

## *EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

*November-December 1984*

### **Africa**

#### **Missions from Geneva**

Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, ICRC delegate general for Africa, went on mission to *Ethiopia* from 30 October to 11 November. From Addis Ababa, the delegate general visited various places in North Wollo, Tigre and Eritrea. These regions, where conflicts are taking place, are the ones most affected by drought and the ICRC is the only international humanitarian organization actively involved in distributing relief supplies.

During another mission to Ethiopia, from 28 November to 5 December, Mr. Bornet spent a large part of his time in work meetings with different people and, together with Mr. Schubert, president of the American Red Cross who was visiting Ethiopia at the time, he went into the field.

In addition, the delegate general for Africa went on mission to the *Sudan* from 6 to 9 December and had many discussions, in particular with Mr. Omar el-Tayeb, the First Vice-President of the Republic.

For his part, Mr. Jean-David Chappuis, deputy delegate general for Africa, visited *Nigeria*, *Togo* and *Benin*, from 11 to 22 November; in these three countries he met the directors of the National Red Cross Societies and government representatives.

#### **Southern Africa**

Fourteen people detained by UNITA (three Bulgarians held since 25 March 1984 and eleven Portuguese held since 12 June of the same year) were released on 21 November and handed over to the ICRC who chartered an aircraft to fly them to Johannesburg.

The Portuguese were handed over to the consular representatives of their country and the Bulgarians, accompanied by ICRC delegates, were repatriated to Sofia via Zurich.

## **Angola**

Over the last two months of the year there was a sharp increase in aid activities for displaced people in the central part of Angola (the Planalto) despite persistent logistic difficulties and security problems which meant that people had frequently to move from one place to another. In November, 1,047 tonnes of food were distributed to some 93,000 people in the provinces of Huambo, Bie, Benguela and Huila; in December the amount of food aid increased to 1,238 tonnes distributed to 158,000 people.

ICRC medical teams continued their on-the-spot assessment and their findings confirmed the worsening of the food situation both among the people who normally live in the regions visited and the displaced people. By 31 December some 8,800 undernourished children, under six years of age, were being treated in 18 special food centres set up by the ICRC in the provinces of Huambo and Bie.

In addition, medicines and other medical supplies were given to hospitals and dispensaries in zones where the ICRC is in a position to monitor how they are being used.

In November and December the ICRC delegation in Luanda received 98 requests to trace missing persons and forwarded 50 family messages.

At the end of the year, the ICRC unit in Angola numbered 87 people; twenty-one of these were involved in air transport activities and nineteen were supplied by the Red Cross Societies of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

## **Republic of South Africa**

As part of its aid programme on behalf of detainees and their families in need, the ICRC delegation in Pretoria provided relief supplies in November and December to the value of 57,500 Swiss francs (food parcels and travelling expenses for people to visit their relatives being held in detention).

## **Namibia/South-West Africa**

On 13 and 14 December, ICRC delegates visited 15 security detainees in Windhoek prison. Aid for the detainees and their families in need (food parcels, blankets, travelling expenses for families to visit their relatives being held in detention, and various relief supplies) came to about 13,000 Swiss francs.

In addition, a food programme for undernourished children was begun in the province of Damaraland; high-protein food was supplied by the ICRC to hospitals in Khorixas and Rundu.

## **Uganda**

Because of continuing security problems Red Cross relief work in the Mpigi/Mubende/Luwero triangle could still not be resumed during the months of November and December. However, in cooperation with the Ugandan authorities, the ICRC continued to transfer displaced people from a transit camp to safer places where their basic food and medical requirements were taken care of by the government's relief department and the charitable organization "Save the Children Fund". Both of these obtained their supplies from Red Cross depots.

On 22 December two ICRC delegates and a medical team from the Uganda Red Cross went to Seeta, in an area outside the triangle, to bring emergency relief to 150 recently displaced people who were totally destitute. These people were then transferred to a relief centre in Kampala which the ICRC has undertaken to enlarge.

Relief supplies provided by the ICRC in November and December amounted to 258 tonnes: 241 tonnes of food and 2,560 blankets.

As regards protection work, ICRC delegates visited six prisons and nine police stations in November where a total of 1,414 detainees were being held, including 276 of direct concern to the ICRC; in December, some 300 detainees were visited in three prisons situated in the west of the country. About twenty tonnes of relief supplies were distributed to prisoners during these visits.

The ICRC tracing agency in Kampala received ten enquiries and forwarded 138 family messages between detainees and their families.

## Rwanda

On 22 November three ICRC delegates, including one doctor, began a series of visits to places of detention in Rwanda. By 29 November thirty-six security detainees, in three prisons, had been seen. On that date the visits were suspended following difficulties that had arisen in applying the normal ICRC working criteria as regards its protection activities.

In addition, the ICRC and the Rwanda Red Cross jointly organized a campaign to disseminate knowledge of the basic rules of humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross. Between 3 and 18 November an ICRC delegate gave eight lectures to a total of about 2,700 people in Ruhengeri, Kigali and Butare. His audience included secondary-school children, law students, members of the National Red Cross Society and government and local civil servants.

The ICRC delegate also took an active part in an exhibition (photographs, films by the ICRC and the League, lectures) to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Rwanda Red Cross. It was visited by some 2,800 people.

## Ethiopia

The situation of the persons affected by the drought in Ethiopia's conflict zones (Tigre, North Wollo, Gondar and Eritrea), continued to deteriorate drastically in November and December, sometimes to a catastrophic extent in some regions.

ICRC distributions of relief supplies rose to 2,200 tonnes for 206,900 beneficiaries in November; in December, 3,400 tonnes were distributed to 268,500 beneficiaries. Nonetheless, the amount of foodstuffs distributed is insufficient to meet the overwhelming needs in the centres where the ICRC is active, the scarcity of means of transport being the biggest obstacle to extending activities. Thanks to heavy cargo planes made available by the central Ethiopian relief body, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), the ICRC was able to set up an airlift which made three or four round trips a day, transporting wheat flour, oil and blankets from the port of Massawa to Axum and Mekele; from those towns, relief supplies were sent to distribution points by the ICRC's two small planes and twenty-four trucks. Moreover, the ICRC has also sent by air or by sea emergency shipments to Ethiopia of some 2,150

tents and 74,200 blankets to enable the displaced population on the high plateaus to protect themselves from the cold of winter.

For their part, ICRC medical teams carried out several assessment missions in the provinces of Tigre, Wollo and Eritrea and distributed, in accordance with needs, medicaments and medical material to hospitals and medical centres. At the special feeding centre in Mekele, Tigre, opened in March 1984, about 900 undernourished children continued to receive day-to-day care from ICRC specialized personnel.

Protection activities also continued: on 8 and 9 November, ICRC delegates visited 204 Somali prisoners of war at Harar, and on 27 November they had access to 16 prisoners of war being held at Awassa Prison, in the province of Sidamo. The ICRC also transmitted 73 family messages between the prisoners of war and their families.

On 31 December, ICRC staff in Ethiopia consisted of 46 persons, eight of whom had been made available by the National Red Cross Societies of Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom.

It should also be mentioned that ICRC relief activities are carried out in close co-operation with the Ethiopian Red Cross, which has almost 300 employees engaged in the distribution of relief supplies.

## **Sudan**

In November and December, the ICRC distributed 280 tonnes of relief supplies, for the most part foodstuffs, to Ethiopian refugees in Sudan and made available almost 2,000 tonnes of relief supplies for displaced persons in Tigre.

Furthermore, the tracing service of the ICRC delegation in Khartoum registered 117 enquiry requests and transmitted 55 family messages.

## **Somalia**

The ICRC continued to supply foodstuffs and leisure articles to the prisoners of war (208 Ethiopians and one Cuban) being held in Gezira camp, in Somalia. In November and December, 14.8 tonnes of relief supplies, worth almost 42,000 Swiss francs, were distributed.

The tracing service of the ICRC delegation in Mogadishu transmitted 50 family messages between the prisoners and their relatives; it also handled six tracing requests.

The ICRC, with the Somali Red Crescent Society, participated in the annual national fair at Mogadishu, which was held from 20 October to 10 November: in three weeks, some 50,000 people saw films and slides on Red Cross activities.

## **Zaire**

Following the armed confrontations of 13 November, around the town of Moba, in Shaba province, the head of the ICRC delegation in Kinshasa, accompanied by a doctor from the Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, toured the region affected by the fighting to assess the medical needs of the population. As a result of the mission, the ICRC provided medicaments for local medical services and foodstuffs and blankets for some 30,000 displaced persons. An ICRC delegate stayed in Moba to organize and control the distribution of relief supplies.

The ICRC also took steps with a view to visiting the persons arrested in connection with the events.

In November and December, ICRC delegates continued to visit places of detention in Kinshasa, Kisangani, Lubumbashi and Kolwezi. They saw 68 security detainees, to whom they distributed various relief supplies.

For the dissemination of knowledge of the essential rules of humanitarian law, the ICRC participated, in Kinshasa, in a teaching seminar on human rights, organized by the Research Centre for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Central Africa. The seminar was attended by 45 professors, magistrates and students. The ICRC representative spoke on international humanitarian law and human rights.

A further twelve lectures were delivered by the ICRC and the Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire to some 4,000 people of various backgrounds.

## **Regional delegation in Togo**

The ICRC regional delegate for West Africa, based in Lome, Togo, was in *Liberia* from 5 to 11 December for a training seminar

for officials from Red Cross Youth sections, at which he lectured on the international Red Cross movement and on the Geneva Conventions.

The regional delegate then went to *Guinea* where, between 12 and 19 December, he met the Minister of Justice and the head of the armed forces general staff, and had working meetings with the provisional committee of the "Guinea Red Cross".

The delegate at the regional delegation in Lome in charge of dissemination of the essential rules of humanitarian law participated, from 12 to 15 November, in a training seminar for instructors in relief work and sanitation from the Togolese Red Cross Society. He addressed the seminar on several aspects of the role of the ICRC and on the Geneva Conventions, illustrating his talks with a film.

The same delegate also carried out a mission to *Burkina Faso* (formerly Upper Volta), from 5 to 12 December, to lay the groundwork for planned ICRC co-operation in the development of the National Red Cross Society.

## **Chad**

In November and December, the ICRC supplied 35.5 tonnes of food and 11.7 tonnes of other relief supplies for detainees at the central prison in N'Djamena. A medical delegate regularly visited the prison to check on the health of the detainees and, depending on needs, delivered medicaments and medical material to the prison infirmary.

For its part, the ICRC tracing service transmitted 27 family messages and registered four tracing requests.

## **Madagascar and Tanzania**

The ICRC delegate in charge of dissemination in Nairobi was in *Madagascar* from 4 to 25 November. In Antanarivo and two other provinces on the island, he gave eleven lectures on international humanitarian law and the Red Cross movement to various groups (the people's armed forces and the police, members of the Malagasy Red Cross Society, doctors, civil servants, university students and the general public). He also participated in the third general assembly of the National Red Cross Society.

The same delegate was in *Tanzania* from 6 to 18 December. He gave a lecture at the National Leadership Academy, near Arusha, to some 150 cadets and instructors of the Tanzanian armed forces, and another, illustrated by a film, to 25 future diplomats at the Centre for Foreign Relations. Also, six lectures with films were made to the National Red Cross Society, both in Arusha and the capital.

## Latin America

### Missions by the delegate general

From 26 November to 5 December, Mr. André Pasquier, ICRC delegate general for Latin America and the Caribbean, carried out a mission to *Cuba* and *Peru*.

In Havana, Mr. Pasquier participated in the meeting of presidents of National Red Cross Societies and the technical seminar of the Caribbean area; to the latter he gave a detailed lecture on ICRC activities in Latin America. The ICRC delegate general also had various discussions with Dr. Carlos Rodriguez, Vice-President of the Council of State, Mr. Viera Linares, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Julio Teja, Deputy Minister of Health and Vice-President of the Cuban Red Cross Society.

In Lima, Mr. Pasquier met, among other persons, the new Prime Minister and Minister of External Relations, Mr. Luis Perovich, the Minister of Justice, Dr. Arias Schreiber, the new Minister of the Interior and former Minister of Defence, General Brush Noel, and the head of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During these meetings he discussed ICRC activities in Peru.

### El Salvador

In November and December, ICRC delegates carried out 299 visits to places of detention, both in the capital and in the provinces, under the authority of either the Ministry of Justice or the Ministry of Defence. During the visits, they saw and registered 236 new security detainees.

In December, the delegates distributed Christmas parcels to all the detainees in the country, whether penal law or security detainees; 3,800 detainees received blankets, towels, mats, toiletries and cigarettes.

On 11 December, 43 soldiers captured at the beginning of the month by FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) fighters were released and handed over to the ICRC, which accompanied them to their barracks.

As it had done once before on 15 October in La Palma, the ICRC again acted as a neutral intermediary at the end of November during the second meeting between government authorities and the opposition: under the protection of the Red Cross emblem, the ICRC undertook to transport the FDR/FMLN representatives from the airport in San Salvador to the town of Ayagualo (12 km. south of the capital) and, in co-operation with relief workers of the Salvadoran Red Cross, it set up first aid stations and a radio-communications network at the meeting place.

The ICRC distributed about 1,510 tonnes of relief supplies in November and December to the civilian population affected by the fighting; the distributions were made to a monthly average of 15,000 to 20,000 persons in the central area and 70,000 to 73,000 persons in the eastern area.

Medical activities were hampered by military operations and the authorities' frequent refusal to allow the medical teams to go out into the field; this led to the cancellation of a number of consultation rounds planned by the mobile medical teams based in San Salvador and San Miguel. Nonetheless, 7,617 medical consultations and 1,331 dental examinations were carried out. Moreover, medicaments and medical material worth a total of 120,000 Swiss francs were delivered to hospitals, first aid stations, camps of displaced persons and branches of the National Red Cross Society.

For further dissemination of the essential rules of humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross, the ICRC delegates organized, in December, 15 conferences for representatives of the armed forces. In all, 93 conferences were given in 1984 to army units, i.e. almost 20,000 persons. Several dissemination courses were also organized among FMLN fighters, and were attended by several hundred persons.

## Nicaragua

Between 14 November and 6 December, ICRC delegates visited the prison of Tipitapa, in Managua, which holds some 2,400 detainees; they had interviews without witness with 577 of the detainees. The medical delegate accompanying the delegates gave consultations to 487 detainees.

On 17 and 18 December, ICRC delegates for the first time had access to Bluefields Prison, on the Atlantic coast, where 115 persons, nine of them security detainees, were being held.

In November and December, about 55 tonnes of relief supplies (mainly foodstuffs and hygiene articles), worth a total of about 130,000 Swiss francs, were distributed to detainees at Tipitapa and Zona Franca; a further 30 tonnes of food relief supplies (worth 37,000 Swiss francs) were distributed to detainees' needy families.

Furthermore, the ICRC and the Nicaraguan Red Cross continued their joint assistance programme for displaced persons, mainly Miskito Indians, in regions along the Atlantic coast; 39 tonnes of relief supplies, worth 83,000 Swiss francs, were transported on two boats chartered by the ICRC and the Nicaraguan Red Cross, one leaving from Puerto Cabezas in the north, the other from the Bluefields region in the south. Distributions were made to 6,500 persons in November and 4,800 persons in December.

The ICRC delegation in Managua distributed 44 tonnes of relief supplies, essentially foodstuffs, to some 9,000 displaced persons living in other regions of the country.

### **Visits to places of detention**

In November and December, ICRC delegates visited several places of detention in *Chile*, both in the capital and in the provinces. They had access to 545 persons detained as a result of events.

From 18 to 22 December, ICRC delegates visited three places of detention in *Paraguay* and saw 16 security detainees.

In *Peru*, ICRC delegates visited 291 persons (including 15 women) detained as a result of events.

From 5 to 23 November, ICRC delegates carried out a further series of visits to places of detention in *Uruguay*; they had access to two prisons, one barracks, one hospital under the authority of the armed forces and one psychiatric hospital. They visited a total of 491 detainees (including 59 women).

### **Regional delegation in Costa Rica**

The ICRC regional delegate based in San José, Costa Rica, attended the Central American Refugees Workshop, which took place from 14 to 16 November in that city.

From 21 to 24 November, the regional delegate visited Mazatlan, Mexico, where he attended the National Convention of the Mexican Red Cross.

The ICRC regional delegate also participated in a round table on refugees and displaced persons, organized from 24 to 26 November in San José by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies.

Finally, from 6 to 10 December, the regional delegate attended the national seminar of the Belize Red Cross, which was held in San Ignacio.

## **Honduras**

In the course of its programme to disseminate knowledge of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and the essential rules of humanitarian law, the ICRC delegation in Honduras organized, from the beginning of April to the end of November 1984, a series of conference-seminars lasting one to two days each, in which participated about thirty members of the National Council and 175 senior members of 28 branches of the Honduran Red Cross. Also, about ten lectures were given to various groups of relief workers.

Dissemination was also continued among the armed forces: seven lectures were given in three military schools to some 250 student officers.

## **Asia and Pacific**

### **Missions from Geneva**

At the end of November, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocke, ICRC Director for Operational Activities, went to *Indonesia*. He had discussions in Jakarta with Mr. Mochtar, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, mainly on problems encountered by the ICRC in providing protection and assistance in East Timor.

Mr. Jean de Courten, ICRC delegate general for Asia and the Pacific, undertook a mission to *Pakistan* from 5 to 15 December to take stock of ICRC activities in favour of the victims of the Afghan conflict. During his stay at Peshawar and Islamabad, the delegate

general had numerous discussions, in particular with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Commissioner for Afghan refugees.

From 21 to 30 November, Mr. Michel Amiguet, deputy delegate-general, went on a mission to *India* and *Bangladesh*. In New Delhi, he met the chairman and the secretary general of the Indian Red Cross, and he reminded them that the ICRC was at their disposal for any technical aid which it could provide for the tracing centre recently set up by the National Society. In Dhaka, Mr. Amiguet had discussions with the president and secretary general of the Bangladesh Red Cross, senior members of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, Justice and of the Interior. He also had talks with the head of the armed forces medical services. The main subject discussed was the implementation of a programme of dissemination in Bangladesh of the essential rules of humanitarian law.

### **Conflict in Afghanistan**

Two Soviet soldiers, who had been captured in Afghanistan by opposition movements and transferred to Switzerland by the ICRC in November 1982, came to the end of the two-year period of internment agreed on by the interested parties, and returned to their country on 21 November 1984. The two soldiers expressed their wish to return to their country of origin in an interview without witnesses with ICRC delegates.

On 31 December 1984, three Soviet soldiers were still interned on Swiss territory.

### **Pakistan**

The ICRC continued its programmes of medical assistance to victims of the Afghan conflict.

In November and December, the ICRC hospitals at Peshawar and Quetta were working at full capacity following a fresh increase in the numbers of wounded arriving from Afghanistan. In the stated period, 306 casualties were admitted to the hospital at Peshawar, where 495 surgical operations were performed and 1810 consultations were given to out-patients. At Quetta, 112 casualties were admitted to the hospital, and 357 surgical operations were

performed. Medical personnel sent out by the National Red Cross Societies of Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden are working at these two hospitals.

In December, the mobile medical team of the Pakistan Red Crescent, based at Parachinar, treated a large number of Afghan war-wounded who had crossed the border, taking those needing surgery to the hospital at Peshawar. A second treatment post of this same team was opened in November at Alizai, about 45 km south of Parachinar, and has been very active since. In all, the five mobile medical teams (Parachinar, Chaman, Badini, Miram Shah and Wana) and the post at Alizai treated 132 casualties themselves and took 141 others to hospital.

Forty new patients were admitted to the ICRC paraplegic centre in Peshawar in November and December. At the end of the year, 87 patients (Afghan and Pakistani) were receiving rehabilitation therapy there. The orthopaedic centre equipped 46 amputees with prostheses during the same period.

The 26th and 27th first aid courses organized by the ICRC at Peshawar were attended by 15 and 16 participants respectively. Apart from these monthly courses, the ICRC delegation in Peshawar continued to organize training sessions on first aid and the dissemination of humanitarian rules and the principles of the Red Cross. From March 1984 until the end of the year, a total of 1112 people attended these courses.

## **Thailand**

In the wake of violent clashes on the Khmer-Thai border in November and December, about 130,000 Khmers (half the total refugee population of the camps) had to move out to seek shelter at various temporary evacuation sites on Thai territory. Large numbers of wounded were evacuated by the ICRC and other charity organizations to the surgical clinics at Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng, at both of which admissions reached record heights. The Khao-I-Dang hospital admitted 453 casualties, which was about as many as during the whole of the first half of 1984. The ICRC sent out additional medical personnel to reinforce the teams working in the two hospitals. The teams are made up of personnel provided by the National Red Cross Societies of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, New Zealand, the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany, and are coordinated by the ICRC.

The Red Cross Societies of Australia and Japan have continued to provide 400 and 100 units of blood respectively each month. The New Zealand Red Cross sent 56 units of blood in December to help cope with the increased needs caused by the fighting on the border. The Thai Red Cross declared its willingness to provide additional help if necessary.

The Thai Red Cross medical teams continued their activities in favour of the Khmer refugees and the Thai civilians living in the border regions. They gave treatment to about 44,750 patients, including 33,250 Khmers, at the outpatient dispensary at Khao-I-Dang and in the camps at Aranyaprathet and Khao Larn.

Between 1 November and 31 December, the ICRC delegates distributed relief items to the value of 146,000 Swiss francs in the refugee camps and the prison at Aranyaprathet. The relief consisted mainly of paramedical material (hygiene and maintenance items), bedding, kitchen utensils and clothing.

The ICRC Tracing Agency office carried out its normal tasks in November and December. Through the office, 3762 letters were exchanged between refugees and their families either in camps on the border or abroad. In addition, 988 requests to trace missing persons were dealt with and 653 persons were transferred to other camps, some to be reunited with their families. The Tracing and Mailing Service of the Thai Red Cross, dealing mainly with Vietnamese boat-people, received 46 requests for news, opened 29 enquiries, and distributed 444 letters between 21 November and 20 December.

## **Kampuchea**

In view of the situation in the provinces on the border with Thailand, the ICRC delegation made several approaches to the authorities in Phnom Penh with a view to carrying out missions to evaluate the medical needs and possibly to provide the required assistance in the areas affected by the fighting.

The ICRC continued to supply medicaments and medical material to the hospitals at Phnom Penh and the provincial hospitals at Kampot, Takhmau and Kompong Speu. In all, the medical assistance provided in November and December was worth 107,000 Swiss francs.

Relief supplies for the orphanages at Kompong Cham, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Speu, Kampot and Battambang, forming part of the relief programme which started in July, arrived at

Phnom Penh by air and sea. The programme in question involves the provision of blankets, kitchen utensils, mosquito nets, hygiene requisites and construction material. In addition, over six tonnes of medicaments and relief supplies were brought to Phnom Penh by weekly flights from Ho Chi Minh City, and 5.6 tonnes were transported by boat from Singapore to Kampuchea.

The ICRC also continued to give logistic support to the medical teams of the French, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies working in Phnom Penh, Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Cham respectively. In November, the ICRC delegates visited the hospital and the orphanage at Kompong Chhnang and met local heads of the Health Service and Red Cross. In December, they visited Kompong Cham, Kompong Speu and Kampot.

### **Laos**

The ICRC delegate based in Hanoi carried out a mission to Laos from 27 October to 3 November. He met, among others, the Deputy Minister of Health and other senior members of that Ministry, a representative of the International Organizations Division of the Ministry of Health, the Vice-President of the National Red Cross Society and the heads of the Vientiane section.

The delegate also gave a talk to about 50 secondary school students who were members of the Red Cross youth group.

### **Philippines**

Between 9 July and mid-December, two teams of ICRC delegates, each including a doctor and an interpreter, visited 552 detainees in 59 places of detention, most of which were under the jurisdiction of the military authorities.

The ICRC continued its emergency assistance in favour of the persons displaced as a result of the disturbances at Mindanao and Samar. The activities, undertaken in collaboration with the Philippines Red Cross, involve the distribution of food (especially rice) to the displaced families for a limited period and the provision of food to the feeding centres. Since the beginning of the year, 1442 tonnes of food worth 2.3 million Swiss francs have been transported to the Philippines.

Medical treatment is provided when the food is distributed. For this purpose, the ICRC has supplied the National Society medical personnel with basic medicaments.

## **Macao and Hong Kong**

The head of the ICRC regional delegation in Manila, accompanied by the delegate responsible for the dissemination of the essential rules of humanitarian law, carried out a mission to Macao and then Hong Kong from 6 to 15 November.

The purpose of the mission was to meet with the local authorities and the branches of the Portuguese and British Red Cross Societies, to take stock of the dissemination activities of the two branches of the Red Cross and to assess the possibilities of collaboration with them in this field. During their stay in Hong Kong, the delegates attended the second "Principles and Law" course organized by the local Red Cross for its workers and volunteers in charge of the young members' section.

## **Indonesia/East Timor**

Within the programme of repatriation and family reuniting implemented for the inhabitants of East Timor, the ICRC organized the transfer to Portugal of 9 persons on 9 November, 10 persons on 14 December and 9 persons on 16 December.

## **Singapore**

The ICRC regional delegate in Jakarta visited Singapore on 29 November and had talks with the senior officers of the National Red Cross Society.

## **Middle East**

### **Mission by the delegate general**

Mr. Jean Hoefliger, ICRC delegate general for the Middle East and North Africa, was in Iraq from 14 to 17 December. In Baghdad, he met representatives of the Iraqi authorities and in particular the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tarek Aziz, to discuss ICRC protection activities in connection with the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

## Conflict between Iran and Iraq

In November and December, the ICRC was not able to resume its visits to Iraqi prisoners of war in *Iran*. The visits had been suspended by the Iranian authorities after the incidents of 10 October in Gorgan camp (mentioned in an earlier issue of the *Review*). However, it continued transmitting family messages; in December, ICRC delegates in Tehran handled 83,463 family messages addressed to Iraqi prisoners of war and to relatives of Iranian prisoners of war held in Iraq.

In *Iraq*, ICRC activities continued normally. In November and December, respectively 7,743 and 3,140 Iranian prisoners of war were visited and 124,950 family messages were exchanged between prisoners of war and their relatives through the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva. From 8 to 10 December, ICRC delegates visited Ramadi camp which gathers several thousand displaced Iranian families.

## Lebanon

Sporadic outbursts of violence occurred in November and December, particularly in Beirut and in the Chouf and Iklim el Kharroub mountains. The ICRC medical staff increased its visits to the hospitals and dispensaries in the areas concerned in order to evaluate their needs and provide the necessary assistance. 59 standard medical kits, medicaments, wheelchairs and ambulance kits worth 70,000 Swiss francs in all were distributed to about 60 hospitals and dispensaries.

The ICRC continued to provide financial assistance to the two Lebanese Red Cross medico-social centres at Mreije (southern suburb of Beirut) and Beiteddine (Chouf). It also provided the National Society with 150 units of plasma and 200 units of blood donated by the National Red Cross Societies of Finland and Norway.

ICRC activities on behalf of war amputees continued normally at the orthopaedic centres of Beit Chebab, Saida and Damascus (run jointly with the Swedish Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent"): in November and December, 91 prostheses and 16 orthoses were manufactured.

The ICRC relief action was limited to the distribution of 5,260 blankets and 500 sets of kitchen utensils.

The ICRC delegates' protection activities included complete monthly visits to Ansar camp as well as weekly visits to register new prisoners. As at 31 December 1984, 1,220 detainees were held at Ansar.

ICRC delegates also continued visiting various categories of prisoners at other detention centres of the Israeli Armed Forces in southern Lebanon; they saw about 40 persons in three detention centres (Mar Alias, Nabatieh and Tyre).

In conformity with the mandate entrusted to it under the Fourth Geneva Convention, the ICRC pursued its efforts to extend its activities of protection to the civilian population in southern Lebanon. It also continued its regular visits to the Palestinian camps around Saida and Tyre.

On 4 November, and again on 1 December, ICRC delegates visited the three Israeli prisoners held in Syria by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command (PFLP/GC).

On 13 November and 18 December, ICRC delegates visited the 121 prisoners who had been transferred from Ansar camp to Atlit Prison in Israel in November 1983.

They continued visiting the persons arrested by various movements in connection with the internal conflict in Lebanon.

The Tracing Agency office handled 24,324 family messages exchanged between prisoners and their relatives and organized the repatriation of 4 persons from Lebanon to Jordan.

## **Europe**

### **Missions by the President**

Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director for Operational Activities, visited Great Britain on 14 and 15 November. In London, he met the Secretary and the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Overseas Development. The main subjects of discussion were respect for humanitarian law and the ratification by the United Kingdom of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions.

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From 28 to 30 November, the President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Peter K ng, ICRC delegate general for Europe and North America, was in Austria. In Vienna, he was received by the President of the Republic and the Austrian Chancellor, and by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, of Defence, of Health and of Protection of the Environment. He also had talks with members of Parliament.

In addition, the ICRC representatives met Dr. Kurt Waldheim, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, and had a working session with the presidents of all local branches of the Austrian Red Cross Society.

### **Other missions from Geneva**

Mr. Jean-Pierre Hock , Director for Operational Activities, visited Portugal from 5 to 7 November at the invitation of the Secretary of State for Co-operation. He had talks in Lisbon with government officials and gave a speech on the ICRC worldwide activities to representatives of the Portuguese Red Cross Society.

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The ICRC delegate general for Europe and North America was in Spain from 19 to 21 November. In Madrid, he discussed ICRC protection activities with several high-ranking officials in the Ministries of the Interior, of Justice and of Foreign Affairs.

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On 4 December, the delegate general went to the Federal Republic of Germany and met representatives of the National Red Cross Society and of the Federal Government in Bonn.

### **Poland**

In December, after a final distribution of medical supplies to hospitals, the ICRC decided that since the situation in Poland no longer warranted ICRC action, it could now recall its permanent delegates from Warsaw. The ICRC will nevertheless still have regular contact with Poland, since it has frequent dealings and a close relationship with the Polish Red Cross, in particular in respect of the dissemination of knowledge of the fundamental principles of humanitarian law.

The ICRC delegate general for Europe and North America went to Warsaw on two occasions, from 25 to 27 November and from 2 to 4 January. He met the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Rakowski, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jaroszek. He also visited the Polish Red Cross and had talks with its new President, General Bonczak, its retiring President, Dr. Brzozowski, its Vice-President, Mrs. Krol, and its Secretary-General, Mrs. Gutfeter. They took stock of the protection, assistance and dissemination activities the ICRC carried out in Poland from 1981 to 1984 and worked on future dissemination projects: the course on international humanitarian law due to be held in Warsaw in summer 1985, and *ad hoc* seminars to be organized in universities.

### Visit to Switzerland

At the end of 1984 the ICRC had the pleasure of welcoming representatives of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R.

Mrs. Sharifbaeva, president of the Central Committee of the Red Crescent of Uzbekistan, and Mrs. Busch, president of the Central Committee of the Red Cross of Latvia, accompanied by Mr. Goncharov from the External Relations Department of the U.S.S.R Red Cross, stayed in Geneva from 8 to 15 December at the invitation of the President of the ICRC.

The representatives of the Alliance had discussions with delegates from the Europe zone and with other senior ICRC staff. One day was spent visiting the League and two days were devoted to a trip to Bern where they were shown the headquarters and services of the Swiss Red Cross.

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