

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Africa

Southern Africa

Angola

The ICRC Vice-President, Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, and the delegate general for Africa, Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, went on a mission to Angola from 18 to 28 March. They had talks with the authorities concerning the ICRC's activities on the central Planalto and in the southern part of the country.

Activities on the Planalto

In April, more than twice as much relief was distributed as in the preceding month, reaching 456.5 tons for 45,700 beneficiaries, compared with 187 tons for 27,000 beneficiaries during March. There were two main reasons for this increase: firstly the efforts made in the Katchiungo area in response to the needs established, and secondly the start of general distributions to about 15,000 displaced persons in the province of Bié. It should be noted that the ICRC team was only gradually able to resume its movements in the area after the end of March, following the attack on the township of Mungo on 20 February this year (see the last issue of the *Review*).

In the Bailundo area, where the health of the population showed a marked improvement, the ICRC concentrated its energies on the special feeding centre. Regular assistance was also supplied to Lunge, a village to the east of Bailundo, and in Bailundo itself.

In the Katchiungo area, armed attacks were made on numerous villages receiving assistance from the ICRC, whose stores there were repeatedly looted or burned. The frequency of food distributions was

therefore increased, in order to reduce the quantities held in stock. By the end of April, the nutritional level of the population there had virtually reached that already achieved in the Bailundo region and, as in Bailundo, the number of admissions to the special feeding centre had begun to decline.

As the delegates' movements in the province of Bié were confined to the proximity of the capital, Kuito, a programme of general distributions of maize flour was organized. In this way the village people could be assisted, those who were receiving ICRC aid coming every three weeks to Kuito to receive their rations and take them home. In April this activity was considerably extended, with approximately 15,000 persons from 68 different villages receiving assistance. By the end of April, this system had already enabled more than 1,000 persons housed in shanties at Kuito to return to their own villages, together with at least another 500 people living in the transit camp of the "Angola Red Cross". The management of this camp, set up with the co-operation of the ICRC and accommodating about 2,000 people, was taken over completely by the local "Red Cross" from the beginning of March. The special feeding centre built by the ICRC for the province of Bié was finally opened, after a delay due to technical difficulties. At the end of April, some 200 persons, about half of them children, were being treated there for serious malnutrition.

In the night of 8 to 9 March, part of the buildings of the orthopaedic centre at Bomba Alta was damaged by an explosion. There were no casualties, but the material damage sustained affected the work of the technicians, who lost some of their equipment. An inquiry attributed the explosion to a gang of thieves.

Activities in southern Angola

During his mission to Angola, the ICRC delegate general for Africa, Mr. J.-M. Bornet, visited Lubango on 18 and 19 March, and had discussions with the provincial and military authorities. He also went to N'Giva.

After a mission to assess medical needs in the south in March, a second nurse was sent to N'Giva, although it was not considered necessary to station a doctor there. In Lubango, the sub-delegation was enlarged by one additional delegate.

Flights carrying relief supplies were made directly from Luanda to N'Giva. But on 5 April the authorities suspended permission for these flights for security reasons, and by the end of April the air link had not yet been re-established.

An air bridge organized from the regional delegation office at Harare, Zimbabwe, succeeded on 23 March in delivering two armoured vehicles to the sub-delegation at Lubango. A third vehicle, for Huambo, together with assorted equipment and spare parts, were sent at the same time.

Activities of the Tracing Agency

Two delegates have been sent out by the Agency to Angola in view of the increase in tracing activities there, due to the situation in the south of the country. The disturbances in the Cunene area have led to many families moving to Matala, Cuvelai and Chiange, where the Tracing Agency is establishing a communication system to enable messages to be exchanged between family members who have remained in Cunene and those resettled in the south. But most of the family messages exchanged hitherto have concerned Angolan prisoners of war held in Namibia. Negotiations with the authorities to facilitate the direct transport of family parcels to these prisoners were still continuing at the end of April.

Republic of South Africa

In addition to its customary activities of protection and assistance for detainees' families and for ex-detainees in need, the ICRC delegation based in Pretoria continued its efforts in March and April, to organize meetings on the Angolan frontier between the delegates stationed at Windhoek and those in N'Giva (southern Angola). Such meetings would greatly facilitate the exchange of family messages and the forwarding of parcels to Angolan prisoners of war held in Namibia/South-West Africa.

In March, two delegates, one of them a doctor, again visited the two prisoners of war—one Soviet, one Cuban—in South African hands.

ICRC delegates, including a doctor, also carried out two missions to the Venda "homeland" on 10 and 23 March and the Bophutatswana "homeland" in 5 March. For the first time, they had access to 6 persons detained for security reasons. In addition to visiting the sole security detainee in Bophutatswana, the ICRC, acting as intermediary between that "homeland" and Zimbabwe, helped to arrange the repatriation of 81 Zimbabweans on 16 March.

Namibia / Southwest Africa

In Namibia, where ICRC protection activities concern various categories of prisoners, a team of 4 delegates, one them a doctor, visited

Mariental camp from 16 to 18 March and saw 114 Angolan prisoners of war, 29 for the first time. During this new series of visits, in addition to having access to the 117 detainees, including one woman, imprisoned under Decree No. 9 of the General Administrator, the delegates were given permission by the authorities to make a first visit to 17 new detainees captured carrying arms.

In March, the delegates were authorized to visit 5 prisoners held for security reasons in the prison at Windhoek and awaiting trial; 2 of them were visited for the first time by the ICRC.

Botswana

From 29 March to 5 April, the head of the ICRC regional delegation based at Harare (Zimbabwe), Mr. F. Robadey, and the delegate in charge at Maputo, Mr. Berchtold, represented the ICRC at the regional seminar organized by the League at Gaborone. The ICRC delegate general for Africa, Mr. Bornet, also took part in this meeting on the day devoted to the dissemination of knowledge of humanitarian law and to the preparation of National Societies for activities in times of conflict.

Southern Africa

Swaziland

Following the meetings in Gaborone, the ICRC delegate in Mozambique, Mr. Berchtold, visited Swaziland on 19 and 20 April to discuss with the leaders of the Red Cross Society there some problems regarding dissemination and preparation for the eventuality of armed conflict. He also had to re-establish contact with Government authorities.

Zimbabwe

During talks with the Minister of Health in Zimbabwe, Mr. Robadey was informed that the proposed rehabilitation programme for war amputees, to which the ICRC was to contribute 150,000 Swiss francs, had been abandoned by the Health Ministry. The possibility of contributing to a similar programme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is currently under consideration.

East Africa

Uganda

The ICRC closed its delegation in Uganda on March, as the result of an official injunction to this effect by the Ugandan authorities. On 19 March Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, ICRC Vice-President, went to Kampala, where he met the Vice-President of the Republic and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Pestalozzi informed them of the grave concern felt by the ICRC about the Uganda Government's decision and the practical consequences which it entailed, especially in relation to protection. He reminded them that ICRC delegates had been able to carry out their protective mission from May 1979 until 14 December 1981, when the authorization to visit detainees arrested following the conflict between Uganda and Tanzania had been withdrawn. The ICRC also informed the Uganda Government of its desire to continue the dialogue in the hope of resuming in the near future its protection activities which are specific to the ICRC and correspond to a humanitarian need.

The ICRC delegates had begun visiting the Uganda prisons three weeks after the delegation was opened in May 1979. The number of detainees visited each year between 1979 and 1981 was 4,500 to 6,000; the ICRC also provided them with relief supplies and medical assistance. The Ugandan authorities had furthermore agreed in August 1980 to the delegation's request to release certain categories of detainees for humanitarian reasons. The ICRC had also provided protection for civilians in the West Nile province and in the area around Kampala.

Regarding assistance activities, they were mainly concentrated, after the emergency phase, in the West Nile region, where special convoys took relief to displaced persons and refugees who had returned to their homes. In 1981, the distribution of relief was extended to the victims of sporadic incidents in the neighbourhood of the capital. From 1979 to 1982, the delegation in Kampala and the sub-delegation in Arua distributed 780 tons of relief supplies valued at more than 3 million Swiss francs. Medical assistance to the value of more than 2 million Swiss francs was also supplied by the ICRC.

Tanzania

The ICRC regional delegate in Nairobi went on mission to Tanzania in mid-March. He handed to the authorities the reports on the visit made by the ICRC in September 1981 to some twenty persons detained in Tanzania following the conflict with Uganda. It may be recalled that

the ICRC, concerned about the fate of these detainees, who in 1980 refused to be repatriated, had contacted the UNHCR, which is responsible for finding a host country for them.

Burundi

A mission to Burundi was carried out at the end of March for a series of visits to places of detention, in accordance with the agreement in principle concluded with the authorities in June 1981. At the Government's request, the visits were postponed until the end of August. The mission nevertheless provided an opportunity to raise other problems: the position with regard to adhesion to the Additional Protocols of 1977 and the possible organization of a seminar on international humanitarian law, respect for this law and for human rights, especially in relation to penal proceeding and the requirements of national security.

Rwanda

Three delegates travelled to Rwanda in April to discuss various points with the authorities: the possibility of protection action in favour of persons detained, the procedure of adhesion to the 1977 Protocols, the procedure for official recognition of the Rwanda Red Cross by the Government and the possible organization of a seminar on international humanitarian law. The delegates met Mr. F. Ngarukiyintwali, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Mr. C. Nkurunziza, Minister of Justice, Mr. I. Musafiri, Minister of Health, and Mr. Karemera, Minister at the Presidency. In addition, the delegates had discussions with the leaders of the "Rwanda Red Cross".

Although the Rwanda authorities were in favour of protective action by the ICRC, they did not accept the principle of interviews without witnesses with detained persons, particularly in the case of those in preventive detention, owing to Rwandan penitentiary regulations. The ICRC was therefore obliged to decline the authorization given to visit all categories of detainees and all places of detention in the presence of representatives of the Justice Ministry.

Central and West Africa

Zaire

The presence of the ICRC in Zaire was made official by the signature of an agreement, on 27 February 1982, between the Government of

Zaire and the International Committee. The ICRC had resumed its activities in the country in 1978.

From 1 to 31 March, a series of visits in accordance with the ICRC standard procedure was made by an ICRC delegation, including a medical delegate and a hygienist, to places of detention in the province of Kivu, in eastern Zaire. A total of 1,071 detainees were seen in 27 places of detention administered by the Ministry of Justice, the Zaire armed forces and the security services. Almost one and a half tons of relief supplies (food, blankets, toilet articles, etc.) were distributed in the course of these visits, together with medical kits to the value of 7,000 Swiss francs.

Follow-up visits were made in April, and the military prison of Ndolo, in the capital, was visited at the end of the month.

From mid-February to mid-April a hygienist was attached to the delegation to examine conditions of hygiene in the prisons, in Kinshasa and in Kivu province.

Ghana

Several approaches to the Ghana Government have been made since the coup d'état of 31 December 1981. The latest was an offer of services, requesting access to places of detention, and a memorandum setting out the procedure for ICRC visits, submitted to the Ghana authorities on the occasion of a mission to that country in April.

The Gambia

The ICRC having been informed orally that the Gambian and Senegalese authorities were favourable to protection activities by the International Committee, an ICRC delegate travelled to Gambia in March to continue negotiations with a view to obtaining access to places of detention in the country. An offer of services had been made in August 1981, for visits to persons arrested following the attempted coup d'état on 29 July 1981.

The mission was not successful, as the Gambian authorities were not available for discussion. 

Sudan

The medical assistance given by the Swiss Red Cross to the hospital at Kassala under the supervision of the ICRC was taken over by the League on 1 April, in agreement with the Sudanese Red Crescent.

It will be recalled that the ICRC had taken charge of medical activities at the Kassala hospital, previously under the supervision of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), at the beginning of 1979, in collaboration with the Swiss Red Cross and with the agreement of the UNHCR. The principal task of the four-person medical team (including one surgeon), made available by the Swiss Red Cross, was to treat victims of the conflict in Eritrea both combatants and non combatants. To a lesser extent, and according to need, treatment was likewise provided for the local population. The Swiss Red Cross also supplied medicines and medical equipment for the hospital at Kassala.

The medical care provided by the Norwegian Red Cross in the refugee camps at Khashm-el-Girba and "Kilometre 26" has also been taken over by the League and the Sudanese Red Crescent.

Chad

Two teams of ICRC delegates, each including one doctor, carried out missions in March and April in the conflict zones in Chad to evaluate the needs of the population affected by the fighting. The first team, setting out from N'Djamena, visited the areas of Ati and Mongo in the provinces of Batha and Guera, while the second team, formed of delegates based at Khartoum, travelled to the sectors controlled by the "Armed Forces of the North" (FAN), in particular Biltine and Abéché. As a result of their reports, the ICRC has initiated a programme of medical assistance (establishing a stock of medicines in N'Djamena, distribution systems at Ati and Mongo), and has decided to base a delegation at Abéché in order to develop protection and assistance activities in the FAN zone, with logistic support by the Khartoum delegation.

ICRC delegates also visited 243 prisoners, including 19 FAN prisoners of war held in N'Djamena and 5 persons detained for political reasons. The N'Djamena delegation is supplying food aid to these detainees.

Cape Verde

At the invitation of the Cape Verde authorities, and in order to renew contact with them, an ICRC delegate visited the islands in March. He was received by the head of State, President A. Pereira, and had talks with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, Justice, and

Health and Social Affairs. Various subjects of common interest were discussed, including Cape Verde's adhesion to the Geneva Conventions.

One purpose of the mission was to obtain access to security detainees: on 28 March, the ICRC delegate visited 15 persons sentenced for offences against State security and held in Mindelo prison on the island of San Vicente.

Conflict in the Western Sahara

The offer of services sent by the ICRC on 24 November 1981 to the General Secretary of the Polisario Front, proposing visits to the prisoners in the hands of this movement, was accepted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sahrawi Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) in his reply of 6 March 1982.

In a letter from President Hay, the ICRC immediately proposed a date for the visits and stressed that the agreement given by the SDAR should also extend to the procedure followed in the prison visits. Confirmation of agreement to this procedure has not been obtained, nor any indication of the total number of prisoners of war, despite the fact that a delegate was twice sent to Algiers to work with leaders of the Polisario Front on practical arrangements for visits to the prisoners. No protective action has therefore been possible to date. The ICRC is awaiting a reply to its proposal for the continuance of negotiations.

Latin America

Missions from Geneva

On 27 January, Mr. A. Pasquier, ICRC delegate general for Latin America, travelled to *Nicaragua*, where he met representatives of the authorities, including the Deputy Minister of the Interior, the Director of the national penal system, and a member of the ruling junta. The talks dealt with matters relating to the ICRC's protection activities in favour of persons detained for reasons of security.

From 14 to 17 April, Mr. J.-P. Hocké, director of Operational Activities, and Mr. Pasquier carried out a mission to *El Salvador*. The ICRC representatives were received by General Garcia, Minister of Defence. Various subjects concerning detention were discussed, providing an opportunity, in particular, to explain again the procedure for visits to detainees under interrogation and to summarize the results of protection and assistance activities in the country.

El Salvador

During the month of March, in spite of several interruptions in the delegates' work caused by the lack of security and by fighting in the conflict zones, some 36,000 people received ICRC food aid, 340 tons of relief being distributed in collaboration with the National Red Cross Society, under the supervision of ICRC delegates, in the departments of San Vicente, Cabanas, Morazan and Usulután. ICRC action was considerably slowed down, however, in April: the delegates were unable to travel to the Morazan area owing to military operations there, and only 141 tons could be delivered in that period. The total value of ICRC assistance to displaced persons during March and April amounted to 733,000 Swiss francs.

The security problems in the various areas where the ICRC is working were also the reason for extending the radio communications network of the Salvadorean Red Cross. The ICRC financed the installation of three radio stations in local sections of the National Society.

In addition, the ICRC continued its efforts to propagate knowledge of humanitarian principles among officers and other ranks of the armed forces and security forces and among opposition combatants, in an attempt to improve safety conditions.

Medical assistance in March and April took the form of about 5,000 consultations for displaced persons in some twenty villages in the central and eastern areas of the country. The delegates also made an assessment of medical needs in five villages in the departments of Chalatenango and Cabanas.

As part of their protection activities, the delegates visited and registered 266 new detainees. The visits were carried out in accordance with the customary criteria of the ICRC and were the object of confidential reports presented to the authorities.

In March and April the office of the San Salvador tracing agency recorded 528 new requests for inquiries into the whereabouts of missing persons.

On 2 March, the ICRC delegates organized the transport, under the protection of the Red Cross emblem, of 26 persons (11 women and 15 children) from their village to San Miguel. There the UNHCR took charge of their transfer to Panama, to be reunited with their families.

Nicaragua

Continuing their protection activities the ICRC delegates in Managua maintained their regular visits to the places of detention administered

by the national penal service. At the beginning of March, 115 detainees arrested following the disturbances in December 1981 in the province of Zelaya (on the Atlantic coast) and subsequently convicted and transferred to Managua, were finally visited by the delegates, in accordance with ICRC criteria.

But the delegates have still not been authorized to visit the persons arrested for security reasons in the Ocotal area several months ago. This remains a matter of concern for the ICRC.

Until now the ICRC delegates, despite numerous attempts, have not yet received permission to travel to the department of Zelaya to visit the centres where some 8,000 Miskito Indians have been resettled, after being removed by the authorities from their traditional living areas near the frontier with Honduras.

Chile

Mr. Ed. Corthésy, regional delegate for the Southern Cone region, who is based in Buenos Aires, visited Santiago from 22 to 26 March. He presented to Mrs. Gutierrez, Minister of Justice, the report made following the series of visits carried out in December 1981 to the main prisons in the country. Mr. Corthésy also had talks with Colonel R. Schmidlin, National Director of the police and in charge of all places of detention. They reviewed the situation of the penal system as it exists in Chile at present and discussed the protection activities of the ICRC. A fresh series of visits is envisaged for the current year.

Uruguay

Throughout March and April the ICRC continued the negotiations begun over a year ago with the Uruguayan authorities, with a view to settling the procedure for visiting the different places of detention in the country. By the end of April, however, the ICRC had not yet been able to obtain a satisfactory agreement with the military authorities for visits in conformity with the customary ICRC procedure.

Falklands crisis

From the onset of the crisis between the United Kingdom and Argentina over the Falkland Islands, the ICRC kept a close watch on developments, and contacts were made with both parties to enable measures to be taken to give protection, if necessary, to the civilian population of the island and of the southern part of Argentina. On 28 April, the ICRC presented to the two States an offer of services,

referring to the Geneva Conventions and in particular to Articles 14 and 15 of the Fourth Convention, which provide for the creation of hospital and safety zones and of neutralized zones. Both parties replied favourably to this approach, and mission was organized to assess the humanitarian needs and the feasibility of activities on the coast of Patagonia and on the islands. The part of the mission covering the coastal region of southern Argentina was accomplished, but the delegates were unable to travel at once to the islands owing to the fighting. Deeply concerned about the situation of the civilian population in the islands, the ICRC continued its efforts in May and June to send its delegates there.

The ICRC was equally concerned about the fate of the British soldiers captured by the Argentine armed forces during the invasion of the islands and of south Georgia. However, action proved to be unnecessary, since the captured men were released and sent to Montevideo for repatriation.

Asia

Kampuchea

The ICRC's responsibilities in Kampuchea for coordination of medical assistance have been progressively transferred to the League of Red Cross Societies. Dr. Rémi Russbach, chief medical officer of the ICRC, who visited the country from 19 to 23 March, settled the terms and conditions with the authorities in Phnom Penh for a prolongation of the ICRC's activities and submitted a project for a workshop to produce prostheses for war amputees.

During the month of March, the ICRC team was authorized to travel to the four provinces of Pursat, Battambang, Siem Reap and Kompong Thom. As a result of this mission, an emergency assistance programme was set up for the six hospitals, 14 dispensaries and two infirmaries visited.

The assistance programme for orphanages begun in 1981 and continued in 1982 made it possible to help 16 out of the 40 establishments in the country. Following the latest assessment of needs carried out in March in four orphanages in the provinces, basic materials such as blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen equipment and toilet articles were distributed. A water pump was also supplied to the orphanage at Svay Rieng.

Negotiations with the authorities were still in progress at the end of April concerning unaccompanied children in camps on the frontier,

with a view to returning them to their families in the interior of the country. Although more than 100 children and their respective families have been identified, the ICRC has not obtained the authorities' consent to the practical arrangements for reuniting them, and particularly to the preliminary checks to be made.

Thailand

In April the military situation in the frontier region was less tense than in the previous month. Even though there were fewer evacuations than in March, when several frontier camps were shelled, the continued presence of ICRC ambulances near to the areas of disturbance nevertheless proved completely justified. In addition to its regular work of health surveillance, the mobile medical team was again called in frequently to give assistance in emergency situations.

The problem of Vietnamese refugees at Nong Samet was the object of numerous attempts to obtain the consent of the Thai Government to their transfer to a safer place. On 26 March, during a meeting organized at the headquarters of the ICRC delegation, the representatives of seven embassies, of the UNHCR and of the ICRC accepted the Thai authorities' proposal, which was to transfer all Vietnamese refugees to Panat Nikhom, pending their resettlement in countries of asylum within a period of 45 days. Nevertheless, the date of transfer had still not been fixed at the end of April, and the number of Vietnamese refugees exceeded 1,500. Moreover, no acceptable solution had been found for those refugees not eligible for resettlement in other countries.

The ICRC also continued to visit and register detainees in the places of detention at the frontier, at Phnom Chat and Nong Chan. Equipment and food were supplied to improve the living conditions there.

Weekly visits to the military prison at Aranyaprathet were maintained. On 25 March, 71 Vietnamese detainees, including 68 from Aranyaprathet prison, were transferred to Panat Nikhom with the help of the ICRC.

Finally, the ICRC obtained the agreement in principle of the President of the National Liberation Front of the Khmer People (NLFKP) for the extension of ICRC protection activities, including visits to detainees in the camp at Samet, the only place in the hands of this movement not previously accessible to the ICRC delegates.

Traditional activities

From mid-February to the end of April, the delegates visited 278 detained persons in about twelve Thai rehabilitation centres adminis-

tered by the Internal Security Operations Command. The delegation also made approaches with a view to visiting detainees in the centres administered by the Ministry of the Interior.

East Timor

Assistance activities on the island of Atauro

Last February four ICRC delegates, including a doctor, carried out a mission of protection and assessment in East Timor and on the island of Atauro, off Dili. With the agreement of the Indonesian authorities, the ICRC decided to launch an operation to provide food and medical assistance for the displaced population on the island. A six-month emergency programme was therefore drawn up in collaboration with the Indonesian Red Cross.

Between mid-April and the beginning of May, the ICRC delegate at Djakarta, Mr. C. Neukomm, paid two visits to Timor to supervise the initiation of this programme. The first distribution of food on Atauro, begun on 28 April, benefitted almost 3,340 displaced persons. The special feeding centre also started, and children under 5 years old are receiving a daily ration of chicken and rice. A medical programme was due to begin early in May.

Repatriation of Cape Verdians

The operation of repatriating 75 nationals of Cape Verde who were still in East Timor at the end of 1981 was successfully completed on 22 April 1982.

Erratum

There is a translation mistake in the summing up of activities in Indonesia and East Timor of *International Review*, March-April 1982, p. 111.

The sentence in paragraph 3: *On these islands about four thousand detainees were visited* should read: *On these islands about four thousand persons (detainees and displaced persons) were visited.*

We apologize for this mistake, which appears in the English text only of the Review.

Philippines

On 20 April, three teams of two delegates each began a general visit to places of detention in the Philippines. By the end of April, 353 persons, 99 of them "public order violators", had been visited in 12 places of detention out of a total of 41.

Hongkong and Macao

Mr. J.-F. Olivier, ICRC regional delegate for the Far East in Manila, visited Hongkong and Macao from 15 to 22 March, where he met the officers in charge of the tracing agencies in the local branches of the British and Portuguese Red Cross Societies.

Laos

From 8 to 11 March, the head of the ICRC delegation in Hanoi, Mr. T. Germond, visited Vientiane, where he had several discussions with government authorities, in particular the Deputy Health Minister, and with the leaders of the National Red Cross Society.

Pakistan

The ICRC delegate general for Asia, Mr. J. de Courten, and Dr. R. Russbach, chief medical officer of the ICRC, effected a mission in Pakistan from 4 to 12 March in order to reassess the ICRC's operations in favour of Afghan refugees and to define the operational objectives for 1982. A further motive for the visit was to continue the talks begun with the Afghan movements relating to the protection of prisoners in their hands.

The surgical hospital at Peshawar, which has amply proved its usefulness, will be maintained in 1982. In April the number of wounded arriving at the hospital again increased by about 40 people compared with the previous month.

In accordance with the agreement between the head of the ICRC delegation and the Secretary General of the Pakistan Red Crescent, the process of handing over the dispensary in the Adesai refugee camp to the National Society began on May 1.

In Peshawar, at the centre for the treatment of war paraplegics attached to the hospital, all 30 beds were occupied in April. At the prosthetic workshop, the ICRC team continued to fit 3 to 5 patients par week with artificial limbs.

Courses in first aid to the injured have been organized for Afghans and began on 20 March in the hospital at Peshawar. A group of 27 candidates followed the first course, which finished with an examination on 27 April. The experiment was to be continued in May with a second group of about 30 students.

Middle East

Conflict between Iraq and Iran

Visits to prisoners of war in Iran

During the first half of April, ICRC delegates visited hospitals where Iraqi prisoners of war were being treated. A new series of visits to prisoner-of-war camps was planned for the month of April. A complete visit to the camp at Parandak was therefore made from 17 to 21 April, and 3,820 prisoners were seen. The delegates visited the Heshmatieh camp from 25 April to 2 May and saw 2,878 prisoners.

The registration of new prisoners of war, captured during the offensive at the end of March in the Suze and Dezfoul regions, began on 8 May.

Visits to prisoners of war in Iraq

At the invitation of the authorities, the ICRC delegates visited a number of new Iranian prisoners in the camp at Anbar and 9 wounded prisoners in different hospitals, in the interval between two regular monthly rounds of visits.

The delegates made a complete visit to the Mossoul camp from 18 to 20 April and to the Ramadi and Anbar camps from 25 to 29 April. They saw 3,154 prisoners of war.

Family visits to prisoners of war

Since January, negotiations have been in progress to enable the families of prisoners of war to visit their fathers, brothers, sons or husbands detained in the enemy country. A memorandum setting out the procedure for these visits has been drawn up by the ICRC—which acts as the neutral intermediary responsible for coordinating the programme established—and transmitted to the various parties concerned: Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Kuwait (the latter two countries being transit areas for the families).

To make arrangements for this gigantic operation, Mr. Jean Hoefliger, ICRC delegate general for the Middle East, left Geneva on 27 April accompanied by two delegates, one of them a legal expert, to travel to Kuwait, Iraq, Iran and Turkey.

Iran: relief for displaced persons

From 27 February to 2 March, two delegates visited the province of Ilam, where they assisted in the distribution of clothing to displaced persons. It will be recalled that the need for such clothing was noted by an evaluation mission in December 1981, and an appeal was made to various National Red Cross Societies.

Israel and the occupied territories

The months of March and April were eventful in the territories occupied by Israel.

Golan Heights

The strike by 13,000 Druses protesting against the annexation of the Golan Heights, which began in mid-February, continued during March and April as the area was sealed off by the army until the end of March. The ICRC delegates went to the Golan Heights on 16 March, and later made a more comprehensive visit to the various villages on 25 and 26 March. Following this visit, the delegates appealed to the authorities to allow sick persons sent to Israel for treatment to be accompanied by a relative and for the people living in the Golan Heights to be able to obtain a supply of fresh vegetables.

The delegates also visited nine administrative detainees and about twenty persons arrested as a result of events.

Another series of visits in the Golan Heights was carried out on 5 and 6 April, after the military blockade of the area had been lifted.

West Bank of the Jordan

The extreme tension prevailing on the West Bank since mid-March caused the ICRC delegation to intervene in various ways: they visited numerous police stations and military barracks to register the persons arrested and to talk to them without witnesses; they informed families of the arrest of their relatives and distributed family messages to the detainees. They also made several requests for the curfew imposed in some districts and in refugee camps to be temporarily raised, to enable food supplies to be taken to the people there.

Gaza Strip and Sinai

Between the end of March and 20 April, the delegates went to Rafah (frontier town near the Egyptian border since 26 April) to have the

curfew raised there and make it possible for food to be brought in; they also made frequent visits to the police post.

Jordan

The seventh series of visits to places of detention in Jordan began on 1 March and will take five months, with visits to 17 military and civilian prisons. On 27 April the ICRC delegates had already visited 5 centres and 1,366 detainees.

In March the delegates presented their reports on the sixth series of visits to the Ministries of the Interior and of Health and to the penal authorities.

The head of the Middle East division of the Central Tracing Agency carried out a mission to Amman from 5 to 8 April. Tracing activities do in fact account for a large proportion of the delegation's work, arising out of visits to places of detention in Jordan itself and activities relating to the occupied territories (transmission of Red Cross messages, passages across the Allenby Bridge).

Lebanon

The comparative calm of several months was broken in April by armed confrontation in Beirut and by the Israeli raids of 21 April. The ICRC delegates visited hospitals and dispensaries, and gave out sets of dressings. Some families affected by the fighting had taken refuge in Saida and received blankets and powdered milk provided by the ICRC and distributed by the Lebanese Red Cross.

Europe

Poland

In March and April the ICRC continued its visits to persons interned since 13 December 1981, as it had been authorized to do on 21 January 1982. By the end of April, 22 of the 24 internment camps notified to the ICRC by the Polish authorities had been visited, the total number of persons seen being 2,807. In addition, seven camps were visited a second time in the latter half of April. Medical delegates visited persons interned in the hospitals where they were being treated. These visits to camps took place in accordance with the customary ICRC procedure,

and were made by three teams of three delegates each, one person in each team being a doctor. The importance of seeing all interned persons with the minimum delay made it necessary to form two additional teams, who joined the Warsaw delegation in March. A Swiss interpreter who speaks Polish was likewise attached to the delegation.

During the visits, 5,000 packages containing toilet articles were distributed with the help of the Polish Red Cross.

The ICRC has made the first move to extend its protective action, i.e. to obtain access to persons charged with offences against State security and to those already convicted on such charges. The subject was raised by the head of the delegation in the course of talks with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and the Deputy Minister of the Interior towards the end of April. The President of the ICRC, Mr. A. Hay, also referred to this matter when he received the Polish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. J. Wiejacz, at ICRC headquarters on 2 April.

The Central Tracing Agency, in collaboration with the Polish Red Cross, has arranged for the transmission of family news between Poland and other countries: between January and the end of April, it recorded 2,500 messages from the outside world for people inside Poland and received in return 1,387 replies, while 1,041 messages arrived in Geneva from Polish families and 782 replies were sent to Poland.

In response to the joint appeal made by the League and the ICRC and covering the period from 1 January to 30 April, 28 National Red Cross Societies had sent a total of 15,265 tons of supplies, representing a sum of 37 million Swiss francs, by the end of April. The relief benefitted three main categories of under-privileged persons (old people, handicapped and sick persons; children of large families; and newborn babies), as defined in the assistance programme drawn up in collaboration with the Polish Red Cross. A fresh assessment of the needs has begun, to decide on the assistance programme until the end of October. Four groups of people, among the least privileged, have been selected for help: 35,000 aged, sick or handicapped persons; 50,000 children of large families; 60,000 newborn babies; and holiday camps for 66,000 sick or handicapped children.

An evaluation mission was undertaken in April by the League and the ICRC, to define the medical needs for the period May to October. For the period January to April, most of the 410 hospitals assisted by the International Red Cross have received the medical kits destined for them (supplying hospitals being the main part of the medical assistance programme). During the same period, medicines and equipment valued

at 90,000 Swiss francs were sent to Poland to meet the specific needs of other hospitals and pharmacies, while basic medicines worth 1.5 million Swiss francs were handed to the dispensary of the Polish Red Cross. In addition, the National Societies sent basic medicines to the value of 5,800,000 Swiss francs, and these were presented to the central government dispensary for distribution throughout the country.

At the end of April there were 27 persons in the ICRC delegation in Warsaw, 5 of whom sent by the Canadian, Danish, Finnish, German and Swedish Red Cross Societies to deal especially with relief activities.
