

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Africa****ICRC appeal**

On 7 November, the International Committee of the Red Cross launched an appeal for 15 million Swiss francs. This sum is required for the six-month financing of the humanitarian project to meet the needs resulting from the various conflicts at present causing havoc in Africa.

The persistent worsening of the situation in countries directly or indirectly affected by military operations calls for a wider field of protection and of assistance to the hundreds of thousands of victims: these include displaced persons, refugees, wounded, sick, prisoners of war, and political detainees. Sixty-five delegates, assisted by about a hundred African collaborators, are to-day stationed in a dozen different countries.

The ICRC, the only operational humanitarian organization in some parts of the African continent, stresses the importance of this humanitarian mission and trusts that the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions will furnish the urgent support which this mission demands.

Southern Africa**Information campaign**

The information campaign started by the ICRC in southern Africa and mentioned on page 313 of this edition of the *International Review* is an important new phase in ICRC activities in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and the "front line" states.

The programme, which was drawn up in close collaboration with African communication specialists, involves a whole series of information and dissemination activities aimed at several sections of the public: schools, armies, military and political authorities, displaced people living

in camps, government information services, etc. Another important area in which action is being taken is the mass media, especially radio.

Various means of information are currently being produced, for example, cartoon strips, posters, calendars, weekly radio programmes, articles for the local press, etc. The use of vernacular African languages is the rule.

Some films produced in recent years by the ICRC and the League are shown regularly in the towns and in the country (mobile cinema). Television channels—in the countries where they exist—have also been approached successfully.

The theme chosen for this campaign is a very general one: “To protect human life”, while the slogan evokes solidarity: “Let’s help each other”.

A graphic design combining the sign of the red cross and the outline of the continent of Africa appears on all publications related to the campaign. Moreover, an original sound signal of five notes has been composed to enable listeners to identify Red Cross radio programmes.

Finally, a 15-second cartoon film, with the graphic design and the sound signal, has been produced as an introduction to the television programmes and the cinema film-shows.

Republic of South Africa

The ICRC now has a permanent delegation in South Africa. The following official bulletin was published on 13 November: “The Department of Foreign Affairs announces that an agreement has been entered into on 7 November 1978 between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland, to provide for the establishment of a Permanent Mission of the ICRC in South Africa, with headquarters in Pretoria.”

The appointed Regional Delegate in Pretoria, Mr. Roger Santschy, assumed his position on 17 November.

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From 18 to 30 September, the ICRC conducted a new series of prison visits in the Republic of South Africa. A team consisting of the Delegate General for Africa, two delegates and a medical delegate visited nine places of detention (Grahamstown, Kingwilliamstown, Modderbee, The Fort, Potchefstroom, Pretoria Local, Kroonstad, Pollsmoor and Robben Island). They saw 439 convicted security prisoners (including 5 women) and 44 persons (including 10 women) detained under the Internal Security Amendment Act.

Rhodesia/Zimbabwe

So as to provide shelter for the displaced persons who had fled from the combat zones and who were seeking refuge around the large urban centres, the ICRC had experimented in having ten houses built in an area near Salisbury. The results proved positive and a larger scale programme was launched in mid-November in the district of Seki, 23 kilometres from the capital, where 300 shelters are being built. The Rhodesian authorities are providing land, laying drinking water mains and drains and installing sanitary equipment. The building of the shelters is being financed by the ICRC, which has been assigned the task of drawing up the list of families in need of homes. A budget of approximately 354,000 Swiss francs covering 18 months has been allocated to this programme of assistance.

The ICRC has meanwhile continued its traditional work of assistance and protection, ICRC delegates having visited, from 13 to 16 November, 171 administrative detainees in the prisons of Wha Wha and Chikurubi. In October, thanks to the ICRC, 263 persons were able to visit members of their families held at Wha Wha.

Between 25 September and 25 November, 303 tons of foodstuffs, 2,279 blankets, 1,255 articles of clothing and 5.5 tons of soap, to a total value of 186,300 Swiss francs, were distributed to war victims, mainly children, living in the rural areas. A further 500 articles of clothing, 100 kg of foodstuffs, 50 kg of soap and 240 blankets were distributed to 340 displaced persons in a transit camp in Chiredzi, who were awaiting transfer to "protected villages". On 13 November, the ICRC, in conjunction with the Rhodesian Red Cross and the Anglican Church, also came to the aid of 200 children who had been deprived of shelter after the closing of a school in the Gwelo region. One hundred and eighty blankets and 150 kg of foodstuffs were distributed.

Three new medical clinics have been opened in the district of Inyanga. They have been equipped with appropriate medical supplies and inspected by ICRC medical teams. At the request of the population, a further clinic has been opened in a "protected village" in the district of Chiweshe, thus bringing the number of ICRC clinics in this region to nine. In Central Mashonaland, the network of ICRC clinics is now used for the twice-weekly distribution of milk to children of pre-school age.

Botswana

At the request of the government authorities and the National Red Cross Society, the ICRC has agreed to cover the treatment and rehabilita-

tion costs for two disabled soldiers, since the kind of medical care required is not available in Botswana.

Zambia

Following the Rhodesian air raids on refugee camps at the end of October and beginning of November, the ICRC distributed, as an initial emergency operation, nearly 12 tons of relief supplies (194 tents, 1,100 blankets, 1,500 kg of soap, several hundred articles of clothing, medicaments and other medical supplies) to a value of 98,160 Swiss francs.

The blankets were supplied by the Zambian Red Cross and the clothing was a gift of the Swedish Red Cross to the National Society of Zambia.

A further 15,000 blankets and 400 tents, to a value of 196,281 Swiss francs, were purchased in Botswana and transported to Zambia for distribution to the civilian victims of the hostilities.

In addition, the ICRC decided to replenish the Zambian Ministry of Health's medical stocks which were used in caring for the injured. This contribution is equivalent to 132,000 Swiss francs.

All in all, this emergency action, in less than a month, has involved expenditure of almost half a million francs. This unexpected additional burden on the ICRC Africa budget for the next six months shows how necessary it is for the ICRC to be able to count on rapid financial support from the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions and from National Societies.

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A health and hygiene specialist, seconded to the ICRC by the WHO, has been sent to Lusaka to institute a programme of hygiene education in the reception centres for victims of the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict.

East Africa

Ethiopia

The ICRC has decided to appoint five specialists for a minimum of six months to the rehabilitation centre for disabled soldiers in Debra Zebit. Medical supplies will also be given to this centre as part of a programme of assistance costing approximately 500,000 Swiss francs.

In November, aid was given in the form of 12 tons of foodstuffs and 10,425 blankets to the displaced populations in Goba, in the province of Bale, and to an orphanage in Addis Ababa. Medical supplies, 5.2 tons of foodstuffs, and 5,000 bars of soap, have also been sent to Makale, in the Tegre province.

West and Central Africa

Chad

In October, four new family reuniting operations were organized by the ICRC. A four-year-old girl, who was living with her prisoner father in Faya, and three young men were returned to N'Djamena.

In the field of aid, the ICRC chartered a DC-4 which, between 12 and 14 October, flew six times to Faya, transporting 36 tons of foodstuffs which were distributed to the prisoners and their families in the Tibesti camps.

Zaire

The President of the Zaire Red Cross, Mr. Bompese, asked the ICRC for help to visit the "irregulars" detained after the Shaba disturbance, to assist the dispensaries of the National Society in this province and to disseminate the principles of the Red Cross. In reply to these requests and in order to appraise the situation of the ex-refugees, the ICRC sent two delegates to Shaba. Beginning on 7 November, their aim was to determine to what extent the dispensaries of the Zaire Red Cross are still operating and able to help displaced persons.

Mauritania

Mr. Jean de Courten, regional delegate, and Dr. Wacker, medical delegate, while in Nouakchott from 9 to 17 November, had a series of meetings with government authorities and the leading members of the Mauritanian Red Crescent.

The delegates also visited 204 Polisario Front prisoners held by Mauritania, and were able to talk to them without witnesses. Relief supplies for these prisoners will be distributed by the Mauritanian Red Crescent.

The ICRC is looking into the possibility of supplying the equipment necessary for the creation of a rehabilitation centre for the war-disabled.

Latin America

Mission of the delegate general

From 14 September to 4 October, Mr. Sergio Nessi, ICRC delegate general for Latin America, carried out a mission in Uruguay, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Chile and Argentina. In each of these countries he discussed problems relating to ICRC activities with government authorities and leading members of the National Societies.

On 24 September, Mr. Nessi, accompanied by Mr. Chevalley, ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, attended an extraordinary meeting of the National Societies of Central America in Tegucigalpa, which was intended to co-ordinate relief action for Nicaraguan refugees in the adjacent countries.

The Southern Cone

The development of the situation in the south of Latin America has caused the ICRC to change its organization in this area. The delegates who were stationed in Chile have been moved to Argentina, and, as from October 1978, all activities in the southern Cone have been directed from the regional delegation in Buenos Aires.

Chile

From September 1973, when its Chilean delegation was opened, until October 1978, the ICRC made 1,123 prison visits to approximately 18,000 people detained as a result of the events. Most of these detainees were visited at regular intervals during this time. Material and medical assistance totalling 1,700,000 Swiss francs was given to them, and the cost of the assistance programmes for some 3,000 detainees' families was 4,400,000 Swiss francs.

The Chilean Ministers for Foreign Affairs, for the Interior and for Justice were informed of the decision of the ICRC to continue its work in Chile from Buenos Aires by Mr. Nessi when he was in Santiago from 26 to 28 September 1978. However, the ICRC will maintain a liaison office in Chile and will continue its humanitarian mission for people who are still detained and its search for missing persons. The Chilean authorities accepted these proposals and promised to do all they could to help the ICRC carry out its humanitarian work.

In October, 747 families of detainees and former detainees (264 in Santiago and 483 in the provinces) received food from the ICRC to a value of approximately 17,700 dollars. The Chilean Red Cross and the

Churches received foodstuffs and medicaments to a value of 22,500 dollars.

Argentina

Between 23 October and 3 November, ICRC delegates carried out a series of visits to 319 detainees in four places of detention.

In October, 880 detainees' families (202 in Buenos Aires and 678 in the provinces) received foodstuffs to a value of 14,000 dollars.

At the end of November, the grants received by the ICRC or promised amounted to approximately 1,100,000 Swiss francs, whereas the Argentina appeal launched last summer to cover a 12-month programme was for 2,400,000 Swiss francs. Various governments and some charitable organizations have declared an interest in the work of the ICRC in this country and wish to give financial support.

Central America and the Caribbean

Nicaragua

The ICRC continued its protection and assistance activities throughout October and November.

Having been allowed their first visit to 117 detainees in Managua, ICRC delegates extended their work throughout the whole country. They have seen over 300 persons arrested as a result of the events and held in 17 places of detention. They have also carried out several visits to some 340 persons sheltering in embassies and have brought them relief of various kinds. A medical delegate has also carried out regular visits to civilian and military hospitals in the capital.

The humanitarian work of the ICRC has also been extended to the neighbouring countries. Delegates visited Nicaraguan refugee camps and some civilian internees in Costa Rica and Honduras.

In conjunction with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the ICRC organized several convoys to provincial towns affected by the fighting. Approximately 50 tons of foodstuffs, the equivalent of more than 15,000 family food rations, were distributed in Esteli, Diriamba, Leon, Chinandega, Ocotal, Carazo, etc. The relief given to victims of the events, families of detainees and displaced persons, is valued at approximately 122,200 dollars.

In the second half of November, the head of the ICRC Relief Division carried out a survey of the needs in Nicaragua. He met the leading members of the National Society and Church representatives, with a view to co-ordinating relief work. The ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies have agreed that, the situation allowing, they will share

the work, so as to rationalize relief operations. The ICRC remains in charge of protection and assistance work in Nicaragua and of protection work in Honduras and Costa Rica. The ICRC and the League will have joint responsibility for refugee assistance in these two countries.

The number of ICRC staff was increased at the end of November to five: one chief delegate, two delegates, one medical delegate and one relief delegate.

Mr. Marcel Naville, member of the Committee and former ICRC president, carried out a mission to Nicaragua at the end of October to review the humanitarian work of the Red Cross with government authorities and the leaders of the National Red Cross Society.

Europe

ICRC President in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria

ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, accompanied by Mr. R.-J. Wilhelm, Deputy Director of the Department of Principles and Law, and Mr. Philippe Grand d'Hauteville, Regional Delegate for Europe, were in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria from 16 to 21 October, at the invitation of the two National Societies.

In Belgrade, the ICRC delegation had useful meetings with the leading members of the National Red Cross, during which they talked about matters of common interest, in particular humanitarian law and peace.

Mr. Hay was also received by the Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Josip Vrhovec, and by the President of the Federal Executive Council, Mr. Vaselin Djuranovic.

In Sofia, President Hay, Mr. Wilhelm and Mr. Grand d'Hauteville attended the official ceremonies commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the Bulgarian Red Cross. Many delegations from National Red Cross Societies participated in these events which took place in the presence of the country's top authorities.

Romania

The ICRC was invited by the Romanian Red Cross to take part in its congress, which is held every four years. Mr. Laurent Marti, as special representative of the President, and Mr. Grand d'Hauteville were delegated by the ICRC and stayed in Bucarest from 28 November to 1 December.

Asia

Indonesia

A new series of visits to detainees began at the end of October. Three teams, each made up of an ICRC delegate, a medical delegate and an interpreter of Swiss nationality, visited between 23 October and 8 November, 20 places of detention on the Island of Buru, where there were 10,121 political detainees. Two of the three teams then continued their visits in southern Kalimantan, in Ambon, Ceram, Malang and Surabaya.

ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, and the Director of Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, were in Indonesia from 14 to 17 November, where they were received by the President of the Republic, General Suharto. They also had discussions with Mr. Malik, the Vice President, Mr. Panggabean, acting Foreign Affairs Minister, and Admiral Soedamo, Commander in Chief of the Kopkamtib. Leading members of the Indonesian Red Cross accompanied the ICRC representatives throughout their stay.

Malaysia

President Hay broke his journey to Indonesia for a brief stay in Kuala Lumpur, where he attended part of the First Asian Seminar of International Humanitarian Law organized by the ICRC and the Malaysian Red Crescent.

Laos

On 6 October, the ICRC closed its Vientiane office, since it had been decided to end the joint operation of the International Red Cross for Indochina (INDSEC), as announced in the July-August edition of *International Review*. Henceforward, Mr. François Zen Ruffinen, ICRC delegate in Hanoi, will maintain relations with the Lao Red Cross and authorities by periodical visits.

In 1978, relief valued at 112,000 Swiss francs was given to Laos by the ICRC (equipment for the hospitals and the blood bank, support for the activities of the National Society).

Papua New Guinea

At the invitation of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross, Mr. Roland Duc, ICRC Regional Delegate for South-East Asia, was in Port Moresby from 26 October to 3 November, where he met the Minister for the

Interior, representatives of the Ministries of Health, Education and Foreign Affairs, and the leading members of the National Society. This was the first visit of an ICRC delegate to this country since the founding of the National Society.

Thailand

From mid-September to the beginning of November, ICRC delegates continued their visits to detained illegal immigrants. They visited a total of 3,743 detainees in 29 police stations and 8 transit camps in the north-east, east and south-east. As usual, relief supplies were distributed.

Iran

On 2 November, Mr. Christian Michel, ICRC delegate in Teheran, visited 234 detainees in Evin prison. On 8 November, he saw about thirty detainees at the Comité Prison. A new series of visits, to be carried out by a team of four ICRC delegates, started at the beginning of December.

Middle East

Lebanon

The violent clashes and indiscriminate bombing at the beginning of October in and around Beirut, involving great losses among the civilian population, and calling for relief operations, caused the ICRC to launch two appeals for truces to permit the evacuation of the wounded.

It was only after the cease-fire of 7 October that humanitarian work could really begin: teams of ICRC delegates and voluntary ambulance workers of the Lebanese Red Cross evacuated dozens of wounded to hospitals in the capital and further inland. Moreover, the hospitals of east Beirut and the ICRC dispensary in the Achrafé district, were replenished with foodstuffs and medical supplies, which they had been without for several days, as the fighting had rendered them inaccessible.

The various operations were not without danger for the delegates and volunteers of the Red Cross, who found it very difficult to move around because of the destruction and the snipers. In fact, two voluntary workers of the National Society were hit by bullets on 16 October.

Confronted by the disturbing situation of some 50,000 families who had been forced from their homes by the fighting and who had taken

refuge in the mountains, the ICRC, on 17 October, appealed to the governments and to the National Societies for three million Swiss francs to cover the purchase of relief supplies and operational costs in the following months. At the end of November, 989,200 Swiss francs worth of relief supplies (powdered milk, baby food, blankets, clothing and medical supplies) were sent to Lebanon or bought there. In mid-December, a further 142.5 tons of goods, to a value of 950,355 Swiss francs, were despatched to Beirut.

The relief supplies are being distributed in collaboration with the official state services, the Lebanese Red Cross and international charitable organizations working in Lebanon. The ICRC is chiefly concerned with providing foodstuffs and medicaments to villages controlled by the Arab Peacekeeping Force and closed to other relief organizations. It is also helping some ethnic and religious minorities.

Emergency relief was thus given to some 300 Armenian families who had fled Beirut in search of shelter in Anjar, near the Syrian border, where the population is exclusively of Armenian origin. For practical reasons, the ICRC sent these relief supplies through its delegation in Damascus: on 10 October, M. David Delapraz, ICRC delegate in the Syrian Arab Republic, delivered 1,000 mattresses, 2,000 blankets (valued at 50,000 Swiss francs) and medical equipment to the village dispensary.

Reinforcements were sent to Lebanon, bringing the total number of ICRC personnel in west Beirut, east Beirut, Jounieh, Tripoli and Tyr to 21 (13 delegates, 3 doctors, 4 nurses, 1 Agency specialist), assisted by 44 Lebanese staff.

On 31 October, Mr. Michel Cagneux, head of the ICRC delegation, was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Elias Sarkis, to whom he described the activities of the ICRC during the events of the month: the work of the emergency relief centre, the regular appraisal of the needs of the hospitals in east Beirut, the supply of medicaments to these hospitals, the opening of an office in Jounieh and the study of the humanitarian needs of the displaced population. Mr. Cagneux pointed out that the ICRC would henceforth concentrate its relief work on helping refugee children under five years old, the population near the "front lines", and the minority communities. President Sarkis expressed deep gratitude for all that the ICRC was doing.

On 5 October, the body of a Lebanese civilian, who had died at Haifa hospital in Israel, was returned to Lebanon, under the auspices of the ICRC.

Israel and Occupied Territories

In September, ICRC delegates carried out 178 visits to detainees held for questioning in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Gaza districts.

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Student travel operations under ICRC auspices, which began at the end of August, finished at the beginning of October. Ten such operations enabled some 5,000 students from Gaza and the Sinai to return to their studies in Cairo after the summer holidays. A number of visitors also took advantage of these facilities.

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Another student travel operation took place on 1 November, in Kuneitra: six students from Golan went to Syria to study.
