

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

(May and June 1982)

Africa

In June, the delegate general for Africa, Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, visited Namibia/South West Africa, Sudan and Ethiopia, to discuss current activities with the ICRC delegations in those three countries.

Southern Africa

Angola

On 25 May, an ICRC nurse, Miss Marie-José Burnier, and a local employee, Mr. Gregorio Lucamba, were abducted by an armed group when they attacked an ICRC convoy near Katchiungo, on the Planalto. The ICRC is extremely concerned about these two members of its personnel and has made every possible effort to have them released rapidly.

While the ICRC is treating this regrettable affair with the greatest discretion, so as not to jeopardize its negotiations with the captors, it reported the incident in a press release dated 4 June, and it considers it to be a serious threat to its humanitarian mission and on those whose duty it is to carry it out.

At the end of June, no progress had been made.

Activities on the Planalto

The volume of aid distributed in May (in total, some 400 tons to be distributed among 50,000 people) remained relatively stable in the Bailundo and Katchiungo regions. In Bié province, there was a progressive increase throughout May in the number of recipients of the

general distributions; and in June, their number had expanded so much that it was estimated there were nearly 50,000 people from outlying villages coming to Kuito to get their rations.

As from the end of May, security problems forced delegates to apply the general distribution system used in Bié to other provinces. Thus, at Bailundo, where delegates' movements were restricted to the approaches of the town, 24,000 persons benefited from this system. In the Katchiungo region, where the nurse and the local employee were abducted, ICRC activities had to be reduced, despite the needs noted in villages which had been receiving aid. In June, only the centre for the nutritional rehabilitation of under-nourished children continued to function in this zone.

A new orthopaedic centre sited in the Kuito hospital building was opened to aid amputees from Bié province. In June, an orthopaedist and a physiotherapist from the ICRC began to treat 62 persons. The volume of activity at the Bomba Alta orthopaedic centre has been reduced, since the attack last March when serious material damage was caused.

Activities in southern Angola

In southern Angola, where the ICRC has a sub-delegation at Lubango and an office at N'Giva, the ICRC flights carrying relief supplies between Huambo and N'Giva had to be suspended for the whole of May. Nevertheless, it was possible to establish a road link, the meeting point for delegates from Lubango with those from N'Giva being the bridge over the river Kunene. Medical and relief supplies thus reached N'Giva, allowing the medical activities undertaken in the south of the country to be continued.

The Tracing Agency also continued its work in the region. In collaboration with the "Angolan Red Cross", some 1000 messages were transmitted between persons living in South Kunene province and members of their families in other provinces.

On 4 June, an ICRC armoured vehicle with a delegate and a local employee on board exploded on a mine, 6 km south of N'Giva. By good fortune, the two passengers escaped from the accident unhurt. Travel by road in this region was immediately suspended. ICRC activities in N'Giva were, however, continued.

Republic of South Africa

Continuing their activities of protection and assistance for detainees' families and for ex-detainees in need, two ICRC delegates carried out a

mission in the Port Elizabeth and Durban regions. In the Transkei, they also discussed with the chief of the armed forces the question of visits to security detainees. A reply to the ICRC's offer of services was expected at the end of June.

The prisoners of war (one Soviet and one Cuban) in South African hands were again regularly visited in May and June. In addition to the delegate stationed in Pretoria, two delegates from Geneva, one a doctor and the other an interpreter, visited the Soviet prisoner on 17 June. The ICRC requested the South African authorities to have him repatriated on health grounds, in conformity with Articles 109 and 110 of the Third Geneva Convention.

Release of a South African prisoner of war

The South African prisoner of war, Johan van der Mescht, held by SWAPO since 1978, was freed on 5 May and repatriated to South Africa. This operation took place independently of the ICRC, under an exchange scheme agreed upon between the South African and Soviet authorities. ICRC delegates had visited Mr. van der Mescht at regular intervals since the beginning of his detention and he was seen a last time two days before his release, when the ICRC delegates spoke with him in conformity with the conditions governing ICRC visits.

Namibia/South West Africa

The ICRC delegate general for Africa spent the period from 7 to 12 June in Namibia. On 8 and 9 June, he took part in a visit to 136 Namibian security detainees and 114 Angolan prisoners of war at Mariental Camp.

The question of ICRC activities in the north of the territory were also discussed at various meetings, in particular with the Administrator General of Namibia. In May, the ICRC delegate at Windhoek carried out a survey of the situation at Rundu in the north of the territory, where Angolan refugees have been settled.

Finally, a formal request for the repatriation of 11 severely wounded Angolan prisoners of war was presented to the South African authorities. The ICRC had still not received their reply at the end of June.

Mozambique

Given the prevailing situation in the Manica, Gaza and Inhambane provinces, the ICRC delegation at Maputo contacted the Ministry of Health and the "Mozambican Red Cross". They were informed that

ICRC assistance did not appear to be necessary for the time being in these regions.

Zimbabwe

The ICRC has decided to provide assistance to the war disabled in Zimbabwe by donating the sum of 150,000 Swiss Francs to the Ruwa orthopaedic centre for victims of war, near Harare. This amount had been originally earmarked for a programme in aid of war amputees, which the Ministry of Health had finally decided not to carry out.

East Africa

Ethiopia

On 30 June 1982, the ICRC ended its involvement with the artificial limb centre at Debre Zeit for war disabled, which it had set up in February 1979. The centre has been autonomous since 1981.

The Ethiopian technicians and physiotherapists trained by ICRC paramedical specialists have henceforth full responsibility for producing and fitting artificial limbs and for the rehabilitation of war amputees and paraplegic soldiers.

At the same time, talks with the Ethiopian authorities regarding the establishment and organization of two rehabilitation centres for handicapped civilian victims of man-made disasters resulted in an agreement between the ICRC and the Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs which was signed on 26 June. These centres will be sited at Asmara (Eritrea) and Dire Dawa (Hararghe).

Somalia

The ICRC regional delegate stationed at Nairobi, a medical delegate and a Tracing Agency delegate went on mission to Mogadishu from 10 to 17 June. They visited 192 Ethiopian prisoners of war, in conformity with the customary ICRC procedure. At the same time, they saw one Cuban prisoner of war also. All the prisoners filled out family messages and the delegates distributed some relief.

Madagascar

From 9 to 23 May, the ICRC regional delegate at Nairobi went on mission to Madagascar with the object of re-establishing contact with

the authorities and with representatives of the National Red Cross Society. The question of the dissemination of international humanitarian law among members of the armed forces and in the universities was discussed.

Central and West Africa

Gambia and Ghana

Following up his visits to Gambia and Ghana in March and April, an ICRC delegate again went to these two countries in June, to resume negotiations on the ICRC offer of service to visit places of detention there.

In *Gambia*, the delegate was received by the Vice-President of the Republic, the Minister for the Interior and the President of the Committee of the Gambian Red Cross. His talks did not, however, produce any concrete results, as the Gambian authorities felt that they could not accept the ICRC offer of service at this stage.

In *Ghana*, the ICRC obtained the authorization to make visits to places of detention. These visits will commence as soon as a common agreement on procedure is worked out between the Ghanaian authorities and the ICRC.

Chad

As was decided following surveys carried out in March and April in the eastern part of the country controlled by the "Armed Forces of the North" (FAN), an ICRC delegation was opened at Abeche. The delegates from Khartoum reached this town on 28 May, but shortly afterwards, the fall of N'Djamena and the FAN victory changed the situation. Relief convoys from Khartoum reached Abeche as arranged, but further relief was brought from N'Djamena, making up a total of 68.4 tons in June. The delegates made fuller assessments of needs in previously inaccessible regions such as Fada, Biltine and Oum Chalouba.

From 26 to 28 June, a medical delegate visited the Faya region to carry out a survey of the medical and nutritional situation; in the course of his visit, he distributed some 80 kg of medicines.

In the Ati and Mongo regions (in the Batha and Guera provinces) the level of malnutrition among children necessitated the organization of nutrition centres: between 19 June and 11 July some 177 tons of

foodstuff arrived there by road. These supplies, the gift of WFP (World Food Programme), were to constitute stocks for the nutrition centres for a period of six months, besides providing emergency relief for about 30,000 displaced and needy persons. A system to distribute medicines using existing medical structures was also set up.

Zaire

In May and June, ICRC delegates visited 5 places of detention in Kinshasa, where 130 detainees were held. Relief (foodstuffs, blankets, toilet requisites) was distributed during and after these visits.

On 26 June, the ICRC was also authorized to resume its visits to the places of detention under the authority of the Department of Justice. These visits had been suspended since May at the request of the Zairian authorities. This authorization also covered places of detention administered by the Department of Justice sited in the Shaba and Upper Zaire provinces. Steps are being taken to get the authorization extended to other regions of the country.

The Tracing Agency office of the Kinshasa delegation continued to ensure the transmission of news between detainees and their families: in the first half of this year, it forwarded 350 messages and registered 591 tracing requests.

Latin America

Missions from Geneva

Mr. André Pasquier, ICRC delegate general for Latin America, carried out a mission to El Salvador and Nicaragua, accompanied by Mr. Jean-François Labarthe, delegate in charge of detention problems.

In *El Salvador*, where he stayed from 27 May to 4 June, Mr. Pasquier was received by the new President of the Republic, Mr. Alvaro Magana, to whom he set out a complete panorama of ICRC activities in the country since 1979. The delegate general also met Dr. Moran Castaneda, First Secretary of the Constituent Assembly, General Garcia, Minister of Defence, and Dr. Mendez Azahar, Minister of Justice. The talks mainly centred on the ICRC's protection activities and the problems encountered in carrying out those tasks.

In *Nicaragua*, too, from 5 to 10 June, Mr. Pasquier discussed the problem of protection with the various eminent persons he met, notably Dr. Cordova Rivas, member of the Junta, Mrs. Lea Guido, Minister for Health, Mrs. N. Astorga, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Herdocia, Director of the International Organizations Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the Director of the National Penitentiary Service.

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Mr. Francis Amar, Chief of the Latin America/Asia Division of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency went on a mission that took him to El Salvador (9 to 16 May) and then to Nicaragua (17 to 21 May). The purpose of his mission was to take stock of tracing activities in the delegations at San Salvador and Managua.

Costa Rica

Opening of a regional delegation

An ICRC regional delegation was opened at San José, Costa Rica, to co-ordinate programmes for the dissemination of international humanitarian law in Central America and to provide better services, from an operational point of view, for the countries of that region where there is no permanent ICRC delegation, namely Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama. Mr. Robert Gaillard-Moret, nominated as regional delegate, took up his new post on 21 May. In Costa Rica, in particular, he will organize a seminar on "State security, human rights and international humanitarian law", which is expected to take place in September, and which will be preceded by a seminar on the training of dissemination personnel, specially intended for Latin American National Societies.

El Salvador

In May and June ICRC relief activities were somewhat reduced, because of floods which prevented access to several villages receiving assistance in the Department of Morazan, and also because of the insecurity prevailing in the conflict zones.

In May, 236 tons of foodstuffs (cost: 38,000 Swiss Francs) were nevertheless distributed with the aid of the Salvadorian Red Cross to some 35,600 displaced persons. About 28,000 of these were in 13 villages

in the Morazan area. But in June, the number of ICRC aid recipients fell to 22,700 and the quantity of relief was only 152 tons.

In the Cacaopera region, the ICRC carried out a special project to help some hundreds of Salvadorian refugees returning from Honduras by constructing shelters for the most deprived among them.

In the medical field, ICRC mobile units continued to hold consultations and provide care in villages in the departments of Cabanas, Chalatenango, Morazan and San Vicente, where displaced persons have taken refuge.

In addition, since it started up in May 1981, the San Salvador blood collection centre has welcomed 1,765 blood donors and has provided free of charge 1,660 units of blood to civilian hospitals and dispensaries throughout the country. It will be recalled that this blood bank was set up and financed by the ICRC and is run jointly by the Salvadorian Red Cross and ICRC.

In the field of protection, ICRC delegates visited and registered 229 new detainees in places of detention in San Salvador and in the provinces.

On average, some 900 persons per month came to the ICRC Tracing Agency offices in San Salvador, Santa Ana and San Miguel to ask for news of their relatives presumed to be detained or reported missing.

Nicaragua

In May and June, ICRC delegates continued their traditional task of visiting persons detained for political or security reasons. They had access to the two principal penitentiary centres of Managua, the Carcel Modelo and the Zona Franca prisons. They visited detainees in Granada, Chinandega, Matagalpa and Ocotal in the provinces, as well as a model farm in the neighbourhood of the capital run by a small number of detainees living in semi-restricted conditions of detention.

An ICRC delegate from Geneva carried out a campaign for the dissemination of international humanitarian law among members of the local branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross and of the armed forces. A programme spread over several months was drawn up for this purpose.

Falklands conflict

Under the mandate conferred upon it by the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC exercised important protection activities during the Falklands conflict.

Right at the start of the crisis between Argentina and Great Britain, the ICRC had reminded both parties of their obligations and offered its services to act in aid of civilians, sick and wounded combatants, shipwrecked persons and prisoners of war. On 3 May, a team of delegates was ready to leave for the archipelago, but for technical reasons (notably the naval blockade and the lack of means of transport) their arrival on the Falkland Islands was delayed until 9 June.

Soon after the delegates had landed at Port Stanley, the ICRC proposed the establishment of a neutralized zone in the capital. The proposal was accepted by both parties to the conflict on 13 June. As stipulated under Article 15 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, this zone was to provide shelter for wounded and sick combatants or non-combatants, and for civilian persons who took no part in hostilities and who, while they resided in the zone, performed no work of a military character. However, the cease-fire was ordered before the proposed neutralized zone could be utilized.

In May and June, the ICRC took part in the repatriation of several groups of prisoners of war. The first operation took place on 13 May: 189 Argentine soldiers and civilians taken prisoner by British troops on South Georgia were flown in an ICRC aircraft from Ascension Island to Montevideo (Uruguay), where they were handed over to representatives of the Argentine Government.

Three ICRC delegates, including a doctor, had previously spoken with these prisoners on board the two vessels that had taken them from South Georgia to Ascension Island. Another Argentine prisoner, captured on South Georgia, who had been detained by the British authorities was visited three times by the ICRC before his release and repatriation on 10 June via Rio de Janeiro.

On 2 June, two delegates from Geneva saw, aboard the British hospital ship "Hecla", 23 Argentine civilians and one Argentine soldier, picked up after the attack on the trawler "Narwal". The ICRC handed these prisoners over to representatives of the Argentine Government when the "Hecla" arrived in Montevideo.

On the same day, an ICRC delegate visited a British pilot rescued off Port Stanley by an Argentine vessel and transferred to the mainland. This prisoner of war was seen on two further occasions before being taken to Montevideo on 8 July, under ICRC auspices, to be handed over to his country's representatives.

On 12 June, a team of six delegates, including two doctors, went on board the British ship "Norland", which was carrying 1013 Argentine

soldiers captured at the battles of Goose Green and Port Darwin. The ICRC saw and registered all the prisoners of war before handing them over to representatives of their country at Montevideo.

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Thus, during the Falkland Islands conflict, ICRC delegates visited and registered some 11,000 Argentine prisoners of war and one British prisoner of war, and supervised their repatriation.

In addition, during the whole conflict and in conformity with its obligations under the Conventions, the ICRC Central Tracing Agency collected and handed over to the governments of the country of origin all information relating to captured, wounded or killed soldiers and civilians.

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Asia

Kampuchea

Having progressively transferred to the League of Red Cross Societies the responsibility for co-ordinating medical assistance, the ICRC, as planned, withdrew from the programme providing ordinary medical assistance to Kampuchea at the end of the first half of 1982. It will, however, continue to provide emergency medical aid in four provinces, Pursat, Battambang, Siem Reap and Kompong Thom, which were particularly hit by the conflict. A substantial stock of emergency medical

supplies has also been constituted, in readiness should the situation deteriorate in any way.

The programme of assistance to orphanages which was begun in 1981 and continued in 1982 had, by the end of the first half of 1982, provided aid to 16 of the 40 orphanages in the country. A request was made to the Phnom Penh authorities for permission to continue the programme in the second half of 1982. It was planned to visit a third group of 8 orphanages in various provinces, which had already been seen and singled out for aid by ICRC delegates.

The negotiations which have been going on for many months with the Kampuchean authorities concerning unaccompanied children in camps in Thailand, with a view to reuniting them with their parents in Kampuchea, have still not produced any results. As the ICRC has not yet obtained the authorities' agreement on the practical procedure for bringing about these reunions, in particular with regard to the preliminary checks to be made, it has been decided that children, concerning whom searches undertaken through the intermediary of the Kampuchean Red Cross had produced positive results, would be so informed. The ICRC delegation in Thailand undertook in June to carry out this task.

Thailand

The relative calm prevailing in the frontier region in May and June led to a diminution of the ICRC's medical activities. On the other hand, the delegation intensified its activities in the field of protection.

The ICRC continued to make numerous attempts to find a solution to the problem of the Vietnamese refugees in camp "NW82", at Nong Samet, by approaching the Thai authorities, the representatives of potential countries of asylum and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. At the end of June, however, the situation remained unchanged, and the camp, which had been designed to hold 800 persons, was providing shelter for some 1,800 Vietnamese refugees.

The ICRC also continued to visit and register detainees in the places of detention at the frontier, at Phnom Chat and Nong Chan. With the agreement of the authorities of Democratic Kampuchea, about a hundred Vietnamese who had been assigned to forced residence were transferred from Phnom Chat to Samet. On 4 June, delegates for the first time had access to the section called "garderie" of the Samet camp, with the agreement in principle of the President of the National Liberation Front of the Khmer People (NLFKP).

Weekly visits to the Thai military prison of Aranyaprathet continued as in previous months.

Following the fighting conducted by the NLFKP against Khmer-Vietnamese troops, the civilian population of the villages in the Sokh Sann region, under Khmer Serei control, had fled to take refuge on Thai territory about 8 km from the frontier. Three months later, on 18 June, these civilians returned to Cambodian territory.

The ICRC is concerned about the fate of these displaced persons but has not obtained authorization from the Thai authorities to visit them. It has, however, maintained various contacts, both in Thailand and in Geneva, to try to obtain an improvement in the condition of the Sokh Sann people.

Traditional activities

Following visits made between mid-February and the end of April to centres administered by the Internal Security Operations Command, the ICRC delegation in Bangkok took steps to obtain permission also to visit persons detained in centres administered by the Ministry of the Interior. In June, the delegation received the oral agreement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs that in principle such visits would be authorized and it is awaiting official confirmation.

Refugees in South-East Asia

The ICRC regional delegate in the Far East, Mr. J.-F. Olivier, and two officers of the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva, Mr. F. Amar and Mrs. A. Ischer, took part in a seminar held in Manila, from 21 to 25 June, intended for the heads of the various Agency offices in South-East Asia. Participants from the Red Cross Societies of the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, from the Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross and from the Macao branch of the Portuguese Red Cross met for this working session, the main object of which was to co-ordinate more efficiently their activities in tracing and re-uniting families of Vietnamese refugees.

Philippines

Between 20 April and 15 June, three teams of two delegates paid a general visit to places of detention in the Philippines. This round of visits covered 43 places of detention, in which 913 persons, of whom 340 belonged to the category of public order violators, were visited.

Indonesia and East Timor

During a mission carried out in June by Mr. J. de Courten, ICRC delegate general for Asia, the Indonesian authorities gave their agreement for a new series of visits to be made to places of detention in Indonesia. These visits will take place in October 1982.

Activities in East Timor

The food and medical assistance programme for displaced persons on Atauro Island, which started on 28 April last, continued in May and June. This six-month emergency programme was set up and is carried out in co-operation with the Indonesian Red Cross.

At the time of the delegate general's mission, in June, the ICRC team accompanied by a representative of the National Society went to assess the situation in a dozen villages on the islands of Timor and Atauro. It was decided to provide extra aid, in the form of food, to the inhabitants of half a dozen villages in Timor also.

The Indonesian authorities confirmed to the ICRC that the programme for re-uniting the close members of families dispersed in Timor, Portugal and Australia was to be carried out soon. On 30 June, the first family (4 persons) arrived at Lisbon, and other cases of people going to Portugal and Australia were being prepared. Moreover, the ICRC has also been mandated by Portugal and Indonesia to repatriate several Portuguese families who had been unable to leave Timor since 1975. These repatriations will be carried out as soon as the programme for re-uniting close relatives is sufficiently advanced, that is to say, in the second half of 1982.

Afghanistan

On 28 May, three Soviet nationals who had been captured in Afghanistan were transferred to Switzerland. The ICRC negotiated, organized and secured their transit through Pakistan and their transfer to Switzerland. The Swiss authorities accepted to take responsibility temporarily for keeping them and all parties concerned agreed to this procedure which was in conformity by analogy with the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention (specifically Article 111).

On 3 June, three ICRC delegates, one of them a doctor, visited for the first time the Soviet internees in their place of internment in Switzerland. The report of this visit was sent to the Swiss Federal authorities as well as to the Permanent Mission of the USSR at Geneva.

Pakistan

In June, Mr. D. Delapraz replaced Mr. J.-M. Monod at the head of the ICRC delegation in Pakistan.

In the medical field, the ICRC surgical hospital at Peshawar registered a record number of admissions in June when more than 160 wounded, including 25 in a single 48-hour period, were brought in. The situation continued to be under control and it has not been found necessary to strengthen the hospital's infrastructure. The ICRC continued its activities in the centre for war paraplegics, which is in an annex to the hospital, and in the artificial limb workshop. The workshop's production dropped in May and June, as there were fewer patients.

Middle East

Lebanon

In May, during a period of relative calm, there were violent clashes in Tripoli between armed units of various Lebanese parties. The delegation kept a close watch on the situation and provided the Lebanese Red Cross with blood and medical kits to help it tend the numerous casualties.

The air raids by Israel, followed by the Israeli army invasion of Lebanon as from 6 June, caused a serious deterioration in the general situation and radically transformed the ICRC's activities in Lebanon.

ICRC delegates in the field immediately provided blankets and food for the civilian inhabitants fleeing the combat zones. The ICRC delegation also took part in the evacuation of the wounded and provided hospitals run by the Lebanese Red Cross, the "Palestinian Red Crescent" and the Lebanese Ministry of Health with medical kits and medicaments.

On 9 June, the ICRC in Geneva despatched more delegates to Lebanon. It was clear that priority had to be given to providing medical assistance. On 10 June, the ICRC sent out an appeal to National Societies asking for first aid teams and surgical teams. Three days later a Finnish and a Norwegian medical team reached Saida; two others, one from Sweden and the other from West Germany, arrived in the Bekaa area.

From 11 to 23 June, Dr. R. Russbach, ICRC chief medical officer, went round all the areas affected by the hostilities in Lebanon (South Lebanon, Beirut and Bekaa) in order to discover as quickly as possible what the needs were. He found that the most important task in the

medical field was to give aid to organizations such as the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent", to provide basic medical care to the civilian population, and to open dispensaries wherever they were required. In addition, emergency centres had to be established in West Beirut. To achieve this, the ICRC distributed substantial quantities of medical equipment, medicaments and blood to hospitals and medical centres. By 30 June, 49 tons of medical assistance had been distributed.

The dispatch of relief required the rapid deployment of means of transport: Larnaca (Cyprus), Damascus and Tel Aviv were immediately designated as logistical bases. Supplies were brought to those towns by air and stored there until they were sent on by road, from Damascus to the Bekaa valley and to West Beirut, and from Tel Aviv to South Lebanon. From Larnaca, aid was sent by air to Tel Aviv and Damascus, and by boat, at first to Haifa and later to Jounieh.

From 11 June, when the relief action really got started, until 30 June, 33 aircraft and 2 boats carried a total of 1550 tons of relief supplies and 250 tons of medical equipment and medicines to Cyprus, to be forwarded to Lebanon. At 30 June, a total of 1051 tons had arrived in Lebanon; 391 tons had been distributed (including the 49 tons of medical supplies mentioned above), either to displaced persons direct or to hospitals and dispensaries.

Such a wide range of activities called for additional medical personnel and also for a considerable increase in the number of delegates in the region. While in May there were only 9 delegates in Lebanon, by 11 June ICRC staff working in Lebanon, Cyprus and Damascus numbered 29 persons, and on 17 June there were 57 delegates in Lebanon alone (including the medical personnel sent by the National Societies). At the end of June, there were 55 delegates and 19 members of medical teams sent by National Societies working throughout Lebanon, and in Damascus, Larnaca and Tel Aviv.

One of the ICRC's major concerns was to ensure the protection both of the civilian population and of combatants taken by the various forces engaged in the conflict. On 7 June, the ICRC appealed to the combatants, reminding them of their obligations under the international humanitarian law in force. It asked them, in particular, to respect the sick and the wounded, as well as all persons put out of the fighting; to refrain, in all cases, from launching attacks on the civilian population or from using civilians for military purposes; to take all necessary measures to spare civilians and civilian property, and in all circumstances to facilitate the accomplishment of the humanitarian mission of ICRC delegates and medical personnel. On that same day, the

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) made it officially known that it had decided to apply the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and its Additional Protocol I of 1977.

Again, on 9 June, the ICRC appealed firmly and solemnly to Israel, demanding that all possible steps should be taken to spare civilians of all nationalities in the Lebanon conflict, particularly in the fighting in Beirut.

Throughout June, the ICRC continued its discussions with the various forces in opposition, to obtain notification of captures and the authorization to visit combatants who had been taken prisoner. Until 30 June, the delegates had been able to see only 33 Syrian soldiers and 18 Palestinians who had fallen into Israeli hands. They were all sick or wounded and were being cared for in hospitals. These wounded men filled in family messages which the ICRC undertook to forward.

Conflict between Iraq and Iran

Mr. J. Hoefliger, ICRC delegate general for the Middle East, accompanied by two delegates, one of whom was a jurist, carried out a mission to study the possibility of organizing family visits to prisoners of war. Between 27 April and 15 May, they went to Kuwait (which would be the transit country for the families), Iraq and Iran. The delegate general's task was to draft a document regulating procedures, to be approved by all parties, and to assess the preparatory arrangements.

Two missions were carried out with the object of protecting the civilian populations: on 15 May, the ICRC delegates stationed in Baghdad visited the Qasr-I-Shirin region, which they had already seen in October 1981. From 13 to 15 June, the head of the ICRC Teheran delegation went to certain areas near the front, more particularly to Khorramshahr, Abadan, Hoveyzeh and Ilam.

In May and June, the Teheran delegation visited and registered Iraqi prisoners of war captured in the region of Suze and Dezfoul during the offensive at the end of March. By the end of June, some 7,000 prisoners had been registered and more were still to be seen. From 21 to 24 June, ICRC delegates also visited prisoners of war who were being cared for in hospitals.

In Iraq, from 22 May to 1 June, a further visit was made to the Mosul, Ramadi and Anbar camps. A fourth camp opened in June, also at Mosul, was visited from 15 to 19 June. A total of 3882 Iranian prisoners were seen during these visits, in addition to 30 others who were visited in hospitals.

Europe

Delegate general's missions

From 2 to 5 June, Mr. Frank Schmidt, ICRC delegate general for Europe and North America, carried out a mission to *Turkey* where he discussed various humanitarian problems with representatives of the authorities.

On 8 June, Mr. Schmidt went to *Spain* where he met at the Ministry for Justice Mr. Enrique Galavis, director general of penitentiary institutions. The talks particularly concerned the ICRC's offer to undertake a new series of visits to detainees arrested or convicted for acts of terrorism (the ICRC had had access to this category of detainees in May-June 1981). The authorization for such visits was granted in principle, while the procedure was to be fixed at a later stage.

Mr. Schmidt also accompanied the President of the ICRC to *Poland* from 21 to 25 June.

Poland

ICRC President's mission

From 21 to 25 June, Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Frank Schmidt, ICRC delegate general for Europe and North America, and Miss Michèle Mercier, head of the ICRC Press Division, went on a mission to Poland at the invitation of the Polish Red Cross.

The purpose of this mission was to review with the Polish authorities and the Polish Red Cross all the various questions concerning International Red Cross work in the country. In his talks with government authorities, Mr. Hay raised, among other matters, the question of extending ICRC protection activities to persons arrested and sentenced under martial law.

Appeal for funds

On 12 May, the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies launched an appeal for funds (the second since the humanitarian programme began in December 1981) to raise 40.2 million Swiss francs to finance International Red Cross programmes in Poland for the period 1 May to 31 October 1982. At the end of June, contributions in cash and in kind, received or promised, unfortunately amounted only to

6.6 million Swiss francs, obliging the ICRC, League and Polish Red Cross to work out new priorities in the different sectors of relief work.

Activities of the Warsaw delegation

In June, ICRC delegates ended their second series of visits to places of internment: they had had access, in conformity with standard ICRC procedures, to 2751 internees, held in 22 centres. In the same period, six internment centres holding 805 persons were visited for the third time since the start of the ICRC protection activities, on 21 January 1982. With the aid of the Polish Red Cross, parcels containing toilet articles were distributed to the internees during all these visits.

In the course of these visits, the ICRC delegates requested the release, on medical grounds, of a number of internees, and recommended special medical treatment for others. They also drew the attention of the authorities and of the Polish Red Cross to a certain number of welfare cases requiring assistance.

Between 20 April and 22 May, an ICRC medical delegate went round sixteen provincial and district hospitals to check on the use made of the various "hospital kits" delivered by the International Red Cross and to assess needs for the next budgetary period (1 May to 31 October 1982). It may be recalled that this project, which was planned jointly by the League and the ICRC, enabled hospital establishments to be supplied with the medicines and medical equipment for their normal requirements. The "hospital kits" were distributed by donor National Societies direct to the hospitals. As it was found that this form of assistance met a real need and proved to be very useful, it was decided to make further distributions to 508 hospitals. The cost of the operation is estimated at two million Swiss Francs.

Aid, in the form of parcels of food and toilet articles, continued to be provided to the most vulnerable categories of civilians: new-born babies and their mothers, young children, sick and handicapped aged people. In June, the delegates responsible for the joint League/ICRC relief programme visited the provinces of Gdansk, Szczecin, Lenzo, Legnica, Lublin, Rzeszow and Konin, where they were able to establish that the distribution network was working well.

The Central Tracing Agency, in co-operation with the Polish Red Cross, continued to forward news of families in Poland and elsewhere. In the first six months of this year, 3,425 messages were sent to Poland and 3,127 replies were received in return. The volume of incoming and outgoing messages was, however, smaller in May and June, following the re-establishment of the postal link between Poland and abroad.