

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Africa

Republic of South Africa

In February, the head of the ICRC delegation in the Republic of South Africa, Mr. N. de Rougemont, had interviews with the Minister of Police, the Commissioner of Police and senior officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. They discussed several points, including the possibility for ICRC delegates to visit categories of detainees not previously visited in the Republic of South Africa and to organize meetings, on the border with Angola, between delegates stationed in Windhoek and others in N'Giva (southern Angola), in order to facilitate the exchange of family messages and the dispatch of parcels to Angolan prisoners of war detained in Namibia/South-West Africa.

On 12 February, two delegates from Pretoria made a fifth ICRC visit to the Soviet prisoner held by the South African authorities.

The assistance programme for families of detainees and ex-detainees continued and 400 persons received food parcels in February. The ICRC provided financial support to six persons in need of medical treatment.

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On 19 January, two ICRC delegates from Pretoria went to Bophutatswana and visited a group of 28 foreigners detained for illegal entry (19 from Zimbabwe, 9 from Malawi and 1 from Namibia).

In February, the head of the delegation was received by the President of Bophutatswana, Mr. Mangope, who agreed that delegates visit persons

detained on security grounds. The problem of the repatriation of illegal immigrants from Zimbabwe, Malawi and Angola was also discussed.

During a mission to Venda in March, ICRC delegates had access to three persons detained for security reasons.

Namibia / South-West Africa

On 26 January, the ICRC delegate in Windhoek, Mr. D. Pfaff, visited a Cuban prisoner of war captured by the South African armed forces in southern Angola and detained in Namibia.

On 12 February, he made another visit to three convicted detainees, including a woman.

In talks with the Administrator General, the Head of the Prisons Department and the Head of the Security Police, Mr. Pfaff discussed the possibility of visiting new categories of detainees.

Lesotho

The ICRC regional delegate in Mozambique, Mr. H. Berchtold, went on mission to Lesotho, where he met members of the Lesotho Red Cross and government officials. The purpose of his mission was to renew ICRC contacts with the Lesotho Red Cross and to consider the possibility for ICRC delegates to visit persons detained for security reasons. The ratification of the 1977 Protocols was also discussed.

Angola

January was a month of considerable activity and extension of ICRC assistance programmes. February, however, was marked by serious safety problems. On 20 February, the municipality of Mungo on the central Planalto (Huambo Province) was attacked. The ICRC premises were caught in the shooting and one of the ICRC's local employees was killed, despite his wearing a jacket with the Red Cross emblem. The International Committee was dismayed by the death of Mr. Gabriel Sanchez Rodrigues, who was 20 years old. Contacts have been made with the parties to the conflict to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

Several villages having received assistance from the ICRC were also attacked.

The insecurity created by the incidents and a drop in food requirements in the Bailundo area have led to a reduction in the ICRC's work.

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In January, the ICRC distributed 334 tons of relief to some 60,000 persons on the Planalto.

At the beginning of 1982, the number of people cared for in the special feeding centres set up by the ICRC was as follows: 850 persons, including 400 children, at Bailundo and 670 persons including 350 children, at Katchiungo.

Since then, the situation has changed: the Katchiungo special feeding centre has been caring for over 850 people, and the Bailundo centre less than 400. This is an indication that the nutritional situation has deteriorated at Katchiungo and improved at Bailundo.

In both municipalities, the ICRC delegates had once again used road transport to supply outlying villages such as Sfinge, Alto Chiumbo, Ushia, Ferreira and Sitio Katuta, but since the incident on 20 February the only way of conveying relief outside Katchiungo and Bailundo has been by plane.

In co-operation with "Angolan Red Cross", a camp for displaced persons has been set up at Kuito. With the help of the town social services, food is distributed there to 2,400 persons, including 400 children receiving special treatment for serious malnutrition.

Several information sessions on ICRC activities and the dissemination of Red Cross principles have been organized for the civilian and military authorities of Bié Province.

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The sub-delegation recently installed at N'Giva includes two delegates, one of whom is in charge of tracing activities, one physician and one nurse. For the time being, medical assistance and tracing services are focused on N'Giva and four other towns. During the rainy season, N'Giva is accessible only by plane. According to a survey in the area south of N'Giva, the food does not seem to be in such short supply as in certain areas of the Planalto.

Mozambique

The ICRC has proposed to the Government that the Maputo orthopaedic centre for amputees be kept in operation for another year.

Ethiopia

In February, the ICRC delegation in Addis Ababa carried out two survey missions. The head of the delegation, Mr. R. Chevalley, went

to Asmara to assess humanitarian needs and another ICRC delegate went to the Ogaden, south of Harar.

In co-operation with the Ethiopian Red Cross, some 70 tons of relief, amounting to over 100,000 Swiss francs, was distributed in January and February.

In January, the ICRC sent to Ethiopia standard medical kits valued at over 30,000 Swiss francs, and equipment worth 50,000 Swiss francs for the disabled persons' rehabilitation centre at Debre Zeit.

Sudan

Since the beginning of the year, the ICRC has sent medical relief amounting to 63,000 Swiss francs and medical equipment valued at 16,000 Swiss francs, to be put at the disposal of the Eritrean relief organizations.

Somalia

The ICRC regional delegate in Kenya, Mr. A. Lennartz, was on mission in Somalia from 7 to 21 February, pursuing negotiations with the authorities with a view to resuming protection activities for Ethiopian prisoners of war.

Uganda

The Ugandan authorities requested the ICRC to put an end to its activities in the country on 31 March. The ICRC considers that the situation requires it to maintain its presence in Uganda and it will pursue its efforts to obtain permission to resume its assistance and protection programmes. The ICRC delegate general for Africa, Mr. J.-M. Bornet, discussed with the Kampala authorities the scope of ICRC tasks in Uganda and plans for the future. Meanwhile, the ICRC has contacted various humanitarian organizations in the hope that they may take over some of its assistance activities.

The Ugandan Red Cross has partly taken over from the ICRC sub-delegation at Arua the assistance programme in the West Nile area for the displaced population and for persons returning from Zaire.

In January, 28 tons of relief, amounting to approximately 110,000 Swiss francs, and medical relief to a value of about 40,000 Swiss francs, and in February, 60 tons of relief, amounting to some 200,000 Swiss francs, was distributed.

Zaire

During a mission to Kinshasa in January, the ICRC delegate general for Africa, Mr. J.-M. Bornet, discussed with President Mobutu the future of the ICRC protection and assistance programmes in Zaire.

In the course of this interview, the President confirmed his Government's intention to authorize the ICRC to continue its work in Zaire. He immediately gave permission for a round of ICRC visits to places of detention in Kinshasa and throughout the country.

In February, three ICRC delegates, accompanied by a physician and a sanitary specialist sent from Geneva, visited several places of detention in Kinshasa and its surroundings. The team then went to eastern Zaire, where it visited some 17 places of detention in Kivu Province. The team returned to Kinshasa towards the end of March.

The ICRC has allocated an initial amount of 12,000 Swiss francs for the purchase of sanitary items and has distributed blankets, soap, toiletries and cleaning utensils, and powdered milk for children.

Chad

Following a new outburst of armed clashes, the ICRC sent one of its delegates, Mrs. Dan-Renfer, to N'Djamena on 14 February to examine the possibility of resuming ICRC activities for prisoners and other victims of the fighting.

On 4 March, eight wounded prisoners of war belonging to the northern armed forces were visited in N'Djamena.

On 8 March, the delegate was joined by an ICRC physician, a delegate specialized in relief matters and a radio operator for a mission throughout the country.

An initial consignment of medicaments has already been dispatched to Chad.

ICRC appeal

In January 1982, the ICRC published a brochure entitled "Africa Report and Appeal". It is a detailed report of the ICRC's humanitarian activities in Africa in 1981, with summaries of the costs incurred and of the ICRC's financial situation at the end of the 1981 for each of the countries where it is at work. The report also describes the ICRC's projects, taking into account the foreseeable situation in Africa in 1982, and proposes a budget for them.

In short, the ICRC needs 72 million Swiss francs, that is about 6 million Swiss francs a month, to discharge its activities in Africa in 1982. Having in hand some 10 million francs brought forward from 1981 and about 13 million francs having been promised, the ICRC is appealing for approximately 48 million Swiss francs.

Latin America

El Salvador

Notwithstanding difficulties mainly, danger, ICRC relief activities in the eastern part of the country in January benefited some 30,000 persons, despite the fact that access to Morazan was closed three times by the resumption of military activities. The persons receiving ICRC assistance increased by over 12% compared to December 1981, because of the population displaced as a result of guerrilla operations. Some 255 tons of food, and mats, blankets and tents were distributed.

Distributions continued in February, despite the fact that danger restricted travel.

In the course of numerous ICRC visits to places of detention, 80 detainees, including 75 held in San Salvador, were visited for the first time in February.

In January, there was a sudden stepping up of tracing activities, coinciding with that of military operations. The number of persons coming to the tracing office for help increased from 40 visitors a day to an average of 70 at the beginning of 1982.

Appeal

In February, the ICRC launched an appeal to donors for a total of 5.8 million Swiss francs, needed for the first six months of 1982 to enable it to continue its assistance and protection activities in El Salvador (comprising tracing activities, visits to detainees, food and medical assistance and financial support to the National Red Cross Society).

Asia

Assistance to Cambodian population

The previous issue of *International Review* contained a brief account of the ICRC's plans for its activities in 1982 in aid of the Cambodian people in Kampuchea and in the refugee camps along the border between Kampuchea and Thailand. The budget drawn up for the various projects amounts to about 30 million Swiss francs. The ICRC will need nearly 20 million Swiss francs as it still had a balance of about 10.5 million left over from 1981. In February, it accordingly launched an appeal to prospective donors for the funds required to carry out those plans.

The League of Red Cross Societies, too, on resuming its traditional peace-time activities in Kampuchea, launched an appeal on 20 January to obtain for a medical aid programme contributions in the form of money, goods and various services, amounting to more than 8 million Swiss francs. With this assistance, the League hopes to have five medical teams working in Kampuchea until the end of 1982.

Thailand

After a period of relative calm at the end of 1981, the military situation along the border between Thailand and Kampuchea worsened once more between mid-January and early February 1982. With the help of medical teams working for voluntary organizations, the ICRC evacuated 66 wounded persons to the hospitals at Ta Praya and Khao-I-Dang.

The hospitals set up in the frontier area continued to be very busy. For instance, at the ICRC's surgery unit at Khao-I-Dang, 324 operations were performed in the period from 24 December 1981 to 13 January 1982, and 265 from 18 January to 21 February.

During that same period (24 December — 19 February), medical and paramedical supplies to a value of about 106,000 dollars were delivered to the Khao-I-Dang hospital and to hospitals set up in other camps.

As mentioned in an earlier issue, the ICRC has handed over the central pharmacy at Aranyaprathet and it now has only a smaller pharmacy, just large enough to supply its surgical unit at Khao-I-Dang and its mobile team.

In addition to medical assistance, the ICRC is carrying out protection activities. Its delegates have continued their weekly visits to detainees held in the Prachinburi military prison. They have also regularly visited refugees of Vietnamese origin, who are considered to be at risk in the Samet camp. Negotiations have been continued, with the purpose of seeking a satisfactory way to provide for their safety.

Furthermore, Agency activities (registration, tracing of missing persons, transmission of family messages) have continued as in the past.

Kampuchea

The League of Red Cross Societies took over, at the beginning of January 1982, part of the medical assistance programme carried out until then by the ICRC.

But the ICRC is continuing the distribution of the medicaments and medical, surgical, dental and laboratory material it still had in stock, to hospitals in the capital and to provincial and district hospitals.

The ICRC medical co-ordinator continued visits to provincial hospitals to prepare for the arrival of medical teams made available by National Societies to the League.

A blood donation campaign has been started by the local Red Cross with the object of finding blood donors among the inhabitants and so help to meet the requirements of hospitals which had been supplied until the end of 1981 with gifts of blood from abroad.

ICRC assistance to eight orphanages in different provinces will be continued. At the beginning of January, eight tons of relief (worth about 22,000 dollars) were delivered to those orphanages. Other relief supplies (such as mats) were bought locally and handed over to the Ministry for Social Activities to be given to needy persons.

At Phnom Penh, the repairs needed to recondition the building accommodating the local Red Cross office and warehouse were completed on 20 February.

No solution has yet been found to the problem of the unaccompanied children living in the frontier area camps and of their reunion with their families inside Kampuchea. Although more than a hundred children have been identified and their families' whereabouts found, the ICRC has still to obtain the authorities' agreement to the practical procedures for reuniting each of those children with his or her family, and in particular to the checks that must be previously carried out.

In January and February, the aircraft chartered by the ICRC made sixteen flights between Bangkok and Phnom Penh, carrying to Kampuchea's capital over 24 tons of relief supplies, to a value of some 200,000 dollars.

Refugees in South-East Asia and anti-piracy programme

Acts of piracy in the Gulf of Siam continued on an even greater scale all through 1981, causing fearful suffering to the refugees attempting the sea crossing. The ICRC encouraged the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in his efforts to draw the attention of governments to the imperative necessity of combating this international crime.

The UNHCR and ICRC exchanged their views on this matter on numerous occasions and conferred with the representatives of several governments in Geneva as well as with those of the countries on the seaboard of the Gulf of Siam.

One of the first results obtained by these talks was the Thai Government's acceptance to take up once more its anti-piracy activities and even to increase the strength of its forces sent to thwart the pirates. The sum of 3.6 million dollars needed to cover operational expenses and cost of equipment for six months will be raised by the international community.

Thailand

From 15 to 22 February, ICRC delegates carried out visits, in accordance with standard ICRC procedure, to three detention centres in Thailand, where they saw altogether 163 detainees who had received sentences of not more than three months of imprisonment.

Malaysia

From 27 January to 5 February, Mr. David Delapraz, ICRC regional delegate, and Dr. Willi, medical delegate, visited 25 security detainees in six police jails. The visits were in accordance with ICRC customary procedure and came after those carried out in October 1981 to detention centres. These detainees included persons arrested prior to the ICRC visits who were under interrogation.

Philippines

On 15 January, the ICRC regional delegate in Manila, Mr. Jean-François Olivier, visited 22 detainees held in one place of detention. In February, he visited two other places of detention containing 75 detainees.

From 9 to 15 February, the regional delegate was on the Island of Mindanao. With the local Red Cross, he made a survey of the situation

of the displaced persons in the south of Mindanao (about 2,000 families, equal to about 10,000 persons) who are the victims of the disturbances and of the armed clashes. A survey will later be made in the northern part of the island, where displaced persons are also to be found, as soon as weather conditions allow. An assistance programme will be set up for these persons, in co-operation with the Philippine Red Cross.

Indonesia

One month after the first group of Cape Verde nationals had been flown out to their country, as reported in the previous issue of *International Review*, a further group of 11 persons left Indonesia for Cape Verde on 29 January. A third group of 14 persons did likewise in mid-February. A 3-month old baby had to be put in hospital in Zurich when the aircraft arrived there. He stayed for a few days, together with his mother.

A person of Portuguese origin left East Timor on 23 February, to join his family in Portugal. He arrived in Lisbon on 24 February.

On 15 February, a mission of four ICRC delegates went to East Timor to visit places of detention and displaced persons both on Timor and Atauro Islands. On these islands about four thousand detainees were visited, in accordance with ICRC standard procedures. The Indonesian authorities gave their approval for a medical and food assistance programme to be undertaken by the ICRC for the displaced persons, in particular on Atauro.

Pakistan

No change having taken place in the situation along the border with Afghanistan, the activities of the ICRC delegation in Peshawar have been carried out as before. In January and February, the surgical units of the ICRC hospital continued to tend the wounded Afghans brought in by Pakistan Red Crescent Society teams. At the end of January, the 116-bed hospital contained 113 wounded, almost its maximum capacity. The centre for paraplegics, which is in an annex of the hospital, and the artificial limb workshop for war amputees have also been carrying on with their work. The number of amputees needing an artificial limb was estimated to be about 400.

Negotiations have continued to find some humanitarian solution to the problem of the prisoners of war (whether Afghans or Soviets) captured by the Afghan movements opposed to the Kabul Government.

At the end of February, the ICRC in Geneva sent those donors whose generosity had enabled it to perform its humanitarian tasks in Pakistan a summary of its activities during the previous year. Furthermore, a detailed estimate of the cost of the programmes planned until the end of 1982 will also be forwarded to them shortly. The sum needed is expected to amount to 6.5 million Swiss francs for the ICRC's assistance and protection activities in Pakistan alone.

Middle East

Conflict between Iraq and Iran

In Iran, visits by ICRC delegates to Iraqi prisoners of war, which had been suspended by the authorities on 24 November, were resumed only in January. The delegates were authorized to visit a camp on 10 January, then on 17 and again on 26 January. At the end of January, an agreement was reached between the ICRC delegation and the Iranian authorities and visits to prisoners of war were carried out normally from 6 February.

In Iraq, ICRC delegates visited the Iranian prisoners of war from 16 to 27 January, as they had been visiting them previously, in December 1981.

On 2 February, four delegates went to Basrah, where they visited wounded Iranian prisoners of war in two hospitals.

In January, the Iranian authorities invited families of Iraqi prisoners of war to come to Iran and see their relatives held prisoner there. Soon after, the Iraqi authorities announced they would accept this invitation and would allow Iranian families to do similar visits to Iraq.

The two governments made proposals for the practical procedures for those visits (families' mode of travel; payment of travel costs and expenses while in the other country; choice of a neutral country, such as Kuwait or Turkey, where the families would transit between Iran and Iraq; etc.).

Appeal for funds

In February, an appeal was sent by the ICRC to the donors who gave their support to its protection and assistance activities in the conflict between Iraq and Iran, asking them to continue to provide financial assistance for the extension of its activities until 30 June 1982.

In its appeal, the ICRC stated that it intended to continue its programme in aid of prisoners of war in both Iran and Iraq (visits to prisoners; transmission of family messages; possible repatriation of wounded and sick prisoners of war). It has also been visiting occupied territories, caring for displaced persons, providing them with material assistance, if required, and co-operating with the Iranian and Iraqi authorities in the organization of visits to the prisoners of war by their relatives.

At the end of December 1981, the ICRC's deficit for its Iraq-Iran activities in 1981 amounted to nearly 2 million Swiss francs. As it was estimated that the cost of its activities for the six months January-June 1982 would amount to 3.6 million Swiss francs, the ICRC, in its appeal for financial support, has requested a sum totalling 5.6 million Swiss francs.

Bahrain

After an unsuccessful coup d'etat in December 1981 and the reported large number of persons under arrest, the ICRC considered it appropriate to offer its services to the Bahrain government with a view to protection activities. On 12 February, a note to that effect was delivered by an ICRC delegate who was in Bahrain on mission.

Syria

After violent disturbances had taken place in Hama on 2 and 3 February, the ICRC decided to offer its services relating to medical aid and to protection, if necessary. This offer was delivered to the Syrian Permanent Mission in Geneva on 12 February.

People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

The ICRC despatched a letter to the Vice-President of the "Red Crescent Association" of South Yemen, stating its desire to carry out a mission in that country, with the object of visiting political prisoners, inspecting the association's provincial centres and examining various problems in connection with refugees and displaced persons.

Lebanon

In January and February 1982, the country experienced a period of relative calm, giving the ICRC delegation an opportunity to visit hospitals and dispensaries, make inventories of supplies of medicaments and

medical equipment and renew their stocks, if necessary. It also continued its tracing agency activities (dealing with requests to trace missing persons, and forwarding family messages).

In February, the ICRC sent an appeal to donors for 2.7 million Swiss francs which were required to enable it to continue its programme in Lebanon until 30 June 1982.

Israel and occupied territories

A curfew imposed in the township of Rafah from 3 to 7 January led to ICRC delegates' going every day to visit the area and to negotiate with the military authorities on lifting the curfew temporarily to enable the population to obtain supplies.

As a protest against the measures taken for the annexation of the Golan Heights, the 13,000 or so persons belonging to the Druze population in that region staged a strike in February. On 25 February, the military authorities blocked all access to the four largest townships. In that same month four notables were arrested. On 21 February, ICRC delegate were allowed to visit three of them. The ICRC delegation asked for authorization to enter the villages in the area sealed off by the army, so as to make an estimate of possible humanitarian needs.

Europe

Poland

Since the end of 1981, an ICRC delegation together with personnel provided by the League of Red Cross Societies, has been working in Warsaw in close co-operation with the Polish Red Cross. Mr. Frank Schmidt, delegate general for Europe and North America, led the delegation during the early stages of its mission; he was replaced at the end of February by Mr. Peter Küng. The delegation, which numbered five persons at the end of December, was gradually strengthened until it comprised eleven members at the end of February. Its main tasks are

to carry out assistance activities in co-operation with the Polish Red Cross and to perform the protection activities customarily carried out by the ICRC.

The first thing which the Polish Red Cross and the delegation did was to set up assistance programmes for 70,000 aged, handicapped and sick people, 20,000 children belonging to families with social problems and 60,000 infants. Additional aid was required for 80,000 persons living in the region around Plock affected by floods in January. The relief to be sent will comprise mainly food, clothes, soap and disinfectants. From 1 January to 30 April, the cost of this aid will amount to about 25 million Swiss francs.

The distribution will be carried out by the Polish Red Cross Society's local branches, which will be advised and assisted by three relief delegates sent by the League.

The Polish Red Cross has provincial warehouses in nine of Poland's large cities. These will be the distributing centres for its 49 districts. Governmental authorization has been granted for a radio network to be set up connecting Warsaw and those nine warehouses, and an ICRC radio technician has been despatched to Poland to put it into service. In addition, sixty vehicles to be used by the local Red Cross committees have been purchased for the distribution of relief.

Surveys effected at the beginning of January had indicated that there was a pressing need for medical equipment in the hospitals. Various kits were sent to hospitals, depending on their requirements: 422 "general hospital" kits, 530 "pediatric hospital" kits; and 181 "surgical hospital" kits. The total value of all these kits amounted to about 11 million Swiss francs.

Medicaments came next on the priority list, except for those needed for the Polish Red Cross "SOS Pharmacy" programme. Supplies of medicaments until the end of April are expected to cost 3 million Swiss francs.

As for protection activities, the ICRC was informed on 21 January that the offer of its services for visits to the internees, put forward on 21 December, had been accepted by the Polish authorities. Accordingly, the ICRC delegates have been granted authorization to visit, in accordance with standard ICRC procedures, all persons interned after 13 December 1981.

An ICRC team, which included a doctor, began its visits to detention places on 22 January. By the end of February, the delegates had seen 1035 internees in 6 places of detention. Toilet kits were given to the internees at those visits. In response to joint requests put forward by

the Polish Red Cross and the ICRC, the authorities released 128 internees on humanitarian grounds, mainly for medical reasons.

The Central Tracing Agency, working in co-operation with the corresponding services of the Polish Red Cross, received 3500 requests to trace missing persons or forward family messages. By the end of February, more than 1600 replies had been received and transmitted.

In Geneva, the "Poland Operation Group" set up jointly by the ICRC and the League, is acting as a liaison office between the delegation in Poland and the various donor Red Cross Societies on whose generosity the entire operation depends. The office has periodically sent the Societies information on the way the activities have developed in Poland, requests for gifts, and instructions on the shipment of goods. In February, an urgent appeal was sent, mentioning that relief amounting to 42.7 million Swiss francs, in cash and in kind, was needed to carry out the International Red Cross relief programmes in Poland until 30 April. The appeal mentioned that about a third of this amount had not yet been received or pledged.
