

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

September and October 1982

Africa

Southern Africa

Angola

At the end of September new security problems arose, compelling the ICRC delegation in Angola temporarily to suspend its activities on the Planalto. In the night of 24 to 25 September the ICRC premises in Katchiungo (Huambo province), where fortunately no one was present at the time, were attacked and ransacked. After this incident the delegate general for Africa, Mr. J. M. Bornet, went to Angola from 29 September to 7 October to reexamine the situation with the delegation and to discuss with the authorities. At the end of October, the danger in the field had not diminished and continued to prevent a resumption of activities.

However, the emergency programme, which has regularly benefited more than 120,000 persons during recent months, has helped to substantially improve the nutritional condition of the displaced population.

It will be recalled that the Bomba Alta orthopedic centre, run by the ICRC and the « Angolan Red Cross », was seriously damaged by two sabotage explosions (the second at the end of July), necessitating extensive repairs. Work at the centre continued, however, although the rate of production was slowed down.

In the far south of Angola, seven local employees of the ICRC were abducted on 18 October in the Cunene district. This new abduction —

it will be recalled that an ICRC nurse, Miss Burnier, was released on 18 September after almost four months of detention by UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) — is yet another attempt to undermine ICRC protection and assistance activities in the area. Steps were immediately taken to obtain the release of these employees as quickly as possible.

Despite these developments, two ICRC employees (one delegate and one nurse from Europe) continued their activities of protection and medical assistance; their movements were confined, however, to the town of N'Giva, as the risk outside was still too great.

Republic of South Africa

From 6 to 21 September, the ICRC delegation in Pretoria carried out its annual series of visits to security detainees. The team, composed of ICRC delegates based at Pretoria and Windhoek and a medical delegate from Geneva, went to 10 places of detention, where they visited 413 convicted prisoners and two persons detained under the internal security regulations.

A Soviet and a Cuban prisoner of war were likewise visited several times by the delegates in September and October.

Finally, as the Venda authorities had consented in principle to protective activities in their territory, the Pretoria delegation sent Venda a memorandum specifying the ICRC procedure for such activities.

Namibia/South-West Africa

After completing their annual series of visits in South Africa, the ICRC delegates went to Mariental Camp in Namibia. On 27 and 28 September, they visited 94 Angolan prisoners of war and 136 persons detained in accordance with decree AG 9 issued by the Administrator General.

Lesotho

In response to the invitation by the Lesotho authorities, Mr. Berchtold, ICRC regional delegate in Maputo (Mozambique), went to Maseru in early October. This mission had a dual purpose, namely to resume negotiations with the government on the offer of protection services made by the ICRC in November 1981, and also to meet the Lesotho Red Cross and in particular discuss dissemination. During his visit, the delegate was authorized to visit 12 convicted prisoners.

Zambia

Two delegates from Geneva and the ICRC regional delegate in Harare took part as observers in the meeting of Red Cross Societies of southern Africa, organized by the League of Red Cross Societies and held in Lusaka from 13 to 17 September.

Central and West Africa**Burundi**

From 4 to 29 September, three delegates from Kinshasa carried out a series of visits to prisons in Burundi pursuant to the agreement in principle obtained from the authorities in 1981. They had access, throughout the country, to eleven places of detention administered by the Ministry of Justice, where there were a total of 3,222 detainees. The visits took place in accordance with the customary procedure of the ICRC; at the same time relief supplies representing approximately 33,000 Swiss francs were distributed. During this mission, the ICRC raised the question of Burundi's accession to the 1977 Protocols.

The ICRC delegates had talks with Lieutenant-Colonel Stanislas Mandi, Minister of the Interior, Mr. Laurent Nzeyimana, Minister of Justice, and senior representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the prison administration authorities. They likewise had talks with the President of the Burundi Red Cross.

Cape Verde

Accompanied by a doctor, the ICRC regional delegate for West Africa, Mr. J. C. Rochat, carried out a mission to Cape Verde from 16 to 24 September to make a second visit to prisoners convicted of endangering the security of the State. He had access, in accordance with customary ICRC procedure, to 12 persons detained in Mindelo prison on the island of Sao Vicente. The previous visit, to 15 persons in the same prison, had taken place at the end of March; in the meantime three detainees had been released.

This mission also enabled discussions to be continued, in particular with the President of the «Cape Verde Red Cross», on the country's accession to the Geneva Conventions and the procedure for recognition of the society.

Ivory Coast, Senegal, Togo

In the course of September and October, the ICRC regional delegate for West Africa went also to the Ivory Coast, Senegal and Togo, mainly to promote relations between the ICRC and the National Red Cross Societies there.

Chad

In September, the ICRC continued its participation in the UNDRO emergency relief programme in Chad, which it had helped to launch, since the representatives of the international organizations were alerted by ICRC delegates to the humanitarian needs they had observed. Northern and central Chad were kept supplied by an airlift until 5 October. The ICRC itself chartered an aircraft and flew in 342 tons of food aid between 23 September and 5 October, mainly to Mongo, Abeche, Iriba and Oum Chalouba. Overland food convoys were resumed when the rainy season ended.

Surveys to assess nutritional needs were also carried out in October in Ounianga and Melfi, and the delegates continued to keep the authorities and international organizations informed about the alarming situation in certain regions.

With regard to protection, the delegates visited the Abeche remand centre, then toured the various oases in the east of the country in September to visit prisoners of war. Ten localities in the Biltine and Ennedi regions were visited between 27 September and 4 October; 130 prisoners were seen there and given relief supplies. In October, the central areas were also toured, and one visit was made to the places of detention in the east of the country.

Zaire

In September and October three prisons administered by the Ministry of Justice and containing 435 detainees were visited in the capital of Zaire. An ICRC doctor took part in these visits.

From 1 to 8 October, the ICRC head of delegation in Kinshasa and a medical delegate went on mission to the Shaba province. They had access to four places of detention administered by the Zaire armed forces, and to one place of detention administered by the security authorities, which had previously been visited in August; there were a total of 23 detainees there, all of whom were given a medical examination.

During this mission agricultural assistance projects for five prisons administered by the Ministry of Justice, which were visited in August,

were discussed. In order to bring about a lasting improvement in the supply of food for the detainees, the ICRC has decided to promote agricultural production in certain places of detention, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice in Kinshasa and the rural development authorities of the Shaba province.

In the latter half of October, an ICRC delegate and a sanitary engineer carried out a further mission to the Shaba province to launch the agricultural assistance projects in the five prisons and to advise on sanitation there (repair of drains and septic tanks, insect control). They distributed maize seed, fertilizer, farming implements, cement, pipes, soap, building tools and cleaning utensils to improve hygienic conditions. In all, this assistance programme consisted of more than 74 tons of material and cost almost 47,000 Swiss francs (including transport costs).

Western Sahara

In connection with the conflict in the Western Sahara, the ICRC again approached Morocco in October through the Permanent Mission in Geneva, requesting access to the Algerian prisoners and pointing out the obligations, under the Geneva Conventions, of the parties to a conflict. It also informed the Permanent Mission of Algeria about the approaches made to the Polisario Front since the end of 1981—including two missions to Algiers—which have not as yet resulted in any protective activities being undertaken; it delivered a memorandum to the Algerian mission.

East Africa

Ethiopia

During their survey from 14 to 27 September of needs in the Gondar province, ICRC delegates were present at several distributions of general relief supplies by the local branch of the Ethiopian Red Cross in collaboration with the Rehabilitation and Relief Commission. They examined the possibility of starting feeding programmes in a number of villages. It was decided to launch a special feeding programme for 330 infants suffering from malnutrition. This was organized by the delegates during a second mission to Gondar in October. Distributions will begin in November in the rural clinics administered by the Ministry of Health in four villages of the Siemen and Libo regions.

Missions were also made to the Bale and Harar provinces, both to assess the situation and to check on distributions of relief supplies.

In Eritrea, lorries loaded with Red Cross consignments took out aid to places outside of the town of Asmara: 22 tons of food and medicaments was transported to two localities, Adi Ugri and Adi Kwala.

On 25 September, two ambulances were handed over by the ICRC to the local Eritrean branch of the National Red Cross Society.

Uganda

The regional delegate for East Africa, based in Kenya, visited Uganda and stayed in Kampala from 23 to 29 September with the purpose of reminding the Ugandan authorities of the offer of services conveyed to them by the ICRC in August.

Latin America

Regional delegation in Bogota

In September and October, Mr. G. Heumann, ICRC regional delegate for the Andean countries, Guyana and Surinam, continued his contacts with the governments and National Red Cross Societies in the region.

He carried out a second mission to Peru as from 14 October. The negotiations begun with the authorities in August have thus resulted in an agreement allowing access to persons detained for reasons of internal security. Visits were scheduled to begin in mid-November.

From 28 October, the regional delegate went to Surinam to meet government representatives there, and senior members of the newly formed Red Cross Society. After his conversations with the government, the ICRC delegate was authorized to visit 21 persons detained for security reasons.

El Salvador

ICRC activities in El Salvador increased sharply in September, when ICRC aid was given to 78,500 displaced persons in the conflict zones, the highest figure so far. In September and October no less than 830 tons of food was distributed under the delegates' supervision. The ICRC likewise gave aid to the National Society to facilitate its emergency assistance programme for the thousands of victims of the torrential rains.

ICRC mobile medical teams continued visits to displaced persons in the departments of Chalatenango, Morazán and Cabañas.

In September and October, the ICRC delegates continued their work of protection in the various detention centres, both at San Salvador and in the provinces; 180 security detainees were seen for the first time and registered. These visits took place according to customary ICRC procedure.

During the same period, four members of the government forces, captured by opposition groups, were visited twice. In October, 66 captured government soldiers were released by the opposition forces, under the auspices of the ICRC.

Nicaragua

In September and October, the ICRC delegates continued their activities of protection and assistance for persons detained and those convicted for security reasons in the prisons of the national penitentiary service.

Discussions also continued between the authorities and the delegates on two questions which have been a source of concern for the ICRC for several months, namely: the situation of the Miskito Indians displaced by the authorities from the zones close to the Honduran frontier and resettled in the department of Zelaya; and access to persons under interrogation detained in places administered by the States Security Services.

Guatemala

From 25 October to 5 November Mr. Gaillard-Moret, ICRC regional delegate for Central America, in Costa Rica, stayed in Guatemala for talks with the authorities. He discussed with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Defence, the Minister of the Interior and with officials of the « Commission to study the problems of the people in conflict areas ». The ICRC intends to continue the dialogue thus begun with the government of Guatemala.

Argentina

The series of visits to persons detained for security reasons, which began last July, was continued. In September and October, 525 detainees were visited in seven places of detention and a hospital; 237 of them were interviewed without witnesses.

Asia

People's Republic of China

From 19 to 24 August, Mr. R. Pestalozzi, Vice-President of the ICRC, and Mrs. Harroff-Tavel, delegate of the Division « Principles and National Societies », were in the People's Republic of China and had talks there with representatives of the Chinese Red Cross. They were also received by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and by senior representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Education. Dissemination was a particular topic of discussion during this mission.

People's Democratic Republic of Korea

The two ICRC representatives subsequently stayed from 24 to 27 August in the People's Democratic Republic of Korea; they were received by the leaders of the National Red Cross Society and by one of the deputy prime ministers. The main purpose of this visit was to maintain relations with this country, which was visited last year, for the first time since 1959, by the ICRC delegate general for Asia.

Afghanistan

A team of four ICRC delegates arrived on 14 August in Kabul, at the invitation of the Afghan authorities, and made a first visit to Block I of Puli Charki Prison (see previous *Review*). On 8 October the delegation was intimated by the same authorities to cut short its mission and to leave Afghanistan temporarily.

During negotiations between its delegates and the Afghan authorities, the ICRC received an assurance that it would be able to carry through its activities in Afghanistan particularly those of protection.

The negotiations continued in October, mainly in New York, to set a date with the Afghan authorities for the ICRC delegates to return to Kabul and resume their visits to prisons and the programme of medical assistance for hospitals and dispensaries.

Pakistan

In September Dr. Arbex, of the ICRC Medical Division in Geneva, went to Pakistan to assess, with the ICRC delegation, the medical assistance the ICRC is providing for Afghan wounded there.

The ICRC surgical hospital at Peshawar—whose capacity had had to be increased from 120 to 164 beds—continued to receive numerous

casualties (164 admissions in September and 142 in October); in addition, 1,325 out-patient consultations were given in the course of these two months.

The ICRC paramedical teams likewise continued their activities at the centre for war paraplegics and the artificial limb workshop, which are attached to the hospital. The team of local personnel, trained by ICRC specialists, are now capable of running this centre which is scheduled to be handed over to the Pakistan Red Crescent at the end of 1983.

As there are no medical facilities in the region for paraplegics and tetraplegics, a particularly unfortunate category of casualties, it has been decided to enlarge the present centre to a capacity of about 80 beds and treat Pakistani paraplegics there as well. The Pakistan Government will provide the necessary land for the project.

Indonesia/East-Timor

In September and October, the assistance programme set up for the latter half of 1982 in conjunction with the Indonesian Red Cross, was continued for the displaced population on the island of Atauro and in seven villages on the island of Timor.

The ICRC programme of family reuniting is likewise continuing and eight persons rejoined their families in Portugal in September.

From 29 October to 10 November, the head of the ICRC delegation in Indonesia, accompanied by a woman delegate, a doctor and a specialist from the ICRC Relief Division went to East Timor.

They carried out a second series of visits to displaced persons on the island of Atauro and to two places of detention (one of which was visited for the first time) on the main island. These visits took place in accordance with customary ICRC procedure. During this mission the doctor and the expert from the ICRC Relief Division, in collaboration with representatives of the National Society, assessed the medical, nutritional and logistic situation on the main island and on Atauro.

Philippines

In the first half of October two ICRC delegates, Mr. Olivier and Mr. Nicod, went to the Davao Sur and Davao Norte provinces on the island of Mindanao, where an emergency food aid programme for displaced persons had been launched in July. The programme, planned in co-operation with the Philippine Red Cross on the basis of needs observed during a previous survey, will last until the end of 1982.

Through the feeding centres which have been set up food aid is being given to the most vulnerable members of the displaced population (infants, expectant and nursing mothers and old people).

In the Davao Norte province aid is being given in 158 feeding centres to some 4,000 displaced persons, and approximately 3,800 persons are receiving similar aid in 27 centres in the Davao Sur province. In Davao Norte, the ICRC has appointed a nutritionist and a nurse. In Davao Sur, the assistance programme is being supervised by a medical technician of the Philippine Red Cross and a nurse from the provincial Health Service. Statistics have confirmed the encouraging results of this aid: after one month, the infants showed a gain in weight of between 0.5 and 1.5 kg.

Viet Nam

The Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ha Van Lau, visited the ICRC on 7 October. He was received at ICRC headquarters in Geneva by Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC.

During their talk, ICRC activities in connection with the conflict in Kampuchea and questions concerning Viet Nam were discussed.

Thailand

At the end of September, a survey was carried out by ICRC delegates in the frontier region to the north-east of Aranyaprathet (Ban Sagnae, Ban Baranae, O-Bock and Chong Chom districts), where the ICRC had never previously had access and where there are thousands of civilian Cambodian refugees. After this mission, the possibility of evacuation in case of emergency of the 13,000 Khmers living in the Chong Chom/Osmak camp was discussed with the Thai authorities. Consent was given to their provisional asylum in Thai territory if safety conditions deteriorated.

The ICRC also continued its attempts to find a solution for the evacuation of a particularly vulnerable group, the Vietnamese "land refugees". For this purpose an invitation was sent, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to the representatives of Permanent Missions of twenty countries of potential asylum to participate in three successive meetings (17 and 28 September, and 6 October) chaired by Mr. A. Hay, President of the ICRC, at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. At the same time a similar meeting was held at the ICRC delegation headquarters in Bangkok with the representatives of the same States in Thailand.

A high ranking Thai delegation led by Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, Secretary General of the National Security Council, visited

Geneva on 12 October. President Hay informed the delegation about the latest steps taken and about the ICRC's hope that a solution would soon be found.

The ICRC also continued its protection activities (visits to and registration of detainees) in places of detention near the frontier, specifically at Phnom Chat, Nong Chan and Samet, and in the military prison of Aranyaprathet.

Middle East

Iraq/Iran Conflict

Mission by the Director of Operational Activities

Mr. J. P. Hocké, ICRC Director of Operational Activities, was in Teheran from 16 to 23 October and in Baghdad from 28 October to 3 November to meet the authorities of these two warring countries and try to solve the problems encountered by ICRC delegates in their work.

In Iran, Mr. Hocké had talks with the President of the Islamic Republic, Hojjatoleslam Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Speaker of the Islamic Parliament, Hojjatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the head of the Second Military Intelligence Bureau and the President of the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

In Iraq too, Mr. Hocké met senior government representatives and was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Saddam Hussein; he also had talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and an exhaustive discussion with the Permanent Committee for War Victims.

Both in Teheran and in Baghdad, Mr. Hocké received assurance that each State intended to respect all the clauses of the Geneva Conventions.

Distribution in Iran

After the survey carried out in August among the Iraqi Kurds in Ziveh (Azerbaijan), two ICRC delegates took there twenty tons of warm clothing and 150 kilos of multivitamin preparations by lorry between 22 and 26 October.

Visits to prisoners of war in Iraq

The ICRC delegates in Baghdad carried out their monthly visits to the Mosul, Ramadi and Anbar prisoner-of-war camps.

Kuwait and Bahrain

The ICRC regional delegate for the Arab Peninsula went on mission to Kuwait and Bahrain from 5 to 11 September. He met the representatives of various ministries there, and also the senior members of the National Red Crescent Societies. In both countries, the discussions were mainly concerned with the problems created in that area by the conflict between Iraq and Iran.

Lebanon

There was little improvement in September and October in the general situation in Lebanon, with the presence of diverse foreign armed forces, massacres in refugee camps, the assassination of the President of the Republic of Lebanon: such was the background to the ICRC's activities of protection and assistance.

Protection

The ICRC reacted vigorously as soon as news was received of the massacres in the camps of Sabra and Chatila. On 18 September it appealed to the international community to halt the slaughter and protect the Palestinian population's simple right to live; at the same time the ICRC reminded the occupying authorities of their duty to restore and maintain public law and order, in accordance with the regulations annexed to the IVth Hague Convention of 18 October 1907 and with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In Beyrouth the delegates took practical action as fast as possible. On 17 September, they transferred to various other hospitals in the capital the most serious cases from the Gaza and Akka hospitals, situated in the area the massacres had occurred. On the following day both hospitals were completely evacuated. Owing to the overcrowding of hospitals in Beyrouth and the general state of insecurity, the ICRC took the Gaza, Lahoud and Najar hospitals under its supervision and protection during the emergency period. Almost 300 people who had sought refuge at the ICRC delegation were given provisional shelter there.

As soon as the situation allowed, the ICRC organized and took part in the identification and burial of the massacre victims. The medical personnel based in other parts of the country came to Beyrouth to help. Once the initial emergency phase was over, the ICRC continued to visit the camps each day to reassure the people there by its presence; a round-the-clock consultation service was maintained at Akka and Gaza hospitals until 11 and 13 October respectively.

From mid-September and throughout the month of October, a series of sometimes murderous incidents in the camps of the south of the country induced the delegates to carry out regular tours there as well, by day and by night, to maintain the ICRC presence among the people there.

The ICRC also developed considerable activity on behalf of prisoners of war held by the Israelis, the Syrians and the Palestinians.

The Insar camp, near Nabatieh (Southern Lebanon), where Palestinian, Lebanese and foreign prisoners are held, was visited daily. The ICRC delegates registered and interviewed the prisoners without witnesses. By the end of October, some 8,300 prisoners had been registered and almost 2,300 of them had been released under the auspices of the ICRC.

The ICRC likewise took part in organizing the release and repatriation of prisoners of alien origin: 69 North Yemenites were transferred from Insar to Beyrouth airport by the ICRC on 21 October for repatriation; they were followed by 17 South Yemenites some days later. Other foreign nationals will be released shortly and repatriated in the same manner.

The ICRC approached the Israeli authorities several times to ask for steps to be taken to make Insar camp habitable in winter.

In Israel itself the ICRC was authorized to visit, at the end of September, seven women arrested in Lebanon; four of them were released soon after. A Palestinian detainee captured in Lebanon was twice visited in Israel, in September and October.

The approximately 300 Syrian prisoners of war were visited twice by the ICRC delegates from Tel Aviv, first on 21 and on 22 September and again on 25 October; the delegates provided them with books. Nine wounded Syrians were also visited by the ICRC on 6 October, and one of them was repatriated one week later under the auspices of the ICRC.

In Syria, the three Israeli prisoners of war registered in August were visited by the ICRC on 26 September, and again on 16 October. Parcels were delivered and family messages were exchanged.

Finally two ICRC delegates and one medical delegate visited six Israeli prisoners in Palestinian hands on 31 October, though without being able to interview them without witnesses. These prisoners also received family messages and parcels.

In order to review the various questions relating to protection, the ICRC delegate general for the Middle East carried out a mission to the region from 3 to 11 October, staying first in Damascus and then in Beyrouth.

Assistance

In September and October, there was a slight diminution of ICRC assistance activities. The reunification of East and West Beyrouth resulted in the return to the capital of numerous families who had been scattered throughout the country in summer. Since basic products were again available, the number of people requiring aid gradually declined. In September and October, some 26,000 families still received rations of food; for the coming winter 27,000 blankets were distributed in September and 22,640 in October. The most destitute people, primarily displaced persons, are in Beyrouth and in southern Lebanon.

The airlifts from Larnaca and Damascus to Tel Aviv stopped in mid-September, after a total of 60 flights carrying 1,009 tons of relief supplies since mid-June.

The head of the ICRC Relief Division stayed in Lebanon from 28 September to 12 October to reassess the assistance programme, and decided that the amount of relief distributed could gradually be reduced. The logistic bases of Damascus and Larnaca have progressively reduced their activities. The ship "Flora", placed at the ICRC's disposal by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, continued its activities throughout the entire period.

Apart from the intense work deployed in connection with the Sabra and Chatila massacres, medical activities considerably diminished. However, sporadic outbreaks of fighting have induced the ICRC delegates to carry out surveys and distribute kits of medicaments to dispensaries, particularly at Kfarmatta. In Beyrouth the ICRC medical team regularly visited the hospitals of Akka and Gaza in October, whilst in the north the delegates visited two treatment centres and distributed 500 kilos of medicaments to the dispensaries and hospital of Tripoli.

Israel and occupied territories

In addition to its activities in connection with the Lebanon conflict, the ICRC delegation in Israel continued its traditional work. In September and October, the delegates based in Jerusalem visited 184 detainees under interrogation, 100 of them for the first time; the delegates in Gaza visited 232 detainees, including 101 for the first time.

The 49th series of prison visits was made to the prisons of Ramallah, Beer Scheva, Beit Maatsar, Ashkelon and Tulkarem. Interim visits were made to the prisons of Nablus and Hebron. The prisons of Damoun, Kishon and Kfar Yona, the police station in Bethlehem, the military prison of Fara and the Ramallah barracks were also visited.

Three persons were transferred under the auspices of the ICRC from the Left Bank to Jordan.

The guards of Kfar Saba prison attended a course on the principles of humanitarian law given by the ICRC delegates.

Jordan

The protection activities are continuing. The eighth series of visits to civilian and military places of detention began on 6 September. By 31 October, 473 persons had been visited in the prisons of Irbid, Zerka (military and civilian) and Madaba; 66 of these prisoners were interviewed without witnesses.

At the same time visits were made regularly to prisoners at the General Intelligence Department and the Military Intelligence Department.

Europe

Poland

Protection and assistance activities continued in Poland in September and October.

Several internment centres were re-opened by the authorities in September following the events of 31 August and the subsequent new wave of arrests. The Polish authorities notified the ICRC of the existence of 14 centres, to which the ICRC delegates have access.

The third series of visits to persons interned under the martial law declared on 12 December 1981, which began in June, was continued. From June to the end of October, ICRC delegates made 18 visits to the internment centres, several of which were seen four times.

In the assistance field, the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies continued their support for the Polish Red Cross assistance programmes, in particular those for hospitals, which are kept supplied with blood and are receiving standard sets of medical equipment and medicaments.

Non-medical relief supplies (38.5 tons worth approximately 650,000 Swiss francs) were also transported to Poland in September.