

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES**May - June 1987***Africa****Ethiopia**

In May the Ethiopian Government authorized the ICRC delegation in Addis Ababa to resume in part its activities in northern Ethiopia, where the ICRC's assistance operation had had to be suspended in December 1986 by order of the Ethiopian authorities.

In June distributions of relief supplies were resumed in Eritrea, the province most affected by drought, and Tigré, where the situation appears to be less serious. Between July and October, however, before harvesting starts, there may be a steady increase in the needs of the civilian population in the northern provinces, particularly as the rains have not yet begun and an invasion of migratory locusts threatens especially those regions in which insecurity makes direct supervision impossible. The ICRC has therefore drawn up a programme of action which it intends as a substantial contribution to locust control.

Southern Sudan

Construction of the ICRC field hospital at Lopiding, near Lokichokio, was finished on 26 May. For more than a year ICRC delegates have been assisting victims of the conflict in Southern Sudan, just over the border, from the village of Lokichokio in north-west Kenya. The new 40-bed hospital, intended mainly for Sudanese war wounded, was built by the ICRC; the Finnish Red Cross supplied all its equipment and sent out an experienced nurse to install it.

Uganda

The ICRC delegation in Kampala was granted access to the military hutments at Gulu in April; to the prison for women at Luzira, Kampala, where it carried out a complete visit from 19 to 22 May; and to Kyrinia prison at Jinja, in which more than a thousand prisoners are being detained by the Ugandan army (NRA). Here too it carried out a complete visit, from 12 June to 8 July.

Delegates working in disturbed areas have continued their efforts to protect civilians from the ill-treatment inflicted on them by the combatants, cattle thieves and other armed groups. Allegations of ill-treatment are reported to the authorities, who have agreed to make inquiries and do the necessary.

The delegates were however obliged to leave Gulu on 1 May and Lira on 10 June. They have not yet been able to return, and discussions are under way with the Ugandan authorities in the hope of reaching agreement.

The ICRC continues to monitor the needs of displaced persons in the towns of northern and eastern Uganda, where such persons lack vitally necessary supplies and are being issued with cooking utensils, blankets and limited quantities of food. In May 7,500 persons were assisted in Lira, and relief to the destitute has also been distributed in Soroti, Mbale, Kumi and the capital.

Mozambique

Further to its evaluation missions in the field from April onwards, the ICRC delegation in Mozambique has launched a programme of assistance to displaced civilian populations in five provinces affected by the present conflicts. This operation will be pursued on a growing scale in about 20 districts of Zambezia, Sofala, Nampula, Niassa and Tete provinces, with the close co-operation of the "Mozambique Red Cross". In addition to recently displaced families it assists (a) patients undergoing treatment in medical centres who are not being sufficiently fed, and (b) children suffering from malnutrition, who are to be given rations of enriched food in local clinics and hospitals.

A medical programme comprising supplies of drugs, consultations and advice at existing centres, and evacuation of wounded and sick has also been started. Groups of recently displaced fam-

ilies will be given temporary food aid and essential articles (blankets, food and soap).

The ICRC will continue to regularly monitor the nutritional condition of the displaced persons, so as to evaluate their needs and assess the effect of its distributions. The delegation also hopes to be able to extend its operations to areas at present inaccessible for logistic reasons or because they are unsafe.

Latin America

Peru

In Peru, especially in the Ayacucho emergency area, the ICRC has not since the beginning of 1987 been able to work in the same way as in 1986. It has repeatedly made representations to the civil and military authorities at all levels so that this state of affairs may be remedied.

Elsewhere than in the Ayacucho emergency area the traditional visits to those prisons responsible to the Ministry of Justice have continued to take place regularly, and with the co-operation of the prison authorities the detainees have been given food aid and medical attention, especially in Lima's two big prisons at Lurigancho and Canto Grande.

Suriname

A delegate from Geneva carried out a mission in Suriname from early May to late June and was later joined by a doctor. The ICRC's regional delegate in Bogotá took part in the beginning of the mission.

The persons detained by the government on account of the troubles were visited on two occasions at two places of detention in the capital. Seven persons detained by the rebels were also visited. The ICRC delegates saw to the exchange of family messages between the detainees and their relatives.

Evaluations of the plight of the civilian population were made in the Moengo area in north-east Suriname and in the Lake Brokopondo area, but an assistance operation was not considered

necessary as yet. The medical delegate investigated the needs of hospitals in the capital in preparation for possible ICRC assistance.

The sites chosen by the Suriname authorities for the resettlement of returnees from French Guyana were visited during the mission, and talks were held with various refugee groups to ascertain whether they were willing to return to their home country.

In consequence of this mission the ICRC proposed to the Suriname authorities that it should open a delegation in Paramaribo to assist detainees and regularly evaluate the plight of the civilian population in areas of conflict.

El Salvador

The ICRC continued its visits to security detainees in the places of detention responsible to security organizations, the armed forces or the Ministry of Justice. In June it also visited three persons detained by the opposition, one of whom was set free and handed over to the ICRC.

By agreement between both parties to the conflict, at the end of June the ICRC organized the transfer abroad for medical treatment of 98 war invalids opposed to the government.

All ICRC programmes of assistance to civilian victims of the conflict have continued, but ICRC protection of and assistance to civilians has been limited by its being unable because of military operations to gain access to all areas of conflict, particularly north of Morazán and Chalatenango.

The first phase of the "Agricultural Programme" started in February and ended in May after distributing 2,552 tonnes of maize seed, fertilizer and insecticides to 12,647 families. After technical investigations by ICRC agricultural experts the second phase will begin in July, when other kinds of seed will be distributed.

Nicaragua

In May and June detainees were visited in Managua's two main prisons, in Estelí, Granada, Juigalpa, Matagalpa and Chinandega prisons, and in the semi-open prisons known as "granjas". The total number of detainees visited by ICRC delegates was 4,082.

All programmes of assistance to detainees, their distressed families and the civilian population were continued.

Cuba/Haiti

At the request of the Cuban Red Cross 47 nationals of Haiti who had been shipwrecked off the coast of Cuba and wanted to return home were repatriated on 8 June under ICRC auspices, with the co-operation of the Red Cross Societies of Cuba and Haiti.

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During the period under review the ICRC's regional delegations in Latin America went on mission to various countries to maintain their relations with the authorities and National Societies, visiting the Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico and Panama. A special reason for their visit to Panama was to discuss with the National Society the results of the imposition of a state of emergency on 11 June.

Asia

Kampuchean conflict

Fighting continued during May and June, mainly north of the Khmer-Thai border in the Nam Yun region and in the south near Borai and Site 8. On 29 May, part of the Site 2 camp (200,000 inhabitants) was hit by several shells and the ICRC immediately organized the evacuation of 20 wounded people to the Khao I Dang surgical hospital. Following this incident, the Thai authorities were approached with the request that they consider evacuating the camp in the event of fighting or acute military tension. May and June were generally very busy months for the ICRC hospital in Khao I Dang with 419 patients admitted, 159 of them wounded by the fighting.

A third report setting out the ICRC's concerns regarding protection on the Khmer-Thai border was submitted on 24 June to the Thai authorities. Among other things, the report reaffirms the necessity of moving civilians away from areas where fighting is taking place and of preserving the civilian character of the camps. It also reiterated the ICRC's desire to have regular access to all the civilian border camps.

People's Republic of Kampuchea

Since mid-May, an ICRC surgical team consisting of a surgeon, an anaesthetist and a nurse, all recruited in Poland, has been working at the Kampot hospital. The team has been sent there for a trial period of four months and its main tasks are to perform general surgery and train locally recruited staff in hospital care.

Viet Nam

A dissemination seminar organized jointly by the Red Cross of Viet Nam and the ICRC was held in Hanoi from 23 to 26 June. It brought together national Red Cross representatives from 19 provinces in the northern part of the country as well as many other guests. Several talks were given on the history of the Red Cross, international humanitarian law and the mandate and activities of the ICRC. These met with great interest.

Indonesia

The ICRC continued to organize the repatriation to Portugal of former officials of the Portuguese administration in East Timor and their families. Two groups (of 27 and 28 persons respectively) were able to return to Lisbon under ICRC auspices, one on 5 May and the other on 30 June.

From 9 to 21 May, ICRC delegates working together with the Indonesian Red Cross Society provided food aid (maize and cooking oil) to more than 1,200 persons who had just returned to their village on East Timor after being displaced in 1981.

Philippines

On 5 May, a Red Cross team made up of one delegate and one male nurse from the ICRC and five nurses from the Philippine National Red Cross working in a joint programme were abducted by armed elements in the province of Lanao del Sur (Mindanao). They were returning to their base in Cagayan de Oro after distributing relief supplies to displaced persons.

The ICRC immediately did everything possible, at both national and local level, to secure their rapid release. The nurses

from the Philippine National Red Cross and the delegate, Alex Braunwalder, were released one by one between 5 and 10 May; Jacky Sudan, the ICRC nurse, was released unconditionally and in good health on 26 May.

In spite of this incident, the ICRC continued its usual activities (visiting prisoners, carrying out surveys, distributing relief supplies, conducting dissemination) throughout the country in accordance with its humanitarian mandate and with the co-operation of the National Society.

Fiji

Following the *coup d'état* of 14 May, the ICRC has remained in daily contact with the Fiji Red Cross Society and the regional delegate based in Jakarta went to Suva on 24 May. There he met several government officials and assured them of the ICRC's availability should the situation require it.

Conflict in Afghanistan

The two ICRC orthopaedic technicians in Kabul began setting up the workshop provided by the Afghan Red Crescent Society. In addition, the ICRC's proposals for medical assistance to Red Crescent dispensaries and emergency surgical services were conveyed to the National Society in May. The Afghan authorities were informed of the these proposals.

Because of increased fighting along the border, the ICRC surgical hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta admitted a large number of patients. The ICRC therefore decided in June to provide more staff for the hospital in Quetta.

Sri Lanka

Concerned about the situation following the government offensive in the northern part of the Jaffna peninsula, the ICRC renewed its offer of services to the government in Colombo at the end of May with a view to bringing assistance to all the victims of the conflict.

Burma

On 13 May, a new agreement was signed between the ICRC and the Burmese authorities enabling the ICRC to continue its orthopaedic activities in favour of amputees wounded in the fighting. The ICRC plays a major role in the training of locally recruited orthopaedic technicians and orthopaedic nurses. Since the beginning of the year, it has also been taking part in a second rehabilitation programme at the military hospital in Rangoon.

Europe

The President's mission to Great Britain

Mr. C. Sommaruga, President of the ICRC, visited London from 21 to 23 June at the invitation of the British Government. He was accompanied by Mr. A. Pasquier, Director of Operations, Mr. M. Veuthey, Delegate General for Europe and North America, and Mr. H.-P. Gasser, the ICRC's Legal Adviser and expert on the Additional Protocols. The objects of his mission were to discuss the prospects of ratification by Great Britain of the Additional Protocols, the financing of the ICRC and ICRC aid to detainees from Northern Ireland, and to describe the principal ICRC operations now under way. He had talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. Christopher Patten, Minister for Development, and other senior officials.

During his mission the President of the ICRC also had talks with the Chairman, the Vice-chairman and directors of the British Red Cross Society and with 30 or so of the heads of its local branches.

Middle East and North Africa

Iran/Iraq Conflict

In *Iran* the first series of visits to Iraqi prisoners of war has continued with the visit in June by a team of seven ICRC delegates to the eighth camp in which some 10,000 prisoners of war are confined. Since such visits were resumed in Iran in December 1986

the ICRC has visited, in all, about 23,250 Iraqi prisoners of war, of whom it had already registered 21,068 before its work was suspended in 1984 and 1,700 were registered for the first time.

In *Iraq* two teams of ICRC delegates have continued their visits to Iranian prisoners of war. Between late April and early June they made a complete series of visits to 10 camps and one hospital. Since the war began the ICRC has registered 13,498 Iranian prisoners of war. Between 21 and 23 June ICRC delegates visited displaced Kurdish civilians at Al Tash camp near Ramadi, whom they had last visited in March.

Conflict in the Western Sahara

Consequent upon the meeting in March between the ICRC regional delegate and Mr. Mohammed Abdelaziz, Secretary General of the Polisario Front, who then agreed in principle that the ICRC should be allowed to make a visit to the prisoners held by the Front, a team of delegates led by the regional delegate went on mission to the Sahara in June.

From 10 to 13 June three ICRC delegates, one of them a doctor, visited a contingent of 120 Moroccan prisoners. They also met Mr. Habiballah, President of the "Sahrawi Red Crescent", and on the same occasion had talks with Dr. Mouloud Belaouane, President of the Algerian Red Crescent.

Yemen Arab Republic

Late in June a team of delegates left for Sana'a for another series of visits to security detainees.

Tunisia

In June the regional delegate for North Africa paid two visits to Tunis, where he discussed the projected opening of a regional delegation of the ICRC in Tunis with Mr. Sadok Mokkadem, President of the Tunisian Red Crescent, and H.E. Mr. Taieb Sahbani, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Lebanon

Throughout May and June the ICRC continued to attend to the needs of the civilians affected by fighting wherever it occurred in the country, but especially those living in villages situated along the line demarcating the "security zone". The mobile clinics organized jointly by the ICRC and the Lebanese Red Cross to provide medical consultations for civilians living in villages along the "security zone" boundary which have no medical facilities carried on with their work as far as circumstances allowed, but dangerous conditions often prevented them from visiting the villages according to programme. Relief supplies—food, blankets and cooking utensils—were distributed to the worst-affected persons. Nearly 5,000 people were helped by this operation in May, and nearly 10,000 in June.

Throughout this period the ICRC had regular access to the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon, including the camp at Rachidieh, but was prevented from doing its usual medical and tracing work in the Beirut camps. War wounded and sick persons were evacuated from all the camps for treatment suitable to their condition; 12 wounded were transferred from Borj-el-Brajneh, Chatila and El Bass camps to Beirut airport, whence they were flown out of the country, and seven medical cases were evacuated from Rachidieh to hospitals in the Sidon area.

Visits to persons detained by various parties to the conflict also continued. In spite of its repeated representations the ICRC was unable to gain access to all the persons detained; it was in particular denied access to detainees in the "security strip", for example in Khiam prison. It was however given access to persons captured in northern Lebanon and detained in Israel contrary to the Fourth Geneva Convention, 44 of whom were detained, and visited by the ICRC in Israel, at the end of June.

The Delegate General for the Middle East visited Lebanon from 18 to 25 June to consult the delegation there. During his visit he twice met the President of the Lebanese Red Cross to discuss the problems facing the Society.

Syria

Mr. M. Amiguet, the ICRC's new Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa, visited Damascus from 14 to 18 June to introduce himself to the Syrian authorities and exchange views with them, especially on ICRC activities in Leba-

non. He was received by Dr. Abdel Raouf El Kassem, President of the Council of Ministers and Prime Minister, Mr. Dia Allah El Fattal, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and General Adnan Tayyara, head of the Syrian Arab Delegation. He was accompanied at all these interviews by the head of the ICRC delegation in Syria. He also had talks with Dr. Fouad Hamza, President of the National Society, on co-operation between the ICRC and that Society.

Israel and Occupied Territories

The yearly complete series of visits to police stations in the occupied territories took place in May and June. ICRC delegates, one of them a doctor, visited 11 police stations containing 262 detainees nine of whom were detained for security reasons. The visits followed the ICRC's usual methods. The ICRC physician also visited hospitals and health services in the occupied territories to evaluate the health care situation.

The ICRC delegates also continued their usual duties of protection and assistance to protected persons, mainly in pursuance of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons.
