

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

July-August 1982

Africa

Southern Africa

Angola

The ICRC delegate general for Africa, Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, went on mission to Angola from 7 to 17 July to re-assess the ICRC assistance programme in the centre and south of the country, and especially the danger it involved. The reason for this was that a series of incidents (abductions, mine explosions during the passage of relief convoys, explosions at the Bomba Alta orthopaedic centre) have compelled the ICRC to limit its delegates' movements and have impeded activities on behalf of the displaced civilian population, the victims of events.

At the same time the ICRC persisted in its endeavours on every level, both in the field and from its Geneva headquarters, to obtain the release of one of its nurses, Miss Mary-Josée Burnier, who was kidnapped by an armed band near Katchiungo on 25 May, during an attack on a relief convoy. At a press conference held in Brussels on 18 August, a representative of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) announced that his movement had decided to release 14 expatriates in its captivity, including the ICRC nurse.

Miss Burnier was finally released on 18 September and handed over to the South African Red Cross. She was repatriated from Pretoria to Geneva on 20 September.

Activities in the field

In view of the danger prevailing in the Planalto area, the ICRC decided to continue and even develop the system of distributing food

aid from three centres set up at Kuito (Bie province), Bailundo and Katchiungo (townships in the Huambo province). These centres, which are kept supplied with relief goods by the ICRC, are food points where the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages come to receive their monthly rations (maize flour and dried beans) and take them home.

In July, relief supplies totalling 365.5 tonnes were distributed on the Planalto to a population of 67,000 people; in August the volume of assistance was virtually doubled (721.8 tonnes) and the number of beneficiaries likewise increased considerably, reaching a total of about 108,000 people. In addition the ICRC handed over 64 tonnes of powdered milk to various religious organizations in Huambo, which assist needy and displaced persons.

The ICRC delegates also continued their activities at the three special feeding centres in Katchiungo, Bailundo and Kuito, where children suffering from malnutrition are receiving treatment under medical supervision. In July and August, each of these centres was treating an average of 30 cases of severe malnutrition each month.

In the night of 25 to 26 July, explosive charges seriously damaged the buildings of the orthopaedic centre at Bomba Alta (Huambo), which is run jointly by the ICRC and the "Angolan Red Cross". There were fortunately no casualties, but the production of prostheses and crutches had to be suspended until the end of August, for repairs to be completed. This was the second time in five months that the Bomba Alta centre has been attacked in this way; the buildings had already been damaged by a previous explosion in March, affecting the work of the technicians.

In the extreme south of Angola the ICRC delegates based at N'Giva continued their medical assistance, protection and tracing activities, despite the danger which confined their movements to the immediate vicinity of the town. They kept the dispensaries supplied with dressings and medicaments, and arranged for family messages to be forwarded (643 messages exchanged via the sub-delegation at Lubango).

Lastly it was possible on 24 August to resume the ICRC flights to carry relief supplies from Huambo to N'Giva; they had been suspended since 13 July.

Republic of South Africa

In July and August, the ICRC delegation in Pretoria took numerous steps to arrange for the repatriation of Angolan prisoners of war detained in Namibia/South West Africa (see below). In addition, on 5 August, two delegates, one of whom was a doctor, again visited the Soviet

prisoner detained by the South African authorities. ICRC delegates furthermore, in talks on 26 and 27 August with the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Law and Order raised various questions concerning protection activities in the country.

Also in connection with protection activities, a delegate based in Pretoria went to Transkei on 12 August to transmit to the authorities an offer of ICRC services to visit the security prisoners there. This offer has not as yet received any reply.

Continuing the programme of assistance for ex-detainees and detainees' families in distress, the Pretoria delegation distributed 834 food parcels in July and August, and also gave financial aid to a number of families to enable them to visit their detained relatives. The cost of this aid in food and cash amounted to approximately 80,000 Swiss francs.

Namibia/South West Africa

Twenty Angolan prisoners of war detained at Mariental camp—including 10 sick or wounded—were repatriated from Windhoek to Luanda on 16 and 17 August on board two ICRC aircraft. They were accompanied by four delegates, including one doctor, who handed them over to the Angolan authorities on arrival in Luanda. This operation was the successful outcome of lengthy negotiations requiring the collaboration, via the Geneva headquarters, of ICRC delegations in South Africa, Namibia and Angola.

The authorities have furthermore agreed, in response to ICRC requests, to allow the security detainees at Mariental to be visited by their families. Ten families were able to visit their relatives in August; their transport was organized by the ICRC.

In addition the delegates based in Windhoek visited three security detainees at Otavi and Oshakati, in northern Namibia, on 1 and 6 July.

East Africa

Ethiopia

The months of July and August were marked by numerous missions by ICRC delegates throughout the country. In the north, Teseney, Ali Ghedir, Adi Keyih, Keren, Barentu, Akordat, Adi Ugri and Adi Kwala were visited from Asmara. The head of the delegation went to Asmara from 10 to 14 August, and had talks there with the provincial authorities and representatives of the local branch of the Ethiopian

Red Cross. A mission also took place in the Gondar province from 6 to 14 July. Surveys were made in the regions of Sidamo, Tigre and Hararge. The purpose of all these missions was to establish, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Red Cross, a programme of assistance for persons displaced by conflicts.

Relief supplies totalling approximately 107 tonnes in July and 85 tonnes in August were distributed, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Red Cross, at the local Red Cross branches in Gondar, Hararge and Bale.

In Asmara (Eritrea), work is proceeding on a rehabilitation centre for civilian disabled, as agreed with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (see previous *Review*). The staff have been selected and the centre is currently being equipped and furnished.

Somalia

Following press reports on fighting at the border between Somalia and Ethiopia, the ICRC regional delegate based in Nairobi went to Mogadishu, where he stayed from 18 to 22 July. In order to make a survey of the medical situation at the request of the Ministry of Defence, a doctor was sent out on mission from Geneva. During his stay in Somalia from 22 to 30 July, he visited the wounded receiving treatment at the Martini Military Hospital in Mogadishu, handed over medicaments and surgical supplies to this hospital, and drew up a list of its further requirements. Medical aid valued at 74,000 Swiss francs was subsequently sent from Nairobi to Mogadishu.

Following up the contacts established, a delegate went to Somalia in mid-August to negotiate the opening of a delegation which would continue the protection of prisoners of war and assess the needs which might arise as a result of the fighting.

Uganda

An offer of services has been conveyed to the Ugandan authorities with a view to resuming ICRC protection activities in places of detention. This offer of services follows a mission to Kampala from 26 July to 5 August, carried out by the ICRC regional delegate based in Nairobi.

Central and West Africa

Chad

The ICRC continued to work from two centres, the capital and Abéché, in July and August. Delegates carried out numerous missions

throughout the country to assess needs for food and medical aid, and distributed medicaments to medical centres and dispensaries.

The areas of Biltine, Oum Hadjer and Am Timam were visited in July; at the same time delegates distributed 124 tonnes of food to some 25,000 people suffering from malnutrition in the provinces of Guéra and Batha.

From 26 to 28 July the ICRC delegate general for Africa was in N'Djamena to examine, with the delegation there, how the ICRC action in Chad could be developed and to set up a programme of activities for the latter half of 1982.

Further survey missions carried out in August in the Biltine area and the south-east of Ennedi province, to Fada, Ati and Mongo where feeding centres have already been established, revealed an alarming aggravation of the food shortage in the country, due both to the conflict situation and to the prolonged drought followed by extremely heavy rains. The famine was particularly acute in the prefectures of Guéra and Ennedi, where deaths have been recorded. The ICRC thereupon made every effort to inform and alert the representatives of the international agencies. It was impossible to organize overland convoys, in view of the bad road conditions due to the rains, but thanks to an appeal launched by UNDR0 to the international community, an airlift was set up and has been operating since 31 August.

Despite the difficult transport conditions, 39.4 tonnes of food were distributed to some 10,500 people in August.

Since fighting had occurred in the Sahr region, the ICRC aircraft evacuated the wounded to N'Djamena and supplied the existing medical facilities with medicaments and dressings kits.

With regard to protection, the Chad head of state has given the ICRC permission to visit prisoners. These visits began at Abéché at the end of August.

Zaire

On 2 August, the ICRC received from the Department of Justice a general authorization to visit 32 prisons in seven regions in Zaire, and other places of detention in the same regions if it considers visits there necessary. This authorization confirms and extends the one obtained in late June.

In July, 24 detainees were visited at the Makala Central Prison in Kinshasa. Almost all of them were subsequently transferred to 11 places of detention in various regions in Zaire. The ICRC immediately demanded notification of these transfers and authorization to visit the

detainees in their new prisons; it likewise intervened to obtain permission for their families to visit them. These requests were met.

Between 14 and 18 August, ICRC delegates carried out a series of visits in Shaba; they had access to a total of 1,630 detainees in eight places of detention, five of which were administered by the Ministry of Justice, two by the Zaire armed forces and one by the security services. During these visits they distributed almost 10 tonnes of relief supplies (food, blankets, toiletries, etc.) to a value of 34,000 Swiss francs. A doctor belonging to the Shaba prison administration service accompanied the ICRC delegates to the prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. He examined 353 persons, and seven ICRC kits of medications and dressings were used. Lastly, 121 detainees wrote family messages, most of which were immediately distributed by the local Tracing Agency office in Lumumbashi.

Other visits to places of detention were made in July and August to deliver relief supplies or deal with Tracing Agency inquiries.

Latin America

Mission from Geneva

Mr. André Pasquier, ICRC delegate general for Latin America, went to Argentina and Uruguay in August.

In *Argentina* he had talks with General Jorge Suarez Nelson, Secretary General of the Army; General Llamil Reston, Minister of the Interior; Dr. J. R. Aguirre Lanari, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr. L. Lennon, Minister of Justice; and General C. Cerda, Deputy Minister of the Interior. The Minister of Justice, in the company of senior members of his staff, invited the delegate general and several delegates attached to the delegation in Buenos Aires to a dinner at the Palacio San Martin, the seat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to mark his government's appreciation for the ICRC's humanitarian action in the Falklands/Malvinas conflict.

During these talks, the ICRC's activities in connection with the recent conflict in the South Atlantic were reviewed, and the last reports on visits to Argentine prisoners of war were handed over to the government. The military authorities also expressed the wish for the mortal

remains of Argentine soldiers killed in the fighting to be transferred to Argentina, and asked the ICRC to examine ways and means for such an operation.

The delegate general likewise discussed the protective activities which the ICRC is conducting in Argentina for the benefit of security detainees.

Lastly, he suggested that a programme be instituted for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces.

In *Uruguay* the main purpose of the delegate general's mission was to reach an agreement with the authorities on the resumption of, and procedure for, visits to security detainees. He had talks with Dr. E. Valdes Otero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rear-Admiral Jorge Laborde, chief of the joint general staff, and with the chief of military police. No decision was made during these talks. At the end of August the ICRC had not yet received a reply from the Uruguayan authorities concerning the resumption of its protection activities.

In the course of his mission the delegate general also met the leaders of the Argentine and Uruguayan Red Cross Societies.

Regional delegation in Bogota

In abeyance since October 1981, the ICRC delegation for the Andean countries, Guyana and Surinam—based in Bogota—resumed its activities in July. Mr. Georges Heumann, new regional delegate, took up office on 26 July.

In August he went to Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela to pay courtesy calls on and renew contact with the authorities and the Red Cross Societies of these countries. He also drew attention to the availability of the ICRC for visits to security detainees.

El Salvador

During the months of July and August, 274 security detainees in San Salvador and the provinces were visited for the first time and registered. These visits took place in accordance with the ICRC standard procedure.

In April, the ICRC had asked the Salvadorian authorities for systematic notification of each arrest effected for reasons of security; this request had been accepted. The ICRC delegates observed that the notification system was progressively being applied in the provisional places of detention.

The ICRC had also suggested that the armed forces' "Comisión Auxiliar de Control", which had been formed at its request on 28 July 1981 to examine various problems observed in the provisional places of detention, should be restructured. This reorganization was carried out, and the first working session took place on 9 July.

ICRC protection activities in the first half of the current year were reviewed in a report which was handed over to Dr. Alvaro Magana, President of the Republic of El Salvador, during talks on 29 July, and to General Garcia, Minister of Defence.

The ICRC also carried out protection activities on behalf of members of the government forces captured by armed opposition forces. With the consent of the Salvadorian authorities the ICRC delegates—including one doctor—visited three groups of prisoners (a total of 59 persons) on 8, 12 and 29 August, whose detention had been notified by the opposition to the ICRC. The prisoners filled in messages for their families. On 31 August, the opposition forces released 40 prisoners into the care of the ICRC delegates, who accompanied them to the town of San Francisco Gotara, where the Salvadorian authorities took charge of them.

In July and August, about 2,400 people asked the tracing offices in San Salvador, Santa Ana and San Miguel for help; 471 inquiries about missing persons were recorded.

ICRC mobile teams continued to provide medical assistance for the displaced persons in the conflict zones. A medical assistance operation was undertaken for the first time in August in an extremely remote part of the Chalatenango department.

In the space of two months more than 750 tonnes of food were distributed to displaced persons in the departments of Morazan, Usulután, San Vicente and Cabanas, under the supervision of ICRC delegates.

In August, an appeal for 5,330,000 Swiss francs was launched to finance the ICRC's activities in El Salvador in the second half of 1982.

Argentina

Visits to persons detained for security reasons were resumed on 26 July. This protection programme had been temporarily suspended for about four months, as the regional delegation in Buenos Aires was engaged in numerous activities arising from the conflict in the South Atlantic.

In August, the ICRC delegates visited the two main prisons, "Caseros" and "Rawson", where there were 339 detainees, and three hospitals where detainees were receiving treatment.

Asia

Regional delegation in New Delhi

The ICRC's regional delegation in New Delhi, which had had reduced activity since 1980, was reactivated in August 1982 with the appointment of a new regional delegate in the person of Mr. Jean-Michel Monod. On 7 August, Mr. Monod set out on a mission which took him from India to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka; he renewed contact with the authorities in those three countries and with the leaders of their National Societies.

In Dacca, the officials who spoke with Mr. Monod asked the ICRC to enquire into the fate of Bangladesh nationals arrested in Lebanon during the Israel offensive in the last months. In Colombo too, the Sri Lanka authorities expressed their concern over a number of their nationals who had been reported missing during the recent events in Lebanon. Mr. Monod gave them a list of 22 persons of Sri Lanka nationality, who had been registered by ICRC delegates among prisoners held in the camp at Al Ansar.

Afghanistan

As a result of the extensive negotiations held since July 1980, when the ICRC found it impossible to continue its humanitarian activities in Afghanistan, the ICRC was invited by the Afghan authorities to send a delegation to Kabul for discussions on the resumption of its activities in that country.

On 13 August, a team of four delegates (including a doctor), headed by Mr. François Zen Ruffinen, left for Kabul. On the following day, high-level talks were conducted with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shah Mohammad Dost. After having explained the aims of the ICRC, the delegates were granted authorization to carry out a programme of protection and assistance.

Accordingly, they visited 338 persons, who had been arrested in connection with the events in Afghanistan, and later went to a number of hospitals and other medical establishments, to carry out a survey of the situation and assess medical needs. Following the delegates' survey, a first consignment of medicaments was sent to Kabul.

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Two more members of the Soviet military contingent in Afghanistan, who had been captured in that country, were transferred to Switzerland by the ICRC. This operation was carried out on 10 August and brings to five the number of Soviet nationals held under Swiss responsibility. This second transfer followed the same procedure as the first one, completed on 28 May 1982. The ICRC negotiated, organized and secured the transit of the Soviet nationals through Pakistan territory and their transfer to Switzerland. They are visited at regular intervals by ICRC delegates.

Pakistan

The ICRC surgical hospital at Peshawar—the capacity of which had been increased from 120 to 140 beds—admitted 120 wounded Afghans in July and 160 in August. In addition, 1,054 out-patients were treated there. Once a fortnight the hospital receives blood supplies, a gift from the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The ICRC paramedical teams, too, continued their work at the centre for war paraplegics and at the artificial limb workshop, which are both attached to the hospital. At the end of August, there were 35 paraplegics receiving treatment (6 were admitted in July and 16 in August). Since its opening in June 1981, the centre has provided care for 53 paraplegics, a number equal to about 5 per cent of the total number of patients admitted to the Peshawar hospital. Altogether 123 amputees have been equipped with artificial limbs.

In connection with the medical programme for victims of the conflict in Afghanistan, two ICRC delegates (one of them a doctor) visited the border province of Baluchistan to assess the requirements of hospitals taking in Afghan wounded. They found that the situation as regards surgical treatment did not call for any urgent action to be taken and that, consequently, it was not necessary to consider for the moment any ICRC initiative on the lines of that at the ICRC hospital in Peshawar.

Indonesia/East Timor

At the beginning of July, Mr. Pierre Guberan took over from Mr. Cedric Neukomm at the head of the ICRC delegation in Djakarta.

From 2 to 8 July, Mr. Guberan was in East Timor and participated, with Indonesian Red Cross representatives, at the third distribution of relief to 3,380 displaced persons (including 457 children below the age of five) on Atauro Island. This operation was part of the six-month assistance programme, set up after ICRC delegates had assessed the

situation, which is carried out with the co-operation of the Indonesian Red Cross. Previous distributions had been made at the end of April and in May-June.

Extra food aid was also provided for the inhabitants of seven villages in Timor, where serious malnutrition problems subsist. Furthermore, a nutrition centre was created at Iliomar, to ensure that about 200 persons, including 140 very young children, suffering from food deficiency were given the proper kinds of food.

In July, the ICRC organized two more operations for the reuniting of 12 inhabitants of East Timor with their relatives in Australia, and 7 with their families in Portugal.

Thailand

In July, the ICRC delegate general for Asia, Mr. J. de Courten, while on mission in Bangkok, drew up, with the ICRC delegates stationed in Bangkok, Phnom Penh and Hanoi, a list of the objectives to be met and the budgets for ICRC humanitarian activities in Thailand, Kam-puchea and Viet Nam for the six months July to December 1982.

It was decided that the ICRC would give priority to the expansion of its protection activities in the region along the border between Kam-puchea and Thailand, provided it received the co-operation of all the governments concerned.

In addition, steps would have to be taken to obtain from the Thai authorities permission for surveys to be carried out to ascertain needs in the border zone to the north-east of Aranyaprathet (regions of Ban Sagnae, Ban Baranae, O-Bock, Chong Chom) where the ICRC has so far been unable to go and where there are several thousand Cambodian refugees. This mission should reveal the extent of the possible needs for medical aid and protection.

In view of the unstable and potentially explosive nature of the situation prevailing in the border area, it was decided to maintain, during these six months, the medical infrastructure set up at the Aranyaprathet sub-delegation. It was also considered essential that the last remaining mobile ICRC medical unit in the area should not be withdrawn. The Bangkok delegation would endeavour, all the same, to hand over responsibility for the two camps at Phnom Chat and Kok Tahan to a voluntary organization specializing in long-term medical and health aid, which would work with UNBRO (United Nations Border Relief Operation). However, the ICRC would continue to organize the transfer of any emergency medical cases from those two villages and would also pursue its protection duties.

In addition, the ICRC would continue its weekly visits to the military prison in Aranyaprathet and its protection tasks (visits and registration of detainees) in the places of detention along the border, in particular at Phnom Chat, Nong Chan and Samet.

For several months, the ICRC has been making numerous attempts to find a solution to the problem of the Vietnamese refugees. About 2,000 refugees are in camp "NW82", at Nong Samet, and some 300 others are scattered in various other camps. The ICRC approached once again several countries of asylum, in connection with this problem. It suggested that representatives of those countries meet in September for discussions, in which the UNHCR would also join, with a view to formulating proposals to the authorities of Thailand for working out a settlement of a humanitarian problem that is assuming increasingly grave proportions.

Traditional activities

The Thai authorities were expected to give official confirmation of the permission to visit persons detained in centres administered by the Ministry of the Interior. This confirmation not having been received, the series of visits which were to take place at the end of August, according to the plan submitted to the authorities, had to be postponed.

Kampuchea

Negotiation for initiating a protection programme for combatants captured while carrying arms and for persons arrested in connection with the events in Kampuchea is still one of the main objectives of the ICRC. No progress was made during the first half of 1982.

In July and August, medical assistance was provided by the ICRC for 5 hospitals and 13 dispensaries, where war wounded are being cared for. In addition, it is planned to provide, in the next few months, some small-scale medical aid, depending on the needs, for 6 hospitals, where the replacement of the ICRC by other bodies has not yet been assured. However, a mission which was to have gone in mid-August to assess medical needs in four provinces in the west of Kampuchea had to be postponed at the authorities' demand.

Further relief to orphanages is to be provided soon: a programme has been worked out for 8 orphanages which were visited by ICRC delegates in seven different provinces.

The shuttle flights organized by the ICRC between Bangkok and Phnom Penh, begun in 1979, were discontinued at the beginning of August 1982. Consignments will now be sent once a week on a regular

flight to Ho-Chi-Minh-City. From there to Phnom Penh shipments will be made on a DC-3 aircraft chartered by the ICRC.

Middle East

Lebanon

In July and August, because of the presence of Israeli forces in the country and the blockade of West Beirut, the general situation remained very tense in Lebanon. During this period, the ICRC continued its intense protection and assistance activities in three areas: Beirut, the Beka'a valley and South Lebanon.

Dispatch and distribution of relief

The dispatch of relief continued as in June, with the three logistic bases at Larnaca (Cyprus), Tel Aviv and Damascus. The volume of relief supplies sent to those three bases by regular airlines as well as by an aircraft chartered by the ICRC amounted to 2,296 tons to a value of 19,542,000 Swiss francs. In addition, 3,512 tons were shipped by sea, in eight journeys, to the ports of Jounieh, Tripoli and Haifa (from the latter port, to South Lebanon). Furthermore, 56 lorries in 9 convoys carried 1,127 tons of relief from Damascus to Lebanon.

It was during one of these trips that the "M/S Flora", put at the disposal of the ICRC by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, was hit by a shell in Jounieh harbour. A member of the crew was killed and five others wounded. The ICRC immediately reminded all parties to the conflict of their obligation to respect the Red Cross emblem.

The ICRC found it difficult to assess the number of people in need of its assistance as it was impossible to make a proper census. In July the number of persons receiving relief throughout Lebanon rose from 110,000 to 171,000, of whom there were about 40,000 in West Beirut, 6,000 in Tripoli and Jounieh, 85,000 in the Beka'a valley and 40,000 in South Lebanon. In the second half of July, there was a substantial influx of displaced persons seeking refuge in the the Beka'a. Family relief parcels containing foodstuffs and kitchen utensils were distributed.

At the end of July, renewed fighting in West Beirut hampered distributions of relief and delayed the passage of convoys from east to west. Negotiations had to be undertaken with each one of the different parties

to the conflict every time a convoy had to pass through. This difficult situation lasted until the tension in the town had eased somewhat after the Palestinian combatants' departure. In one single week, from 18 to 24 August, six ICRC convoys managed to enter West Beirut. As soon as the blockade was lifted, the ICRC started to send large quantities of food for those categories of the population who were most in need of assistance. By 30 August, thirty convoys had unloaded in West Beirut.

Medical aid

The situation on the medical front also called for great efforts. Medical relief supplies (medicaments, material, ambulances and blood) were dispatched, together with food aid. On 1 July, a co-ordinator for medical matters was appointed to supervise medical activities throughout Lebanon. In Beirut, a health adviser kept watch on public health matters, such as water supplies and garbage removal. Emergency centres were set up, in co-operation with the Lebanese Ministry of Health, the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent". In other parts of the country, medical units lent by National Societies administered dispensaries and, at regular intervals, made a survey of the situation.

A mobile 40-bed field hospital, a gift from the Finnish Red Cross, was shipped from Larnaca to Lebanon at the end of July and set up in West Beirut, in the basement of a hotel. It was opened on 14 August.

In August, 25 doctors and nurses belonging to various National Societies and ten ICRC medical delegates were working in Lebanon, with the assistance of locally recruited personnel. During that month, 3,011 medical kits, containing material specially selected with a view to needs in Lebanon, were dispatched; 38 ambulances arrived in Lebanon and were put at the disposal of the Lebanese Red Cross, the "Palestinian Red Crescent" and the Lebanese Ministry of Health; 1,383 litres of blood were handed over to the Lebanese Red Cross and "Palestinian Red Crescent". From the start of the operation to 30 August the value of the medical equipment and material and medicaments dispatched to, or purchased in Lebanon was estimated at 13,274,000 Swiss francs.

Intense medical activity marked the last week of August, when 167 wounded Palestinian combatants were evacuated from Beirut. This operation was carried out on 26 August together with the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent". The wounded were carried on board the hospital ship "Flora" which sailed first to Cyprus. A small number of these wounded were taken ashore to a Cyprus hospital, and the rest went to their destination, Athens. Two medical teams, one from the German Red Cross (FRG) and the other from the

"Palestinian Red Crescent" tended the wounded on board the ship. On 6 September, in a similar operation 71 more wounded Palestinian combatants were evacuated from Beirut.

Protection

The protection of the civilian population and of persons taken into custody by the various parties to the conflict was at the centre of ICRC concern during July and August. The ICRC several times contacted the parties to the conflict, at both higher and lower echelons, to remind them of their obligation not to attack hospitals marked with Red Cross or Red Crescent emblems and to spare the civilian population. In particular, the ICRC sent at the beginning of July a special appeal to the parties to the conflict with a specific reference to Beirut civilian population. A further solemn appeal was made at Beirut on 1 August to all the parties to the Geneva Conventions, calling on them to respect and to ensure respect for the Conventions. In view of the bombing of the Lebanese capital, the President of the ICRC sent a message to the Israeli Prime Minister to be brought to his personal attention.

Right from the start of the conflict, the ICRC had requested access to all the combatants taken prisoner. After having seen 18 Palestinians and 50 Syrians, who had all been wounded and captured by the Israeli armed forces, and having also visited an Israeli soldier in the hands of the PLO, the ICRC obtained authorization to visit a camp at Al-Ansar, near Nabatieh (South Lebanon) where able-bodied captured Palestinians were held. The visits began on 18 July; 212 children who were registered at this camp were released that same day, and the ICRC took steps to reunite them with their families in other parts of the country. The registration of prisoners and the visits have been continuing since at a regular rate. By the end of August, 7,000 detainees had been registered at Al-Ansar Camp; of these, 200 persons (other than the 212 children) were released and reunited, through ICRC efforts, with their families. About thirty wounded Palestinians cared for in Israel were also released on 24 August.

Besides the Syrian wounded who had been visited in hospital in June, the ICRC registered on 17 August about 250 able-bodied Syrian prisoners held in a camp in Israel. On 19 August, two paraplegic Syrian prisoners were repatriated by the ICRC.

In Damascus, ICRC delegates registered three Israeli prisoners in August.

An Israeli pilot, captured by the Palestinians in June in the early stages of the offensive, was visited several times until his release on

20 August, together with another prisoner captured two days previously. The ICRC also acted as a neutral intermediary when the mortal remains of nine Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon (four of them in 1978) were handed over to Israel.

During this period, there was a marked increase in the work of the Central Tracing Agency. A network of tracing offices was set up throughout Lebanon, in Beirut, Saida, Tyre, Chtaura, Ksara, Baalbeck and Hermel, and many additional delegates were appointed to these tasks. In August, six delegates and 25 local staff were employed on exclusively tracing agency activities. By 30 August, 14,485 requests to trace missing persons were being processed; 19,540 family messages had been forwarded to various places in Lebanon (7,240 to the Beirut area, 7,890 to South Lebanon, and 4,410 to the Beka'a valley); and 15,990 family messages had been exchanged between Lebanon and more than eighty countries, with the help of their National Societies.

Increase in personnel

In July and August, the number of delegates was further increased. At the end of June, these were 74 delegates (including 19 members of medical units lent by various National Societies) in Lebanon, Damascus, Larnaca and Tel Aviv; this figure rose to 88 at mid-July and 104 (including 20 lent by National Societies) at the end of July. By the end of August, it had increased to a total of 124 delegates, of whom 44 were members of National Societies.

Missions from Geneva

The progress of all those activities was, of course, followed by the ICRC in Geneva, and support provided for them. The delegate general for the Middle East, Mr. Jean Hoeffiger, carried out two extensive missions in the conflict areas, from 1 to 23 July, and again from 12 August to 5 September. The head of the Relief Division, Mr. Ph. Dind, was also in that region from 1 to 7 July; his aim was to assess the extent of assistance for the conflict victims and also to define the field of activity and source of supplies for each of the delegations and sub-delegations concerned. The head of the Operations Department, Mr. Michel Convers, took part in a meeting of Arab National Societies, which had gathered at the end of July in Jiddah to examine the situation in Lebanon.

Two members of the International Committee went on missions concerning the conflict. From 4 to 7 August, the ICRC Vice-President, Mr. H. Huber, was in Israel and met both the Prime Minister, Mr. Begin, and the Minister for Defence, Mr. Sharon. The following week,

Mr. M.-A. Naville visited the various delegations and sub-delegations in Lebanon. He was received by the President of the Lebanese Republic, Mr. Elias Sarkis; later he met Mrs. Issa el-Khoury, President of the Lebanese Red Cross, and Dr. Fathi Arafat, President of the "Palestinian Red Crescent".

At the end of August and beginning of September, Mr. J.-P. Hocké, ICRC director of Operational Activities, and Dr. R. Russbach, chief medical officer, also went on mission to Lebanon, to review the situation with delegation heads and undertake an assessment of likely needs.

Urgent appeal

In August, the ICRC launched an urgent appeal for 38 million Swiss francs, required to finance its humanitarian activities in Lebanon for the period from 1 September to 31 December 1982.

Israel and occupied territories

The ICRC delegation in Israel continued to discharge its customary tasks despite the additional duties it had to fulfil in connection with the conflict in Lebanon. The delegates visited the prisons as in the past, as well as a number of places of detention under the direct authority of the army.

On 19 August, a delegate went to the Golan area where he saw all the administrative detainees who had been released a short while before. On 22 July, the Druse inhabitants on the Golan, after lengthy discussions with the Israeli authorities ended a strike they had commenced in mid-February.

Jordan

ICRC protection activities are being pursued in Jordan. The seventh series of visits to places of detention, which ended on 12 July, had lasted four months: 3,247 detainees, including 36 women, were seen in 17 places of detention.

Conflict between Iraq and Iran

During July, the ICRC delegates came up against an increasing number of obstacles to their work, in Iraq as much as in Iran. Consequently, the heads of the two delegations were recalled to Geneva at the end of July, for consultations. In August, concern over the proper observance of the Conventions had not diminished and high-level representations were under consideration.

The delegates in Iraq, nevertheless, carried out their monthly visits to the prisoner-of-war camps in Mosul, Ramadi and Anbar in July and August. In Iran, a visit was made to refugee camps at Ziveh near the border, containing about 12,000 Iraqi Kurds.

Urgent appeal

The ICRC appealed urgently for 8,890,000 Swiss francs for its humanitarian activities relating to the conflict between Iraq and Iran. This amount should allow it to continue its activities during the period from 1 July to 31 December 1982 and to cover the deficit (over 1 million Swiss francs) at the end of the previous period.

Europe

Poland

In July and August, the ICRC delegates in Warsaw continued their visits to places of internment. By the end of August, 13 places had been visited for the third time since the beginning of the action. The number of people interned under the decree of martial law of 12 December 1981, who were seen during this third series of visits, was 1,651. One place of internment was visited four times. The trade union leader, Mr. Walesa, was also seen for the third time, in August, by the ICRC delegates.

A good number of internees were released by the Polish authorities in July. The ICRC was officially informed that there were only seven places of internment still holding internees at the end of August.

It was, therefore, decided to have only one team of visitor delegates, instead of three. The team is composed of four ICRC delegates, one of them a doctor. The Warsaw delegation staff was reduced from 24 to 17 persons on 1 September.

The ICRC and League provided support for the Polish Red Cross summer holiday camps for children with health or social problems. More than 417 tons of food, 145,000 litres of milk, and a quantity of soap were distributed in 78 camps containing 32,320 children. Members of the Youth Branches of the Nordic, German (FRG) and Italian Red Cross Societies helped to organize educational and games activities in those camps.

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The ICRC delegate general for Europe, accompanied by a representative of the League of Red Cross Societies, was in Poland from 25 to 28 August. Their objective was to review the situation, together with the Polish authorities and Red Cross leaders, and to decide on the scope of future activities and on the number of joint League-ICRC personnel that would be required.

As regards the ICRC more particularly, this mission enabled it to keep open its relations with the Polish authorities on questions relating to the protection of the internees and the possible extension of protection activities to persons arrested and sentenced under martial law.

