruthless violence still continued to claim countless victims all over the world.

In the course of its work in conflict situations, the ICRC was sadly forced to reach the conclusion that combatants were all too often unaware of humanitarian rules relative to the conduct of war or, more serious still, that they deliberately chose to flout them. Indeed, in the heat of battle moral precepts are rapidly forgotten or cast aside, especially when people have little knowledge of them to begin with.

The ICRC therefore decided that it was absolutely crucial to step up its efforts aimed at preventing violations of the humanitarian principles, although it is extremely difficult to measure the real impact of such activities. It accordingly expanded its programmes designed to increase awareness of humanitarian rules not only in crisis or conflict-stricken areas, but also in regions free of all strife or where peace had not yet taken a firm hold.

To enhance the effectiveness of its dissemination programmes in times of both war and peace, the ICRC tailored its methods to different cultural and political backgrounds. It called on States and all humanitarian and other organizations concerned to look to the future and to play an active part in promoting universal respect for humanitarian values.

In situations of violence

During 1995 the ICRC carried out dissemination activities in numerous situations of conflict, crisis or tension, for example, in Rwanda, Zaire (Kivu), Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Angola, the former Yugoslavia, the Russian Federation (Chechnya), Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, India (Kashmir), Colombia, Peru and in a number of places in the Middle East (e.g. in the occupied and the autonomous territories and Iraq).

The ICRC’s efforts focused on three main objectives:
- To prevent and limit violations of the humanitarian principles. The message that the ICRC endeavoured to put across to combatants was aimed at diminishing wanton violence, by establishing a link with local traditions and customs closely related to the fundamental rules of humanitarian law. Although it is extremely difficult to evaluate the impact of such work, the
ICRC hopes that a sustained and determined effort, adapted to each specific target group, will be effective in the long term, especially since dissemination programmes were carried out concurrently with ICRC activities to protect and assist the civilian population.

- To gain access to victims, even in the remotest areas. The ICRC made extensive use of local radio stations across the political spectrum. To try and ensure the greatest possible degree of safety for personnel involved in humanitarian operations, messages were regularly broadcast in local languages to remind both combatants and civilians of the apolitical nature of the ICRC’s protection and assistance.

- To alleviate human suffering, by helping family members separated by conflict to stay in contact with each other. Local radio stations were also used to broadcast messages informing people that they had the right to try to locate missing relatives by initiating tracing procedures, to send family news by means of Red Cross messages, to be informed of the whereabouts of detained relatives and to visit them in their places of detention.

New methods adapted to local culture

In Ethiopia, a children’s circus was chosen as the best medium for reaching the general public. The artists are street children who are themselves likely to be the primary victims of violence or else drawn into armed groups. Basic humanitarian values are portrayed through scenes illustrating the Fundamental Principles and the main activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In 1995 six private circuses gave regular performances all over the country, with an audience of 100,000 people. The show’s humanitarian message was very well received by children and adults alike.

In Peru and Armenia, puppet shows were used to combine education and entertainment. In both cases the troupes were made up of professional artists who were out of work on account of the situation in their respective countries. The sketches, based on events past and present, focused on respect for civilians and non-combatants and conveyed a message of hope. The shows were intended for young people, soldiers, policemen and the population in general.

In schools and universities

A number of pilot programmes incorporated in literature and language teaching were launched in 1995, notably in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In the spring of 1995 experimental projects were introduced in secondary schools for 34,500 thirteen-year-olds in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Russian Federation, and in the autumn a wider programme was launched in
15 regions of the Russian Federation, reaching 72,000 pupils. The programme consists of 21 hours of classes based on teaching kits specially devised for the purpose, in close cooperation with the Ministries of Education in the different regions. Similar material, adapted to local conditions in other regions, was to be issued in early 1996. Overall, some 110,000 handbooks were printed and distributed and 85 seminars organized to coach teachers in their use.

The first surveys conducted among the teaching staff and the authorities revealed definite interest and support for the programmes, whose specificity lies in the originality of the themes and method chosen. The ICRC concurrently worked together with the State Committee for Higher Education and the office of the President of the Russian Federation with a view to having the teaching of humanitarian law incorporated in the proposed law on education, in particular for students in faculties of law, international relations, political science and journalism. A project aimed at providing instruction in humanitarian law at university level was under way in Georgia, while others were under consideration for Armenia, Azerbaijan and the republics in Central Asia.

A number of universities and institutes in Western Europe as well as UNESCO were approached for financial and other support.

Women and children in war

A documentary filmed in the Middle East — in the occupied and autonomous territories, Lebanon and Iraq — provides a first-hand account of the cruelty of conflict: four women and children scarred by war talk of the physical and mental suffering they endured and of their daily struggle to erase the terrible legacy of violence.

The commentary is read by a well-known Egyptian actress, Faten Hamama, and the destinies portrayed are an eloquent appeal for rules of humanitarian law to be more widely respected, especially those affording protection to women and children in time of war.

The film, completed in November 1995, was broadcast on two occasions in the countries of the Middle East on an Egyptian satellite-TV channel and presented by the ICRC in London to 300 journalists and news correspondents from Arab countries. Plans were being made for it to be shown in 1996 on national televisions in the region and during the numerous seminars and presentations on humanitarian law organized there by the ICRC.

Training National Society staff

In a number of countries the ICRC took part in training courses aimed at providing National Societies with instructors who would carry out and develop their own dissemination programmes, especially for young people.
In June the ICRC organized a training course for dissemination officials from ten National Societies of Central Europe and the Balkans; the course was followed up by the ICRC with the assistance of the National Societies of Albania, Bulgaria and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The ICRC provided support for several training programmes and courses organized by Red Cross Youth, notably in the Czech Republic and in Bulgaria.

Role played by States

As a follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims (Geneva, 30 August — 1 September 1993), the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims met in Geneva from 23 to 27 January 1995 to seek practical means of promoting full compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) and thereby ease the plight of war victims.

The experts adopted a series of recommendations intended to give concrete expression to the States' resolve, as reaffirmed in 1993, to take the necessary steps to ensure better understanding of and respect for humanitarian law. Several of the recommendations deal with dissemination of humanitarian law, in particular Recommendation IV, in which the experts propose that:

- the ICRC, in carrying out its mandate to disseminate IHL, work together, wherever possible, with other interested bodies including the International Federation, UN organs and specialised agencies, and regional organisations;
- States, on a regional and global basis, promote exchanges of information on dissemination and implementation of IHL;
- the ICRC prepare, in cooperation with experts from various geographical regions, a model manual for armed forces on the law of international and non-international armed conflicts;
- States produce national manuals on the law of armed conflicts, use them as an integral part of military training, and where possible, consult among themselves with a view to harmonising such manuals;
- States increase their efforts, at national and international levels, to train civilian and military instructors in IHL, and to train in that law members of civilian administrations, armed forces, security forces and paramilitary forces, and members of armed forces engaged in international peacekeeping operations, according to their specific ranks and functions;
- States, where appropriate with the assistance of National Societies, increase the civilian population's awareness of IHL, thus contributing to the dissemination of a culture based on respect for the individual and human life, in all circumstances;
- States, in collaboration with National Societies, take advantage of the celebration of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day to promote the dissemination of IHL;
- States, where appropriate with the assistance of National Societies and academic institutions involved in public education, make every effort to produce specific programmes and teaching materials designed to imbue students of all ages with the principles of IHL and make those programmes available to interested States;
- States, the ICRC, National Societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies encourage the production of audiovisual materials and the organisation of seminars in order to heighten awareness of IHL issues among representatives of the national and international media;
- the ICRC and States make efforts to provide technical assistance in order to ensure that basic documents of IHL are widely available in national languages;
- the Conference note that religious and ethical values foster respect for human dignity and the principles of IHL.

Recommendation VI, for its part, suggests that States should be invited by the Conference to provide to the ICRC any information which might be of assistance to other States in their efforts to disseminate and implement humanitarian law and that the ICRC should continue to participate actively in efforts to spread knowledge of the law and to apply its provisions, so as to facilitate the execution of such measures.

The experts’ recommendations, which make up an ambitious programme for the future, were endorsed by the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent when it met in Geneva from 3 to 7 December 1995.

Material and human resources, organization

To meet the numerous challenges described above, in 1995 the ICRC relied on the services of over 40 expatriate delegates — five of them specialized in dissemination to the armed forces — and more than 200 local staff in various ICRC delegations. The main role of such personnel is to set up programmes adapted to each specific cultural and political context and to the prevailing situation, i.e., peace, tension, conflict or return to peace.

Several ICRC delegations in Asia thus produced a wide range of publications; for instance, 438,000 brochures and manuals were distributed in Sri Lanka, 88,000 in Cambodia, 64,000 in Afghanistan and 16,000 in the Philippines; the main recipients were members of the armed forces, government authorities, opposition groups and National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society staff.
The topics covered were also adapted to each particular situation. In Yemen, for instance, the ICRC trained Red Crescent volunteers who used specially produced teaching materials to conduct a campaign among 66,000 schoolchildren and raise their awareness of anti-personnel mines, which infest the south of the country.

The different means and methods employed and the content of the message are all key elements in the ICRC’s dissemination strategy and are constantly reassessed.

Lastly, particular emphasis was laid during the year on training specialized dissemination staff. Three two-week courses were organized for 60 people (as compared with only one course for 20 people in 1994); the objective was to make the participants more familiar with ICRC working procedures in this area and thereby enhance the effectiveness of dissemination programmes.

Dissemination among the armed forces

The creation of the ICRC’s Division for Dissemination to the Armed Forces in October 1994 did not in any way modify the nature or the permanent goals of the institution’s efforts to convince both regular armed forces and other groups bearing weapons to respect international humanitarian law. On the other hand, the Division has enabled the ICRC to gain broader visibility and credibility, as well as to promote technical and educational know-how in this field. It has also contributed to the debate aimed at clarifying the ICRC’s position within today’s new humanitarian environment, and bears witness to the importance that the institution attaches to this component of dissemination work and to the ICRC’s resolve to become more actively involved in this area.

During the year under review, additional staff was deployed to step up dissemination among the armed forces in the field, and military officers from various countries were taken on to work as instructors in humanitarian law.

To follow up one of the recommendations put forward by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, which met in Geneva in January 1995, the ICRC convened a meeting of officers representing various geographical regions to prepare a draft model manual for armed forces on international humanitarian law.

Following the ICRC’s adoption of guidelines on dissemination of humanitarian law and human rights law for members of security and police forces, a number of pilot projects were launched in Africa and Asia. This enabled the institution to respond to operational needs arising from new types of conflict, marked by a growing difficulty to distinguish between combatants belonging to regular army troops and other groups bearing weapons.
In order to strengthen the implementation of humanitarian law, which requires endorsement by the high command of regular armed forces worldwide, the ICRC organized several meetings for officers involved in military strategy. This included a meeting in Geneva that brought together commanders-in-chief from 15 English-speaking countries in Africa; a symposium with the participation of three generals formerly in command of various United Nations peacekeeping operations; and a seminar for senior military officers and officers in charge of security forces in Central and South America and the Caribbean. The ICRC also invited the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Russian federal armed forces for an exchange of views on the topic of humanitarian law within a new strategic environment with military officers from India, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

In view of the growing number and scope of UN peace-keeping operations, ICRC representatives attended various meetings aimed at clarifying the respective roles of the military, humanitarian organizations and political leaders in current crisis situations.

To enhance instruction in humanitarian law, the ICRC developed new computer-assisted teaching materials for different levels of the military hierarchy, and devised a decision-making exercise for senior military tacticians.

The various seminars and workshops organized by the ICRC all over the world were attended by as many as 4,390 officers from 83 different countries.
ICRC ACTION WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

The year under review was marked by statutory meetings of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement — the Council of Delegates and the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which met in Geneva from 1 to 7 December 1995. These meetings were particularly important because the International Conference had been unable to meet for nine years. Both gatherings, organized jointly by the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, were crowned with success, since they led to a strengthening of the unity of the Movement and provided an opportunity to intensify the dialogue with the States party to the Geneva Conventions concerning the application and implementation of international humanitarian law and other matters of common interest.

Council of Delegates

The Council of Delegates, which is made up of representatives of the Movement (i.e., the National Societies, the ICRC and the Federation), was held in Geneva on 1 and 2 December 1995, at the invitation of the ICRC and the Federation. Following a tradition which goes back to the origins of the Movement, the President of the ICRC chaired the Council's deliberations. Eight National Societies (Andorra, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Equatorial Guinea, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), recognized by the ICRC since the previous Council of Delegates in 1993, took part in these meetings as full members for the first time.

In accordance with the Statutes of the Movement, the Council of Delegates met before the 26th International Conference in order to approve the latter's agenda and propose the persons to fill the posts of officers of the Conference. The Council adopted a resolution appealing to all participants in the Conference to ensure that its proceedings would be conducted from a strictly humanitarian perspective, in conformity with the Fundamental Principles, requesting all National Societies to convey that appeal to their respective governments and stressing the Movement's commitment to holding the Conference irrespective of any difficulties that might arise.

The Council's debates centred on the future of the Movement. The participants took note of the report and recommendations of the Policy and
Planning Advisory Commission set up by the Council of Delegates at its meeting in Birmingham in 1993 to examine the functioning of the Movement and help it become better prepared for the challenges of the future. The Council approved a series of measures designed to strengthen the unity and cohesion of the Movement: in particular, it decided on a reorganization of its own work, to enable it to deal more effectively with substantive matters of interest to the entire Movement; it renewed the mandate of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission for a further two years and called upon the Commission inter alia to study the possibility of a review of the Agreement of 20 October 1989 between the ICRC and the Federation, as well as the development of functional cooperation between the two institutions; finally, it took steps to strengthen the role of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and requested it to consult government experts on the question of the emblem. The Council also adopted a resolution specifically designed to enhance functional cooperation between the ICRC and the Federation.

The Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace submitted its final report and the Council endorsed its recommendations, inviting the Commission to continue to reflect and work on the Movement's contribution to peace.

Three of the resolutions adopted were devoted to conflict victims. The first relates to the protection of children and urges the Movement to promote the principle of non-recruitment and non-participation of children under the age of 18 in armed conflicts. The second resolution reiterates the principle that Red Cross and Red Crescent institutions do not use armed protection, except in very clearly defined and exceptional situations. Thirdly, the Council declared that a total ban on anti-personnel landmines was the only way to prevent indiscriminate use of such weapons, which had disastrous consequences for the civilian population and humanitarian action, and urged all the components of the Movement to make every effort to bring about such a ban.

Another resolution invites the ICRC and the Federation, in cooperation with the National Societies, to adapt the Movement's information policy in order to take full account of new technology in matters of communication and to present the activities of the Movement's components in a more concerted manner.

The Council of Delegates moreover invited the co-founding bodies of the Henry Dunant Institute to redefine the role and functions of the Institute before the end of 1996, in order to strengthen its contribution to the policies and strategies of the Movement.

Finally, the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC saw its mandate renewed for another two years.
Henry Dunant Medal

Six members of the Movement were awarded the Henry Dunant Medal, three of them posthumously, for their dedication to the ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Their names are as follows:

Dr Hugo Ernesto Merino Grijalva, former President of the Ecuadorean Red Cross;
Ms Jacqueline Briot, of the French Red Cross;
Botho Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, Chairman of the Standing Commission;
Tunku Tan Sri Mohammed, former Chairman of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (posthumous award);
Professor Hans Haug, former President of the Swiss Red Cross, former Vice-President of the Federation and honorary member of the ICRC (posthumous award):
Dr Esmildo Gutierrez Sanchez, former Secretary General of the Cuban Red Cross (posthumous award).

Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The Standing Commission is made up of National Society members elected by the International Conference and representatives of the ICRC and the Federation. Its principal functions are to make arrangements for the International Conference and the Council of Delegates. The Standing Commission met four times in 1995, on 14 and 15 February, 1 and 2 May, 16 and 17 September and 24 November. Its work focused on preparations for the Council of Delegates and the 26th International Conference, which met, respectively, on 1 and 2 December and from 3 to 7 December in Geneva.

The composition of the Standing Commission was renewed by the 26th International Conference (see page 297).

Policy and Planning Advisory Commission

The Policy and Planning Advisory Commission, which comprises 12 members appointed ad personam (six from National Societies, three from the ICRC and three from the Federation), met four times in the course of the year, on 18 and 19 January, from 4 to 6 April, from 20 to 22 June and on 12 and 13 September. It has a two-year mandate, and half of its budget is financed by the National Societies, while the other half is covered in equal parts by the ICRC and the Federation. The Commission has an independent secretariat at the Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva.

The Advisory Commission’s final report was submitted to the Council of Delegates and covered the tasks explicitly assigned to it by Resolution 1 of the
1993 Council of Delegates in Birmingham, namely to study the functions of the Standing Commission, to identify the procedures for establishing the Council of Delegates as the supreme deliberative body for internal matters of the Movement and to improve functional cooperation between the Movement’s components. The report also referred to some questions of principle concerning the Movement as a whole, such as issues relating to the emblem, external factors affecting the Movement and guidelines for a future strategy for action.

The Council of Delegates endorsed this report and decided in its Resolution 3 to re-establish for a further two years an independent Advisory Commission, with members appointed *ad personam* by joint decision of the Presidents of the ICRC and the Federation and the Chairman of the Standing Commission, in consultation with the Chairman of the outgoing Commission.

Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace

The Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace, whose mandate had just come to an end, submitted its final report to the Council of Delegates.

The Commission, set up in 1977, was composed of representatives of the ICRC, the Federation, the Henry Dunant Institute and 16 National Societies (Australia, Brazil, Colombia, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Hungary, Malaysia, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Sudan, Sweden and Tunisia).

The Commission held its last meeting on 20 October 1995 in Geneva, in order to finalize and clarify the general and specific recommendations set out in its report.

Bearing in mind the termination of its mandate and also the fact that work on the prevention of conflicts had to continue, the Commission emphasized the importance of pursuing the Movement’s activities for peace. Among the issues it identified was that of the transfer of weapons and its consequences in humanitarian terms. The Commission expressed the hope that the Movement’s role and attitude in that regard would be studied and clarified.

The Commission also made proposals on various other subjects. Its recommendations included:

- Further study of the Movement’s contribution to respect for the rights of the child, with special emphasis on the need to pursue efforts being made for street children and exploited children (forced labour, child prostitution); and an analysis of what the Movement in general and the National Societies in particular were doing in that area and of what practical steps could be taken.
• Implementation of the conclusions of the study carried out by the Henry Dunant Institute on the role of National Societies in preventing tension and conflicts involving minorities.

• Support for the work done by the Federation on the question of health and AIDS in connection with respect for human rights.

Finally, the Commission pointed out that the Movement was also working for peace through its activities and its spirit of tolerance, which were conducive to preventing disregard for human rights and tension arising from differences of culture or ethnic background.

The Council of Delegates entrusted the Standing Commission with the task of pursuing the study and work on the prevention of conflicts and the Movement’s contribution to peace.

Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent met in Geneva from 3 to 7 December, under the chairmanship of Ms Astrid Heiberg, President of the Norwegian Red Cross. It brought together some 1,200 delegates representing 143 States party to the Geneva Conventions, 166 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross. In addition, the representatives of 68 international, regional and non-governmental organizations and of several emerging National Societies attended the proceedings as observers.

Emphasis was placed on humanitarian action in today’s troubled world, with the proliferation of armed conflicts causing untold suffering among the civilian population, the erosion of respect for international humanitarian law and all the challenges facing humanitarian organizations on the eve of the twenty-first century. The Conference strongly condemned the abuses being committed in various parts of the world and made specific recommendations, urging States to take adequate steps to put an end to such abuses. These recommendations appear in five resolutions, which are summarized below.

The convening of the 26th Conference was particularly important because this major gathering had not been held for nine years: an earlier attempt to hold the International Conference in Budapest in 1991 had failed since the Conference had been adjourned sine die less than two days before the inaugural ceremony, because governments had not succeeded in reaching agreement as to the form that Palestinian participation in the proceedings should take.1

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1 See the ICRC’s 1991 Annual Report, p. 135.
Being anxious to avoid the stumbling blocks previously encountered, the ICRC and the Federation, which were joint organizers of the Conference, set up a Support Group to help with the diplomatic preparations. This Group, composed of the heads of the permanent missions of 24 States, held eight meetings, and some smaller groups created to solve specific problems convened frequently. The ICRC and the Federation also received effective support from a commissioner made available by the Swiss Confederation, Ambassador Jean-Daniel Biéler.

The most sensitive issue was that of the representation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, several States having declared that they would oppose any participation by a delegation of the Yugoslav government. In the end, this government decided not to attend the Conference, although the Yugoslav Red Cross did participate in the debates.

The Chairman of the Standing Commission, Botho Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein (German Red Cross), opened the International Conference, appealing to all governments to support the work of the Movement and its efforts to make humanitarian action more effective. The President of the ICRC, Cornelio Sommaruga, stressed the need to contain the current surge of violence and to make every effort to prevent and alleviate the suffering of victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters. The President of the Federation, Mario Villarroel Lander, said that the Conference afforded a unique opportunity to enhance respect for human dignity and to give new impetus to the Movement’s Fundamental Principles. On behalf of the host country, the President of the Swiss Confederation, Kaspar Villiger, urged governments to mobilize all their resources to improve the plight of victims the world over and to increase their support for humanitarian organizations. Finally, the President of the State Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, Olivier Vodoz, thanked the delegates for their commitment, their courage and their determination to promote respect for the humanitarian principles.

At the first plenary meeting, the Presidents of the ICRC and the Federation referred to the humanitarian challenges that were emerging on the eve of the twenty-first century in connection with armed conflicts and their victims, disaster situations and the poverty engendered by disparities in economic development.

The President of the Federation said that the Movement could play a leading role in reflecting on topical humanitarian issues and that the suffering of the victims could be alleviated by sustained development and the promotion of voluntary service. He stressed the need to strengthen the dialogue between the Movement and governments. Referring to the *Code of Conduct* for organizations taking part in disaster relief operations, he advanced the idea of a similar code to deal with the humanitarian consequences of sanctions and peace-making operations.
The President of the ICRC emphasized that the world was weighed down by the victims of too many tragedies. It was in the name of the victims, particularly those of war, that he was addressing the Conference. Solidarity with those victims was what gave the Movement its strength, which was expressed through the complementary activities of its components — the National Societies, their Federation and the ICRC. The Movement was more than ever in need of the commitment of governments. The Conference played a particularly important role as the main forum for humanitarian dialogue. Amidst all the fire and passion aroused by the dreadful events in Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan and Sierra Leone, not to mention the human tragedies that had ensued from the break-up of the former USSR, it was essential to rebuild the system of values that lay at the heart of the Red Cross and Red Crescent ideal: the rights of victims, the right to receive assistance, and respect for humanitarian endeavour. To ensure that humanitarian action was universally recognized and respected, the President of the ICRC proposed a new contract of humanity, whereby States and the entire international community would undertake to give their unreserved support to efforts aimed at applying humanitarian law. This would imply, among other things:

- speeding up the process of ratification of the existing instruments of humanitarian law;
- intensifying efforts to disseminate the law;
- reaffirming that the rules governing the conduct of hostilities in international conflicts must also be observed in internal conflicts;
- doing everything possible to punish those who committed grave breaches of humanitarian law, in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions;
- preserving an independent space for humanitarian action in armed conflicts.

The International Conference then split up into two Commissions to deal with the various items on its agenda:

- Commission I focused on war victims and respect for international humanitarian law, and was chaired by Ambassador Hisashi Owada (Japan).
- Commission II concentrated on humanitarian values and response to crises, and was chaired by Ousmane Diagne, President of the Senegalese Red Cross Society.

The Conference also set up a Drafting Committee, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Philippe Kirsch of Canada, with the task of finalizing the draft resolutions prepared by the ICRC and the Federation after widespread consultations.

Commission I had to examine the follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, held in Geneva in 1993. It also had on its agenda the issue of respect for and application of humanitarian law, particularly
with regard to the protection of the civilian population in time of war and the use of certain weapons. It submitted three resolutions to the plenary meeting of the Conference.

Commission II focused on matters relating to principles and response in international humanitarian assistance and protection (including the question of guarantees for access to the victims) and on the steps to be taken to enhance the capacity of National Societies to come to the aid of the most vulnerable groups. The Commission submitted two resolutions to the plenary meeting.

Over 200 delegates representing governments, National Societies or observers took the floor during the meetings of the Conference's two plenary Commissions.

The resolutions adopted were devoted to the following topics:

Resolution 1
The 26th International Conference endorsed the Final Declaration of the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims (Geneva, 30 August — 1 September 1993), which confirms the need to reinforce implementation of and respect for international humanitarian law, and also the Recommendations drawn up by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, which met in Geneva in January 1995. The Conference thus took a stand on a number of particularly serious humanitarian issues and condemned violations of humanitarian law being committed in various parts of the world. The resolution urges States to enhance the application and dissemination of humanitarian law and invites the Swiss authorities to organize a meeting of the States party to the Geneva Conventions every two years, in order to examine general problems of implementation of humanitarian law and to seek practical means of promoting its application.

Resolution 2
In this resolution, the International Conference, alarmed by the upsurge in serious violations of humanitarian law in current conflicts, strongly condemned acts committed in breach of the law, particularly the systematic and massive killing of civilians. It went on to express its concern at the increasing difficulties encountered by humanitarian organizations in performing their tasks and at the proliferation of weapons, especially those which might have indiscriminate effects or cause unnecessary suffering.

The resolution reminds States of their obligation to repress violations of humanitarian law. Acts of sexual violence, particularly rape, committed during armed conflicts are strongly condemned as war crimes and, under certain circumstances, as crimes against humanity. The resolution calls for the
establishment and strengthening of mechanisms (such as the ad hoc tribunals recently set up for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda) to investigate such acts, and to bring to justice and punish all those responsible.

Resolution 2 also contains several sections relating to specific issues:

- With regard to women: the resolution expresses outrage at practices of sexual violence in armed conflicts, in particular the use of rape as an instrument of terror. It urges that strong measures be taken to provide women with the protection and assistance to which they are entitled under humanitarian law.

- Protection of children in armed conflict: Resolution 2 recommends in particular that parties to conflict refrain from arming children under the age of 18 years and do everything in their power to prevent them from taking part in hostilities.

- Family reunification: the plight of dispersed families is emphasized as a serious humanitarian issue, and parties to conflict must facilitate the reuniting of family members, the tracing of those missing in armed conflicts and the work of the competent organizations.

- Civilian population affected by famine: any deliberate attempt to starve the civilian population in armed conflicts constitutes a violation of humanitarian law and is strongly condemned in the resolution. Warring parties have the obligation to accept impartial humanitarian relief operations and to maintain conditions in which the civilian population is able to provide for its own needs.

- Civilian population deprived of water: parties in conflict are called upon to take all feasible precautions to avoid damaging water supply systems used by civilians and to ensure the protection of personnel responsible for maintaining and repairing those systems.

- Anti-personnel landmines and other weapons: the resolution expresses the deep concern and indignation of the Conference at the use of anti-personnel mines, which kill or maim hundreds of people (mostly civilians) every week. It urges States to step up their efforts to adopt strong and effective measures for the regulation or prohibition of these weapons and also requests them to consider further measures to ban the use of other weapons which may be excessively injurious, such as blinding laser weapons. It further urges States to declare themselves bound by the new Protocol on blinding laser weapons.

Resolution 3

This deals with international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts at sea. It welcomes the completion of the San Remo Manual on the subject and encourages States to take that text into account when drafting manuals and other instructions for their naval forces.
Resolution 4

This resolution relates to principles and action in international humanitarian assistance and protection. It calls upon States to recognize the need for the Movement to maintain a clear separation between its humanitarian work and action of a political, military or economic nature taken by governments, intergovernmental bodies and other agencies in situations of armed conflict and other crises.

Resolution 4 also deals with the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons, whose numbers have increased dramatically over the past decade, and calls upon States to respect and ensure respect for humanitarian law by prohibiting the forced displacement of civilians and to ensure unimpeded access to these victims for humanitarian organizations (ICRC, Federation, UNHCR, etc.), so that they can provide them with assistance in accordance with their respective mandates.

States and National Societies are also invited to encourage non-governmental organizations to abide by the principles and spirit of the Code of Conduct for organizations taking part in disaster relief operations and to declare themselves bound by this Code by signing the register opened for this purpose at the Federation. States are moreover requested to take note of the guidelines on the role of National Societies in response to technological disasters.

Resolution 5

This resolution encourages the components of the Movement to continue their support for the development of National Societies, so that the latter are better prepared to react promptly in the event of natural or man-made disaster and provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable. It also appeals to governments to increase support for their National Societies and in general to make more productive use of the potential of humanitarian organizations.

(In its January-February 1996 issue, the International Review of the Red Cross published a summary of the deliberations of the Council of Delegates and the 26th International Conference, together with the complete texts of the resolutions adopted at those meetings.)

Election of the members of the Standing Commission

The 26th International Conference elected the following five people as members of the Standing Commission:
- HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands (The Netherlands Red Cross);
- Mrs Christina Magnuson (Swedish Red Cross);
- Dr Guillermo Rueda Montaña (Colombian Red Cross):
• Mr Tadateru Konoe (Japanese Red Cross Society);
• Dr Byron R. Hove (Zimbabwe Red Cross Society).

The Standing Commission appointed Princess Margriet to the position of Chairwoman and Dr Hove to that of Vice-Chairman.

One of the Commission’s tasks is to prepare the provisional agenda and programme of the International Conference. Moreover, the 26th International Conference requested the Standing Commission to set the place and date of the next International Conference, which should be held in 1999.

RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE MOVEMENT

National Societies

Visits to ICRC headquarters by National Society representatives

In 1995, at the request of the individuals concerned or by express invitation, the ICRC organized 70 visits for 202 people, including presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries-general, directors, staff members and volunteer workers from National Societies worldwide.

For most of these people, the visits provided an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the ICRC and its operational activities and to exchange views with staff members from various units of the institution. They also served to establish relations of mutual trust, thus promoting dialogue and the development of strategy for cooperation.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Joint ICRC/Federation Commission for National Society Statutes: recognition of new National Societies

On the basis of the recommendations of the Joint ICRC/Federation Commission for National Society Statutes, the ICRC Assembly recognized the following six National Societies:
• Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, on 24 August;
• Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan, on 24 August;
• Armenian Red Cross Society, on 1 November;
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• Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, on 1 November;
• Red Cross Society of Belarus, on 1 November;
• Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Makedonski crven krst), on 1 November.

The number of recognized National Societies thus stood at 169 at the end of the year. Nine emerging National Societies participated as observers in the 26th International Conference and in the meetings preceding it.

The Joint Commission met seven times in 1995. In accordance with Resolution VI of the 22nd International Conference (Tehran, 1973) and Resolution XX of the 24th International Conference (Manila, 1981), it monitored application of and respect for the rules governing recognition of new National Societies and admissions to the Federation. It also examined the amendments that National Societies proposed to make to their statutes and made the appropriate recommendations to them to ensure that these statutes remained in conformity with the conditions for recognition and the Movement’s Fundamental Principles.

Joint ICRC/Federation meetings

In addition to the practically daily contacts between staff members of the two institutions, the 1989 ICRC/Federation Agreement provides for joint meetings at least three times a year. In practice, it has proved useful to hold such meetings more frequently, as they are an opportunity to take decisions and to keep both sides informed of matters of common interest.

ICRC and Federation leaders met seven times in 1995, devoting most of their discussions to preparations for the Council of Delegates and 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December.

The ICRC/Federation joint working group set up to devise ways of improving functional cooperation between the two institutions continued its work aimed at achieving optimum use of resources, both in Geneva and in the field, and thus reducing costs.

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 Societies. Its capital has been increased several times, and again in 1995, by gifts from the Japanese Imperial Family, the government, the Japanese Red Cross, some Japanese citizens and the “Meiji Jingu Shrine Sukei-Kai” association, devoted to the
memory of the Empress. The income from the Fund is used for the full or partial financing of National Society projects in the areas of development, equipment and transport.

The Joint Commission for the Fund, which includes members and staff of the ICRC and representatives of the Federation Secretariat, examined requests for grants submitted by 27 National Societies. At a meeting on 4 April, in the presence of Japan’s permanent representative in Geneva, the Commission awarded grants totalling 305,500 Swiss francs to 12 National Societies (Bulgaria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Greece, Honduras, Kenya, Mauritius, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Thailand and Uruguay).

Each recipient Society is required to send the Joint Commission, within 12 months of receiving its grant, a report on its use and on the results achieved.

Maurice de Madre French Fund

Count Maurice de Madre, who died in 1970, bequeathed part of his property to the ICRC, stipulating the use to be made of it. The purpose of the Fund is to assist staff of National Societies, the Federation or the ICRC who suffer injury or illness in the service of the Movement or, in the event of their death, to assist their families. In 1995 it was decided to broaden the Fund’s scope of application in order to promote the training of recipients and help them resume their professional activity, and to give families more generous assistance.

To reduce administrative costs as far as possible, the Board of the Fund works mainly by correspondence, and held only one formal meeting in 1995, on 3 April. During the year, it examined files for staff members of the Movement or their relatives from the following countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia.

Florence Nightingale Medal

In 1912, as a tribute to the outstanding services rendered by Florence Nightingale in improving care for the wounded and sick during the Crimean War (1854-1856), the 9th International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Washington, decided to set up the Florence Nightingale Fund. Under the Fund’s Regulations, the Medal may be awarded to qualified male or female nurses and also to male or female voluntary nursing aides who are active members or regular helpers of a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society or of an affiliated medical or nursing institution.
The Medal may be awarded to individuals in these categories who have distinguished themselves in time of peace or war by their exceptional courage and devotion to the wounded, sick or disabled, or to civilian victims of a conflict or disaster; or by exemplary services and a pioneering and creative spirit in the areas of preventive medicine, public health or nursing education. The Medal may be awarded posthumously to honour the memory of a person who has fallen on active service.

A circular was sent on 12 May 1995 to all the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, announcing the 35th award of the Florence Nightingale Medal to 30 recipients from the following countries: Australia, Canada, China (People's Republic of), Denmark, France, Germany, Grenada, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea (Republic of), Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Poland, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

For the first time since the Regulations were amended by the 1991 Council of Delegates in Budapest to permit the nomination of male nursing staff, the Florence Nightingale Medal was awarded to a male nurse.

Henry Dunant Institute

The Henry Dunant Institute was set up thirty years ago by the ICRC, the Federation and the Swiss Red Cross to supply the Movement with an instrument for research and training aimed at strengthening its unity and promoting its development. To this end, the Institute opens its doors to researchers whose fields of study may be of interest to the Movement as a whole.

Each of the founding bodies provides the Institute with a Chairman for a two-year term. In 1994, its General Assembly had elected the President of the Federation as Chairman for 1995-1996. He succeeded the ICRC Vice-President in this position.

Over the years, National Societies have shown increasing interest in the Institute's activities and participate actively in its projects, often offering recommendations and practical advice based on their own experience. They also provide intellectual and financial support.

Many National Societies expressed renewed interest in the work of the Institute during the meeting of the Council of Delegates in December 1995.

The training given at the Henry Dunant Institute mainly consists of annual courses for senior officials, new staff members and volunteers from National Societies. The 20th annual introductory course on international Red Cross and Red Crescent activities was held in June 1995. ICRC and Federation staff regularly take part in these courses as instructors. Various groups outside the Movement also receive training at the Institute, which welcomes students and
Trainees not only from National Societies, but also from different universities and research centres.

The Institute's publications represent a logical extension of its research activities. In recent years its work has concentrated on the problems of children, with a study on the issue of child soldiers published in English and French; it also submitted to the Council of Delegates and to the 26th International Conference a Plan of Action for the Movement aimed at protecting and assisting child victims of armed conflict. Another study has been carried out on street children, including a bibliography on the subject. The Institute has also published a report on family reunification and several practical studies for National Societies. Finally, at the Federation's request it has conducted an analysis of National Society activities for detainees and their families.
THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

The year under review saw the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and commemoration ceremonies were held in places where people had been persecuted under the National Socialist régime. The statements delivered there bore witness to fresh hope and confidence in the future. Because of the current move towards reconciliation beyond national borders, the traumatic experience suffered by many former victims of persecution, particularly in eastern Europe, was recognized for the very first time. Good will on the part of governments prompted more and more of those victims to assert their rights. Such openness, inconceivable only a few years before, explained the considerable rise in enquiries received by the International Tracing Service (ITS), which up to 1994 had handled only very few cases as compared with the overall number of victims of Nazi persecution.

Processing of data

These developments had major repercussions on the work of the ITS. Figures for 1995 reflected the increased workload it had to cope with, although its mandate, established in London in 1943, remained the same. Indeed, more than half a century after the Second World War, there was no significant decline in the volume of actual tracing activities. The ITS moreover received numerous requests for certificates attesting to forced labour or detention in camps. It registered a peak number of 212,940 enquiries — slightly more than the 212,512 requests received the previous year. These almost identical figures can be explained by the ongoing handling of enquiries submitted by the “Memorial” foundation in Moscow. Requests were received from 60 countries (55 in 1994) — a growing trend, as for years enquiries came from a maximum of 40 countries.

The number of replies provided by the ITS remained high, with 236,756 answers sent out as compared with 238,222 in 1994. Although the Service had introduced a system of “streamlined processing” for requests in May 1994 and was granted 20 additional staff posts in August, the volume of replies provided diminished slightly because the data supplied by enquirers was often too imprecise, and the handling of cases therefore grew increasingly difficult.

By the end of 1995 there was still a considerable number of pending cases, i.e. 333,416 as against 277,001 the previous year. Despite this apparent increase, all in all the number of pending cases had fallen, since enquiries from the “Memorial” foundation were dealt with as a matter of priority. Moreover, the figures for 1995 for the first time included cases handled under the...
“streamlined processing” system. These undergo a preliminary checking before being processed automatically, in accordance with the Service’s mandate. It can therefore be said that the actual number of pending cases is declining. Cases handled under the streamlined processing system and left pending were registered separately on computer. A review of the various categories of cases still to be dealt with showed that the time lag was in fact diminishing.

Data classification

Activities conducted under the other three mandates of the ITS, which are to gather, classify and preserve information, can be summarized as follows:

- 336 services (245 in 1994) supplied the ITS with new documents relating to individuals who needed certificates established as a matter of urgency;
- the ITS acquired 555 linear metres of documents (401 in 1994), exclusively relating to former civilian victims of persecution;
- 768,553 reference files (469,527 in 1994) were set up on the basis of newly classified documents. This huge increase was due to the fact that filing is now done almost exclusively on computer, allowing much speedier access to newly registered individual data.

The International Commission of the ITS, which is the Service’s monitoring body and is composed of representatives of the member governments (Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States), supervises the work done in Arolsen. At its annual meeting the Commission reaffirmed the need to strengthen the “streamlined processing” system. In conformity with the 1955 Bonn Agreements, the Federal Republic of Germany finances all the activities conducted by the ITS under its mandate.
In 1995 the ICRC called for a total ban on landmines in a bid to put an end to the unacceptable and indiscriminate suffering they inflict. At the same time it launched a number of programmes to heighten awareness of such dangers and help potential victims avoid them. Widescale and concerted action of this kind, such as here in Yemen, requires the full participation of ICRC delegations throughout the world and strong initiative and backing from headquarters.
خشرا امددوا لله العرب

أيكم إلى أن ترى
الق해ان أحد الأشخاص
سائراً في اتجاه
النهر المتزوج تحت
الأرض دون أن يراه... ثم
يقطع قدمه عليه و
نجر هذا اللحم و
د هذا الشخص
اليين... وينظر
ما كثيرة ثم
على رجله
البائي له
الممساعدة.
The role of ICRC headquarters in Geneva is to enable field staff to respond as effectively as possible to the humanitarian needs of ever-growing numbers of victims of armed conflicts. The distress brought about by lack of respect for the most elementary rights of the individual and the tragedy marking the daily lives of people affected by wanton armed violence necessitate a steadily rising capacity for humanitarian action. The efficient organization of field operations not only calls for the consolidation of existing mechanisms, but also requires the ICRC to deal with the constant challenge of finding evermore effective communication, planning and management tools.

In 1995 considerable efforts were devoted, on the one hand, to improving communications systems both within headquarters and between headquarters and the field, with its increasingly diverse needs, and, on the other, to making optimum use of state-of-the-art information technology so as to promote communication with the public via the World Wide Web on the Internet. These efforts were accompanied by a drive to strengthen management control systems and establish recognized quality standards for humanitarian work.

In order to enhance its relations with the media, the ICRC further implemented the policy to decentralize its information services by setting up units in its field delegations, while taking care to maintain the consistency of its humanitarian message.

During the year under review, the ICRC launched a worldwide campaign to ban anti-personnel mines, which provided a new platform for communication with the general public. The campaign, conducted in cooperation with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and their International Federation, highlights the ethical motivation that led the ICRC to initiate this move and represents a logical extension of the institution’s mandate to prevent suffering caused by the indiscriminate and particularly cruel effects of certain weapons and to mobilize public opinion to that end.

A noteworthy development in the ICRC’s staff policy was the growing trend to recruit non-Swiss personnel for field operations. This means that more and more teams are now made up of multinational staff.
“Landmines must be stopped”: drawing attention to the devastating effects of anti-personnel landmines dominated all the ICRC’s communication efforts in 1995. In the run-up to the Review Conference of the 1980 United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, held in Vienna in September, the ICRC used this unequivocal message to launch a large-scale campaign involving the whole institution both at headquarters and in the field. National Societies, and in particular those of Austria, Denmark, France, New Zealand and South Africa, took an active part in relaying the message within their own countries, thus enhancing the impact of the ICRC’s efforts to enlist the support of politicians, armed forces and other decision-makers and helping the institution to promote public awareness of the landmine scourge. The campaign will continue well into 1996 and more and more National Societies have pledged to join in, for although the Review Conference yielded some encouraging results, such as the adoption of a new Protocol on blinding weapons, little tangible progress was made on the landmine issue itself.1

In the course of the year the ICRC produced and distributed a number of films, such as *An ordinary day* and *Weapons: a battle for humanity*, a coproduction with Anglia Television; these highlight not only the tragic consequences of the indiscriminate use of landmines and the wanton carnage they cause, but also the ICRC’s efforts to treat and rehabilitate mine victims and the work done by other organizations involved in mine-clearance operations. Hard-hitting slogans were devised and printed as posters, and free space was given to them in major newspapers. The *International Review of the Red Cross* published leading articles and special issues on the subject. The ICRC’s policy to decentralize its information services proved its worth and delegations the world over participated in the campaign by organizing press conferences and seminars and assisting reporting teams in the field that were eager to contribute to the banning of landmines. Information units in the field now cater to the needs of local and regional readers, listeners and viewers in 19 countries. Awareness-raising programmes for people exposed to the risk of landmine injury also form part of the ICRC’s campaign. In Mozambique, for instance, theatre groups travel from one village to another, enacting lively sketches to warn children and adults of the dangers surrounding them in mine-infested areas and advise them on how best to deal with them.

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1 See *The law and legal considerations*, pp. 268-271.
The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva in December, was also high on the ICRC’s communication agenda for the year. Besides headquarters, field delegations and National Societies were involved in relaying information both in the run-up to and during the actual event: posters, brochures and press kits were sent out to the delegations and National Societies and close contact was maintained with them throughout the year. Press conferences were held in Geneva both in preparation for and at the end of the Conference. Daily reports were sent out in English, French and Spanish and put on the Internet. With the help of the German Red Cross, an experimental on-line computer link was set up during the Conference to enable people all over the world, as well as National Societies and journalists, to have direct access to the Conference and ask questions about the issues involved. A slide show, entitled The way things are, was produced jointly with the Federation for the inauguration ceremony, and exhibits were set up at the conference centre where the proceedings took place.

Films, broadcasts and other audiovisual materials

Besides films on the landmine issue, the ICRC produced Lifelines, showing the institution’s efforts to restore and maintain family links in war-torn former Yugoslavia. As in previous years, ICRC teams shot newsreel footage and arrangements were made for coproductions and logistic support for TV and independent teams reporting on events in theatres of ICRC operations. The Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) increased its cooperation with leading international radio stations during the year. Coproduced programmes on activities in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, Sudan and Sri Lanka reached millions of listeners. RCBS also changed its programme schedule. After nearly 30 years of monthly broadcasts, it switched to shorter, weekly programmes via Swiss Radio International (SRI) in English, French, German and Spanish, while SRI continued to produce monthly programmes about the ICRC in six languages. In September the institution joined the fast expanding World Wide Web (http://www.icrc.org), introducing a vast number of publications, including its Annual Report, and keeping users up to date with ICRC activities throughout the world with press releases and other “hot news”, especially during the International Conference. As in previous years, demand for photos and audiovisual materials increased.

Exhibitions

The ICRC and the Federation sponsored an exhibition shown at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum in Geneva to mark the 26th International Conference. The exhibition, entitled The humanitarian
endeavour from Solferino (1859) to Sarajevo (1995), illustrated the history of the Movement through postage stamps and offered visitors the use of interactive computer programmes.

In the course of the year the ICRC also took part in international book fairs held in Geneva and in Damascus.

Publications

Drawing on its vast photographic archives that record more than a century of efforts to help victims of war, the ICRC contributed to the publication of *Focus on humanity*, a 140-page album brought out by the Skira publishing house in Geneva, which contains a selection of photographs and texts reflecting both the continuity and the evolution of the ICRC’s work. The institution also continued to publish the *International Review of the Red Cross*, which is its official periodical for opinion and reflection on the mission of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as the *Red Cross, Red Crescent* magazine, the *Annual Report*, donor-targeted documents and brochures for the general public on conflicts in countries such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda and Yemen. The brochure *Women and war*, for instance, was prepared in connection with the World Conference on Women in Beijing in September, while *Civilians in war* was written for the 26th International Conference; *Law of war: prepared for action* specifically targeted the armed forces and was published in seven languages.

The ICRC’s decentralization policy means that a number of major publications are produced and printed by regional delegations, for example in Cairo. A new focal point at headquarters offers technical support for all field publications.

Fundraising

Raising the funds that the ICRC constantly needs to assist victims of conflict is no small challenge in a world where numerous other humanitarian organizations are also seeking resources. The institution has accordingly improved its donor reporting system (mainly for governments and National Societies) and is adapting its appeals and fundraising efforts to meet the demand for ever-more detailed feedback. Donors’ wishes to finance specific projects must also be taken into consideration, although this is far from ideal for the ICRC, which badly needs non-earmarked funds to respond to urgent and unforeseen requirements, meet the needs of victims of forgotten conflicts and pursue its efforts to raise awareness of international humanitarian law. As a result of increased cooperation within the Movement, a number of ICRC projects have been delegated to participating National Societies and bilateral
agreements reached to enable National Society-financed initiatives to be carried out under ICRC supervision. In all, some 50 such projects were launched or under negotiation by the end of 1995, most of them aimed at assisting victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. A number of projects were already running in Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, Afghanistan and Rwanda. By mid-year the ICRC's financial shortfall was such that efforts both at headquarters and in the field had to be stepped up to obtain further contributions from the donor community in order to meet pressing needs in the field. In September the ICRC launched an Urgent Renewed Appeal to the international community and a special coordinated effort was made to find sufficient support for its operations in the former Yugoslavia, which were badly underfunded.

Encouraging private donors to contribute to the financing of ICRC activities is another steadily increasing component of the institution's fundraising work. For the first time, the ICRC launched a joint campaign with the Swiss Red Cross on the theme of Forgotten conflicts, which raised over a million Swiss francs. The trend to coordinate its private fundraising efforts with those of National Societies was further illustrated by the production of a TV spot to help finance Red Cross aid programmes in the former Yugoslavia. The ICRC's participation as official beneficiary in the World Corporate Games, an international sporting event that brought 380 companies from around the world to compete in Geneva, provided an opportunity to promote knowledge of the institution among the business community. In addition, half a million Swiss francs were raised to fund ICRC activities for the rehabilitation of the war-disabled in Afghanistan, thanks to an auction sale of Pomellato designer jewellery in Paris.
HUMAN RESOURCES

The Fundamental Red Cross/Red Crescent Principles — which the ICRC shares with the other components of the Movement — guarantee the neutrality, independence and impartiality of the people working under institution’s emblem. Whatever their nationality, ICRC employees, both local and expatriate, are seen as belonging to the organization and adhering to its values. Personnel hired in the field — some 7,000 in 1995 — form the cornerstone of all operations, working closely with the institution’s expatriate staff. National Society personnel also play an essential role in the ICRC’s delegations. In 1995, a total of 538 people were seconded by 22 National Societies. While most of them worked on fixed-term contracts, others were sent out on ad hoc missions to meet unforeseen emergency needs. Over the year, this represented an average of 185 posts.

In the past, non-Swiss nationals were engaged primarily in relief and medical activities. Then in 1992 the ICRC decided to open up all staff positions to other nationalities. Today, more and more personnel from different countries are assuming new roles, including that of head of delegation. To promote this transition, staff sponsored by National Societies are now being recruited to work as ICRC delegates and carry out all the traditional tasks, such as helping to re-establish family links, visiting prisoners of war and political detainees, organizing assistance and raising awareness of the Red Cross/Red Crescent principles and international humanitarian law.

In an effort continuously to improve personnel management, the Human Resources Department has been reorganized to ensure a more effective implementation of new initiatives. For example, each individual’s career within the ICRC is now monitored much more closely, with a focus on optimal integration of people joining the institution.

In 1995, the ICRC hired 293 new staff, including 274 for the field (94 delegates, 22 administrators, 5 administrative/senior secretaries, 31 secretaries, 26 interpreters, 17 doctors, 21 paramedical specialists and 58 technicians). Extensive in-house training courses are held for newly hired personnel so that they can quickly assume their responsibilities in the field or at headquarters. A standard basic course is provided for those who need to learn about the institution and how it functions. Further training is offered to established staff in the fields of tracing, relief, detention, dissemination of humanitarian law, administration and computer technology. In addition, the ICRC has developed an interactive training programme for people sent on mission at short notice without the full benefit of the standard course. In a few hours of intensive work they can learn

IN 1995, ON AVERAGE, THE ICRC HAD:
- 1029 expatriates, including 185 seconded by National Societies;
- 7,021 local employees under ICRC contract;
- 645 staff working at headquarters.
the basics of humanitarian law and the way in which the ICRC carries out its mandate to protect and assist victims of war.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Canada</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>France</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>538</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

N.B. This list shows the number of people seconded and not the number of posts.
Progression of staff requirements 1985-1995

ICRC DELEGATES IN THE FIELD

STAFF AT HEADQUARTERS

STAFF SECONDED BY NATIONAL SOCIETIES

FIELD STAFF HIRED LOCALLY
FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, GENERAL SERVICES

Throughout 1995, the Department of Finance, Administration and Information Technology continued to upgrade its management systems with a view to ensuring that the ICRC’s financial resources were used as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. The Department also consolidated the major structural changes made in 1994.

A general study was initiated on the ICRC’s financial systems with the twofold aim of exercising stricter control over expenditure in all areas of ICRC activity and devising a more individualized and satisfactory system of reporting to donors. A technical study was also undertaken to determine whether it would be advisable for the ICRC to adopt international accounting standards.

The Department introduced a financial warning system designed to cope more effectively with the risks associated with substantial and unexpected fluctuations in the funding of ICRC activities. In setting up the system, considerable work was carried out to develop forecasting tools based on relevant indicators. As a result, the ICRC now has access to a wide range of financial information provided by cash-flow management and forecasting mechanisms. To improve internal monitoring the ICRC also clarified and updated the rules on financial responsibility within its various departments.

In the area of general services, further efforts were made to optimize the use of floor space and office furniture, and the construction of a new multi-purpose administrative building was completed.

A study initiated in the field on the streamlining of administrative services continued with the testing of innovative ideas such as sub-contracting and simplified reports to headquarters. Two pilot projects in the areas of logistics and procurement were conducted in one large delegation.

Following the ICRC’s adoption of a new human resources policy, the groundwork was laid for a delegation staff management system. New types of personnel status, a policy for salaries, a decentralized training system and various procedures and guidelines for delegation administrators were established. A new ready-made software package was also selected and introduced into half of the delegations.

In the sector of information technology, new structures were set up following the merging of the data-processing and telecommunications units in 1994. The decentralization of certain activities continued with the introduction of various
posts in the field involving greater responsibility in the design and use of information systems. The incumbents were specially trained for their new duties.

A set of office automation tools comprising standard WINDOWS software was installed on 2,500 workstations in the field and at headquarters. Groupware (software for collective use) now links the 700 workstations at headquarters by way of an electronic mail system, a data base for documents, project management tools, discussion forums, and so forth. This means that any staff member involved in a given project or activity has access, in an interactive setting, to all the information necessary to take part in discussions or the decision-making process regardless of time limits or geographical constraints.

An electronic system was also set up to manage, in a controlled fashion, the exchange of correspondence between the various units at headquarters, and between those units and delegations in the field. By year's end, several delegations were linked up to this system, and an international data carrier had been selected to handle the flow.

The ICRC's private radio network continued to play an indispensable role in forwarding urgent messages and in replacing local facilities whenever they broke down. Some 6,400 stationary or mobile transceivers and 160 satellite stations were in constant service in the field. A special unit was also set up to manage all electronic and other communications. Lastly, in 1995 the ICRC joined the INTERNET, which means that staff members can now obtain information from the NET and other external databases.
FINANCIAL TABLES

Balance sheet (Table I)

The nearly 40 million Swiss franc (Sfr) drop in the ICRC's cash balance (including bank deposits) at year's end was partially offset by a Sfr 5 million increase in amounts receivable and a Sfr 14.5 million rise in the amount of contributions due. The Sfr 8.5 million increase in fixed assets was mainly accounted for by the ongoing construction of an administrative building in Geneva. In operational terms, the volume of ICRC operations with temporary deficit financing shown in the assets column of the balance sheet remained virtually unchanged.

Total short-term liabilities rose by nearly Sfr 8 million to Sfr 79 million. There was a downward trend in the financing of field activities, with a drop of nearly Sfr 15.1 million for all temporarily overfunded operations. Provisions for staff commitments fell sharply in 1995 owing to the transfer of Sfr 11 million to a foundation set up to enhance the professional skills of staff members, help them find another job should they leave the ICRC, and improve their retirement benefits. The foundation is one of the key elements of the new staff policy.

Lastly, the very marked fluctuations in the financing of the field activities in particular necessitated yet another increase in provisions for operational risks.

Summary statement of income and expenditure/charges, and expenditure according to type of activity (Tables II and III)

While 1995 saw the launching of a considerable number of projects, such as the Advisory Service on international humanitarian law, the campaign against anti-personnel landmines and the setting up of the public server on the Internet, total headquarters expenditure remained largely within the budget line. Coverage of financial risk remained the topmost priority, as shown by the Sfr 6.9 million allocation to provisions for operational risks. In mid-year, when underfunding of ICRC operations reached the Sfr 70 million mark, these provisions once again proved to be essential.

As regards the field financial structure, there was a slight overall surplus (Sfr 6.8 million) in early 1995. As a result of the Sfr 70 million deficit in late June, however, the year closed with a Sfr 15.6 million drop in the net balance, showing a net decrease of Sfr 8.8 million. Cash expenditure fell by Sfr 12.4
million (2.5%), with a marked decline in Africa, despite the scale of operations conducted in Rwanda. This was due to a scaling down of relief work (which requires extensive infrastructure) and a shifting of emphasis to activities for the protection of victims. Expenditure for operations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, on the other hand, underwent a Sfr 34 million increase, largely as a result of the events in Chechnya (Russian Federation).
EXPENDITURE BY REGION IN 1995
(including contributions in kind and services)
in millions of Swiss francs

Total: Sfr 723.5 million

* Except Central Asia

EXPENDITURE ACCORDING TO TYPE OF ACTIVITY IN 1995
(including contributions in kind and services)
in millions of Swiss francs

Total: Sfr 723.5 million
# Comparative Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1994/1995

<table>
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<td><strong>(in Sfr)</strong></td>
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<td>- Bank deposits</td>
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<td>- National Societies and various institutions</td>
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<td>- Other</td>
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<td>- Accruals and deferred income</td>
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<td>- Amounts receivable</td>
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<td>- Carried forward</td>
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<td>- Trust funds in banks</td>
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<td>243,976,111</td>
<td>OVERALL TOTAL</td>
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### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF INCOME

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<thead>
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<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>IN CASH</th>
<th>EXPENDITURE IN KIND AND/OR SERVICES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>4,081,938</td>
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<td><strong>FIELD</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OPERATIONS</strong></td>
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<td>Zones:</td>
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<td>80,404</td>
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<td><strong>PRINCIPLES, LAW AND RELATIONS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>WITH THE MOVEMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principles and relations with the Movement</td>
<td>3,411,538</td>
<td>3,411,538</td>
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<td>Dissemination and cooperation with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</td>
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<td>2,884,145</td>
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<td><strong>OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDER ICRC AUSPICIES</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>International Tracing Service, Arolsen</td>
<td>242,272</td>
<td>242,272</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversal of provisions for staff commitments</td>
<td>(11,007,522)</td>
<td>(11,007,522)</td>
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<td>Cash transfer for constitution of the &quot;Fondation Avenir du CICR&quot;</td>
<td>11,007,522</td>
<td>11,007,522</td>
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<td>Use of provisions for work in progress</td>
<td>(387,195)</td>
<td>(387,195)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation to provisions for operational risks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation to provisions for staff commitments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation to provisions for work in progress</td>
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<td>150,000</td>
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<td>Allocation to fund for investments in real estate</td>
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<td>Other expenditure</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BROUGHT FORWARD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Excess income for programmes to be carried out in 1996</td>
<td>18,200</td>
<td>18,200</td>
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<td><strong>RESULT</strong></td>
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<td>Excess income over expenditure</td>
<td>264,530</td>
<td>264,530</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>145,942,691</td>
<td>641,067,741</td>
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## AND EXPENDITURE/CHARGES IN 1995

### INCOME (in Sfr)

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<th>INCOME</th>
<th>IN CASH</th>
<th>INCOME IN KIND AND/OR SERVICES</th>
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<td>FIELD</td>
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<td>- Governments</td>
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<td>- Supranational organizations</td>
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<td>- National Societies</td>
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<td>1,127,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Public sources</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Non-governmental organizations</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Private sources:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support association</td>
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<td>425,000</td>
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<td>Swiss companies</td>
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<td>Gifts and legacies</td>
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<td>14,613,340</td>
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<td>Direct mail in Switzerland</td>
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<td>2,655,774</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Transfer of Swiss Government contribution</td>
<td>(2,000,000)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>110,333,539</td>
<td>469,878,382</td>
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### FINANCIAL INCOME

- 3,580,711

### PARTICIPATION FROM FIELD BUDGETS

- 30,218,900

### OTHER INCOME

- Payment for services: 664,052
- Adjustments of previous financial years: 451,683
- Other income: 10,554,616

### TOTAL INCOME

- 145,351,595

### BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD

- Excess expenses deducted from funds for specially financed operations: 591,096

### GRAND TOTAL

- 145,942,691
### EXPENDITURE IN 1995

*(INCLUDING GIFTS)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS BUDGET AND EXTRA-BUDGETARY EXPENSES</th>
<th>FIELD BUDGETS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ACTIVITIES BASED ON OR DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW</td>
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<td>1.1 PROTECTION ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATION OF OPERATIONS</td>
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<td>12,708</td>
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<td>23,710</td>
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<td>20,090</td>
<td>21,642</td>
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<td>13,549</td>
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<td>136,057</td>
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<td>HEADQUARTERS</td>
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<td>3,887</td>
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<td>AFRICA</td>
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<td>THE AMERICAS</td>
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<td>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</td>
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<td>10,185</td>
<td>1.41</td>
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<td>Carry forward</td>
<td>36,123</td>
<td>515,710</td>
<td>551,833</td>
<td>76.28</td>
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## TABLE III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS BUDGET AND EXTRA-BUDGETARY EXPENSES</th>
<th>FIELD BUDGETS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Brought forward</td>
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<td>1.7</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| IMPLEMENTATION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT                        | 36,123        | 515,710     | 551,833 | 76.28%
| 1.8  | DISSEMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW                     |               |       |     |
| AFRICA                                           | 7,031         | 7,031        | 7,031  | 0.97%
| THE AMERICAS                                      | 0             | 1,867        | 1,867  | 0.97%
| ASIA AND THE PACIFIC                             | 6,783         | 6,783        | 6,783  | 0.97%
| WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE BALKANS       | 2,478         | 2,478        | 2,478  | 0.97%
| EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA                  | 3,337         | 3,337        | 3,337  | 0.97%
| MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA                      | 1,322         | 1,322        | 1,322  | 0.97%
| HEADQUARTERS                                      | 11,215        | 11,215       | 11,215 | 0.97%
| 1.9  | COMMUNICATION                                               |               |       |     |
| 15,312  | 15,312                                                        |               |       |     |
| 2.   | OPERATIONAL SUPPORT AT DELEGATIONS                          |               |       |     |
| AFRICA                                           | 20,568        | 20,568       | 20,568 | 2.12%
| THE AMERICAS                                      | 2,383         | 2,383        | 2,383  | 2.12%
| ASIA AND THE PACIFIC                             | 6,945         | 6,945        | 6,945  | 2.12%
| WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE BALKANS       | 5,330         | 5,330        | 5,330  | 2.12%
| EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA                  | 4,630         | 4,630        | 4,630  | 2.12%
| MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA                      | 3,219         | 3,219        | 3,219  | 2.12%
| 3.   | SUPPORT ACTIVITIES                                          |               |       |     |
| 3.1  | GENERAL POLICY AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT                      | 3,684         | 3,684       | 3,684  | 0.97%
| 3.2  | HUMAN RESOURCES: RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT | 16,204        | 16,204      | 16,204 | 2.12%
| 3.3  | EXTERNAL RESOURCES                                           | 3,920         | 3,920        | 3,920  | 2.12%
| 3.4  | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS                | 17,252        | 17,252       | 17,252 | 2.12%
| 4.   | FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL SERVICES                    |               |       |     |
| 4.1  | FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT                                         | 5,832         | 5,832        | 5,832  | 2.12%
| 4.2  | MANAGEMENT CONTROL AND EXTERNAL AUDITING                    | 1,695         | 1,695        | 1,695  | 2.12%
| 4.3  | GENERAL SERVICES                                             | 11,102        | 11,102       | 11,102 | 2.12%
| 5.   | ALLOCATIONS FOR RISKS, COMMITMENTS AND INVESTMENTS           |               |       |     |
| 5.1  | USE OF PROVISIONS FOR WORK IN PROGRESS                       | (387)         | (387)        | (387)  | 2.34%
| 5.2  | ALLOCATION TO PROVISIONS FOR OPERATIONAL RISKS               | 6,900         | 6,900        | 6,900  | 2.34%
| 5.3  | ALLOCATION TO PROVISIONS FOR STAFF COMMITMENTS               | 500           | 500          | 500    | 2.34%
| 5.4  | ALLOCATION TO PROVISIONS FOR WORK IN PROGRESS                | 150           | 150          | 150    | 2.34%
| 5.5  | ALLOCATION TO THE FUND FOR INVESTMENTS IN FIXED ASSETS       | 3,400         | 3,400        | 3,400  | 2.34%
| 5.6  | OTHER EXPENDITURE                                            | 6,393         | 6,393        | 6,393  | 2.34%
| 5.7  | OTHER EXPENDITURE                                            | 16,956        | 16,956       | 16,956 | 2.34%
| 5.8  | OTHER EXPENDITURE                                            |               |             |       |     |
| 5.9  | OTHER EXPENDITURE                                            |               |             |       |     |
| TOTAL FOR ALL ACTIVITIES                             | 146,326       | 577,149      | 723,475 | 100.00%
### CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1995

*(in Sfr)*

#### Governments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Head-Quarters Budget</th>
<th>Field Budget</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Contributions in kind and/or services</th>
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</thead>
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<td>32,250</td>
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<td>Andorra</td>
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<td>Argentina</td>
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<td>11,310</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vandoeuvres</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernier</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoug, Canton of</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zurich, Canton of</td>
<td>230,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>230,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total from public sources</td>
<td>3,398,300</td>
<td>1,127,180</td>
<td>4,525,480</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Non-governmental organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DONOR</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS BUDGET</th>
<th>FIELD BUDGET</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>Contributions in kind and/or services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AG Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Vision</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>635,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total from NGOs</td>
<td></td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>635,983</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Private sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>association</td>
<td>425,000</td>
<td>425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss companies</td>
<td>2,061,692</td>
<td>2,061,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts and legacies</td>
<td>7,553,016</td>
<td>14,613,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct mail in Switzerland</td>
<td>2,655,774</td>
<td>2,655,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total from private sources</td>
<td>10,039,708</td>
<td>17,269,114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Transfer of Swiss Government contribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfer</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2,000,000)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Grand total | 110,333,539 | 469,878,382 | 580,211,921 | 82,690,305 |

---

328
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Balance Carried Forward 01.01.1995</th>
<th>Corrections/Transfers</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Balance at 31.12.1995</th>
<th>Contributions in Kind and/or Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AFRICA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- With surplus financing</td>
<td>19,699,611 (75,732)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,625,699 (7,431,582)</td>
<td>33,628,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- With deficit financing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THE AMERICAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- With surplus financing</td>
<td>54,995</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>54,995</td>
<td>286,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- With deficit financing</td>
<td>(823,070)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1,660,218)</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>135,168</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,293,562</td>
<td>5,091,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- With deficit financing</td>
<td>(1,386,338)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(295,805)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE BALKANS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- With surplus financing</td>
<td>1,545,157</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,753,732</td>
<td>23,864,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- With deficit financing</td>
<td>(8,240,325)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2,927,618)</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>650,540</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11,854</td>
<td>18,462,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- With deficit financing</td>
<td>(3,016,883)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1,504,722)</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>675,242</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>675,242</td>
<td>691,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- With deficit financing</td>
<td>(2,432,302)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2,678,310)</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>22,760,713</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,739,842</td>
<td>82,024,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- With deficit financing</td>
<td>(15,974,650)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(16,498,255)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Including US$ 100,000 (Sfr 114,000) retransfer to the Japanese Red Cross Society from a Japanese Government contribution.
Report of the auditors
for the year ended December 31, 1995
to the general meeting of the
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, GENEVA

As auditors of your association, by virtue of article 11 paragraph 2 of the articles of incorporation and articles 43 and 45 of the internal governing regulations, we have examined the books of account and the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 1995 in accordance with the provisions of the law and the articles of association. Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards promulgated by the profession. We confirm that we meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

On the basis of our audit and the reports of KPMG London, who were responsible for reviewing that the income and expenditure relating to the operations of the ICRC in the field have been correctly accounted for, we conclude that the books of account and the financial statements are in accordance with articles 957 and onwards of the Swiss Code of Obligations and the articles of incorporation.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

The account of income and expenditure/charges includes a column which sets out the gifts in kind or of services received by the ICRC. This consists of statistical information not recorded in the books of account. We have not examined this information. This data has been reviewed, however, as part of the review work performed by KPMG.

Geneva, April 5, 1996
ATAG Ernst & Young SA

M. Maglock
Swiss certified accountant
(Auditor in charge)

G. Moinat
Swiss certified accountant
SPECIAL FUNDS

FOUNDATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>1,580,469</td>
<td>Inalienable capital</td>
<td>1,391,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value: Sfr 1,724,923)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Inalienable reserve</td>
<td>347,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time deposits</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>Total capital</td>
<td>1,738,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern (withholding tax refund)</td>
<td>10,127</td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>69,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>17,428</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,808,024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank and custody charges</td>
<td>9,232</td>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase / sale of securities</td>
<td>4,591</td>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>55,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium on purchase / loss on sale of securities</td>
<td>40,151</td>
<td>Income from time deposits</td>
<td>8,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>2,773</td>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on exchange rates</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Profit on refund of securities</td>
<td>59,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>56,857</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1995: 141,528

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 1995**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>134,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value: Sfr 151,398)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern</td>
<td>1,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(withholding tax refund)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>12,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross,</td>
<td>3,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>current account</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LIABILITIES**

| Inalienable capital                        | 100,000 |
| Provision for portfolio variation          | 18,470  |
| Florence Nightingale Medal Fund,           |        |
| current account                             |        |
| Balance brought forward from 1994          | 27,454  |
| Excess of receipts over expenditure        | 5,390   |
| in 1995                                     |        |

**RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1995**

**EXPENDITURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank and custody charges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RECEIPTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income from securities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESULT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ESTABLISHMENT**

In 1890, 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**

In view of the above decision, the same as for the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund.

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 1995

ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities .........................................</td>
<td>162,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value : Sfr 173,134)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock of medals ....................................</td>
<td>51,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(withholding tax refund)</td>
<td>657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>1,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta Fund, current account</td>
<td>32,844</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Reserve :
| Balance brought forward from 1994...              | 119,083|
| Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1995.......| 472    |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | 54,442 |

248,997

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1995

EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of medals, printing and dispatching circulars</td>
<td>10,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank and custody charges................................</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase of securities...................</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees ...........................................</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12,107

RECEIPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allocation of the excess of receipts over expenditure at 31 December 1995 of the Augusta Fund, in accordance with the decision of the Twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross</td>
<td>5,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from securities................................</td>
<td>7,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest ........................................</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12,579

RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1995.................................................. 472

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 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", in honour of the life and work of Florence Nightingale.

ADMINISTRATION

A Commission composed of five ICRC representatives, including four Committee members.

The medal may be awarded to Red Cross and Red Crescent nurses and voluntary aides for having distinguished themselves by their service to sick and wounded people in time of peace or war.

The medal is awarded every two years by the ICRC on the basis of proposals made to it by the National Societies.

Only 50 medals may be distributed at any one time.
### CLARE R. BENEDICT FUND

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>2,193,195</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>1,395,409</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value : USD 3,334,370)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Provision for portfolio variation :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time deposits</td>
<td>264,957</td>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1994..</td>
<td>603,006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern</td>
<td>28,926</td>
<td>Reduction of the provision for</td>
<td>165,100</td>
<td>437,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(withholding tax refund)</td>
<td></td>
<td>portfolio variation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>143,084</td>
<td>Receipts and expenditure account :</td>
<td></td>
<td>793,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1994..</td>
<td>225,429</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Attribution decided in 1995........</td>
<td>(225,429)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1995</td>
<td>793,541</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>3,306</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,630,162</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,630,162</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank and custody charges</td>
<td>36,850</td>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>203,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase / sale of securities</td>
<td>9,559</td>
<td>Income from time deposits</td>
<td>10,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium on purchase / loss on sale of securities</td>
<td>45,506</td>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>11,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>3,305</td>
<td>Discount on purchase / profit on sale of securities</td>
<td>465,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Net profit on exchange rates</td>
<td>32,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reduction of the provision for portfolio variation</td>
<td>165,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>95,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>888,761</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1995 for attribution.................................................. 793,541

---

**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.
### MAURICE DE MADRE FRENCH FUND

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1995**

**ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities ...........................................</td>
<td>2,943,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value : Sfr 3,211,290)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern</td>
<td>49,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(withholding tax refund)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>32,959</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Assets**

3,025,608

**LIABILITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital :</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1994... 3,001,271</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of expenditure over receipts in 1995... (140,539)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total capital</td>
<td>2,860,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependant's allowance</td>
<td>13,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>151,151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Liabilities**

3,025,608

### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1995

**EXPENDITURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allocations</td>
<td>186,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank and custody charges</td>
<td>20,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium on purchase / loss on sale of securities</td>
<td>98,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>4,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenditure**

309,283

**RECEIPTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>118,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from time deposits</td>
<td>4,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount on purchase / profit on sale of securities</td>
<td>42,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>3,051</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Receipts**

168,744

**RESULT**

**Excess of expenditure over receipts in 1995**

(140,539)

**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 of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- one representative of the de Madre family;
- one Swiss lawyer.
OMAR EL MUKTAR FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>726,758</td>
<td>Initial capital</td>
<td>650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value: USD 1,060,748)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern</td>
<td>3,272</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(withholding tax refund)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>9,343</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>739,373</strong></td>
<td><strong>Receipts and expenditure account</strong></td>
<td><strong>88,549</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1994</td>
<td>52,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Attribution decided in 1995</td>
<td>(52,472)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure</td>
<td><strong>88,549</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>in 1995</td>
<td><strong>88,549</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>International Committee of the</td>
<td>824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Red Cross, current account</td>
<td><strong>739,373</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank and custody charges</td>
<td>5,971</td>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>43,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase / sale of securities</td>
<td>4,182</td>
<td>Income from time deposits</td>
<td>3,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on sale of securities</td>
<td>13,487</td>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>Discount on purchase / profit on sale of securities</td>
<td>54,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Net profit on exchange rates</td>
<td>10,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>24,464</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>113,013</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1995 for attribution | **88,549**

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 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>225,900</td>
<td>Initial capital</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value : Sfr 247,150)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1994</td>
<td>27,670</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern</td>
<td>3,689</td>
<td>Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1995</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(withholding tax refund)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td>29,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>40,338</td>
<td>Balance brought forward from 1994</td>
<td></td>
<td>35,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>269,927</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>269,927</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank and custody charges</td>
<td>4,422</td>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>10,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>5,016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,833</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1995 .................................................. 1,490

**ESTABLISHMENT**

Pursuant to decision No. 1 of the Executive Board of 6 January 1983.

**PURPOSE**

The Fund's initial capital of Sfr 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 1995

**ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>2,579,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(market value : Sfr 3,280,392)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Administration, Bern (withholding tax refund)</td>
<td>10,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>136,057</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LIABILITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sfr</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 1994</td>
<td>1,436,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of expenditure over receipts in 1995</td>
<td>(164,552)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total capital**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reserve funds (Cambodia project)</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>254,022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2,725,526</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1995

**EXPENDITURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure for prosthetic / orthotic programmes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Training - Ethiopia</td>
<td>171,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Centre equipment - Nigeria</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Centre fees - Ho Chi Minh</td>
<td>79,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank and custody charges</td>
<td>19,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges on purchase / sale of securities</td>
<td>6,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium on purchase / loss on sale of securities</td>
<td>25,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>4,295</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>306,858</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RECEIPTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>2,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from securities</td>
<td>79,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from time deposits</td>
<td>44,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount on purchase of securities</td>
<td>14,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net profit on exchange rates</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total receipts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>142,306</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESULT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess of expenditure over receipts 1995</td>
<td>(164,552)</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 Department of Finance, Administration and Information Technology 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 Medical Division;
- one representative of the Operations Department appointed by the Director of Operations.
RELIEF AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TABLES

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

Relief and medical supplies dispatched by the ICRC in 1995:
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 1995.

Contributions in kind received and purchases made by the ICRC in 1995:
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 1995. 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 Sfr 177,348,211 therefore corresponds to the grand total given in the table “Relief and medical supplies dispatched by the ICRC in 1995”.

ICRC relief and medical distributions in 1995:
All relief and medical goods distributed by the ICRC in the field between 1 January and 31 December 1995. These goods were either purchased or received in kind during 1995 or taken from stocks already constituted at the end of 1994.
RELIEF SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC IN 1995
(by receiving countries, according to stock entry date)
COUNTRIES

GIFTS
MEDICAL
(Sfr)

AFRICA
Angola
Burundi
Cape Verde
Chad
Ethiopia
Ghana
Gambia
Guinea
Côte d'Ivoire
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mozambique
Niger
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
Sudan
Tanzania
Uganda
Zaire
Zimbabwe
Regional stock in Kenya

WESTERN & CENTRAL EUROPE
Former Yugoslavia
EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Georgia
Russian Federation
Tajikistan
Emergency stock "Caucasus"
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
Algeria
Iraq
Israel, the occ. terr. & the autonomous terr.
Lebanon
Yemen

MEDICAL
(Sfr)

RELIEF
(Sfr)

(Tonnes)

TOTAL
(Sfr)

29,378.5

11,553,229

28,743,260

31,644.6

12,075,182

50,059,390

61,023.1

62,134,572

6,750,825
1,345,757

9,334.9
594.2

1,418,103
431,447
3,344
42,767
285,985
5,249

4,328,809
960,408

5,467.9
297.1

11,079,634
2,306,165

14,802.8
891.3

44,084
115,668
106,228
5,002

62.8
26.1
24.0
0.6

1,572,389
431,447
3,344
42,767
285,985
5,249

44,084
115,668
106,228
5,002

62.8
26.1
24.0
0.6

3,874

11.1

6,494
28,585
290,731

10.2
8.9
119.4

12,418
10,393,935
16,839
116,370
4,285,097
226,016
1,656,343

2.0
10,192.2
31.0
69.5
3,822.9
185.2
1,434.2

8,729
895,754
9,492
5,232,384

7.7
1,102.9
0.6
8,768.3

12,652,023
2,737,612
3,344
86,851
401,653
111,477
5,002
2,130
15,687
50,014
134,263
35,651
164,837
354,664
203,421
12,418
27,538,390
16,839
128,027
5,946,306
226,016
4.478,352
10,936
23,094
1.168,887
19,217
5.607.461

276,718
46,598
24,076
97,287
4,486
104,271

570,918
23,619

627.6
15.8

59,795
381,046
106,458

3,600
29,000

50.0

51,034

5.1

12,530,180

19,249.7

18,060

4,614,275
11,657
1,469,775

191,434
172,633

2,130
15,687
46,140
130,663
157
136,252
12,899
203,421

183,807

76.2

840
49,610

0.1
8.0

375,077

60.3

81,648

13.6

2,465,569
10,936
13,525
223,523
9,725

2,130
15,687
46,140
134,263
157
136,252
12,899
203,421
4,614,275
11.657
1,661.209
2,638,202
10,936
13,525
223,523
9,725
276,718

3,874

11.1

35,494
28,585
341,765

60.2
8.9
124.5

12,418
22,924,115
16,839
116,370
4,285,097
226,016
1,840,150

2.0
29,441.9
31.0
69.5
3,822.9
185.2
1,510.4

9,569
945.364
9,492
5,607,461

7.8
1,110.9
0.6
8,828.6

652,566
23,619

641.2
15.8

39.8
532.7
39.3

46,598
24,076
97,287
4,486
104,271

59,795
462,694
106,458

39.8
546.3
39.3

929,284
70,217
24,076
157,082
467,180
210,729

81,648

13.6

1,223,558

5,312.8

4,369,002

6,352,423

9,160.5

4,387,062

7,575,981

14,473.3

11,963,043

1,223,558

5,312.8

2,956,338
662,936
73,777
30,276
287,416
2,168
324,587
31,504

5,311,552
54,519
21,960

8,498.2
27.2
7.0

6,535,110
54,519
21,960

13,811.0
27.2
7.0

90,444
34,005
839,943

91.9
22.6
513.6

2,956,338
662,936
91.837
30,276
287,416
2,168
324.587
31,504

90,444
34.005
839,943

91.9
22.6
513.6

9,491.448
717,455
113,797
30,276
377,860
36,173
1,164,530
31.504

18,060

5,928,617

11,698,931

4,905.4

20,345,827

19,199,102

11,130.0

26,274,444

30,898,033

16,035.4

5,928,617

11,698,931

4,905.4

20,345,827

19,199,102

11,130.0

26,274,444

30,898,033

16,035.4

57,172,477

301,022

14,643,885

5,017.5

4,069,507

19,276,054

10,886.5

4,370,529

33,919,939

15,904.0

38,290,468

3,409.1
35.9
1,572.5

109,780
321,971
498,617
2,558,331
39,327
541,481

1,169,818
15,208
2,242,259
11.703,138
340,719
3,804,912

792.0
7.1
1,469.4
6,556.1
215.6
1,846.3

109,780
321.971
498,617
2,859,353
39,327
541,481

1,169,818
15,208
2,242,259
22,525.975
358,209
7,608,470

792.0
7.1
1.469.4
9.965.2
251.5
3,418.8

1,279,598
337,179
2,740,876
25,385,328
397,536
8,149,951

5,297,328

914,397

306.2

5,431,324

914,397

306.2

6,345,721

24,668
789,751
55,964
44,014

3.9
241.8
35.8
24.7

1,469
4,991,391
39.287
345,826
53,351

24,668
789,751
55,964
44,014

3.9
241.8
35.8
24.7

1,469
5,016.059
829.038
401,790
97,365

512,646

113.4

512,646

113.4

512,646

512,646

113.4

512,646

113.4

512,646

75,568,800

63,868.8

124,532,952

108,496.6

177,348,211

301,022

10,822,837
17,490
3,803,558

133,996

1,469
4.857,395
39,287
345,826
53,351

133,996

EMERGENCY STOCKS W. EUROPE

340

MEDICAL
(Sfr)

21,316,130

Stocks in Brussels and Geneva
GRAND TOTAL

TOTAL DISPATCHED

RELIEF
(Tonnes)
(Sfr)

154,286

Colombia
Equador
Haiti
Mexico
Peru
ASIA & THE PACIFIC

RELIEF
(Sfr)
(Tonnes)

521,953

THE AMERICAS

Afghanistan
Cambodia
Indonesia
Myanmar
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan)
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Vietnam

PURCHASES BY THE ICRC

IN KIND

6,903,648

48,964,152

44,627.8

45,911,611

52,815,259

57,172,477


### Contributions in Kind Received and Purchases Made by the ICRC in 1995

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

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| ICRC PURCHASES (non-earmarked) | 17,453.7 | 1,690.8 | 290,930 | 631 | 2,360 | 94.2 | 2,727.2 | 23,335,729 | 42,747,787 | 66,083,516 |
| ICRC PURCHASES (cash for kind) | 29,969.6 | 5,506.0 | 507,210 | 442 | 36,750 | 46.8 | 4,941.4 | 52,233,071 | 3,163,824 | 55,396,895 |
| **TOTAL ICRC PURCHASES** | 47,423.3 | 7,196.8 | 798,140 | 1,073 | 39,110 | 141.0 | 7,668.6 | 75,568,800 | 45,911,611 | 121,480,411 |

| **GRAND TOTAL** | 87,116.3 | 8,077.4 | 1,760,545 | 4,611 | 40,010 | 562.1 | 9,669.8 | 124,532,952 | 52,815,259 | 177,348,211 |

(1) Partly financed by the European Union (Swfr 3,870,040.-)
(2) Goods from stocks of local National Societies, original donors not determined.
### RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1995

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<td>Algeria</td>
<td>1,469</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>4,917,680</td>
<td>803,799</td>
<td>181.0</td>
<td>5,721,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel, the occupied terr. &amp; the autonomous territories</td>
<td>39,287</td>
<td>880,919</td>
<td>243.0</td>
<td>887,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>351,265</td>
<td>79,754</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>431,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>157,469</td>
<td>91,143</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>248,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>51,876,994</td>
<td>118,637,768</td>
<td>115,227.8</td>
<td>170,514,762</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes
- The figures represent the total relief supplies distributed by the ICRC in 1995, including medical supplies and relief goods.
- The countries are listed alphabetically within each region.
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 Ulrich Gaudenz Middendorp, Doctor of Medicine, lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of Zurich University, former head of the surgical department of the Cantonal Hospital, Winterthur, (1973).

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, member of the Swiss Pro Juventute Foundation, (1987).

Mrs Liselotte Kraus-Gurny, Doctor of Laws of Zurich University, (1988).

Ms Susy Bruschweiler, nurse, former Director of the Swiss Red Cross College of Nursing in Aarau, Chairwoman of S-V Service contract catering, (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).


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).

1 As at 31 December 1995.
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 (France), Master of Arts of Stanford University (USA), member of the Administrative Council of Cologny (Switzerland), (1993).

Mr Ernst A. Brugger, Doctor of Natural Science, general manager of FUNDES (a private foundation for sustainable development), consultant for economic development issues, professor at the University of Zurich, (1995).

HONORARY MEMBERS: Mr Jean Pictet, Honorary Vice-President, Mr Maurice Aubert, 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 Pierre Languetin, Mr Olivier Long, Mr Marcel A. Naville, Mr Richard Pestalozzi, Mr Raymond R. Probst, Mr Alain Rossier, Mr Dietrich Schindler, Mr Hans Peter Tschudi, Dr Alfredo Vannotti.

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Mr Yves Sandoz, Director of Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement