ICRC ACTIVITY IN LEBANON

The following press release was issued on 25 May 1976:

The International Committee of the Red Cross needs worldwide financial assistance if it is to continue and increase its humanitarian activities in Lebanon. For the next four months it needs 21 million Swiss francs. To raise this amount the ICRC has launched an urgent appeal to governments and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

According to the ICRC, the supply of medicines to Lebanese hospitals crowded with war wounded is of utmost importance; often even the most elementary drugs and instruments have run out in these hospitals. In addition, some 150,000 Lebanese desperately need food and medical assistance; these are mostly displaced people who have lost their homes in this civil war.

So far the ICRC has sent some 350 tonnes of relief to the Lebanon —mainly medicines. These goods valued at about 6 million Swiss francs were for all the victims, to whichever side they belonged.

The ICRC has 25 delegates in the Lebanon, including 11 Nordic Red Cross doctors and nurses who run the ICRC field hospital in Beirut.