

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

July-August 1985

Africa

Mission by the delegate-general.

In early August, Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, ICRC delegate-general for Africa, went to Khartoum where he met, *inter alia*, General Abdel Rahman Sewar el-Dahab, Head of State, and the Deputy Prime Minister. Various humanitarian issues (refugees in Sudan, situation in the southern part of the country) were broached during the discussions.

Southern Africa

On 6 August, 4 persons (one Briton and three Portuguese) held by UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) were released and handed over to the ICRC, which flew them to Johannesburg and delivered them to the consular authorities of their respective countries.

Angola

In July and August, the ICRC delegation in Angola concentrated primarily on building up stocks of relief goods for the resumption, in September, of the assistance programmes for displaced people in the provinces of Huambo, Benguela and Bie (a region known as the "Planalto"): distributions of relief supplies had been temporarily reduced in June, on account of a significant improvement in the nutritional state of the people affected, thanks to the harvest and the aid provided by the ICRC.

This stockpiling was possible in particular thanks to two wide-bodied aircraft which carried out 405 flights to airlift 3,904 tonnes of goods from Luanda, Namibe and Benguela to the Planalto; 236

tonnes of relief supplies were then carried onward by light aircraft to ICRC distribution points in various townships in the province of Huambo.

As regards food aid, 467 tonnes of relief supplies were provided in July to some 28,270 people, and in August, 252 tonnes were distributed to 20,340 people.

In the medical field, the ICRC delegates carried out numerous surveys to assess the nutritional state and the exact needs of people being assisted and to supply medicaments to hospitals and dispensaries in the areas they visited.

Each month, 500 to 600 undernourished children were cared for in the feeding centres located in the provincial capitals of Huambo and Bie; in addition, food rations were distributed to their relatives—on average, some 18,800 persons per month—who accompanied them to the feeding centres.

The ICRC medical staff evacuated 186 war wounded and seriously ill persons to hospitals in the provinces and accompanied 302 patients home when their treatment was finished.

The orthopaedic centre in Bomba Alta, Huambo, continued its activities on behalf of war amputees: 124 patients were fitted with prostheses and 1,172 orthopaedic appliances were repaired.

The ICRC Tracing Agency office in Angola handled 70 requests for news, organized 36 family reunifications and forwarded 77 Red Cross messages. In addition, for the first time in three years, the ICRC organized the repatriation, from Namibia, of 7 Angolan refugees. Finally, three South African sailors who had been captured in Namibe (province of Moçamedes) in March 1985 were repatriated on 22 August under the auspices of the ICRC.

Republic of South Africa

In July, following the proclamation of a state of emergency in some districts of South Africa, the ICRC offered its services to the authorities. It requested access to all persons detained in connection with the events, so as to assess their needs and provide, in co-operation with the National Red Cross Society, medical and food aid.

In August, the ICRC delegates based in Pretoria carried out missions to some townships in the vicinity of Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, Durban and Cape Town to assess the needs of the victims of the situation and to maintain contact with the local authorities and branches of the South African Red Cross.

In the course of its aid programmes on behalf of former detainees and the needy families of detainees, the ICRC continued to provide food parcels and to contribute to the travelling expenses of people visiting their relatives in detention; the assistance provided came to more than 75,000 Swiss francs.

The ICRC also supplied relief goods (blankets, cooking utensils and medical material worth 95,000 Swiss francs) to refugees from Mozambique now living in the Gazankulu homeland.

Finally, on 8 and 9 August, the delegates based in Pretoria visited 13 sentenced security detainees (including 1 woman) in a prison in the Ciskei; the visit was carried out in conformity with customary ICRC procedures.

Ethiopia

In the course of the joint relief operation carried out by the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross for people affected by the drought and the conflict situation in Ethiopia, the ICRC distributed, in July, 9,507 tonnes of food to 669,716 people in Eritrea, Tigre, Wollo, Gondar and Hararge; in addition, 1,828 tonnes of seed were supplied to 370,770 people. In August, 10,164 tonnes of food were distributed to 728,903 beneficiaries, and 1,199 tonnes of seed supplied to 265,081 persons. Since the beginning of the year, the ICRC has distributed a total of 62,150 tonnes of food.

In the medical sphere, an average of some 2,000 undernourished children were admitted each month to the therapeutic feeding centres run by the ICRC in the provinces of Tigre (Idaga Hamus, Axum, Adwa, Mekele, Maychew, Mehoni) and Eritrea (Akordat and Ingerne); in addition to medical care, the undernourished children received between 4 and 6 meals a day, depending on their condition.

In July and August, the ICRC organized 87 lectures with film shows in Addis Ababa for the dissemination of knowledge of the essential rules of humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Red Cross. The total audience amounted to 67,000 persons and included teachers, school children, medical staff, civil servants, staff of non-governmental organizations, workmen, members of the armed forces, and policemen. Furthermore, at a one-week exhibition organized to mark the 50th anniversary of the Ethiopian Red Cross, films were shown to an estimated 4,000 people. Mr. Rudolf Jäckli, a member of the Executive Council, was in Addis Ababa

from 6 to 10 July to represent the ICRC at the opening of the festivities organized for the 50th anniversary of the Ethiopian Red Cross.

Uganda

A few days after the *coup d'état* which overthrew the Obote government on 27 July, the ICRC delegation in Kampala, having established contact with the new authorities, resumed its usual activities. On 10 August, when 1,203 security detainees were released from Luzira prison, the ICRC distributed relief items (blankets, soap, etc.) to the ex-detainees and paid for their journey back to their home villages (cost: 27,000 Swiss francs). The ICRC transferred 28 of them, considered to be too weak to return to their homes, to the ICRC "Yellow House" centre in Kampala.

On 27 and 28 August, ICRC delegates registered, at Luzira prison, 117 newly-arrested persons and 248 other detainees who had been there since before the fall of the previous government; in addition, 11 persons detained at Luzira prison for women were registered on 30 August.

The Ugandan authorities having authorized the ICRC to resume its work outside Kampala, the delegates carried out surveys along the Bombo and Hoima roads and visited the transit camps for displaced persons in Nakazi, Kibisi and Busunju, in the area north of the capital known as the "Luwere triangle".

A joint survey by the ICRC, the League and the Ugandan Red Cross was made in the north of Uganda to assess the situation of the displaced population and the possibility, for refugees in neighbouring countries, to return to Uganda.

In July, before the events of 27 July, the ICRC provided 56 tonnes of relief goods—mainly food—to the displaced people; in August, it provided 28 tonnes of relief supplies.

Tanzania

An ICRC delegate based in Nairobi was in Tanzania from 1 to 19 July. He gave eleven lectures on the principles of the Red Cross and the essential rules of international humanitarian law to various groups including representatives of the armed forces, the Tanzanian Red Cross Society, academic circles and future diplomats.

Chad.

From 5 to 13 August, ICRC delegates visited 543 prisoners of war at N'Djamena prison.

From 20 to 28 August, two delegates went to Kanem prefecture and the southern fringe of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti prefecture to carry out a survey which took them to Moussoro, Salel, Kouba, Tobi and Bir Soudan. There were no prisoners of war in the places they visited.

The delegates took advantage of their mission to meet representatives of the military and civilian authorities and explain to them the function and activities of the ICRC.

Zaire

In July and August, respectively, ICRC delegates visited 56 and 44 security detainees in places of detention in the capital and in the provinces.

Benin

An ICRC delegate based in Lomé (Togo) was in Benin from 28 July to 3 August. Together with 3 representatives of the National Red Cross Society and 4 Beninese officers, he toured military garrisons at Parakou, Ouissa, Ouida, Porto Novo and Cotonou and gave lectures on the principles of the Red Cross and the essential rules of international humanitarian law to some 460 Beninese officers and NCOs.

Gambia

From 22 to 25 July, two ICRC delegates (one of whom was a doctor) visited a prison in the vicinity of the capital and saw 417 detainees, including 99 persons who had been sentenced following the attempted coup of July 1981.

Mauritius

From 26 July to 8 August, an ICRC delegate based in Nairobi was in Mauritius, where he gave nine lectures, illustrated by films and followed by discussions, to police officials, students and members of the National Society. In addition, he took part in the first

regional meeting of the Youth Red Cross, which was also attended by delegates of the League and representatives of the Youth Sections of the National Red Cross Societies of the Comoros, Madagascar, Reunion and Mauritius.

Latin America

El Salvador

Continuing their protection activities in El Salvador, ICRC delegates carried out 146 visits in July to places of detention in the capital and in the provinces, and saw and registered 120 new security detainees; in August, they had access to another 120 new detainees during a series of 176 visits.

Furthermore, ICRC delegates visited, in accordance with customary ICRC criteria, seven Salvadorean mayors held by an opposition movement. Members of the captives families were allowed to accompany the delegates.

A member of the armed forces who had been captured by the opposition was released on 9 August and handed over to the ICRC.

The ICRC Tracing Agency offices in San Salvador, San Miguel and Santa Ana registered 201 tracing requests concerning people reported missing or presumed to be in detention. They also organized four transfers and one family reunification. They continued to receive an average of 700 visitors a month wanting to know what had happened to their relatives.

In the medical sphere, ICRC and Salvadorean Red Cross mobile teams gave 14,945 consultations during their numerous rounds in the field, both in the central zone (departments of Chalatenango, Cabanas, San Vicente, Santa Ana, La Libertad, La Paz) and in the eastern zone (departments of San Miguel, Usulután, Morazan and La Unión); they also carried out 2,268 dental examinations. Medicaments and medical supplies worth some 10,000 Swiss francs were distributed to health stations, mobile clinics and branches of the National Red Cross Society in the townships visited.

Food aid to the displaced civilian population in July amounted to 250 tonnes of food for 37,776 people in the central departments and almost 447 tonnes for 62,832 people in the eastern zone. In August, this activity was somewhat reduced for security reasons

and the figures were, respectively, 152 tonnes for 28,499 people and 282 tonnes for 57,967 people. It should be noted that distributions are carried out by ICRC delegates in co-operation with Salvadoran Red Cross teams.

Nicaragua

Between 31 July and 29 August, ICRC delegates—including 2 doctors—visited Tipitapa prison where about 2,860 people were detained. They saw and had interviews without witnesses with 810 detainees, 418 of whom were given medical consultations.

In July and August, 98 tonnes of relief supplies (mainly food and toilet articles) worth 255,000 Swiss francs were supplied to the detainees. In addition, food aid worth 82,000 Swiss francs was distributed to detainees' needy families (1,248 families in July and 1,313 families in August).

At the ICRC Tracing Agency office in Managua, 26 tracing requests were registered and 1,502 Red Cross messages exchanged, mainly between Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras and their relatives in Nicaragua.

ICRC medical teams, accompanied by representatives of the Nicaraguan Red Cross and of the Ministry of Health, went to the Laguna de Perlas, Rio Grande de Matagalpa and Aranjuez regions, where they conducted a survey of the children's nutritional state, and gave vaccinations and medical consultations. Furthermore, the ICRC technicians and their Nicaraguan colleagues at the "Aldo Chavarria" orthopaedic centre at Managua produced 12 prostheses and 35 orthoses, and repaired 72 orthopaedic appliances.

In co-operation with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the ICRC continued its assistance programme on behalf of displaced persons, mostly Miskito Indians, in the regions situated along the Atlantic coast. In July, 60 tonnes of relief supplies, worth 117,500 Swiss francs, were distributed to some 7,000 people in the Puerto Cabezas and Bluefields regions; in August, relief supplies amounted to 93 tonnes (worth 146,000 Swiss francs) and reached some 11,000 people in the same regions.

Through branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the ICRC also provided displaced people in the Jinotega, Juigalpa, Ocotal and Matagalpa regions, with relief supplies worth some 186,000 Swiss francs.

Paraguay

From 26 August to 7 September, the ICRC regional delegate based in Buenos Aires visited Paraguay where he was given an audience by the President of the Republic, General A. Stroessner. During his mission, the ICRC regional delegate visited 11 security detainees at Asuncion, and 7 security detainees in the provinces. He also gave two lectures on international humanitarian law and the activities of the Red Cross to employees and first-aid workers of the Paraguayan Red Cross.

Dominican Republic

From 22 to 29 July, the Dominican Red Cross, assisted by the ICRC regional delegation in San Jose (Costa Rica), organized a series of seminars in Santo Domingo on international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles for various specialized audiences.

The ICRC regional delegate and two delegates from Geneva gave courses, lectures and seminars to permanent members and voluntary workers of the National Society, to university graduates, diplomats, journalists, staff of public health services, doctors and officials of the Ministry of Education—a total of 180 persons.

The seminars met with keen interest, since each target group focused on issues of particular concern to it.

Furthermore, between 29 July and 3 August, the ICRC participated in the “Command course”, intended for senior officers of the armed forces and the police of the “Escuela Superior de las Fuerzas Armadas”.

Jamaica

The ICRC regional delegate based in Bogota, accompanied by a dissemination expert from Geneva, was in Jamaica from 1 to 8 July to take part in the first seminar on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law organized for English-speaking National Societies in the Caribbean by the ICRC and the League, to establish contact with the Jamaican authorities and the National Red Cross Society. He met the Chief of Staff and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs with whom he discussed, in particular, the dissemination of knowledge of the essential rules of international humanitarian law among the armed forces, and the accession of Jamaica to the Protocols additional to

the Geneva Conventions. He also had talks with the leaders of the Jamaica Red Cross, who received a substantial amount of dissemination material.

Visits to places of detention

- In *Colombia*, during a series of visits in July and August to 11 places of detention both in Bogota and in the provinces, ICRC delegates had access to 107 security detainees.
- In *Peru*, in August, ICRC delegates visited 23 detainees in places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice.

Asia - Pacific

Conflict in Afghanistan

On 25 July, an ICRC delegate and an interpreter visited the three Soviet soldiers captured in Afghanistan by opposition movements and transferred to Switzerland by the ICRC for a two-year period of internment after agreement by all the parties concerned.

Pakistan

In July and August, the ICRC surgical hospital in Peshawar admitted an extremely large number of Afghan war wounded, victims of the fighting in the province of Paktia, near the Pakistan border. Tents were set up around the hospital building to increase its capacity (normally 100 beds) to 150 beds. At the end of August, the number of in-patients at the hospital had risen to 160, which prompted the ICRC to increase substantially its medical staff by sending a surgical team and several additional nurses seconded by the National Red Cross Societies of Denmark, Finland and New Zealand. In addition, in response to the ICRC's request, the Norwegian Red Cross quickly sent out a complete field hospital with a 50-bed capacity to Peshawar.

In August, the two surgical teams in Peshawar carried out 505 operations—the highest number registered in a single month since the hospital was opened in May 1981 (in July, 478 operations were

performed). In July and August, a total of 455 Afghan wounded were admitted and 1,705 out-patients were given treatment.

The mobile medical team of the Pakistan Red Cross at Miram Shah tended 149 wounded and evacuated 124 of them to Peshawar with 2 ambulances; the other three teams based in Parachinar, Wana and Khar cared for 156 wounded and transferred 115 of them to Peshawar.

In July and August, the ICRC surgical hospital in Quetta admitted 136 wounded, performed 227 surgical operations and treated 1,007 out-patients. The medical teams based in Chaman and Badini treated 68 wounded and evacuated 58 of them to Quetta.

The ICRC orthopaedic centre and paraplegic centre in Peshawar were likewise extremely busy during July and August; 43 new patients were admitted, bringing to 490 the total number of paraplegic patients admitted to the centre since it was opened in September 1981.

The 32nd and 33rd first-aid courses organized by the ICRC at Peshawar were attended by 16 and 18 participants respectively, whilst 700 persons took part in 38 "Red Cross mini-courses" dealing mainly with the dissemination of knowledge of the essential rules of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles.

Khmer-Thai border

In July and August, the situation along the Khmer-Thai border was relatively quiet, owing to the rainy season. The ICRC nonetheless pursued its activities normally and was still concerned about the fate of the Khmers who took refuge on Thai territory in the wake of the fighting which took place during the dry season.

Three surgical teams seconded by the Red Cross Societies of Denmark, Finland, Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany and Great Britain, assisted by medical staff sent by the National Societies of Austria, Iceland, Ireland and New Zealand, continued their work at the ICRC hospital in Khao-I-Dang, which admitted 442 patients, including 135 casualties of the fighting. The Australian and Japanese Red Cross Societies continued to supply the ICRC blood bank in Khao-I-Dang with 400 and 100 units of blood respectively each month.

On 20 July, the ICRC passed over to UNBRO (United Nations Border Relief Operation) the responsibility for medical activities in

favour of the Vietnamese refugees in evacuation site No. 2. Until then, an ICRC doctor and nurse had provided regular medical care for those persons. The ICRC's medical activities along the Khmer-Thai border will henceforth be limited to war and emergency surgery, the transport of patients from the evacuation sites and the border to Khao-I-Dang, and running the blood bank. Other relief organizations and voluntary agencies (VOLAG) have taken over all other medical activities.

The relief supplies (paramedical items, hygiene and housing requisites) provided by the ICRC to the border camps and the detainees visited at Aranyaprathet prison came to approximately 40,000 Swiss francs.

The work of the Tracing Agency increased noticeably in July and August, both in respect of tracing requests and mailing services. The Agency handled 137 tracing requests concerning Vietnamese refugees and distributed 1,596 letters for them (986 in July alone, which is the highest number since the beginning of the year). As far as the Khmer refugees are concerned, 9,072 letters were exchanged, mainly between camps along the border, and the number of tracing requests reached 2,395.

Kampuchea

ICRC delegates carried out surveys in Kompong Cham, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Speu, Kampot and Kandal provinces and at the same time monitored the use made of the relief supplies provided to hospitals. The hospitals in the above five provinces and in Phnom Penh continued to receive assistance according to their needs. The medical supplies distributed in July and August came to more than 150,000 Swiss francs.

The ICRC continued to give logistic support to the medical teams of the French, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies working respectively in Phnom Penh, Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Cham.

In July and August, the ICRC flew almost 4.5 tonnes of relief supplies from Bangkok via Ho Chi Minh City to Phnom Penh; in addition, 105.5 tonnes of medical material and various relief supplies were conveyed by ship from Singapore to Kampuchea.

Philippines

At the end of July, ICRC delegates visited 13 detainees in a place of detention in Region 4, situated in the centre of the Philippines. In August, they visited 8 places of detention in Region 1, situated in the north-west of the Philippines, and had access to 56 detainees. These visits were carried out in accordance with the ICRC's customary criteria. In August, they also started a round of visits to places of detention in Region 10, on the island of Mindanao. That round of visits was still in progress at the end of August.

Furthermore, in the first six months of 1985, the ICRC distributed some 1,080 tonnes of relief supplies (worth 1,830,000 Swiss francs) on the islands of Mindanao and Samar.

Viet Nam

On 1 and 7 August, 31 Taiwanese crew members of the two ships boarded by the Vietnamese authorities in May and September 1984 were released and repatriated via Bangkok under the auspices of the ICRC.

Middle East

Lebanon

The months of July and August were marked by renewed tension throughout the country. Violent fighting broke out, particularly in Beirut and Tripoli.

The ICRC was called upon to deal with the emergencies, and at the same time continued its protection and assistance activities on behalf of the numerous victims of the events. It also had to contact all parties concerned to obtain guarantees essential for the safe continuation of its operations, in particular with regard to respect for the Red Cross emblem. These steps had to be taken following the explosion, in southern Lebanon, of a vehicle which, according to eye-witnesses, carried the Red Cross emblem. The ICRC condemned such practices and issued the following press release in Geneva:

"In South Lebanon on 15 July 1985, a car loaded with explosives was set off by its driver near a check-point, killing numerous civilians,

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT



Under the auspices of the ICRC repatriation of severe casualties:
Transit at Ankara airport with the co-operation of the Turkish Red Crescent



Photos J. J. Kurz/ICRC

THAI-KAMPUCHEAN BORDER



Influx of Khmer refugees near ICRC aid centres

Photo J. L. Conne/ICRC

including women and children. According to eyewitnesses, the vehicle carried the Red Cross emblem.

Over the last weeks, other bombing attacks have killed large numbers of defenceless civilians in West Beirut, East Beirut, Tripoli and South Lebanon.

The use of the protective emblem of the Red Cross for indiscriminate killing and wounding is a doubly detestable act which the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) condemns. Furthermore, the security and efficacy of ICRC operations are thus liable to be compromised, to the detriment of the victims themselves.

During the last 3 months in Beirut, 10 ICRC vehicles have been stolen at gunpoint”.

However, the ICRC has not, so far, obtained any substantive evidence of the use of the Red Cross emblem on the vehicle concerned.

As regards protection, the ICRC regularly visited—in accordance with customary ICRC procedure—the persons detained at Atlit camp, in Israel. In four successive operations (on 3 and 24 July, and 13 and 28 August) 614 of these detainees were released into the care of ICRC delegates who escorted them to various destinations of their choice: Tyre, Nabatiyeh, Sidon, the Bekaa Valley and Beirut. In a fifth operation, which took place on 10 September, the remaining 119 persons detained at Atlit were in their turn released into the care of the ICRC which, as in the previous operations, helped them return to their homes, mainly in southern Lebanon. Most of the people released had been transferred to Atlit—in violation of the Geneva Conventions—at the beginning of April from Ansar camp (southern Lebanon).

Although all persons previously detaineeed at Atlit have now been released and the camp closed, the ICRC is still very concerned about the fate of the people who disappeared during the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and whose whereabouts it has hitherto not been possible to ascertain. The ICRC therefore continues to make representations to all the authorities concerned.

In this connection, it must be noted that despite steady negotiations with the parties concerned, ICRC delegates have still not been granted access to Khiyam detention centre (southern Lebanon, “security zone”). On the other hand, ICRC delegates continued to have access to persons detained by the various factions in the Lebanese internal conflict.

In July and August, the ICRC Tracing Agency offices exchanged 6,426 family messages, mainly between detainees and

their relatives living either in Lebanon or abroad; they also dealt with 5 tracing requests and transferred or repatriated 616 persons.

The ICRC's medical activities focused mainly on assistance to hospitals and first-aid centres in West Beirut and its suburbs, and to Palestinian camps which had been seriously damaged during the fighting in May and June.

Following the armed clashes between rival factions in Tripoli and the bombardment, on 10 July, of the Palestinian camps of Nahr el-Bared and Beddawi, emergency medical aid was supplied to hospitals and first-aid centres. Medical supplies were also distributed in Sidon to back up existing medical services.

After the reopening of the government hospital at Jezzine (a township on the heights to the east of Sidon), the ICRC was able, on 27 July, to close its first-aid station on the outskirts of the city, where a surgical team seconded to the ICRC by the National Societies of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden had been posted since the beginning of May. The ICRC supported the efforts to make Jezzine hospital operational again, in particular by supplying medical material.

In July and August, the ICRC distributed 407 emergency medical kits worth approximately 116,000 Swiss francs and medical equipment and medicaments valued at 85,500 Swiss francs to some 40 hospitals and 60 dispensaries.

Furthermore, as part of its programme for the support and development of the first-aid sections of the Lebanese Red Cross, the ICRC gave the National Society 10 ambulances worth 286,900 Swiss francs.

The three orthopaedic centres of Beit Chebab, Sidon and Damascus continued their activities on behalf of war amputees. Orthopaedic consultations were also given in Beirut, in particular at the socio-medical centre of the Lebanese Red Cross in Mreiye (southern Beirut), and in Falougha (Haut-Metn). In July and August, a total of 69 prostheses, 16 orthoses and some 40 other orthopaedic appliances were manufactured at the three centres.

Conflict between Iran and Iraq

Against the background of the conflict between Iran and Iraq, the ICRC continued regularly to visit Iranian prisoner-of-war camps in Iraq. Conversely, the ICRC has not yet been able to

resume visiting Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran, since the Iranian authorities suspended all the ICRC's protection activities on their behalf on 10 October 1984 after the incident in Gorgan camp.

Between 4 June and 1 July, ICRC delegates in *Iraq* visited 9 camps and 4 military hospitals where they registered 39 new Iranian prisoners of war; on 13 July, they had access again to 55 Iranian prisoners of war interned at the military police centre in Baghdad. Furthermore, 85 new prisoners of war were registered in the course of another series of visits carried out between 3 August and 5 September. Since the beginning of the conflict between Iran and Iraq in September 1980, the ICRC has registered 10,317 Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq.

The number of Red Cross messages handled in July and August was significantly higher than in the previous two months: 314,864 family messages were exchanged between Iraqi prisoners of war and their families, and between Iranian prisoners of war and their families, through the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

Between 9 and 11 July, ICRC delegates, including a doctor, visited the displaced Kurdish civilians interned at Ramadi camp. They distributed 579 Red Cross messages and collected 563 messages addressed to relatives interned in Iraqi prisoner-of-war camps.

In two operations carried out on 2 July and 7 August, respectively 30 and 29 sick or wounded prisoners of war were repatriated to Iran, via Ankara, through the intermediary of the ICRC. The prisoners, accompanied by ICRC delegates, were flown by Iraqi airplanes to Ankara, where they were handed over to ICRC delegates who had come from Tehran with representatives of the Iranian authorities and the Iranian Red Crescent. Both operations were carried out in close co-operation with the Turkish Red Crescent.

In *Iran*, the ICRC delegation maintained its contacts with the authorities and the Iranian Red Crescent while continuing to handle the Tracing Agency work, which consisted mainly in exchanging family messages between prisoners of war and their relatives.

In July, the head of the ICRC delegation in Tehran, accompanied by representatives of the Iranian authorities and the Iranian Red Crescent, visited Ziveh camp where Kurdish civilians of Iraqi nationality are interned and which was affected by bombardments in early June. However, the Iranian Red Crescent did not consider it necessary to request the ICRC for assistance.

Europe

Missions from Geneva

- Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director for Operational Activities, and by Mr. Michel Convers, Head of the Operations Departement, was in Paris on 2 and 3 July. He met, *inter alia*, Mr. Roland Dumas, Minister for Foreign Relations, and Mr. Ross, Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry, and gave a conspectus of the ICRC's worldwide activities.

The ICRC representatives also had talks with Mr. Louis Dauge, President of the French Red Cross, and with other leaders of the National Society.

- Mr. Maurice Aubert, Vice-President of the ICRC, was in Warsaw on 20 and 21 August, where he delivered a speech at the Seminar on International Humanitarian Law. He also paid a visit to Dr. Brzozowski, former President of the Polish Red Cross, and had working sessions with the now President Prof. Jerzy Bonczak, and other high-ranking representatives of the National Society.
 - Mr. Jacques Moreillon, ICRC Director for General Affairs, was in the Soviet Union from 11 to 18 August. He met, in particular, Dr. Baltiyski, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR. The discussions focused mainly on the forthcoming meetings of the International Red Cross, and especially the 1986 International Conference.
 - Mr. Peter Küng, ICRC delegate-general for Europe and North America, was in the German Democratic Republic from 11 to 17 August at the invitation of the German Red Cross of the GDR. In Weimar, Mr. Küng attended the opening of a youth camp organized by the National Society on the theme "Development and Peace" and gave a lecture on the ICRC's activities. He furthermore had talks with the local authorities and eminent representatives of academic and medical circles in Leipzig, Erfurt and Dresden, and also had a discussion with the President of the German Red Cross of the GDR.
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