

## *EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

*July-August 1986*

### **Africa**

#### **Sudan**

In July and August the ICRC continued its attempts to implement an aid programme for the victims of the conflict situation in southern Sudan. An ICRC team went to Wau on 31 July to organize an airlift. Forty tonnes of relief supplies were transported on board three flights from Entebbe (Uganda) to Wau on 14 and 15 August; on the second of these two days the flights were suspended because of threats from the SPLA to shoot down any aircraft flying over the territories controlled by its troops without its authorization. The 40 tonnes of relief supplies which got through before the blockade were distributed between 19 and 22 August to starving people living in the camps for displaced people. Since the airlift was interrupted, the ICRC has made numerous approaches to the parties to the conflict, particularly the SPLA, in order to be allowed to recommence its humanitarian work.

The food aid programme and the evacuation of the wounded which was undertaken in the Narus region from Kenya continued during the period under review.

The assistance programme conducted from Sudan for the victims of the situation in Eritrea and Tigré had to be interrupted between July and August because of the severe conditions in the rainy season which rendered roads impassable. Nevertheless, it was possible to carry out *ad hoc* relief work in Eritrea whenever the rivers could be forded: thus 1,176 tonnes of relief supplies were forwarded to the distribution points.

## **Ethiopia**

The joint ICRC/Ethiopian Red Cross relief operation (JRO) continued: 8,032 tonnes of relief supplies were distributed. The food situation continued to be satisfactory in most of the regions in northern Ethiopia. In July, the latest seed distribution (255 tonnes) affected 154,258 recipients.

In the Wollo region, the joint ICRC/Save the Children Fund programme to reunite unaccompanied children with members of their families during food distributions was considerably slowed down due to the fact that no distributions had taken place in this region.

During July and August 49 patients were fitted with prostheses or orthoses in the Asmara and Harrar orthopaedic centres.

## **Uganda**

In July and August the ICRC delegation in Kampala concentrated its efforts on continuing protection work: first of all, assessment visits were made to five police stations and six prisons situated mainly in the northern and north-west regions; then visits were made to the Masindi and Luzira Upper prisons and to four other police stations.

In July medical activities were directed towards preparing and organizing a course specially designed for the medical staff of the Uganda penitentiary service. The first course of this type took place between 28 July and 2 August. Furthermore, during the medical survey missions, an ICRC doctor went to several hospitals and dispensaries in the south west as well as to Gulu and Aber (in the north of the country), where medicaments and medical equipment were supplied according to needs.

## **Burundi**

An ICRC team composed of four delegates, including a doctor, visited four places of detention between 8 and 31 July.

## South Africa

The ICRC delegation continued negotiations with the relevant authorities in the Republic of South Africa concerning the offer of services made on 13 June by the ICRC requesting access to all persons detained under the state of emergency and, more particularly, to all the security detainees it had as yet been unable to visit.

The ICRC delegates maintained a permanent presence in the main regions affected by the troubles: the police gave the delegation its consent to establish direct dialogue between the delegates based in the various regions and the provincial police officials.

Close co-operation continued between the ICRC delegation and the national and regional directors of the National Society—on the one hand, as regards providing emergency aid to the victims of the troubles and, on the other hand, preparing Red Cross dissemination material suited to the South African context.

## Angola

Since the second week in June, the provincial authorities have suspended ICRC flights for security reasons to six of the eight communities (*municípios*) still receiving aid in Huambo province. Despite repeated approaches made by ICRC delegates, both in Huambo and Luanda, operations continued to be suspended in July and August. At the end of August, the delegation was authorized to recommence its activities in the *municípios* and began organizing its seed distribution programme on the Planalto (flying in seeds from the Atlantic coast to Huambo).

## Latin America

### El Salvador

ICRC delegates visited security detainees throughout the country in 122 places of detention in July and 140 places in August (penitentiary establishments under the jurisdiction of the armed forces and security corps).

Over 127,000 people in July and over 107,000 in August benefited from the ICRC and Salvadorean Red Cross food aid programme; a total of 843 tonnes of food were distributed. Medical campaigns (treatment of civilians, transferring the severely ill and injured to hospital establishments, distributions of medical supplies to civilian hospitals) and the campaigns to improve hygiene were continued.

The delegation also studied the possibilities of supplying agricultural aid (mainly in the form of maize seed and fertilizer) to certain localities and population groups. This would enable the amount of food aid currently being provided to be reduced.

Several more conferences on international humanitarian law and the work of the Red Cross were organized, mainly for the armed forces.

## Nicaragua

The assistance programme for civilians affected by the conflict continued, in close co-operation with the National Society, in the regions along the Atlantic coast, the north-east (the Rio Coco region) and the north-west of the country. As a follow-up to a survey conducted in July by an ICRC delegate and a nurse together with relief workers from the Nicaraguan Red Cross, who visited 13 villages situated along the banks of the Rio Coco downstream from Waspan and accessible only by river, a relief programme (blankets, clothing, basic essentials) was set up to help the displaced people in these isolated regions.

Traditionally suspended in July because of holidays to commemorate 19 July 1979, the ICRC visits to detention centres began again on 13 August with a visit to Tipitapa prison, the main penitentiary centre in the country.

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In *Chili* the ICRC continued to visit security detainees in prisons under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice. It also continued its visits in *Peru* and *Colombia*.

## **Asia**

### **Afghanistan**

In August the Afghan Red Crescent responded favourably to proposals for medical co-operation (rehabilitation of the physically disabled and war surgery) which the ICRC made to it in May. At the beginning of September two delegates left for Kabul to discuss with the National Society the actual ways and means of running these medical programmes and to discuss a programme to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law. At the same time the delegates will continue the dialogue with the Afghan authorities regarding the protection activities which the ICRC plans to build up.

The ICRC's medical activities in Pakistan for the victims of the Afghan conflict have been continued and even stepped up because of a fresh upsurge in the number of war wounded: the orthopaedic hospital in Quetta admitted 82 casualties in July and 108 in August (the number of new admissions had not been as high since May 1984), and the hospital in Peshawar admitted 309 people during the period under consideration. Furthermore, since July the Pakistan Red Crescent has assumed full responsibility for running the paraplegic rehabilitation centre which the ICRC opened in Peshawar in 1981. However, an ICRC physiotherapist is staying on as an adviser. Since it opened, the centre has admitted 665 patients, both Afghans and Pakistanis.

### **Kampuchea**

In August the ICRC entered into agreements with the Red Cross Societies of Australia and Switzerland to co-operate in providing logistic and administrative support for the medical teams which these National Societies are going to install in the hospitals in Kompong Speu and Takeo respectively. The ICRC is already giving support to two other medical teams: one from the Swedish Red Cross in Kompong Chnang and the other from the French Red Cross in Phnom Penh.

## **Philippines**

ICRC visits recommenced in July to places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice: 55 detainees under the jurisdiction of the national male penitentiary in Muntinlupa were visited at four places of detention. In August a female detainee was visited in the women's prison in Madaluyong (Metro Manille). The ICRC continued its efforts to obtain visiting permission from the Ministry of Defence.

Food distributions for people displaced because of the clashes continued, particularly in Cagayan province (northern Philippines) and on the island of Mindanao.

## **Malaysia**

The ICRC carried out a series of visits to people detained under Articles 57 to 62 of the Internal Security Act (people awaiting trial or sentenced): between 16 June and 9 July seventy-two people were visited in nine places of detention in accordance with the ICRC's criteria.

## **Indonesia**

In August the ICRC conducted a medical and nutritional survey of the civilian population in fourteen villages in East Timor.

## **Middle East**

### **Conflict between Iraq and Iran**

In July and August, the ICRC continued its visits to Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq. However, the ICRC has still not been able to resume its protection activities on behalf of Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran, which were suspended by the Iranian authorities on 10 October 1984.

The ICRC Director of Operations, Mr. Pasquier, was in Tehran from 25 to 27 July to carry on the discussions initiated during a

previous mission last May and to stress the importance of resuming ICRC visits to Iraqi prisoners held in Iran. Mr. Pasquier had talks with representatives of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with representatives of the country's Red Crescent Society.

In August, ICRC delegates visited some 10,000 Iranian prisoners of war interned in nine camps and four military hospitals in Iraq.

In July and August, the ICRC continued to arrange the exchange of messages between Iranian prisoners of war and their families and between Iraqi prisoners of war and their families.

### **Israel and the occupied territories**

From 17 to 25 August, Mr. Moreillon, Director General at the ICRC, and Mr. Hoefliger, Delegate General for the Middle East, were in Israel for discussions with the Israeli authorities on the ICRC's activities in Israel, the occupied territories and the "security zone" under Israeli control in South Lebanon. The two ICRC representatives had talks with Mr. Avraham Sharir, Minister of Justice, Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, Minister of Defence, Mr. Ezer Weizman, Minister without portfolio, and Mr. Bar Lev, Minister of Police and Prisons. They also met several other important figures.

### **Yemen Arab Republic**

A series of visits to persons detained in the Yemen Arab Republic was carried out from 31 July to 8 August. Two ICRC delegates and an ICRC doctor visited some 3,500 detainees, including 67 security detainees, held in detention centres in the capital and seven other cities. The visits were carried out in accordance with the ICRC's usual criteria.

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