

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Africa

Southern Africa

In December 1981, Mr. Roger Santschy, in charge of the Southern Africa sector at ICRC headquarters, Geneva, visited the ICRC delegations in Mozambique, the Republic of South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, with the purpose of taking stock of ICRC activities in those countries.

Republic of South Africa

The ICRC delegation continued to provide assistance, in the form of food parcels and travel vouchers, to the families of detainees or to ex-detainees who had been released. A total of 400 families received aid from this programme during December.

A Soviet prisoner was visited by ICRC delegates and an ICRC doctor for the third time in November and again on 30 December.

Namibia

The ICRC's protection activities in Namibia cover various categories of prisoners.

During the period 4 to 12 November, three ICRC delegates and an ICRC doctor visited persons captured in the course of military operations in southern Angola. For some prisoners, it was their first contact with the ICRC, but for the majority, it was the second time they were visited by ICRC delegates. The delegation is continuing its efforts to gain access to Swapo prisoners captured during the fighting.

On 26 November, an ICRC delegate visited 7 convicted security prisoners.

Between 15 and 25 December, a new series of visits was carried out. The ICRC delegates saw 86 Angolan prisoners of war, 5 of whom were wounded, 117 persons detained by the South African Army in Mariental, and 10 convicted security prisoners. In addition, 3 persons awaiting trial, detained for security reasons, were visited for the first time. During these visits, family messages were handed to the prisoners of war and all the prisoners or detainees visited received a Christmas parcel.

All the visits were carried out in accordance with the ICRC's standard procedures.

Lesotho

In November, an ICRC delegate went to Maseru in order to re-establish contact with the National Red Cross Society and the government authorities. Talks were held with senior officials of the Prime Minister's office and of various ministries, with the object of obtaining authorization to carry out visits to political detainees in accordance with the ICRC's standard procedures. A memorandum was handed to the authorities, who promised that a reply would be delivered in due course to the ICRC.

Angola

In November and December, the provision of medical aid, distributions of food by the ICRC and the execution of its nutritional rehabilitation programme continued in the Planalto region, despite the logistical problems raised by the onset of the rainy season.

At the end of October, there were 58 food distribution centres in Katchiungo and in the surrounding area. During October, a total of 190 tons of food was distributed to about 30,000 persons. This figure represents the highest amount of relief supplied in any one month since the beginning of the operation.

On 10 November, three ICRC delegates set out to make a survey of the needs in southern Angola. They visited first Cahama, Chiange and the hospital at Chiulo, where they left medicines and dressings, blankets, powdered milk and feeding bowls. Further south, they found that the hospital at N'giva had been evacuated and most of it demolished. The dispensary at Mongua was still open, but was very short of medical supplies, and the delegates left there a small quantity of medicines to cover immediate requirements. The towns and villages to the south of the Kunene River were still only partially inhabited at the time of the delegates' visit, as about 30 to 60 per cent of their inhabitants were

still hiding in the bush. The food situation was found to be very poor, and a plan of assistance was immediately prepared.

It was decided to open a new ICRC sub-delegation at N'giva. On 10 December, two ICRC delegates and a nurse left Lubango for N'giva and the new sub-delegation started its work on 14 December. The delegates began operating the customary tracing activities with an initial exchange of family messages. They examined 117 patients and visited the dispensaries at Namacunde and Omupunda to review the possibility of re-opening them and to assess their needs. Due to the heavy rains, N'giva was not accessible by road and medical supplies were despatched by air.

On 24 December, 5 persons were killed when the displaced persons camp at Chicala Nova was attacked by armed bands. Stocks of food provided by the ICRC for the population were looted, and the people fled to Katchiungo where they received emergency food aid.

In Kuito, the capital of Bie province, the ICRC delegation helped the "Angolan Red Cross" to implement a programme of emergency food assistance for more than 1,000 displaced persons. The ICRC delegates also helped the "Angolan Red Cross" to set up 15 centres, where hot meals are distributed to about 4,500 persons.

Uganda

In November and December, the ICRC delegation in Kampala continued its activities of protection and assistance.

In the West Nile province, the ICRC medical team distributed in November medical supplies, valued at 10,000 Swiss francs, to various dispensaries and supervised three feeding centres which were opened in Arua district. In December, these dispensaries received more medical supplies to a value of about 13,000 Swiss francs.

In the West Nile province and in villages around Kampala, 8,300 kgs (value 58,000 Swiss francs) of relief goods (food, clothing, blankets, cooking pots and soap) were distributed in November to the civilian population affected by the disturbances. In December, after incidents of looting in several villages around Kampala and in the districts of Mukono, Mpigi, Luwero and Koboga, the delegation provided relief assistance (clothes, blankets, cooking pots and soap) to the victims.

The ICRC delegates distributed a total of 1.6 tons of clothes, mattresses, cooking pots, powdered milk, beans and soap to some 3,000 displaced persons at Bukalamuli Mission, about 60 kms north-east of Kampala. In the West Nile region, 1,650 families who had

recently returned from Zaire received a total of 8 tons of milk powder, cooking pots, blankets and soap. A further 15 tons of relief supplies, to a value of about 60,000 Swiss francs, were given to displaced persons in the West Nile region and in the Kampala area, in December.

Aid to detainees and their families in November amounted to about 7,000 kgs of relief supplies, valued at 43,000 Swiss francs. In the period from 30 November to 12 December, the relief distributed to the detainees and their families amounted to a total value of about 41,000 Swiss francs. It consisted of 4.3 tons of fresh fruit, milk and salt and 3.3 tons of soap, disinfectants, mattresses and blankets.

On 12 December, 573 detainees were released from Mbale and Luzira prisons, bringing the total number of prisoners released since January 1981 to 3,334. The ICRC provided material assistance to facilitate their resettlement.

At the beginning of January, the head of the ICRC delegation carried out a survey in the West Nile region together with representatives of the Uganda Government, of the Uganda Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies, to examine the situation and consider the possibility of handing over the relief operations to these Red Cross bodies.

Horn of Africa

The delegate general for Africa, Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, was in the region of the Horn of Africa from 23 November to 13 December. In the course of his mission he visited Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya. In each of these countries, he conferred with leaders of the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society and with government representatives. He also visited, as a matter of course, the ICRC delegations in those countries.

Ethiopia

In Addis Ababa, the ICRC delegate general and the Ethiopian Red Cross agreed that two more delegates should be added to the staff of the ICRC delegation, in order to expand the joint action conducted by the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross in aid of the inhabitants affected by the situation in the north and in the south of the country. The two extra delegates arrived at the ICRC delegation in December.

In December, the ICRC and Ethiopian Red Cross distributed 70 tons of relief to a value of about 160,000 Swiss francs, and medical supplies to a value of about 15,000 Swiss francs.

From July to September 1981, the aid distributed jointly in eight regions of Ethiopia by the ICRC delegation and the National Red

Cross Society had amounted to 410 tons of various relief items (worth about 1,300,000 Swiss francs) and medical supplies to a value of 10,000 Swiss francs.

As a result of talks between the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the ICRC delegate general, an agreement was signed on 24 December by the Ethiopian Government and the ICRC, laying down the ICRC delegation's status in Ethiopia. This agreement, recognizing the delegation's official establishment in the country, will facilitate considerably the performance of its humanitarian mission.

Sudan

In August 1981, a large number of displaced persons (about 10,000) fled from their homes in Eritrea across the Sudanese border and arrived in Kassala district. The ICRC delegation distributed food, clothing, medicaments, tents, cooking utensils and various other relief items.

Under ICRC auspices, a Swiss Red Cross surgical and medical team (4 to 5 persons) has been working without interruption at Kassala Hospital, caring for the victims of the Eritrean conflict and, to a lesser degree, for the sick among the local Sudanese inhabitants. A doctor and a nurse have also been going periodically to treat patients in the Eritrean refugee camps at Khashm-el-Girba and at Kilo 26. Medicaments and medical supplies are provided by the Swiss Red Cross.

Cameroon

At Yaoundé in November, the ICRC delegate general for Africa, Mr. Jean-Marc Borner, attended the third seminar on international humanitarian law, jointly organized by the Henry Dunant Institute and the Cameroon Institute of International Relations. The senior officials, administrators, officers, judges and university professors taking part in the seminar were drawn from a large number of English- and French-speaking African countries. Mr. Borner spoke on the ICRC's activities in Africa and the difficulties it has to overcome in the discharge of its tasks of protection and assistance.

Zaire

In October 1981, the ICRC delegation, which is essentially engaged in protection activities in Zaire, initiated a programme with the aim of spreading information on Red Cross activities. An information expert has been attached since October to the ICRC delegation in

Kinshasa. A new kind of approach is being tried out to pass on the ICRC message to the population: tales and stories, in the African palaver tradition, relate in somewhat flowery style various aspects of the history of the Red Cross and narratives of incidents in the lives of delegates in the course of their work for the ICRC. The telling of such tales by audio-visual means is expected to spread gradually the dissemination programme throughout the country. Contacts have also been instituted with a view to organizing a series of lectures on humanitarian law for the armed forces.

Conflict in the Western Sahara

The ICRC has made further approaches to the two parties to the conflict in the Western Sahara, with a view to reminding them of their commitments under the Conventions.

An offer of services was reiterated, on 24 November 1981, to Mr. Mohamed Abdel Aziz, secretary general of the Polisario Front.

On 11 December, a personal letter addressed to King Hassan II was sent to the Permanent Mission of Morocco at Geneva, pointing out in particular that the ICRC had not visited Algerian and Sahrawi prisoners of war held by the Moroccan armed forces for several years.

In addition, the ICRC decided to request support from the Western Sahara Implementation Committee set up by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1981. A memorandum on this subject was sent, in January, to the Heads of State of the countries members of this committee, i.e.: Kenya, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Tanzania. Copies of this memorandum were sent also to the Heads of State of Mauritania and Algeria.

Latin America

Mission by a Member of the ICRC

From 16 to 21 November 1981, Dr. Athos Gallino, as Vice-President of the International Committee, Dr. Rémi Russbach, ICRC chief medical officer, and Mr. André Pasquier, delegate general for Latin America, went on a mission to *El Salvador* to take stock of the ICRC's activities there.

The ICRC's work in El Salvador since June 1980 was the subject of talks with the President of the Revolutionary Government Junta, H.E. J. N. Duarte, the Minister of Defence, Colonel José Guillermo García, and the chiefs of the National Guard, the National Police and the Policía de Hacienda.

Dr. Gallino also conferred with the President of the National Red Cross Society, Don Ricardo S. López, on matters concerning the aid programme, carried out jointly by the ICRC and the Salvadorean Red Cross, for the civilians who had left their homes because of the fighting.

After their stay in El Salvador, the ICRC representatives went to *Nicaragua*, where they carried out a mission from 21 to 25 November.

They visited the two main places of detention of the country, after which Dr. Gallino, accompanied by Mr. Pasquier and the head of the ICRC delegation, Mr. L. Isler, had talks with Dr. Cordova Rivas, member of the Government Junta, with Cdt. René Vivas, Vice-Minister of the Interior, and with senior officials of the National Penitentiary Service.

In the absence of the President of the National Red Cross Society, the ICRC delegates conferred with its Vice-President and other representatives.

El Salvador

The ICRC delegation continued providing protection and assistance to persons affected by the events.

In November and December, the ICRC delegates carried out altogether 321 visits in 140 places of detention, where they saw 1,825 detainees. Of these, the delegates met 182 detainees for the first time. The others had been seen in the course of previous visits and the delegates had had the opportunity of speaking with them, according with the ICRC's established procedure for visits to places of detention.

The Central Tracing Agency's local office, attached to the ICRC delegation, continued gathering information on missing persons, so as to be able to prepare the summary reports sent to the authorities on protection activities, to facilitate the tracing of those persons and reply to requests for news of relatives. The Tracing Agency office was visited by 900 persons in November and by 1,100 in December, seeking information about relatives of whom they had not had any news. Generally speaking, the Agency is able to provide replies to about a quarter of the tracing requests registered.

The Tracing Agency also undertakes to forward family messages between detainees and those of their families who are in Nicaragua. In the case of mail sent to other Central American countries, the normal postal services are utilized.

In October, the ICRC delegation distributed 324 tons of foodstuffs for 25,000 displaced civilians in villages situated in the conflict areas in the central and eastern parts of the country.

Distributions of relief continued to be made in November and December. Because of military operations in the northern sector of the department of Morazán, the ICRC was unable to send aid to this area for two weeks in December. On the other hand, in the north and centre (in the departments of Chalatenango, Cabañas, San Vicente de Usulután), the assistance operations were extended. Relief supplies were distributed to 3,300 persons in the southern part of the department of Chalatenango.

At the same time, the delegates went with a medical team to Las Vueltas, in the north of Chalatenango, which had been totally cut off from the rest of the country since May 1981. It contained about 1,000 persons who could not move out because of the blockade and had consequently suffered greatly from lack of food and medicaments. In particular, many children were in a state of under-nourishment, and four of them were in such a serious condition that they had to be taken to San Salvador for intensive care.

Mr. de Mulinen, ICRC delegate for the armed forces, arrived on 12 November in San Salvador, where he gave several lectures on international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts. The lectures were attended by department commanders, General Staff officers, members of the Gerardo Barrios officers training college, and chiefs of the National Police, the National Guard and the Policía de Hacienda.

Information campaign

The dissemination and information campaign, launched in November 1980, was continued during the whole of 1981. In the state of mounting violence and non-observance of humanitarian law prevailing in El Salvador, the objective of the campaign is twofold: first, to explain and ensure understanding of the principles and role of the Red Cross and of the ICRC, so that the Red Cross emblem should be respected and the delegates' safety guaranteed; secondly, to spread the elementary notions of humanitarian law so as to improve the protection of non-combatants and, in particular, of the civilian population.

With the extensive information campaign broadcast over the commercial radio stations, it is hoped to spread the humanitarian message by means of simple examples taken from actual incidents in the conflict. A score of short messages tell, for instance, of the respect which the work of Red Cross first-aid workers commands, the humane treatment to which captured combatants are entitled, and so on.

Three series of lectures, delivered in the barracks of the armed forces and of the security corps were addressed directly to those who will be one day confronted in the field by the problems involving the observance of humanitarian law. Altogether some sixty lectures were attended by several thousand soldiers and recruits. A leaflet, specially produced for the dissemination programme in El Salvador, was distributed, also, to the combatants fighting for the opposition.

Nicaragua

In November and the first part of December, the ICRC delegation in Nicaragua continued its visits to various places of detention. On 3 November, the delegates visited 31 detainees who had been recently arrested and convicted. On 5 November, they visited the "Ruth Rodriguez" rehabilitation centre at Granada, holding 219 detainees, only 17 of whom belonged to categories of direct concern to the ICRC.

On 11 November, Mr. de Mulinen, ICRC delegate for the armed forces, spoke on humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts to an audience of about a hundred officers belonging to the army, navy, air force, General Staff and military courts, from the six military regions in Nicaragua.

As the ICRC delegation considered that the guards in the rehabilitation centres should be adequately informed of the ICRC's role and activities, a number of lectures were given to prison personnel by the head of the delegation.

The first lecture was given on 2 November to 85 trainees of the Penitentiary School in Managua. At the end of the lecture, the large number of questions that were put by the audience showed their interest in the subject.

The head of this training centre expressed her willingness for this kind of co-operation and it was agreed that the programme for training future prison guards would include a two-hour course on ICRC activities.

Argentina

From 9 to 13 November, ICRC delegates carried out a visit to Caseros Prison, where they had interviews without witness with 106

of the 160 security detainees. This was the first visit to a place of detention after the adoption of the new procedures, agreed by the Argentine authorities in October. The visit took place under satisfactory conditions, in conformity with those procedures.

Uruguay

In December, Mr. Ed. Corthésy, ICRC regional delegate, went on a mission to Montevideo, for further talks with government officials on the resumption of ICRC visits to places of detention.

Chile

From 7 to 18 December 1981, Mr. Edmond Corthésy and Mr. Karl Schuler, ICRC delegates, and Dr. Philippe Wacker, medical delegate, made a new series of visits to 11 places of detention, in the capital *and in the southern part of the country, where they saw 106 detainees held on security grounds.* The visits took place in conformity with normal ICRC procedures.

Asia

Programmes on behalf of the Cambodian population

In an earlier issue of the *Review*, we announced the mission carried out, in late October and early November, by ICRC Director of Operations, Mr. J.-P. Hocké; the delegate general for Asia and Oceania, Mr. J. de Courten; and the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. R. Russbach. The results of this survey mission, and ICRC projects in 1982 for the benefit of the Cambodian population, were presented in New York, on 25 November, to representatives of the donor countries, whose financial support allows the ICRC to carry out its tasks of assistance and protection.

Taking into account the general situation at the frontier and in the interior of Kampuchea, the ICRC intends maintaining delegations in Thailand and in Kampuchea, in 1982. Depending on the facilities granted or refused by the governments and the various Khmer groups, in particular for its protection activities, the ICRC will make known the responsibilities that it is able to assume.

In Thailand, the ICRC intends to maintain limited assistance activities, in the medical field particularly. A surgical team will continue to work at Khao-I-Dang, giving priority to treating war wounded. A mobile medical team will work in the frontier camps. A special effort will be made to develop protection activities notably in favour

of Khmer and Vietnamese nationals, both civilian and military, detained by the various parties to the conflict. Protection activities will also be concerned with non-detained persons who find themselves in hostile environments.

In addition, the ICRC will continue with its efforts to disseminate knowledge of humanitarian principles among the different Khmer groups.

In Kampuchea, the ICRC will endeavour to reunite children in centres at the frontier with their parents who have remained in their places of origin. As the major part of medical activities is being taken over by the League, the ICRC will reduce its own. The last distribution to hospitals of medicaments and medical material will take place in June. Free meals will continue to be given to voluntary blood donors, as has been the practice since the beginning of the campaign in October. In addition, negotiations are under way with a view to a rehabilitation project for amputees. The assistance programme to orphanages, which began at the end of 1981, will reach seven more establishments. Surveys are being conducted in the provinces of Kandal, Kompong Som, Kampot and Kratié, with a view to determining the possible needs of orphanages there. As regards protection, negotiations are continuing with the Phnom Penh authorities with a view to obtaining an agreement on visits to categories of prisoners usually protected by the ICRC.

Thailand

The refugee camps situated on the frontier between Thailand and Kampuchea did not experience any serious occurrences in November and December. Only the firing of artillery was heard sporadically, from the interior of Kampuchean territory.

Protection activities continued. ICRC delegates made regular visits to some places of detention at the frontier: the Nong Chan and Phnom Chat camps and the Aranyaprathet prison. However, in spite of repeated requests to the Khmer groups for access to all places of detention, delegates were not able to see persons detained in the Nong Samet camp. At the Phnom Chat camp, Red Cross family message forms were handed over to the local people responsible. In addition, 31 Vietnamese detained at the military penitentiary of Prachinburi province, at Aranyaprathet, were transferred to the Panat Nikhom transit centre.

For several months, the ICRC has been concerned by the situation of refugees of Vietnamese origin, a group considered as being particularly vulnerable. Negotiations have been taking place with the Thai

Government to find a satisfactory solution to the problem of these 870 persons, stranded in the Khmer refugee camps close to the frontier. Up to now, these Vietnamese refugees have been installed at Nong Chan and Samet, others were to be found at Phnom Chat. As months went by, their living conditions deteriorated, the primary reason being the increasing overcrowding of the quarters reserved for them. The ICRC thus decided to agree to the Thai authorities' proposal to reassemble all refugees of Vietnamese origin at Samet. The ICRC has made tents available to provide a temporary shelter for them, it being understood that an agreement remains to be worked out with the Thai Government to ensure effective protection for these refugees.

From 16 to 22 November, an ICRC delegate and doctor carried out a survey in Thai territory, to the north of the frontier region with Kampuchea. Some medicaments, mosquito-nets and blankets were distributed to the local population.

Medical activities continued, with some changes. In December, the Nong Chan hospital which had up to then been under the responsibility of the ICRC, was taken over by the French organization "Médecins sans Frontières". At the ICRC surgical hospital at Kao-I-Dang, a Finnish Red Cross medical team relieved the Australian team.

It was also decided that the central dispensary at Aranyaprathet, which had been placed under ICRC responsibility and where all agencies working at the frontier obtained their supplies, would be handed over to the United Nations organization which should replace UNICEF as from the beginning of 1982. The ICRC has therefore installed a smaller dispensary in the delegation premises, solely for the needs of the surgical team at Kao-I-Dang and the mobile medical team which has to ensure treatment for patients in the frontier camps.

Agency activities have continued both in the field and in Geneva. Principal tasks are the search for missing persons, the exchange of letters between separated persons and the putting together of records on unaccompanied Khmer children in the camps, in order to find their families in Kampuchea.

During November and December, the aeroplane chartered by the ICRC continued to transport aid from Bangkok to Phnom Penh; there was however a break due to difficulties with the Phnom Penh airport administration. During 1981, this aeroplane made some 140 flights and transported more than 700 tons of various aid to Kampuchea.

Kampuchea

In November and December, the search continued for the parents in Kampuchea of unaccompanied Khmer children living in the frontier

camp. At the end of December, the files on 717 children were being examined by the Phnom Penh authorities and up to now 72 families have been found by the Kampuchean Red Cross.

In November, delegates made further visits to five orphanages in Pursat province, two in Prey Veng province and one in the province of Svay Rieng to determine the most urgent needs. These visits were immediately followed by distributions of aid (mattresses, blankets, etc.).

From 1982, the League of Red Cross Societies will take over part of the medical assistance action carried out up to now by the ICRC.

Indonesia

The Indonesian authorities at Jakarta gave their approval for continuing, up to 30 June 1982, the joint aid action carried out by the Indonesian Red Cross and the ICRC in East Timor.

At the beginning of November, Mr. Cédric Neukomm, ICRC delegate, went to Timor where he held talks with the authorities on projected visits to places of detention in Timor. Confirmation was given that the ICRC was authorized to make these visits, which should start at the beginning of 1982.

After very long negotiations, the ICRC received, in November, the agreement of the Cape Verde Government to the repatriation of 77 of its nationals still in East Timor. The Indonesian Government had previously given its assent for these persons to leave Timor.

The repatriation will be a joint operation involving the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, which will pay the travel costs, the ICRC, which made the initial approaches and will carry out the practical organization of the repatriation operation, Caritas and the Holy See which will pay for the installation and assistance costs of the repatriated persons for one year.

On 29 December, the first group of eight Cape Verde nationals left Jakarta for their own country. The other persons will be repatriated in groups in the coming weeks.

The Australian Government has informed the ICRC of its intention to make a thousand tons of maize available for Timor. In addition, it will pay the transport costs as far as the port of Dili.

Philippines

During an interview with the President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, the Minister of Defence, Mr. Enrile, gave the Philippine Government's agreement to notify the ICRC each month of all arrests of

opponents ('public order violators'), of transfers of detainees from one place of detention to another, of sentences and releases that occur during the past month.

At the same interview, the Minister of Defence gave his agreement for the ICRC to undertake an information and dissemination campaign among the armed opposition.

It should also be mentioned that while the International Conference of the Red Cross was going on at Manila, a group of political detainees went on a hunger strike and appealed to the International Red Cross. The ICRC took steps to explain to the families of these detainees the objectives of an International Conference of the Red Cross and the limits of ICRC action on behalf of detainees. The detainees then decided to put an end to their hunger strike.

With the assent of the Philippine Government and National Red Cross, the ICRC decided to open, on 1 January 1982, a new regional delegation at Manila, for the Philippines and for East Asia. Mr. Jean-François Olivier, regional delegate of the ICRC, who had resided in Kuala Lumpur up to then, moved to Manila at the beginning of January.

Malaysia

In October, Mr. David Delapraz, ICRC regional delegate, and Dr. Vallet, medical delegate, went to Sabah, a State in Eastern Malaysia, to the north of Borneo, to make contact with the local section of the Malaysian Red Crescent, and with the HCR representative and, with them, to review the action to provide help for Philippine refugees.

Viet Nam

A special flight took place, on 10 December, from Viet Nam to Taiwan, to repatriate 151 Taiwanese nationals, including 134 persons who had been residing in Viet Nam and 17 fishermen who had been imprisoned for having illegally entered Vietnamese territorial waters.

Pakistan

Mr. Jean de Courten, ICRC delegate general for Asia and Oceania, was in Pakistan, from 14 to 21 December, to examine the assistance activities of the ICRC delegation at Peshawar for victims of the Afghan conflict.

As we have noted previously, a fruitful collaboration was established between the ICRC and the Pakistan Red Crescent in assisting the wounded. Three medical teams of the National Society, stationed in the frontier regions, working within the framework of the medical set

up of the ICRC, receive and transport the wounded to the ICRC hospital at Peshawar.

At the beginning of November, this ICRC hospital moved into a new building, also at Peshawar, where all the services are under one roof. The hospital has a capacity of 116 beds and has two operating theatres. Two surgical teams work there, one an ICRC team, the other a Finnish Red Cross team.

In November-December, there were constantly 90-100 wounded being treated in this hospital, an increase of some 15-25 wounded over the figures for September-October. In December, the number of wounded arriving from Afghanistan diminished, the winter conditions making the transport of wounded very difficult.

From 15 June, the date the hospital was opened, until the beginning of December, 400 patients were admitted, more than 500 other persons were treated as out-patients, and more than 1,300 surgical interventions and various consultations took place.

Annexed to the ICRC hospital at Peshawar, the centre for the care of war paraplegics continues its work, which is well appreciated. At the beginning of December, 19 paraplegics were in hospital there, in a separate pavillion, where they are being rehabilitated.

A workshop for producing artificial limbs for war-disabled started to function on 15 November. Simple appliances are made there, using locally available material. The amputees learn to make and repair the appliances which allow them to take up again an active life. A physio-therapist and two orthopedic technicians work there and train the amputees.

It was decided to continue for the moment the medical action on behalf of refugees, especially women and children, in the Adisai camp, near Peshawar. The delegation will perhaps extend this medical action to refugees in other camps neighbouring Adisai, which would bring to about 20,000 the number of persons receiving this medical assistance.

The delegate general met, at Islamabad, the secretary general of the Pakistan Red Crescent and, at Peshawar, the president and the secretary general of the North-West Frontier Province Red Crescent, to evaluate with them the medical organization set up at the frontier to tend casualties.

Mr. de Courten had talks with the leaders of the six Afghan movements represented in Pakistan on the subject of the protection of prisoners. The Afghan movements declared themselves disposed to co-operate with the ICRC so that prisoners that they have captured should be treated in conformity with international humanitarian law.

At Islamabad, Mr. de Courten had talks also with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and with the ambassador of the Soviet Union in that country.

The medical co-ordinator of the ICRC delegation at Peshawar and a delegate carried out a mission to Baluchistan from 9 to 13 December, to examine the situation of Afghan war wounded and the medical structures in this province of Pakistan.

Afghanistan

In December, Mr. François Zen Ruffinen, delegate responsible for the Asian sector at ICRC headquarters in Geneva, went to the embassy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in Paris, where he had talks with the chargé d'affaires on the problems concerning protection and assistance which the ICRC is meeting in the Afghan conflict.

Middle East

Conflict between Iraq and Iran

Prisoners of war

As we mentioned in the previous issue of the *Review*, the ICRC delegation at Baghdad made several visits to camps of Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq, at the end of October and in November.

In Iran, the visits by ICRC delegates to Iraqi prisoners of war were suspended by the authorities, for administrative reasons, from 14 to 31 October, but they continued from 31 October to 24 November. The ICRC delegates then visited camps and hospitals, after which restrictive measures were imposed by the Iranian authorities on the activities of the delegation. No new visits have been made. However, at the request of the authorities, the delegation registered the names of recently captured prisoners of war.

Agency activities on behalf of prisoners of war continued. In addition to the registering of new prisoners, as mentioned above, and the communication of their names to the country of origin, agency activities include the transmission of family messages, which are exchanged through the intermediary of the ICRC.

Repatriation

The repatriation of 37 Iranian civilians, prisoners in Iraq, unilaterally released by the Iraqi authorities, was carried out on 15 December.

These 37 persons, accompanied by ICRC delegates posted at Baghdad, were taken by an Iraqi aeroplane to Larnaka, in Cyprus.

There, they transferred to a Swiss aeroplane chartered by the ICRC, aboard which was the head of the ICRC delegation in Teheran and the ICRC deputy chief medical officer. They were flown to Teheran where they were welcomed by representatives of the authorities and of the Iranian Red Crescent.

Displaced persons

From 25 November to 4 December, the ICRC delegates based in Teheran, in the company of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the Iranian Foundation for War Victims, made a survey in four provinces (Isfahan, Fars, Khuzistan, Ilam) where at present are to be found the displaced persons who have fled their places of residence in zones occupied by the Iraqi forces or in zones where fighting is going on. There are about 800,000 of these displaced persons and they are being put up provisionally in localities or in camps. The Foundation is feeding and clothing them; it has set up medical centres for them.

One of the first findings of the survey was an urgent need to provide warm clothing for about 130,000 children in the Ilam and Isfahan provinces, where the winter is severe.

The ICRC called on various National Societies to provide children's clothing. Responses were rapid and, by mid-January, the ICRC could count on gifts in kind (120 tons of clothes were promised) and on 132,000 Swiss francs in cash.

Appeal for funds

In view of the deficit in the budget for the Iraq/Iran action for the period 1 April to 31 December 1981, a new urgent appeal for funds was launched, on 4 December, by the ICRC to governments and to National Societies.

Israel and occupied territories

The ICRC delegate general for the Middle East, Mr. Jean Hoeffiger, went on a mission to Israel and the occupied territories from 11 to 17 November. With the ICRC delegates, he examined the general

situation and ICRC activities; he also had various interviews with representatives of the authorities and with members of the federation of local Red Crescent groups on the West Bank.

The ICRC delegation continued with its visits to security detainees under interrogation (191 visits in November and 254 in December) as well as to those awaiting trial or sentenced in the places of detention controlled by the Prison Service (Tulkarem, Neve-Tirza, Nafha, Jenin, Beit-Maatsar, Gaza, Kfar Yona, Beersheva, Ramallah and Hebron).

From the beginning of November to the end of January, an ICRC doctor visited all these prisons and talked with the responsible medical personnel of the Prison Service about his conclusions.

In November and December, a number of persons travelled across the demarcation lines, under ICRC auspices: three persons went into Jordan, by the Allenby bridge; three released Lebanese detainees were repatriated; a family reuniting, from the Golan to Syria, took place on 5 November.

Tension ran high in the occupied territories, where numerous incidents have occurred, and the delegation is ready to face up to humanitarian needs as they arise. At the end of November, a hunger strike was undertaken by the detainees in Tulkarem prison, which had been visited on 7 November. The delegation made a special visit to this prison on 7 December, and another one to the Gaza prison.

Following the destruction of seven houses and the walling up of one house by the Israeli authorities, the ICRC sent a memorandum to the Permanent Mission of Israel at Geneva, protesting against these measures and reminding it of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

During the months of November and December, the delegates made two surveys, one in the occupied territories of Central Sinai and one in the Golan.

Jordan

The sixth series of visits to places of detention in Jordan took place from 28 September to 26 November, in accordance with ICRC procedures. The delegates visited 2,926 detainees, including 47 women, in 17 places of detention, civil and military prisons.

In December, talks took place with the Minister of Health, the Director of Public Security and the Director of the General Intelligence Department. The delegates reported on their findings in the places of detention.

Three special visits were made to the prison of Mahatta and the Zarqa military prison.

During November and December, the delegation also continued with its visits to security detainees under interrogation (81 visits).

Lebanon

The ICRC delegate general for the Middle East, Mr. Jean Hoefliger, visited Lebanon, from 5 to 11 November, to review the situation with the ICRC delegation.

At the end of 1981, the country experienced a period of relative calm such that, while completing aid, medical or other programmes that it had begun, the ICRC got ready to hand over its activities, little by little, to the League of Red Cross Societies, which would resume in Lebanon its traditional role of assistance outside periods of crisis. If the situation were to worsen, the ICRC delegation would again take over.

Yemen Arab Republic

Mr. P. Küng, regional delegate of the ICRC, was in the Yemen Arab Republic from 24 November to 18 December and visited some 2,000 prisoners in nine places of detention, including the Sana'a central prison, where about 200 political or security detainees are held. Previous visits to the Sana'a prison took place last year, and all other places of detention where only penal law detainees are incarcerated, were last visited in 1976/77.

It is very difficult to determine in which category persons detained in Sana'a central prison are to be placed, because delegates were not permitted to interview detainees without witnesses.

Mr. Küng held talks with the Minister of the Interior and with Security officials and a reply is expected soon as to the possibility of completing this visit in keeping with ICRC practice.

Assistance action followed the visit to the places of detention. It consisted in disinfection and the distribution of soap, mattresses and blankets for the women, and medicaments, to a value of 20,000 Swiss francs.

Mr. Küng also met the Ministers of Health and of the Interior and the secretary general of the "Yemeni Red Crescent". An assistance programme in the south of the country, with funds still available for the benefit of victims of the conflict (handicapped and displaced persons) was envisaged. The local ICRC employee at Sana'a will report on the situation of displaced persons.

Messages from Israel and prayer books in Hebrew were distributed to the Jewish community in North Yemen.

Kuwait

From 19 to 22 December 1981, Mr. P. Küng, ICRC regional delegate, participated in the Arabic Seminar on Humanitarian and Social Assistance to the Handicapped, organized by the Kuwaiti Red Crescent. Representatives of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Gulf States, Yemen, the Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan and Syria, and of the "Palestinian Red Crescent" took part in this seminar. The reports presented and a visit to rehabilitation centres, showed how important the work for the benefit of handicapped persons was considered by the Kuwaiti National Society, which is very active in this field.

The possibilities for even closer contact and rapid and effective mutual aid between Arab National Societies were also discussed by the participants.

Mr. Küng spoke of the ICRC and the League, describing their respective roles, and more particularly the current activities of the ICRC.

Europe

Poland

On 18 December 1981, a mission, composed of Mr. F. Schmidt, ICRC delegate general for Europe and North America, Dr. R. Russbach, chief medical officer, and Miss F. Perret, went to Warsaw, in order to evaluate needs and offer the services of the ICRC, to provide aid and protection.

The ICRC delegates met the responsible officers of the Polish Red Cross and some government representatives, including the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Wijacz; the Vice Prime Minister, Mr. Ozdowski; and officials of the Ministries of Justice, Labour and Health. A conversation also took place with the Primate of Poland, Mgr Glomp.

These first contacts enabled the ICRC representatives to gather information relating to needs and to the situation of internees under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice. The interlocutors agreed to co-operate with the ICRC and accorded it the facilities necessary for its activities.

It was initially envisaged that the League would co-ordinate aid action for Poland. At the beginning of December, an appeal for 11 million Swiss francs was launched for this purpose, then the League launched a supplementary appeal, bringing the sum requested up to 20 millions Swiss francs. The aid distributed should reach 70,000 aged and deprived persons, 20,000 children considered to need social assistance and some 60,000 babies.

Discussions took place between the League and the ICRC to co-ordinate International Red Cross action in Poland. On 23 December, an agreement was concluded between the two institutions according to which the responsibility for action in Poland was assigned to the ICRC. On this basis, the following organization was set up: in Geneva, a "Poland operation group", and in Warsaw, a delegation including League and ICRC personnel.

A joint mission of the two organizations was decided upon; it included Mr. R. Jäckli, member of the Committee, Mr. Schmidt and Miss Mercier for the ICRC, and Mr. Hoegh, new Secretary General of the League, and Mr. Stroh. Four tons of medicaments to a value of 90,000 Swiss francs were sent with the same aeroplane. This new mission had the task of continuing discussions with the Polish Red Cross and the authorities with a view to co-ordinating the humanitarian action of the International Red Cross in favour of the persons most affected by the situation. The joint mission ended on 30 December, leaving in Warsaw an ICRC delegation of five persons.

Soviet Union

Mrs D. Bindschedler, member of the ICRC, and Mr. F. Schmidt, ICRC delegate general for Europe and North America, went on mission to the Soviet Union from 30 November to 9 December and visited Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev.

In each of these three towns, Mrs Bindschedler held a conference on international humanitarian law for some 200 students from the faculty of law of the State universities. Mr. Schmidt presented a report on the current activities of the ICRC. Then, a discussion was held with lecturers and some students. This was the first time that the ICRC had made such a mission to the USSR.

In addition, the ICRC representatives visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where Mr. F. Schmidt gave a report on ICRC activities throughout the world.

Among the different contacts established in the course of this mission, mention should be made of the visit paid to the Ukrainian Red Cross and the meeting with the Executive Committee of the Alliance of Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in Moscow.

The *International Review of the Red Cross* welcomes articles on subjects relating to international humanitarian law and the Red Cross.

Such articles must, however, comply with the following rule: they must avoid all reference to current political situations or events and sterile controversies on political, religious or racial topics.

Manuscripts may be submitted in French, English, Spanish or German. They should if possible be typewritten and must not exceed 12,000 words, with a minimum of footnotes.

Authors are requested to send their contributions to the editor of the *International Review* (address on page 3 of the Review), without failing to indicate their address.