

## *EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

### **Africa**

#### **Angola**

On the African continent, the ICRC's most complex operation continued to be in Angola, where an ICRC office was opened in Bié at the start of May, supplementing the delegation already established in Luanda and the sub-delegation in Huambo. However, as previously mentioned, ICRC operations for the displaced population in the country's highlands had to be suspended on May 2 because of the high security risks involved.

During the suspension, the general delegate for Africa, Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet visited Angola from 13 May to 25 May to review the situation. As a result of his mission, it was decided to modify the action, using two aircraft to transport staff and supplies to those areas in need. It was under this system that ICRC activities in the provinces of Huambo, Bailundo and Bié could start again at the end of June. The first flight was made to Bailundo on 26 June.

Following a survey made in April in the province of Bié, it was estimated that about 5000 people would need assistance. To meet these needs, the use of air transport will allow our distribution work to proceed, both in the province of Huambo as well as in Bié.

Food stocks held in Huambo and Bié for the Planalto Region amount to 722 tons and there are 379 tons held at Lobito harbour. Moreover, 1,696 tons of maize, powdered milk and butter oil were expected shortly at Lobito. The ICRC having two aircraft at its disposal, relief supplies were thenceforth to be distributed by means of these aircraft. There are eleven landing fields which can be used in Huambo and Bié provinces enabling supplies to reach those in need.

Since the beginning of March a total of 261 tons of various goods (cleaning material, blankets, shelter material, clothing, paramedical

supplies), worth about 660,000 Swiss francs, have been delivered to Angola.

The troubles which occurred in April and May caused the temporary suspension of medical assistance in villages covered by our action. Meanwhile, the special nutritional rehabilitation feeding centres at Bailundo and Katchiungo, despite the suspension of ICRC support, have been able to function normally. A medical team is ready to resume its hospital work in Bailundo.

The orthopaedic centre at Bomba Alta continues its work for amputees, both civilian and military. The work at the centre has improved as a result of an increase in the numbers of ICRC specialists, the arrival of basic materials and a revised system of recruiting and training local personnel provided by the "Angola Red Cross". A shelter is planned for about 20 amputees. The agreement for co-operation between the "Angola Red Cross" and ICRC, which expires this month, is to be renegotiated for a further period of one year.

The conflict in Angola resulted in a large number of displaced persons. Accordingly, a traditional tracing system was started in co-operation with the "Angola Red Cross" for needy persons, prisoners of war and detained foreigners, whose country of origin is not officially represented in Angola. The tracing requirements of displaced persons are met by the local "Angola Red Cross" which has set up a system covering the principal provinces of the country.

### **South Africa**

Townships, and other areas in Natal, the Cape Province, and Ciskei were visited by an ICRC delegate during a three-week mission in May to improve the monitoring of relief and evaluate the needs of families of political detainees in each of the areas visited.

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

In early May, the competent authorities gave permission for the opening of an ICRC office in Windhoek. Officially opened on 6 July, the office marks the start of an ICRC presence in the territory on a permanent basis.

### **Zambia**

It was decided by the ICRC during May to close its Zambian delegation and transfer responsibility for further activities in the country to the regional delegation now based in Salisbury, Zimbabwe.

## Uganda

For many months, the ICRC has been closely following the unstable situation in the West Nile province caused by outbreaks of fighting, and extending protection and assistance to the civilian population. Our presence was firmly established in the region with the opening of the sub-delegation in Arua, in January of this year.

May and June saw a resurgence of tension in the country, particularly in the West Nile Province. Acting head of the ICRC delegation in Kampala, Pierre Pont, visited the Arua sub-delegation on May 18, to review the situation and to settle upon measures which would be instituted in case of emergency.

The emergency presented itself on 24 June when Ombachi Mission was attacked by uncontrolled elements. About 10,000 people have been sheltering at the mission from the grave troubles which had plagued the region since the beginning of the month.

The attack resulted in the death of 60 civilians while about another 100 were wounded. Another consequence was the flight of refugees towards Zaire.

In addition to the ICRC delegate, representatives from the League of Red Cross Societies, a team from "Médecins sans frontières", as well as some German doctors and Swedish logistics experts, were staying at the mission, run by the Fathers of Verona, at that time.

Alarmed by the scale of violence in the region, the ICRC launched a solemn appeal to the parties concerned, reminding them of their obligation to observe and carry out the fundamental humanitarian principles.

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Here is a brief summary of ICRC activities during recent months:

The ICRC distributed to prisons in Uganda soap, disinfectants, clothing, various kinds of utensils, blankets, recreational material as well as beans and milk powder in those places where the feeding situation called for it.

Besides providing relief to detainees, our delegates also distributed utensils and other basic requirements to about 1000 families, victims of pillage in the region of Kiboga, west of Kampala.

Between January and June in the West Nile, relief was brought to about 20,000 people who had been either displaced or victims of plunder and pillage. This particular programme will continue until the end of this year, in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies and

other humanitarian organisations, including UNDP, CARE, OXFAM and EEC.

So far this year, relief supplies valued at 420,000 Swiss francs have been provided in the West Nile and in prisons throughout the country.

In all the places of detention visited by the ICRC, serious medical problems were observed among the detainees. To help alleviate these problems steps have been taken by the ICRC to improve the standard of care given to prisoners, and to facilitate the transfer of certain detainees to hospitals; medicines have been regularly distributed, as well as simple laboratory equipment.

Basic medical kits and bandages are regularly supplied to civilian dispensaries and hospitals in the West Nile. This programme will continue for the next 6 months, in co-operation with other organisations. In particular the League of Red Cross Societies will be responsible for the hospitals at Nebbi (south of Arua).

During the first half of this year medical supplies worth about 168,000 Swiss francs were sent to prisons and dispensaries in the West Nile.

The Kampala Tracing office, opened in September 1979, is principally concerned with registration of detainees, exchange of family messages between detainees and their families, tracing families of detainees and other persons who disappeared since May 1979. In the past 6 months over 10,000 family messages were exchanged.

We would like to end this notice with a special mention. The local section of the Uganda Red Cross at Arua in the West Nile showed on 8 May a significant example of its support. At a sporting event it collected the sum of 1,000 dollars which it offered to the ICRC for its action in favour of the orphans of N'Djamena in Chad.

## **Zaire**

Since the ICRC encountered a slow-down in its activities on behalf of detainees in Zaire, starting around the month of March, it was decided to send a mission from Geneva to evaluate the work of the delegation and the co-operation of the authorities so as to decide if and how such co-operation might be improved in order to facilitate access to all places of detention.

ICRC protection activities in Zaire started after the events in Shaba in May 1978 which had initially called for an assistance operation. The delegates at that time undertook to visit places of detention in the province of Shaba. At the beginning, and on several occasions thereafter, the delegates negotiated successive agreements which finally assured

them of access to all places of detention under the authority of Justice, Security, military and police jurisdictions. Series of visits were accordingly carried out, notably in the provinces of Equateur and Shaba and to some degree in Kivu.

The delegates from Geneva, Mrs. J. Egger, regional delegate for central and western Africa, and Mr. J.-F. Labarthe, in charge of the Detention Service of the ICRC Operations Department, were in Kinshasa from 27 June to 10 July.

Despite repeated efforts, they were not able to meet the president or any other responsible authority of the National Red Cross Society. They had meetings only with governmental authorities.

The authorities gave the necessary assurances to provide the ICRC with access to places of detention and the program for subsequent visits was decided upon.

Before their departure, the delegates from Geneva visited detention cells of the OAU and the CNRI in Kinshasa and subsequently the Makala prison, which had all been visited earlier. The regular ICRC delegation thereafter made visits to the same three places of detention and to the G2.

It may be noted that the ICRC delegation in Zaire, between 14 and 24 May had visited 11 detention centres in four towns (Kipushi, Kolwezi, Likasi, Lubumbashi) in the province of Shaba. On 10 June, the delegates visited the CNRI in Bukavu and Goma. These were the first ICRC visits to the latter places of detention.

The Zaire authorities expressed the desire to enlarge their co-operation by a campaign for dissemination of international humanitarian law and information on ICRC activities, which were still not well known to a part of the population. They also invited the ICRC to participate in a seminar on human rights to be organized by the Attorney General for magistrates and officers in charge of places of detention.

In addition, the authorities decided to maintain assistance projects supported by the ICRC in co-operation with certain governments in various prisons which were under the authority of the Ministry of Justice.

The headquarters agreement defining the status of the delegation to Zaire, which had been submitted some months earlier by the ICRC, was expected to be signed shortly by the State Commissioner for Foreign Affairs.

In February 1981 the Director of Zaire prison services visited Geneva, where detailed discussions took place with ICRC officials concerned with detention problems. These talks were followed by visits to two Swiss places of detention.

## **Burundi**

Two ICRC delegates, Mrs. J. Egger and Mr. J.-F. Labarthe, visited Burundi from 22 to 27 June, to meet the authorities and offer the services of the ICRC for additional visits to all categories of detainees.

The ICRC had previously visited detainees in Burundi, up to 1978. At that time, the ICRC had excellent relations with the authorities who gave priority to making the prisons self-sufficient in terms of food supplies. The ICRC in 1978 had been obliged to discontinue this work in Burundi because of the numerous conflicts taking place in Africa which made great demands upon the institution's human and material resources.

The ICRC delegates were received by Mr. Laurent Nzeyimana, Minister of Justice, Mr. Magenge, Director General in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. G. Marirakiza, Director of prison services.

The authorities expressed the desire to resume their co-operation with the ICRC and confirmed that they would grant delegates access to all places of detention and to all categories of detainees and that the visits would take place in accordance with standard ICRC procedures. An initial series of visits was planned for the near future.

Despite their requests, the ICRC delegates were not able to meet the President or any other officer of the National Society but had talks only with the government authorities.

## **Rwanda**

Mrs. J. Egger, ICRC regional delegate for central and western Africa, and Mr. J.-F. Labarthe, head of the Detention Service of the ICRC Operations Department, carried out a mission in Rwanda from 12 to 21 June, to meet the authorities and offer the services of the ICRC for visits to all categories of detainees.

The latest previous general visit to places of detention in Rwanda by ICRC delegates had taken place in 1974. At that time, the delegates visited the Ruhengeri prison, in which were held detainees of interest to the ICRC. From 1975, access to this prison, though authorized by the Head of State, was in fact prevented. In 1980, the President of the "Rwandan Red Cross" wrote to the President of the ICRC, asking that the ICRC back up his Society's and his Government's efforts to improve detention conditions. This request led to the mission by the two ICRC delegates.

In Rwanda, the delegates met a number of prominent persons, including Mrs. A. Habyarimana, honorary president of the "Red Cross"

and wife of the Head of State, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Health and numerous other high government officials.

In the course of two very frank meetings with the Minister of Justice, the delegates recalled the conditions and procedures for ICRC visits to places of detention. The offer of the ICRC's services was received with great interest. Due to the absence from the country of the Head of State at the time of the visit by the delegates, it was agreed that the procedures would be submitted to him for his approval when he returned.

The ICRC delegates also met several representatives of the "Rwandan Red Cross", including the President, Dr. Claudien Kamilindi, and the Secretary General, Abbé Kamugisha.

They found it to be a dynamic society, carrying out a variety of remarkable activities. Its statutes are in the process of amendment, with a view to obtaining recognition by the ICRC. Its organization includes 143 local sections and has about 600 first aid workers. It maintains an orphanage at Masaka, for very young children, and another at Kacyiro, for older children and adolescents, and a blood-transfusion centre, served by 35 blood-collection posts in different parts of the country. Another aspect deserves special mention—that the society is attempting to finance all of its own activities, thanks to the efforts and initiatives of the president of its Finance Commission.

## Chad

After carrying out a survey in March in the south of Chad, as reported previously in the *Review*, the ICRC delegation made another survey in May in the center and a third one in June in the west and the north of the country.

Three ICRC delegates, together with a representative of the newly formed "Chad Red Cross", visited the central part of the country from 14 to 24 May. They found that the civilian population in that area had not been greatly affected by the conflict.

On June 10, three ICRC delegates and two representatives of the "Chad Red Cross" left N'Djamena for the western and northern areas of the country. They returned to the capital on 2 July after making a survey of the area.

The delegates took with them several truckloads of food and medical supplies, which they distributed through the local sections of the "Chad Red Cross" or gave to dispensaries.

From these extensive trips, the ICRC delegation concluded that the population of the country no longer needs the emergency assistance of

the ICRC but requires the long term assistance of agencies specializing in rehabilitation and development. The ICRC is considering handing over its programmes in the near future to such organisations; reports of its delegation surveys have been transmitted to agencies which might intervene in Chad.

While the plan of disengagement was expected to be carried out in July and August, the ICRC was still concerned during May and June with protection. Its delegation was particularly involved in locating ex-prisoners from the south of the country, who were victims of earlier conflicts and who had been unable to leave the northern regions.

## **Latin America**

### **Argentina**

In the five months up to the end of May, ICRC delegates had visited 16 detention centres, including the four principal prisons, Caseros, Villa Devoto, Rawson and La Plata, where 1,369 of the 1,450 detainees of interest to the ICRC had been regrouped.

### **Colombia**

A delegate visited 66 detainees held in the Ipiales Prison in the south of the country during the later half of May. In the week from June 8 to 12, ICRC delegates visited two detention centres in Bucaramanga, a town in the north-east of the country. Of a total of 774 detainees, 36 were of concern to the ICRC.

### **Bolivia**

Mr. A. Kobel, ICRC regional delegate for the Andean countries, arrived in La Paz on July 2. Before visiting new detainees he had discussions with the Minister of the Interior who has renewed the government's authorisation permitting the ICRC to visit detention centres.

### **Salvador**

In view of continuing violence in El Salvador, the increased activities of protection and assistance of the ICRC, the launching of a campaign of information and dissemination of the principles of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law, it was essential to strengthen the ICRC delegation in that country. The total increased from 8 delegates in January to 13 in June, assisted by 35 local employees. Volunteer workers

of the El Salvador Red Cross also co-operated in the ICRC's assistance work for the benefit of displaced persons.

At the end of May, it was estimated that there were more than 150,000 displaced persons throughout the country. About 110,000 of them had found refuge in localities which were relatively unaffected by the fighting and were receiving assistance from governmental or voluntary agencies. Some 40,000 of the displaced persons were in combat zones. The ICRC, whose neutrality, impartiality and independence of action are recognized by all concerned, concentrated its activities in these zones, which could not be reached by other organizations.

From 1 January to 31 May of this year, with logistic and personnel assistance from the El Salvador Red Cross, the ICRC distributed to these displaced persons more than 600 tons of foodstuffs in the form of individual rations, including corn, powdered milk, oil, rice and sugar. It also provided clothing for children, mats and about 3,000 blankets.

In addition, the ICRC gave medical care to displaced persons. A team composed of 3 doctors and 2 nurses, locally recruited, working under the direction of an ICRC doctor, cared for people in the departments of Morazan and San Miguel.

Since the opening of its delegation in El Salvador in June 1980, the ICRC has obtained from the authorities far-reaching freedom which enables delegates to visit, without advance notice, all places of detention, permanent or temporary, both civilian and military, in accordance with standard ICRC procedures, and to deliver relief to the detainees if necessary.

During the first five months of 1981, the delegates made 295 visits to 159 places of detention, under the authority of the national guard, national police and customs police, as well as in military garrisons and in prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. Taking into account the frequency of the visits, the delegates in the course of all these visits saw a cumulative total of 4,290 detainees, most of whom were seen several times. In accordance with custom, confidential reports on these visits were transmitted to the authorities.

The volume of work of the Tracing Agency office increased greatly. An average of 40 persons came daily to the ICRC delegation to report on persons who had disappeared or to ask for information about detained relatives.

Since June 1980, the office opened about 1900 tracing files. Of this total, it was able to give some 550 replies. The office also maintained a general file on all persons arrested for reasons of security who had been visited by the ICRC delegates.

Since the National Society's possibilities for soliciting funds were directly affected by the events, it was essential to provide it with financial support to permit the effective operation of its ambulance service and clinic. It was agreed that the ICRC would henceforth contribute 50,000 Swiss francs per month to the Society.

On 17 June, the ICRC launched a new and urgent appeal for funds to enable it to continue its protection and assistance activities in El Salvador during the last half of 1981, the budget for which amounts to 4.9 million Swiss francs.

## **Asia**

### **Missions by the Delegate-General and the Head of the Medical Division**

Mr. Jean de Courten, delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, carried out missions in Thailand, Kampuchea and Vietnam from 3 to 18 May.

In Thailand and Kampuchea, he had numerous discussions with the authorities, with representatives of humanitarian organizations and with the ICRC delegations in order to sum up the current situation and decide upon future ICRC activities for the benefit of the Kampuchea peoples.

During the latter part of June, Dr. Rémy Russbach, Head of the Medical Division of the ICRC, also visited Phnom Penh and Bangkok. He also toured the frontier zone between Thailand and Kampuchea to observe ICRC activities in the refugee camps.

### **Thailand**

In May and June, the ICRC delegation continued its protection and assistance activities for refugees along the Kampuchea-Thailand frontier. These two months constituted a period of particular difficulty due to armed fighting in the vicinity of the refugee camps and to other external circumstances which interfered with the work of the ICRC teams.

The ICRC medical structure in May and June consisted of two teams, one of them north and one of them south of Aranyaprathet, and a surgical team in the camp at Khao-I-Dang.

During this period, the ICRC no longer provided medicines except to its own medical teams. Medical co-operation was entrusted to the "Border Medical Co-ordination Group", officially recognized by the Thai authorities. The ICRC is a member of this committee, together with UNICEF and the voluntary agencies involved.

In the domain of protection at the frontier, the ICRC continued to concern itself with the situation of Vietnamese nationals and some Kampuchean nationals who found themselves in particularly dangerous circumstances. The very presence of the delegates constituted an element of protection for civilians, which was particularly important in view of the politico-military situation. The ICRC made urgent representations to the authorities in Bangkok seeking measures to assure the security of these refugees. The ICRC has consistently advocated the transfer of these persons to camps farther into the interior of Thailand.

The Central Tracing Agency office attached to the ICRC delegation continued its traditional activities in ten refugee camps along the frontier. In addition to the transmission of messages and the tracing of persons, this office undertook a systematic listing of child refugees separated from their families and made a careful check of indications as to the identity of these children, in an effort to re-unite them with their families. This work was extremely difficult because the populations in these camps were constantly shifting, with refugees moving from one camp to another without notice, while unaccompanied children did the same. A trend appeared to be developing among refugees for their return to Kampuchea, with the encouragement of Thai authorities.

In May and June, the ICRC delegation distributed about 50 tons of rice and 15 tons of other foodstuffs, valued at about 25,000 dollars. In the same period it distributed medicines and medical and para-medical material to hospitals and camp dispensaries to a value of about 120,000 dollars.

### **Kampuchea**

With the ending of the emergency period in Kampuchea, the personnel of the ICRC delegation was reduced. From 14 persons plus 5 medical teams at the beginning of the year, the total personnel was brought down to 7 persons at the end of June. The last medical teams were withdrawn on 19 June.

For the continuance of medical assistance, the ICRC would like to have a medical co-ordinator from the League take up his functions at Phnom Penh to facilitate contacts between National Societies elsewhere and the Red Cross at Phnom Penh. The Order of Malta has expressed its desire to continue the ICRC action for the benefit of lepers in the province of Kompong Cham.

Up to the end of this year, the ICRC is willing to continue supplying certain medicines of an emergency nature or which are in common use; shipments of blood will continue until the Phnom Penh blood bank is

operating. Such medical assistance will continue to be limited and will be adapted to the developments of the situation and the availability of the country's own medical services. The ICRC will maintain a minimum staff, consisting for example of one doctor and one pharmacist to check needs and oversee the use made of medicines.

During May, the plane chartered by the ICRC, in 13 flights from Bangkok to Phnom Penh, brought in 84 tons of relief, including more than 71 tons of medical and paramedical material, along with miscellaneous products for hospital maintenance, with an overall value of about 1,700,000 dollars.

In his talks with the authorities during his visit to Phnom Penh in the middle of May, the delegate-general gave particular emphasis to the urgency of solving the problem of about 900 children without parents who were among the refugees at the frontier. He made every effort to convince the Kampuchean authorities that substantial progress should be made without delay in searching for their families and turning over the children to their families. The ICRC has constantly stressed the importance of re-uniting families and restoring children to their own cultural surroundings in contrast to foreign adoptions, just as long as there is any hope of finding the families.

The representative of the UNHCR and the Red Cross of Phnom Penh both shared and supported the ICRC point of view. The authorities said that they were in favor, on humanitarian grounds, of the return of these children to Kampuchea.

Accordingly, the ICRC supplied lists of the children whose families had to be found. These lists were in the form of posters, with photographs of the children to facilitate identification.

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Miss Phlech Phiroun, president of the Red Cross at Phnom Penh, accompanied by Dr. My Samedy, secretary general, visited Geneva from 22 to 30 May. At ICRC headquarters, they had numerous discussions relating to Red Cross assistance and protection activities in Kampuchea.

### **Viet Nam**

Mr. Jean de Courten, delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, was in Viet Nam from 12 to 18 May for talks with a number of government representatives and with leaders of the National Red Cross Society.

In particular, he had discussions with Mr. Vo Dong Giang, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nguyen Tang Am, Vice-Minister of Health and Mr. Nguyen Luong, Deputy Director of the International Organizations Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The delegate-general also met Mr. Nguyen Van Tin, Vice-President of the National Society, and other members.

In all these talks, the delegate-general described the activities of the ICRC along the Thailand frontier and in Kampuchea and discussed the manner in which the ICRC intended to pursue its activities during the last half of the year. He gave particular emphasis to the question of children separated from their parents, whom the ICRC wished to restore to their families as quickly as possible. He referred also to the problems of protection in Kampuchea.

### *Transfer*

On 28 May, a plane chartered by the ICRC transported 93 persons (83 adults and 10 children) from Viet Nam to Taiwan, where they wished to join relatives.

### **Vietnamese refugees in south-east Asia**

From 16 to 19 June, a technical seminar was held in Bangkok for the development of Agency services set up in the various Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of south-east Asia to help Vietnamese refugees in the region. These Agency services are concerned mainly with the listing of refugees, the transmission of messages and searches for missing persons. The ICRC acts as co-ordinator and adviser in these activities and the Central Tracing Agency maintains several permanent delegates in south-east Asia for this purpose.

Representatives of the Agency services of five National Societies in the region (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) and branches of the British Red Cross at Hong Kong and the Portuguese Red Cross at Macao took part in the seminar, as did four delegates of the Central Tracing Agency.

The purpose was to evaluate the current situation and assess the work carried out since the previous seminar of the same kind, at Jakarta in July 1980. The participants were also concerned with verifying technical working procedures and exploring possibilities for improving them.

**Indonesia***Timor*

On 5 May, the Indonesia Red Cross and the ICRC agreed to continue their joint relief action in Timor, on a reduced scale and for a limited period, so far as the necessary funds were available. The purpose of this operation was to consolidate the results obtained during the initial period of activity, which ended in April, to develop the local Red Cross section, to enable the authorities to take over and carry on the medical activities and, for the Indonesian Red Cross and the ICRC, to develop such traditional activities as the tracing of missing persons, the transmission of family messages and the reuniting of families separated by the events.

An ICRC delegate went to East Timor in mid-June to visit the villages which had been assisted during the first phase of the relief operation.

Dr. Saronto, in charge of operations in East Timor for the Indonesian Red Cross, was in Geneva from 18 to 25 June, where he visited the ICRC, the League and the Henry Dunant Institute. He discussed with the various services of these institutions matters connected with the activities in Timor.

**Philippines**

From the beginning of May up to 22 June, four ICRC delegates, including a doctor, carried out a series of visits to places of detention in Manila and the provinces. They visited a total of 25 places of detention. The delegates were to present their observations and possible suggestions to the responsible authorities at Manila in July.

**Republic of Korea**

Following an agreement reached between the "Saharawi Red Crescent" and the ICRC, 48 South Korean fishermen, who had been detained by the Polisario, were flown by the ICRC from North Africa on June 17. On arrival at the Zurich airport, the fishermen were handed over by ICRC delegates to South Korean officials.

## Oceania

### New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga

Mr. David Delapraz, ICRC regional delegate at Kuala Lumpur, carried out a mission in Oceania from 15 June to 5 July.

In New Zealand and Fiji, he visited the National Red Cross Societies for discussions of various subjects of common interest, notably the dissemination of the principles of humanitarian law in the armed forces. It may be noted in this connection, for example, that Fiji soldiers are members of contingents of the United Nations forces in Lebanon.

In the Kingdom of Tonga, the regional delegate met with the local Red Cross, a former branch of the British Red Cross, which has recently applied to the ICRC for recognition.

## Middle East

### Lebanon

As violence continued in Lebanon throughout May and June, particularly in Beirut and Zahle, the ICRC maintained its emergency action in co-operation with the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestinian "Red Crescent".

The ICRC's chief medical officer, Dr. Rémy Russbach, arrived in Beirut on 5 May, accompanied by a nurse, and from there proceeded to southern Lebanon before going to the area north of Beirut to evaluate the medical situation. As a result of the mission, which lasted until May 18, Dr. Russbach concluded that medical needs were for the time being covered by the local medical system: the hospitals were functioning; personnel and supplies were sufficient. The principal problem, he found, was the need to collect information continuously on the medical situation in each region. For this purpose, he established a system for keeping up to date on the medical situation throughout the country.

A violent escalation in the fighting hit Beirut on May 31. On the same day, armed men forced their way into the ICRC vehicle depot and into the delegation office itself, demanding transport. They escaped with an ambulance, two mini-buses and a car, all equipped with VHF radios and Red Cross flags.

On 30 June, peace returned to Zahle. During the preceding 90 days, the ICRC had arranged 31 convoys which transported a total of 636

kilograms of medical supplies as well as food and 160 blankets. On their return to Beirut, the convoys had been the means of evacuating 361 people (wounded, sick, elderly persons and children) to be reunited with their families.

During April and May, the value of assistance by the ICRC throughout Lebanon was 728,000 Swiss francs. Of this amount 126,000 Swiss francs was spent on medical needs, 165,000 on relief and 437,000 went towards the cost of ambulances.

A convoy of 13 ambulances, supplied by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany arrived in Lebanon on 31 May after having left Germany on 23 May. Seven of the ambulances were given to the Lebanese Red Cross, four to the Palestinian "Red Crescent" and two were to be used by the ICRC delegation.

## **Iran-Iraq conflict**

### *Presidential mission to Iran*

After visiting Iraq in March-April, ICRC President Alexandre Hay, accompanied by the general delegate for the Middle East, Jean Hoefliger, was in Iran from 21 to 26 June, where he met with high ranking government officials, including the Prime Minister, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, the President of the Islamic Party and Supreme Court, the Chief of the Iranian Army, the Attorney General of the Revolutionary Islamic Courts and the President of the Parliament.

### *Delegations*

In Iraq and Iran, the ICRC continued, during May and June, to perform its tasks of protection for prisoners of war and at the same time provided assistance and protection to civilians in occupied territories and persons displaced from their homes as a result of military operations.

As the number of dead, wounded, missing and prisoners of war were increasing on both sides, the ICRC was obliged to strengthen its delegations in Baghdad and Teheran.

At present, the Baghdad delegation comprises ten delegates, of whom one is a doctor and four are Central Tracing Agency specialists.

The Teheran delegation comprises twelve delegates, of whom one is a doctor and one is a Central Tracing Agency specialist.

Over 6,000 prisoners of war in the two belligerent countries were visited at regular intervals. They receive assistance in the form of clothing, books, games and cigarettes.

Through the Central Tracing Agency, over 45,000 Red Cross messages were exchanged between prisoners and their relatives, contributing to the moral comfort which families, torn by the conflict, need so much. At the same time it continued its work in identifying soldiers killed in action. Several thousand enquiries were processed, and there was a significant increase in the number of persons reported missing.

#### *Occupied territories*

ICRC delegates several times visited Iranian territory occupied by the Iraqi Army, to determine whether aid was needed by the civilian population, and to ensure the observance of the Fourth Geneva Convention by the occupying authorities. Permission was sought for the Central Tracing Agency to make a census of families separated by the conflict.

#### *Displaced persons*

An initial consignment of powdered milk and medicaments was dispatched for the displaced civilians in Iran. ICRC delegates made several visits to displaced persons in the regions of Ahwaz, Dezful, Jiroft, Isphahan and Meshed, the object being to see whether additional assistance was required. The ICRC informed the Iranian authorities that it was ready to provide further supplementary assistance whenever needed.

#### *Repatriation of wounded prisoners*

The simultaneous repatriation of 17 wounded Iraqi prisoners of war and 25 wounded Iranian prisoners of war was carried out under the auspices of the ICRC on 16 June.

It was at the Larnaca airport in Cyprus that the prisoners of war were handed over by the ICRC to the two parties. The operation was the first of its type since the start of the conflict.

An aircraft, specially chartered for the operation by the ICRC, left Geneva the previous evening loaded with 7.5 tons of urgent relief destined for the victims of the earthquake which had hit Iran on 14 June. The supplies, which included tents, blankets, medicaments and various relief goods, had been made available by the Swiss Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC.

#### *Iraq*

Throughout May and June, the ICRC's protection activities in Iraq continued. The prisoners of war were visited by ICRC delegates during May and June in two different camps.

*Iran*

Following the authorisation of the Iranian authorities on 21 April allowing ICRC delegates to visit Iranian detainees in the hands of the Islamic Revolutionary Committees, delegates visited 31 centres in Teheran and five in Azerbaïdjan from 21 April to 9 May.

Furthermore, the prisoners of war were visited by ICRC delegates during May and June in 1 camp, 3 prisons and a number of hospitals.

*Appeal by ICRC*

On 16 June, the ICRC appealed to governments and National Red Cross Societies to send contributions to cover the costs of its emergency activities in aid of the victims of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The total sum needed to cover the ICRC aid programme in Iraq and Iran for the period from 1 April to 31 December 1981, amounts to 4,350,000 Swiss francs.

**Israel and Occupied Territories**

During May and June, ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories carried out 388 visits to detainees under interrogation in the Gaza and Jerusalem sectors. During the same period, they continued their customary visits to places of detention holding detainees arrested on an administrative order.

In addition, the repatriation of two Lebanese detainees was effected through the auspices of the ICRC on 11 May at the frontier post of Rosh Hanikra. On 21, 24 and 27 May, three separate repatriation operations were organised at Allenby Bridge for a total of five people. There were two operations at the same bridge on 10 and 30 June, also arranged through the ICRC.

**Jordan**

The fifth series of visits in Jordanian prisons was completed between 23 May and 26 June. Of the 2,500 prisoners seen, fewer than 180 were of concern to the ICRC.

**Pakistan**

Dr. R. Arbex, Deputy Head of the ICRC Medical Division, carried out an evaluation mission from 1 March to 16 April in the northern and western provinces of Pakistan, in which there are many refugees from Afghanistan. The principal purpose of his mission was to assess progress

in ICRC projects for opening a surgical hospital at Peshawar, with a workshop for making prostheses for wounded Afghans, and a second hospital for refugee women and children. These hospitals were also intended to serve as a logistics base for the four mobile medical teams working in the refugee camps and for the five dispensaries in the camps.

On 15 June, the surgical hospital was opened at Peshawar, with a capacity of 45 to 65 beds. In addition to local employees, the medical personnel included persons placed at the disposal of the ICRC by the National Societies of New Zealand and the German Federal Republic.

Dr. Pascal Grellety, in charge of the ICRC's mobile medical teams, made a report to the ICRC at the end of June. After nine months of work, under extremely difficult conditions, he said that a rational system of preventive and curative medicine had been introduced amongst a nomad population, with a degree of success that surpassed all expectations. Although these results were encouraging, they continued to be precarious and the whole achievement could be reduced to nothing unless it received continuing support. This action is meeting a truly urgent need and no other person or agency but the ICRC is in a position to assure its operation.

Since the beginning of the ICRC action for the benefit of victims of the events in Afghanistan, in October 1980, up to April 1981, 221 medical parcels, with a total value of more than 40,000 Swiss francs, were turned over to groups of doctors and nurses leaving for Afghanistan, to work either among the civilian population or to give first aid to the military wounded.

## Europe

### Spain

From 5 to 28 May, Mr. Philippe Grand d'Hauteville, ICRC regional delegate for Europe, and Dr. J. Germann, medical delegate, made visits to 10 places of detention in Madrid and the provinces. They saw 519 detainees, awaiting trial or sentenced, under the terms of Spain's anti-terrorist legislation. The ICRC delegate-general for Europe and North America, Mr. Frank Schmidt, joined the two delegates for their later visits and for a final interview with the Ministry of Justice.

In June and early July, Mr. F. Robadey, ICRC delegate, and Dr. G. Perren, medical delegate, visited nine places of detention and saw 40 detainees.

All these visits were made in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures.

### **Northern Ireland**

The British Government on 15 July notified the ICRC that it would authorize its delegates to visit detainees in Northern Ireland. Accordingly, three delegates, Mr. Frank Schmidt, delegate-general for Europe and North America, Mr. Philippe Grand d'Hauteville and Dr. Rémy Russbach went to Belfast and from 16 to 22 July, in four places of detention, visited persons detained in connection with the events.

Between October 1971 and March 1976, the ICRC had made seven series of visits to administrative detainees, held under the terms of special legislation which entered into effect in 1971. Since the end of its series of visits, there were no longer any internees in this category, but the ICRC renewed the offer of its services (most recently on 14 May 1981) to visit accused and sentenced prisoners.

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