

## *EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

### **Africa**

#### **South Africa**

The ICRC delegation in the Republic of South Africa carried out between 31 August and 18 September a series of visits to security detainees. A team of delegates, accompanied by the ICRC delegate-general for Africa, Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, visited six places of detention holding 505 sentenced security detainees, including 473 in Robben Island and six women detained in Pretoria.

During this period, the delegation also continued distributing food parcels to detainees' families. It also paid for transport vouchers enabling these families to visit their relatives in prison. The overall cost of this assistance amounts to an average of 42,000 Swiss francs a month.

On 2 September, an ICRC delegate, accompanied by a medical delegate, visited in Pretoria a Soviet prisoner captured in southern Angola at the end of August by the South African armed forces. Another visit was made to him on 24 September, in the company of an ICRC interpreter from Geneva.

#### **Namibia**

On 9 October, ICRC delegates visited 10 wounded Angolan prisoners in a hospital in northern Namibia and the following day, in the south of the country, 69 Angolan prisoners who were not wounded or only slightly so. Reports on these visits will be sent to the governments of the Republic of South Africa and of the People's Republic of Angola.

On 6 August, an ICRC delegate visited three detainees (2 men and 1 woman) in Windhoek central prison. In Namibia, as in the Republic of South Africa, the delegation has launched an assistance programme for detainees' families.

**Gambia**

An ICRC delegate was in Gambia from 24 September to 8 October. He had interviews with the Secretary General of the President's Office, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Health, Labour and Social Affairs, the General Inspector of Police and with several leaders of the Gambian Red Cross. He reminded them of the ICRC's offers of services, made during two missions in August, to carry out protection activities in aid of persons detained following the events of last July.

During his stay in Banjul, the delegate supplied the authorities with soap to be distributed to detainees.

Since August, the ICRC has provided detainees with relief amounting to almost 9,000 Swiss francs and medicaments for over 16,000 francs.

**Chad**

The ICRC delegation in Chad was closed on 6 October. An ICRC physiotherapist will remain in N'Djamena to take part in the Catholic Mission's orthopedic programme for war amputees.

**Zambia**

The ICRC has made an offer of services to the Zambian authorities to carry out protection activities in the country.

The ICRC has decided to share in the financing of a project of the Zambian Red Cross to build a storehouse in Lusaka.

**Botswana**

The ICRC has offered the Botswana Red Cross a fully equipped mobile office for the city of Gaborone.

**Angola**

Following armed clashes in southern Angola at the end of August, the ICRC offered its services to the Angolan authorities, proposing to dispatch a team to assess the situation in the area. On 2 September, the offer was officially accepted by the Angolan authorities; the South African authorities, for their part, gave the necessary guarantees. The main purpose of the mission was to assess the medical situation.

A team of three delegates, led by the ICRC chief medical officer, Dr. Rémi Russbach, left Luanda by plane on 3 September and went to Lubango, chief town of the province of Huila, with the intention of

continuing further south to N'Giva, chief town of the province of Kunene. However, because of the danger they were unable to continue their journey. A small sub-delegation was opened in Lubango, to protect and assist the victims of the conflict. Medical supplies, in particular dressing material, were sent there to be used on the spot.

To continue the relief operation in the Planalto region, the ICRC had to overcome enormous difficulties in conveying supplies to the area. For almost six months, transportation of food to Katchiungo posed very considerable problems and to Bailundo it proved almost impossible. Relief distributions in the area were done as much as possible by ICRC aircraft. The nutritional state of the population nevertheless deteriorated.

The situation improved only in October. After months of interruption, the railway was brought back into operation and the ICRC was able to send 265 tons of food, in two convoys, from the port of Lobito to Huambo, to the ICRC special feeding centres in the Planalto area.

During the second half of October, ICRC activities in the Planalto region proceeded according to plan. In Bailundo, some 39 tons of relief were distributed to 13,000 needy persons and 2,264 medical consultations were given. In Katchiungo, pre-cooked meals (representing over 41 tons of food) were distributed to some 10,000 persons in 33 special feeding centres. Moreover, 4.6 tons of various food products were handed over to 550 persons at the Cangola leper colony, in the province of Bié.

## **Zaire**

From May to September, the ICRC head of delegation and the delegate in charge of tracing activities in Zaire visited a score of places of detention in the provinces of Kivu and Shaba and saw 1,939 detainees. During these visits they provided some material assistance.

The tracing agency office recorded the names of these detainees and attempted to trace members of their families, so as to re-establish contact between them.

## **Uganda**

Some months ago the Ugandan government announced an amnesty of 3,000 detainees, and 1,425 persons were released at the end of July. A further 1,098 detainees were released on 7 October. Among them were soldiers and members of the police force of the previous regime,

detained in Jinja, Luzira Upper and Murchison Bay prisons. These detainees had been visited once a week by ICRC delegates. ICRC representatives were present when the second group of detainees was released and they gave them clothes, blankets and soap.

In the area of Kampala, the general situation seemed to have improved to a certain extent; there nevertheless still remained much humanitarian work to do to meet all needs. In co-operation with the Ugandan Red Cross, the ICRC delegation continued to distribute relief to the many persons whose belongings had been looted. About 1,000 people received such assistance in the Mukono district.

The delegation continued its protection and assistance in the West Nile province. The medical team still regularly visited dispensaries in the Arua district. In the province, particularly in Arua, needs were considerable. The delegation tried to assist persons victims of looting and extortions. An aircraft, chartered by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, conveyed, on 23 October, 2,300 kilos of clothing given by that National Society and which the delegation will distribute to displaced persons. The same plane also transported 2,000 shirts and 2,000 pairs of trousers offered by the Swiss Red Cross for detainees.

The tracing agency office in Kampala deals with the registration of detainees, the exchange of messages between detainees and their families and the tracing of displaced persons. The agency offices in neighbouring countries, i. e. Zaire, the Sudan and Kenya, where many Ugandans have taken refuge, also have a considerable amount of work, in connection with problems in the West Nile province, to trace the members of dispersed families and to exchange family news.

## **Horn of Africa**

The Horn of Africa is currently the scene of conflicts and there are considerable humanitarian needs over wide expanses of territory. Unfortunately the ICRC has considerable difficulty in carrying out its protection activities. Its visits to Somali prisoners of war in Ethiopia have been suspended; it has had only occasional access to a few Ethiopian prisoners of war in Somalia; various obstacles have arisen in its negotiations with some of the liberation movements. Despite repeated efforts over the past year no progress has been achieved in negotiations with the authorities and governments involved.

Concerned by this situation in which the ICRC is unable to discharge its humanitarian tasks, the International Red Cross Conference, meeting

in Manila in November, adopted Resolution No. IV, the text of which is included in this Review.

Throughout the area, the ICRC has continued its assistance activities for the victims of events.

In the *Sudan*, the ICRC delegation in Khartoum is continuing to help refugees of various origins staying now on Sudanese territory. In October, a special assistance programme was launched on the western border to bring relief to about 11,000 refugees, victims of recent fighting.

In order to deal with the ever-increasing requests to trace members of separated refugee families, the tracing agency office has opened several sub-offices run by local staff working under the responsibility of the ICRC delegate in Khartoum. The network covers seven refugee camps throughout the country.

In Somalia, in October, medicaments amounting to 5,000 Swiss francs were sent to the Somali Red Crescent for the victims of disturbances in the area of Belt-Huen.

In *Ethiopia*, the ICRC delegation is supplying relief goods to the Ethiopian Red Cross for distribution in the provinces.

At the Debre Zeit Orthopedic Centre a team of ICRC specialists has been doing rehabilitation work for the war disabled since 1979. The ICRC is preparing to withdraw the team in the near future, for the Centre will be able to operate independently thanks to the staff trained there. The ICRC is nevertheless thinking of having an orthopedist and a physiotherapist stay on until June 1982.

In the course of a ceremony on 6 October, 27 diplomas and 9 certificates were handed to assistant physiotherapists and orthopedists trained in the Debre Zeit Centre.

## **Latin America**

### **Argentina**

From June to mid-August, ICRC delegates made a visit to each of the main Argentinian places of detention, i. e. Caseros, Villa Devoto, Rawson and La Plata, and saw 1,307 detainees. They also went to Mendoza (23 detainees), Ezeiza (2 detainees), Magdalena (3 detainees), the Borda hospital (2 detainees) and the Moyano hospital (2 detainees).

The delegation negotiated with the Argentinian authorities new visiting procedures that will enter into force in November and give greater facilities to the ICRC when visiting places of detention.

## El Salvador

The ICRC delegation in El Salvador has been continuing its protection and assistance to persons affected by the events.

Assistance activities have included relief distributions, in July and August, to villages of the conflict zones in the department of Morazan. In August, however, these villages became inaccessible for almost two weeks, because of the danger. On 21 August, the area became accessible once again and food distributions are proceeding normally. In September, 13 villages were visited and food supplied once a week to some 25,000 persons. In all, distributions in the course of the month amounted to 349 tons of relief. The needs were such that the delegates sometimes had to provide relief to the local population as well as to displaced persons. The medical team gave care to the population in five of these villages, which received no medical attention from the Ministry of Health.

Protection activities in August and September included regular visits by ICRC delegates to the penal centres and hospital wards of the Ministry of Justice, where some 370 security detainees were being held. The delegates also made repeated visits to 40 security posts (of the National Police, National Guard and "Policía de Hacienda"), to 26 barracks of the Ministry of Defence and Public Security and to 15 municipal prisons. During this 2-month period 211 detainees were seen for the first time.

A previous issue of *International Review* reported on the inauguration in San Salvador of a blood collection centre. The centre is working well and since its opening on 7 May, some 800 donors have given their blood.

## Nicaragua

On 8 October, the ICRC delegation visited the "Comando Central Carlos Fonseca Amador" detention centre in Matagalpa, where it saw 211 detainees, including 4 security detainees of direct concern to the ICRC. This was the first ICRC visit to a place of detention run by the police.

On 12 October, ICRC delegates visited the "Orlando Bettancourt" centre at Chinandega. Among the 468 detainees held there, 8 belonged to categories of prisoners visited by the ICRC.

A medical delegate, Dr Marti, and a nurse began giving basic hygiene and medical courses at the former "Zona Franca" prison, in order to improve the medical care provided there.

## Uruguay

During his last mission to Montevideo, the ICRC regional delegate, Mr. Edmond Corthésy, had an interview on 22 October with high government officials on the possibility of resuming ICRC visits to places of detention. He was assured that the authorities agreed in principle, but that various details of procedure would still have to be laid down.

## Asia

### Activities on the Khmer/Thai border

The ICRC delegation has been pursuing its activities in aid of refugees along the border between Kampuchea and Thailand. During September and October, the situation in the area was relatively calm.

As before, ICRC medical organization includes one team working at the Khao-I-Dang surgical hospital and two in the camps around Aranyaprathet. There have been no major medical problems in September and October.

The delegation has continued its efforts to extend its protection activities for prisoners in various detention centres along the border. ICRC delegates have visited three detention centres under Khmer responsibility and in August, for the first time, they saw seventeen Vietnamese civilians detained in Phnom Chat. However, the ICRC does not yet have access to all prisoners or persons detained along the border and is pursuing its negotiations with the various Khmer groups in order to obtain the necessary facilities for what it considers to be an important protection activity.

The ICRC delegation in Thailand and head office in Geneva carried on their discussions with the Thai authorities and their representatives in August, September and October in order to find a solution to the problem posed by the 650 refugees of Vietnamese origin blocked on the Khmer/Thai border. Pending a satisfactory solution, particularly to the problem of safety, the ICRC is providing them with food and material assistance in their places of refuge.

During September and October, the ICRC delegation supplied the border refugee camps with some 130,000 dollars worth of medicaments and medical equipment and about 14,000 dollars worth of relief goods (food, shelters, building materials, etc.).

During that same period, assistance provided by the Thai Red Cross to the Thai population living close to the border, i.e. about 80,000 per-

sons whose lives are perturbed by the presence of refugees, continued with the co-operation of the ICRC. This assistance consists of food and medical care.

Tracing agency activities, i.e. the search for missing persons and the exchange of correspondence between separated persons, continued as before.

The ICRC delegation has recently had an opportunity to disseminate the principles and ideals of the Red Cross among various Khmer factions: the *Soldier's Manual* has been distributed in three different zones along the border.

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At the moment the ICRC is making a special effort to get all Khmer tendencies represented in the border area to enable it to provide proper protection and assistance to all captured or detained persons in accordance with the criteria of the International Red Cross.

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The ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, Mr. Jean de Courten, and the ICRC chief medical officer, Dr Rémi Russbach, were in Thailand and Kampuchea from 26 October to 1 November. They were joined in Bangkok on 2 November by the ICRC director of operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké.

The purpose of their mission was to have discussions with the ICRC delegation and the authorities on current ICRC activities and on tasks scheduled for the coming months.

### **Kampuchea**

The problem of unaccompanied Khmer children among the refugees in the border area has been mentioned before. The ICRC previously transmitted to the Cambodian authorities the identification files, with photographs, of several hundred children, so as to try and trace their families within Kampuchea.

Measures have been taken to seek the families of these children and several have indeed been located. The ICRC is currently in touch with the Thai authorities and HCR in order to make arrangements for these children to be reunited with their families as rapidly as possible.

In October, ICRC delegates visited orphanages in Krakor, Pursat, Batambang, Kratie and Svay Rieng to plan possible assistance to these orphanages and to avoid overlapping with other organizations.

In September and October, the ICRC aircraft conveyed about 65 tons of relief to Kampuchea in 26 flights from Bangkok to Phnom Penh.

### **Boat people and piracy**

Many of the refugees leaving Viet Nam by sea are attacked by pirates before reaching a country of first asylum. In July, the ICRC and the HCR took the initiative of gathering in Geneva, with the League and UNICEF, a number of representatives of various countries to discuss this humanitarian problem. Other meetings followed in August, September and October, with an ever-increasing number of participants. The meeting on 28 October was attended by 25 representatives of 15 permanent missions, including six ambassadors.

They were reminded that under the 1958 Convention on the High Seas all States are under the obligation to co-operate in the repression of piracy on the high seas and that coastal States must prevent and punish acts of piracy in their territorial waters. Participants recognized the inadequacy of measures taken hitherto. They are considering forming a working group to set up a joint operation of sufficient scale and the various governments have been requested to express their commitment in the struggle against piracy in the area.

The International Red Cross and the governments represented at the International Red Cross Conference in Manila adopted a resolution on piracy, the text of which is included in this issue of the Review.

### **Malaysia**

From 12 to 17 October, the two ICRC regional delegates stationed in Kuala Lumpur, Mr. David Delapraz and Mr. Jean-François Olivier, accompanied by a medical delegate, Dr. Vallet, visited two places of detention and saw 390 persons detained under the law on internal security.

### **Pakistan**

On 1 September, the ICRC and the Pakistani Red Crescent concluded an agreement to improve the conveyance to hospital of Afghan wounded arriving in Pakistan.

Three medical teams run by the National Society, each including one physician and equipped with an ambulance, will deal with the

wounded in the first-aid centres in Parachinar, Bajour and Dir, and transport them to the ICRC surgical hospital in Peshawar. The Pakistani Red Crescent and the ICRC will regularly check and adapt this arrangement to needs and priorities. The three teams began working at the end of September and have already transported a large number of casualties to Peshawar.

The ICRC deputy chief medical officer, Dr. R. Arbex, was on mission in Peshawar from 16 to 25 September to make a new assessment of the delegation's medical activities.

At the ICRC surgical hospital in Peshawar, the number of Afghan war wounded under treatment is increasing constantly and at the end of September there were 75 to 80 casualties in the hospital. The capacity of the hospital was 45 to 65 beds when it was opened in June; it was increased to 110-120 beds. Medical staff has been strengthened accordingly: one additional physician, anaesthetist and nurse were sent to Peshawar at the beginning of October.

The ICRC hospital in Peshawar includes a small unit specialized in treatment for paraplegics and 17 patients are already being cared for there. Further paraplegic patients are expected.

## **Afghanistan**

In October, the ICRC once again proposed to the Government of the People's Republic of Afghanistan to send a mission to Kabul to examine the possibility of an ICRC assistance and protection operation for the victims of the Afghan conflict. The offer was rejected by the Afghan authorities. The ICRC is nevertheless continuing to try and convince all parties concerned to let it intervene in Afghanistan and carry out especially protection activities, for persons captured or arrested during the conflict are in a most tragic situation.

Meeting in Manila in November, the International Red Cross Conference, noting that the ICRC was unable to discharge its humanitarian tasks in Afghanistan, adopted a resolution on the subject (Resolution IV), the text of which is included in this Review.

## **Middle East**

### **Iraq/Iran conflict**

The ICRC delegate-general for the Middle East, Mr. Jean Hoefliger, went to Teheran on 30 September and had a series of interviews with

members of the Government, including the Prime Minister and the Commander in Chief of the Army.

ICRC President Alexandre Hay, accompanied by delegate-general Jean Hoefliger, was on mission in Baghdad from 18 to 23 October. The ICRC representatives had discussions with members of the Government on ICRC protection activities for Iranian prisoners in Iraq.

### *Prisoners of war*

For four days at the end of September, the ICRC delegation in Baghdad visited Iranian prisoner-of-war camps in Iraq. In discussing these visits with the Iraqi authorities, the President of the ICRC expressed the hope that the ICRC would be authorized to visit all prisoners in Iraq and that detained Iranian civilians would be treated differently from military prisoners of war.

On 24 October, Iraq informed the ICRC that it agreed to send back to Iran, unilaterally and without reciprocity 37 Iranian civilians (mainly women and elderly persons). This proposal was transmitted to Iran, which accepted it. The operation should take place in the near future.

At the end of October and the beginning of November, the ICRC delegation carried out normally several visits to prisoner-of-war camps in Iraq.

The ICRC has been continuing its tracing activities for prisoners of war belonging to both parties of the conflict. These activities include recording the names of prisoners, sending capture cards to the authorities of the countries of origin and exchanging family messages which enable prisoners to remain in contact with their relatives. At the end of October, some 137,000 messages had been exchanged through the ICRC.

### *Occupied territories and displaced persons*

On 5 and 6 October, ICRC delegates went to assess the situation in the Iranian territories of Qasr-i-Shirin and Mehran occupied by the Iraqi armed forces. They found no Iranians: the entire population had fled the area at the beginning of the hostilities.

Since February 1981, the ICRC delegation in Teheran has made several visits to camps in the interior of Iran for displaced persons having fled the zones of fighting. They had noted no major problems in these camps, but in October the Iranian Government asked the ICRC to concern itself with the problems of these displaced persons and a new survey is accordingly being carried out.

**Iran**

The authorization granted to the ICRC delegation in Teheran to visit Iranian persons detained by the Islamic Revolutionary Courts expired on 13 September and has not been renewed despite the efforts made by the delegation and the delegate-general during his interviews with government officials at the beginning of October.

**Lebanon**

There was no widespread fighting in Lebanon during September and October. At the ICRC's request, the Swiss Red Cross decided to supply the Lebanese Red Cross with 50 bags of human blood a week, for a period of two months, in order to cover the needs arising from the situation and the violence affecting the civilian population.

The ICRC delegation has continued visiting hospitals, dispensaries and emergency centres and has supplied them with medicaments and medical equipment when necessary. The delegates have also continued their tracing agency activities throughout the country.

On 13 September, 13 ambulances in convoy left Bonn (Federal Republic of Germany) and were driven to Lebanon. All these vehicles, a gift from the ICRC, arrived in Beirut on 26 September. The German Red Cross in Bonn organized the journey from Bonn to the Syrian/Lebanese border; from there the ICRC delegates escorted the vehicles to Beirut. Two more ambulances provided by the ICRC left Geneva on 14 September and arrived in Beirut harbour at the beginning of October, where they were taken over by ICRC delegates.

**Jordan**

On 28 September, the ICRC delegation in Amman began a new series of visits to the places of detention in Jordan. These visits to 16 places of detention holding some 2,850 detainees were made over a period of nine weeks by two delegates. The previous series of visits had been carried out in May and June.

**Israel and Occupied Territories**

In September, the ICRC delegation in Israel and the Occupied Territories continued its visits to security detainees under interrogation held by the army (244 visits) and to detainees on remand or sentenced

in places of detention (Ramallah, Hebron, Beersheba) run by the prison service. Two special visits were made to Chattah and Nafha prisons.

Identical visits were carried out in October to 212 detainees under interrogation and detainees on remand or sentenced in several places of detention (Ashkelon, Masiahu, Nablus).

Transfers of persons through the demarcation lines were organized under the auspices of the ICRC: in September, two detainees who had benefited from a remission of penalty were transferred, one to Cyprus and the other to Jordan; in October, one person crossed over to Jordan and 4 Israelis returned to Israel by the Allenby bridge.

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Following the Israel Government's decision to apply "the law, jurisdiction and administration of the State" on the Golan Heights, the ICRC wishes to point out that the principle of the inviolability of the rights of protected persons who are in occupied territory is laid down in article 47 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Consequently, the civilian population of the said territory may not be deprived of the benefits of the Fourth Convention by any change introduced into the institutions or laws of that territory. In this manner, the ICRC endeavours to ensure that its activities in aid of the civilian population of this territory are not affected in any way.

On the other hand, in November 1981, at Manila, the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference adopted a resolution (No III) on the occupied territories in the Middle East. The text of the resolution is reproduced in the present issue of this Review.

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