

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

January-February 1984

Africa

Angola

The fate of displaced persons in Angola continued to be of grave concern to the ICRC during the first weeks of the new year, all the more so as its efforts to provide food aid to the victims of the conflict situation were seriously hindered by the danger to which transport is exposed and by the impossibility of obtaining the authorities' agreement to allow the ICRC to work according to its customary procedure. The ICRC put forward concrete proposals both to the Government (in particular during the mission by the ICRC delegate-general for Africa, at the end of 1983) and to the directors of the "Angolan Red Cross", with a view to resuming its normal assistance programmes. Unfortunately, these proposals had not produced any result by the end of February.

In consequence, the ICRC was able to distribute in that month only 147.2 tonnes of food to 16,500 persons, whereas in January it had been able to provide 559 tonnes of provisions to some 53,000 recipients.

On the medical side, ICRC technicians continued to provide assistance to the Bomba Alta (Huambo province) orthopaedic centre. The medical staff based at N'Giva, in the south of the country, provided care for patients and stocked up local dispensaries with medicines.

In January and February, the ICRC tracing offices at Luanda, N'Giva and Lubango arranged for the exchange of 100 family messages and received 45 requests to trace missing persons.

Republic of South Africa

The ICRC delegates based at Pretoria made two visits, on 12 January and 13 February, to a Cuban prisoner of war being held by South African forces.

In addition, as part of the programme for assistance to detainees' families, the ICRC delegation distributed 734 food parcels, to a value of 47,500 Swiss francs, in January and in February. The ICRC also bore

the transport costs for 115 families visiting detained relations: this aid represented a sum of nearly 29,000 Swiss francs.

Namibia/South West Africa

The ICRC delegates visited 29 Angolan prisoners of war and 131 security detainees at the Mariental camp. They had access also to 7 detainees, sentenced for security reasons, at the Windhoek prison.

In addition, the ICRC continued with its programme of assistance to detainees and their families (food parcels, transport costs for visits to places of detention).

Zimbabwe

The ICRC delegation at Harare provided 23 tonnes of relief (food and blankets) for some 22,500 children suffering from malnutrition in Matabeleland province.

Furthermore, an ICRC delegate, accompanied by the vice-president of the Zimbabwe Red Cross and by representatives of Catholic Missions carried out a mission in the frontier region with Mozambique, from 22 to 25 February, to evaluate the needs of displaced persons.

Uganda

Mr Jean-Marc Bornet, ICRC delegate-general for Africa, went on mission to Uganda from 20 to 26 January. During his stay at Kampala, Mr Bornet was received by the President of the Republic, Mr Milton Obote, and he had talks with the Minister of the Interior, Mr Kirunda; he also took part in a meeting of representatives of organizations providing emergency aid to Uganda.

*

On 7 January, eleven members of the Red Cross, working in Uganda as part of the emergency action being carried out by the ICRC in collaboration with the Ugandan Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, were abducted by unidentified armed men while carrying out an evaluation mission north-west of Kampala. They were subsequently released (nine on 9 January and the two others on 24 January) and the assistance programmes that had been temporarily suspended following this incident resumed on 18 January.

Up to the end of February, almost 3,000 tonnes of relief, consisting essentially of foodstuffs, was distributed to some 110,000 persons in 24 distribution centres.

On the medical side, seven teams (one of which being specially responsible for vaccinations) made regular visits to some twenty displaced persons camps: they gave 39,200 consultations, arranged the transfer of 65 patients to hospital and carried out almost 2,500 vaccinations. In addition, in collaboration with the Save the Children Fund and Oxfam, the ICRC established six special feeding centres able to receive around 500 children per day. Finally, a Swedish Red Cross epidemiologist was sent out to Uganda to work in collaboration with the medical teams in the field. His principal task was to analyze the various factors likely to exert an influence on the incidence and course of diseases found among the camp population.

In January and February, the ICRC and Ugandan Red Cross tracing office dealing with displaced persons received 1,226 requests to trace missing persons; it received 1,603 requests to reunite families (of which it was able to fulfil 182) and it arranged for the exchange of 1,679 family messages; in addition, with the prior authorization of the government, it carried out 527 transfers of persons.

On 6 February, ICRC delegates resumed their protection activities in civilian prisons and police stations, that had been suspended since March 1982. Two teams, each made up of two delegates and a doctor, visited ten civilian prisons (including the Jinja, Luzira and Murchison Bay prisons), and eight police stations. They saw a total of 4,670 detainees, of whom they registered 2,291. The ICRC delegates collected 1,300 family messages during their visits.

Chad

On 9 January, the head of the ICRC delegation at N'Djamena was received by President Hissène Habré. This meeting provided an opportunity to review ICRC activities in Chad, in particular those dealing with protection. These started at the beginning of March, with the visit made by ICRC delegates to the N'Djamena house of detention.

In the north of the country, ICRC delegates based at Bardaï, principal town of the Tibesti district, undertook a second series of visits to prisoners detained in the towns of the Yebbi Bou and Zoumri regions. Blankets and various relief items were handed to the prisoners during these visits. ICRC delegates also visited two members of the "Médecins sans frontières" organization, captured during the fighting between the national armed forces of Chad (FANT—"Forces armées nationales tchadiennes") and the army of the GUNT ("Gouvernement d'union nationale du Tchad"), to whom they delivered family messages.

At the Bardai hospital and in the Yebbi Bou, Zouar and Wanofou regions, the ICRC doctor-delegates started a programme for the training of health personnel in hygiene, preventive medicine and mother and child care.

Ethiopia

Between 23 and 25 January, a team of three ICRC delegates, an ICRC doctor and a representative of the Ethiopian Red Cross undertook an evaluation mission in the provinces of Eritrea and Tigre, where they met the regional authorities and the provincial heads of the National Red Cross Society. The object of this mission was to finalize plans for the joint ICRC and Ethiopian Red Cross relief operation to be carried out in the next few months for civilian victims of the drought and of the troubles prevailing in these regions. In addition, following several evaluation missions carried out from Asmara and Addis Ababa, assistance programmes were started at Rama, Axoum, Adoua and in the Shire district. Furthermore, an ICRC nurse arrived at Mekele at the end of February to help the regional branch of the Ethiopian Red Cross in its hygiene and nutrition programmes for displaced persons.

The food assistance provided by the ICRC in Ethiopia amounted in January and February to nearly 887 tonnes, representing a value of 1.4 million Swiss francs; some 40,500 persons received aid.

The Chiry Ballo nutritional centre in the Genale (Bale) region reopened on 13 February under the direction of an ICRC nurse, after being closed for a month because of the dangerous situation.

ICRC delegates delivered medicines, dressings and equipment for blood transfusion to the Asmara blood bank, the "Eastern Command" hospital, the Keren, Rama and Jijiga hospitals, and the infirmary of the Harar prison. Medical assistance was also provided to the Tigre and Gondar dispensaries.

In addition, the delegate in Geneva responsible for the ICRC orthopaedic programme went to Ethiopia in February to review ICRC action for civilian amputees being treated at the Asmara and Harar rehabilitation centres.

Somalia

The ICRC delegation at Mogadishu distributed food relief, mainly fruit and vegetables, to Ethiopian prisoners of war and a Cuban prisoner of war in Somalia.

The ICRC delegate, accompanied by a representative of the Somali Red Crescent and a delegate of the League of Red Cross and Red Cres-

cent Societies, went on mission to Garowe, Burao and Hargeisa to establish contact with the provincial governors and with the local branches of the Somali Red Crescent, with a view to distributing family messages from Somali prisoners of war who had been visited by the ICRC in Ethiopia.

Sudan

Throughout 1983, ICRC delegates continued their activities for the refugees of various origins in the frontier regions of the Sudanese territory. In particular, they carried out agency activities, i.e. enquiries to trace persons separated from their next-of-kin, exchange of family messages, etc. For this purpose, a network of tracing offices, to undertake local enquiries and transmit messages, is functioning in the regions where refugees are settled.

From 6 to 11 March 1984, Mr Jean-David Chappuis, deputy delegate-general for Africa, visited Sudan to make a general assessment of ICRC activities for the refugees. During his stay he met officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the legal department of the armed forces, in order to draw up a programme to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among the Sudanese armed forces.

Rwanda

Following a series of visits in 1983 to twelve prisons in Rwanda, the ICRC decided to undertake and to finance a programme for improving sanitation in three of the prisons. An ICRC sanitation engineer therefore went to Rwanda in February to get the necessary work under way; he will supervise progress in the coming months.

Lomé regional delegation

The ICRC regional delegate for West Africa, based at Lomé (Togo), spent from 2 to 10 January in *Ghana* where he took part in a training seminar for members of the Red Cross of Ghana.

From 18 to 24 January, two delegates from the regional delegation went to *Niger* where they met officials of the Red Cross of Niger, to whom they explained the possibilities for ICRC action to promote the development of a National Society.

These same delegates, in *Upper Volta* from 25 to 31 January, had talks with high level government officials on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces, the police force and the public at large. The ICRC delegates also met representa-

tives of the Red Cross of Upper Volta, with whom they studied a general plan of activity, in which the ICRC would participate by assisting in training and dissemination.

The delegate at the Lomé regional delegation with particular responsibility for dissemination activities worked in *Benin* in conjunction with the National Red Cross to draw up programmes to make Red Cross activities and the essential rules of humanitarian law more widely known. These programmes started in February in the Benin media (television, radio, press).

Missions to Mauritania and Tunisia

Mr Carlos Bauverd, ICRC regional delegate for North Africa and the Arab peninsula, was in the Islamic Republic of *Mauritania*, from 19 to 24 February, and conferred with representatives of the Government and of the Mauritanian Red Crescent. During his visit to Nouakchott, Mr Bauverd delivered 50 glass eyes to the hospital and visited the orthopaedic centre that had been established with the help of ICRC financing.

The ICRC regional delegate also visited *Tunisia* (26-28 February), where he made contact with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the Tunisian Red Crescent.

Appeal for funds

In January, the ICRC drew up the projects and budgets for its protection and assistance programmes on the African continent for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1984. In a document entitled "Africa Report and Appeal No 10", addressed to donors who provide financial support for its actions, the ICRC gave an account of its activities in 1983 and a summary of its 1984 objectives and it appealed for 118,260,000 Swiss francs. Taking into account firm promises for contributions in cash and in kind, and the balance left over from the previous year, the ICRC still needs 67,870,000 Swiss francs to continue its humanitarian action in Africa in 1984.

Latin America

Missions from Geneva

Mr André Pasquier, ICRC delegate-general for Latin America and the Caribbean went on a mission from 12 to 17 February that took him to Uruguay and to Argentina.

In *Uruguay*, the ICRC delegate-general was received by the President of the Republic, General Alvarez. He had talks also with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Commander of the Armed Forces, the Chief of the Joint General Staff and the President of the Supreme Military Tribunal, with whom he discussed the visits made by the ICRC, in 1983, to places of detention in the country.

In *Argentina*, the ICRC delegate-general had talks with Dr Troccoli, Minister of the Interior, Dr Gossi, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and with a member of the national commission on missing persons.

* * *

Two ICRC delegates to the armed forces went on mission to Latin America, from 5 February to 7 March.

In *Panama*, they attended the Twenty-fourth Inter-American Bar Association Conference to whose commission on military law they presented a practical exercise based on a situation of non-international armed conflict; they also took part in a round table where they delivered a paper on the treatment of prisoners of war.

In *Honduras*, one of these ICRC delegates gave a lecture on the law of war to ten military prosecutors, including the chief prosecutor of the Honduran army.

In *Bolivia*, the same delegate met the Commander-in-chief of the Bolivian army with whom he discussed the teaching of the law of war to the armed forces.

El Salvador

Continuing with their protection activities in El Salvador in January and February, ICRC delegates made 342 visits to places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice or of the security forces, and to some military barracks; they saw and registered 167 new detainees. In addition, on 4 and 5 January, 136 persons (civilians and members of the armed forces) captured by troops of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) were released to ICRC delegates who escorted them back to their barracks, under the protection of the Red Cross emblem.

The ICRC tracing offices at San Salvador, San Miguel and Santa Ana received 410 requests to trace persons missing or presumed detained. In addition, they continued to receive several hundred visitors per month coming to enquire about the fate of relatives.

ICRC delegates and Salvadoran Red Cross relief workers distributed some 500 tonnes of food in the central zone of the country and almost

325 tonnes in the eastern regions; this assistance reached some 45,000 persons.

The ICRC medical teams based at San Salvador and San Miguel continued to visit villages where displaced persons had taken shelter. They gave consultations, arranged for the transfer of the sick to hospital and provided medicines and medical equipment to some health posts and civilian hospitals, mainly in the eastern zone, the worst affected by the fighting.

ICRC delegates gave several conferences, in army and security forces barracks, on the essential rules of humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross.

Nicaragua

Between 24 January and 13 February, a six-member ICRC team (including a doctor and two nurses) visited the Tipitapa prison where 2,376 detainees were being held. The visits were made in accordance with customary ICRC procedure.

Furthermore, the Managua delegation continued its assistance for detainees' families: it distributed 16.2 tonnes of relief (mainly food parcels), to a value of 22,700 Swiss francs.

Continuing its assistance programme in favour of displaced civilian populations, the ICRC also forwarded provisions and blankets to Puerto Cabezas (Zelaya department) and Ocotal (Madriz department).

The ICRC Tracing Agency office at Managua continued to transmit family messages between Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras and their families in Nicaragua.

Panama

Two ICRC delegates attached to the San José (Costa Rica) regional delegation took part in a course for instructors of junior members of Central American Red Cross Societies. The course was held in Panama by the Red Cross Society of Panama, from 19 to 25 February.

Peru

From 25 January to the end of February, ICRC delegates again visited places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice (they visited 18 detention places), and places under jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior (visits to 8 places). They saw a total of 816 security detainees.

Argentina

From 27 February to 2 March, two ICRC delegates visited the Devoto prison where they saw 90 detainees; they had interviews without witnesses with 86 of them.

Appeal for funds

In January, the ICRC launched an appeal for 25,760,000 Swiss francs, necessary for the continuation of its humanitarian action in 1984 in the countries of Central America, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama.

Asia

Missions from Geneva

At the invitation of the Indonesian Red Cross, Mr Richard Pestalozzi, member of the ICRC, Mr Harald Huber, honorary member of the Committee, and Mr Henrik Beer, honorary secretary general of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, were in *Indonesia*, from 4 to 20 February. During their visit, they had talks, in particular, with Mr Soehanda Ijas, secretary general of the National Society; they visited various local branches of the Indonesian Red Cross as well as the ICRC delegation at Djakarta.

* * *

In the first fortnight of January, Mr Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of ICRC Operational Activities, visited *Thailand*, *Kampuchea* and *Viet Nam*, where he met representatives of the authorities and of the National Societies.

* * *

Mr Jean de Courten, ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, was in *Pakistan* from 9 to 17 February to discuss with the ICRC delegation at Peshawar and the sub-delegation at Quetta the assistance and protection action for victims of the Afghan conflict. Mr de Courten also had talks with the Pakistani authorities and with representatives of Afghan resistance movements.

Conflict in Afghanistan

Two Soviet soldiers who had been captured by an Afghan opposition movement were transferred to Switzerland by the ICRC, one on 28 October 1983 and the other on 26 February 1984, pursuant to the agreement for internment in a third country concluded by all the parties concerned. This brought to nine the number of Soviet internees in Switzerland (a tenth internee fled in July 1983 to the Federal Republic of Germany where he requested asylum). The Soviet internees in Switzerland receive regular visits from ICRC delegates.

*

The ICRC delegation in Pakistan continued to render medical assistance to Afghans who fell victim to the fighting in their country. In January 234 war casualties, and 74 in February, were admitted to the ICRC hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta. The two teams working in Peshawar (one from the Finnish Red Cross, the other from the ICRC) performed 539 operations and treated 1,614 out-patients during this period. The Italian Red Cross team in Quetta performed 178 operations and treated 358 out-patients.

The first aid teams from the Pakistan Red Crescent, spread out along the Afghan border, gave first aid treatment to 184 wounded and conveyed 103 others to the ICRC surgical hospital. These hospitals continued to provide the teams with medical supplies and medicines to allow them to treat less serious cases on the spot.

The orthopaedic workshop in Peshawar produced 78 prostheses. The centre for paraplegics admitted 7 new patients in January and February.

During these two months, 39 Afghans took courses in first aid given by ICRC personnel.

Thailand

In January and February, activities continued in the ICRC hospitals in Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng. Four teams, comprising personnel made available by the Red Cross Societies of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden, treated and operated on war wounded and other emergency cases evacuated from the Khmer-Thai border. During this period, the Khao-I-Dang hospital admitted 326 new patients (including 104 war casualties) and Kab Cherng admitted 178 (including 33 war wounded.)

The ICRC mobile team of one doctor and five nurses, made available by the Red Cross Societies of France and Switzerland, covered the

region south of Aranyaprathet, treating the population in the camps. Following an agreement between the ICRC and UNBRO (United Nations Border Relief Office) the latter will assume the activities of the team as from March 1984.

Medical assistance provided by the ICRC to the hospitals in Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng, to the prison infirmary in Aranyaprathet and to the border camp dispensaries, totalled approximately 187,000 Swiss francs. The ICRC, furthermore, distributed various forms of relief in the camps (food, paramedical equipment, material for the construction of shelters), which amounted to 81,700 Swiss francs.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Bangkok received 1,548 requests to inquire into the whereabouts of missing persons. Moreover, it transferred 198 persons from one camp to another on the Khmer-Thai border, reunited 57 families, and transmitted 2,778 letters between the refugees and their families in other camps or abroad.

Kampuchea

The ICRC continued to distribute medical supplies to several hospitals in Phnom Penh. It also continued to render logistic support to the medical teams from the Red Cross Societies of France, Sweden and Switzerland, which are working, respectively, in Phnom Penh, Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Cham, under the terms of agreements with the local Red Cross.

In January and February, weekly flights between Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh allowed the ICRC to send more than two tonnes of relief and 86 passengers, acting either on its own behalf or for other humanitarian organizations working in Kampuchea.

Laos

The ICRC delegate in Hanoi undertook a mission to Laos from the 6 to 16 February. There she met the directors of the National Society and representatives of the Ministries of Health and of Foreign Affairs.

Regional Delegation in New Delhi

At the beginning of February, two ICRC delegates, members of the regional delegation in New Delhi, travelled to *Nepal*, where they attended the annual conference of the National Red Cross Society. They addressed the conference and showed a film on the Red Cross. The delegates were received by the President of the Nepalese Red Cross and

also met representatives of the Ministries of Defence, of Justice and of Education.

On 29 February, these same delegates went to *Burma* where they held talks with representatives of the authorities and of the National Red Cross Society.

Appeals for funds

In January, the ICRC appealed for 26,060,000 Swiss francs, in order to finance its 1984 action in Kampuchea and Thailand. With an available carry over from 1983, the ICRC needed some 19,240,000 Swiss francs to continue its activities related to the Kampuchean conflict through 31 December 1984.

The ICRC launched another appeal to obtain 15,080,000 Swiss francs with which to finance its humanitarian activities to aid the victims of the conflict in Afghanistan for the period 1 January to 31 December 1984. With the balance from the previous year, the ICRC needed 14,188,000 Swiss francs to pursue its activities throughout the year.

Middle East

Conflict between Iran and Iraq

Second ICRC Appeal

On 15 February, the ICRC published in Geneva the following press release:

In view of the repeated and serious breaches of international humanitarian law by the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appealed on 9 May 1983 to all the States party to the Geneva Conventions to take steps to ensure that the Conventions were respected.

Over nine months after that first appeal, ICRC delegates report continuing grave breaches which not only endanger the life and freedom of the tens of thousands of victims of the conflict but flout the fundamental principles of international law.

The ICRC wishes the States to take up in their dealings with the two belligerents the humanitarian issues it has brought to their attention, and to that effect it submitted a new memorandum to the States party to the Geneva Convention on 13 February 1984.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ICRC, following the first memorandum, was able to carry out some visits to prisoner-of-war camps and register about 10,000 new prisoners of war. However, its activities for the Iraqi prisoners of war were again stopped on 27 July 1983, leaving 50,000 prisoners without protection. The ICRC does not at present know the number of prisoners or their whereabouts, identity or state of health; it cannot draw up lists of prisoners for repatriation on medical grounds; nor can it supervise the distribution of Red Cross messages to families and prisoners.

Numerous observations and concording information have led the ICRC to be concerned about the plight of the prisoners and the true motives for the authorities' prevention of ICRC activities. In particular, the ICRC has observed that specific categories of prisoners, such as senior officers, are systematically hidden from it. Some of the prisoners have been dealt harsh sentences of which the ICRC was not informed and which remain unexplained. Some of the camps have been the scene of serious incidents, and some Iraqi prisoners of war registered and visited on several occasions by ICRC delegates in the camps in the Islamic Republic of Iran have later been reported "killed in action".

In general, ideological and political pressure, the use of intimidation in a "re-education" process, and affronts to the honour and dignity of the prisoners of war have been continuous and indeed seem to be increasing, with the aim of turning the prisoners against their own government and of obstructing the work of ICRC delegates. The ICRC has made the renewal of its activities conditional on the cessation of such practices, and to that end has frequently approached the highest authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran with detailed arguments. At present, the ICRC has not received a satisfactory response.

ICRC attempts to provide Iraqi civilian refugees in Iran, in particular Iraqi Kurds, with relief supplies have met with failure, yet the ICRC knows that these refugees are in need of food and medical relief.

In the Republic of Iraq, ICRC delegates have visited each month the 7,300 Iranian prisoners of war in conformity with the rules of the Third Geneva Convention. In principle, captured prisoners are registered by the ICRC within a reasonable period of time. As a rule, albeit at times with considerable delays, the system for exchanging Red Cross

messages between prisoners and families functions smoothly. In the prisoner-of-war camps, the ICRC has observed improvements in the material conditions of internment and in disciplinary treatment. On 29 January 1984, 190 Iranian prisoners of war, 87 of them seriously wounded or gravely ill, were repatriated.

However, a large number of prisoners, some of whom have been in captivity since the beginning of the conflict, are still hidden from the ICRC, detained in secret and deprived of their most basic rights. Lists bearing their names and attesting to their existence have been regularly submitted to the authorities by the ICRC. A few score of them were finally visited by the ICRC and registered, but the problem remains and a satisfactory solution must be urgently found.

Tens of thousands of Iranian civilians from Khuzestan and Kurdistan have been displaced during the conflict to Iraqi territory. The Iraqi authorities recently allowed regular ICRC visits to these civilians, and considerable effort has been made to improve the conditions in which they live.

Over one thousand civilians, including elderly persons and women, have been registered by the ICRC since the beginning of the conflict in prisoner-of-war camps. Several hundred have been successively repatriated, but an overall solution to the problem still remains to be found.

In violation of the laws and customs of war, and in particular of the essential principle that military targets must be distinguished from civilian persons and objects, the Iraqi armed forces have continued to bomb Iranian civilian zones. The result was loss of human life on a large scale, and widespread destruction of strictly civilian objects.

The ICRC has requested the States to actively support its efforts in the interests exclusively of the victims of the conflict. It is convinced that the States, conscious of what is at stake, will have the desire and determination to act in accordance with the commitment they made of their own volition to respect and ensure respect for the Geneva Conventions.

Activities of the delegations

Since the outbreak of hostilities in September 1980, and in accordance with the Geneva Conventions to which Iraq and Iran adhered, in 1956 and 1957 respectively, the ICRC has registered and visited 41,052 prisoners of war in Iran and 7,376 prisoners of war in Iraq. In July 1983, however, visits to the prisoners of war had to be suspended in Iran, as the ICRC was no longer able to perform its work of protection satisfactorily. They did, nonetheless, continue in Iraq.

On 29 January, 190 Iranian prisoners were handed over to the ICRC by representatives of the Iraqi authorities at the Ankara airport (Turkey). Acting as intermediaries, the ICRC delegates turned these persons (among whom there were 87 gravely wounded or sick, and some women and elderly) over to representatives of the Iranian authorities, who repatriated them. The prisoners were accompanied from Baghdad to Tehran by ICRC delegates and doctors. The infrastructure and personnel needed at the Ankara airport were made available by the Turkish authorities and Red Crescent.

*

In January and February, the ICRC delegates in Iraq visited each month more than 7,300 Iranian prisoners of war in Anbar, Ramadi and Mosul. During the same period, 74 new prisoners of war were registered; capture cards were completed and sent to the Iranian authorities so that the families could be notified. Moreover, ICRC delegates visited camps and villages in Iraq which house displaced populations of Kurd and Khuzistan origin.

The ICRC forwarded 305,295 family messages between Iraq and Iran during this same period. The ICRC delegations in Baghdad and Tehran, moreover, received 1,265 requests to trace persons reported missing.

Lebanon

Following the confrontations in Beirut and the bombing in the Bekaa at the end of 1983, a relative calm reigned in Lebanon at the beginning of the year. The lull was short-lived. Bloody battles broke out on 2 February in the suburb south of the capital and in the surrounding mountains, causing numerous casualties among the civilian population. Not even the Red Cross was spared from the bombing, which spread to all sectors of Beirut. The ICRC delegation and the headquarters of the Lebanese Red Cross were shelled. A score of ICRC vehicles were destroyed, damaged or stolen. The Lebanese Red Cross lost all its sixteen ambulances and a dozen other vehicles as well. The "green line", cutting Beirut in two, as in 1976, once again appeared. Emergency aid had to be given to thousands of persons who were either cut off between the lines of fire or who had fled their homes. In a single week four rescue workers lost their lives when their ambulance was hit by shells and a rescue worker from the Lebanese Red Cross was killed during the confrontations. The ICRC appealed to the belligerents to respect the Red Cross emblem. It also called for a cease-fire so that it could help the victims.

Due to the extreme violence of the fighting, the ICRC delegates had to wait until the 8th of February before they could undertake a survey of the hospitals and dispensaries treating the wounded. They then supplied several hospitals in Beirut and in the southern suburb with 500 units of blood and an equal number of bottles of oxygen. On 12 February, an ICRC convoy crossed the "green line", bringing 140 tonnes of food and medicines to West Beirut. Two days later an ICRC plane, laden with various relief and medicines, landed at Beirut airport which had been closed to traffic since the beginning of the month.

In all, the volume of relief distributed throughout Lebanon (Beirut and the surrounding area, the Chouf, the High-Metn, Sidon and Tripoli) reached 451 tonnes in January and 476 tonnes in February. Medical assistance for those two months was valued at 533,500 Swiss francs. In February, some 150,000 persons received medical and material assistance from the ICRC.

The ICRC, moreover, delivered an ambulance and 1,311 units of blood and 100 units of plasma to the Sidon branch of the Lebanese Red Cross. The blood and plasma had been provided by the National Societies of Finland, France, Italy, Norway and Switzerland.

The Ansar camp, which had been closed on 24 November 1983 by the Israeli army after the release of the prisoners, was reopened on 12 December. As from 27 December, the weekly visits by ICRC delegates accompanied by a doctor were renewed. By the end of February they had registered 297 prisoners.

ICRC delegates again made their weekly visits to the Nabatiyeh prison from 28 December until all 40 prisoners had been transferred to the Ansar camp on 22 January.

In view of the numerous arrests among the civilian population in southern Lebanon, the ICRC delegates continued their efforts to extend to these persons protection in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention. They also continued their regular visits to the Palestinian camps near Sidon and Tyre.

The three Israeli prisoners of war detained by the Syrian authorities were visited on 31 December and 20 February.

The 291 Syrian prisoners of war detained in Israel were visited on 19 January and 20 and 21 February.

Pursuant to an agreement between the ICRC and the various parties to the Lebanese conflict, ICRC delegates visited, in a manner consistent with the usual procedure, a number of persons detained by the "Lebanese Forces" and the "Amal" and "PSP" movements.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Lebanon continued exchanging messages between members of dispersed families, seeking missing persons and assisting in reuniting and evacuating families. In February, it transmitted 5,441 family messages, both in Lebanon and abroad, for displaced persons, detainees and their families.

Israel and the Occupied Territories

Mr Jacques Moreillon, Director of General Affairs, headed an ICRC mission to Tel Aviv, from 28 January to 2 February. He was accompanied by Mr Jean Hoefliger, ICRC delegate-general for the Middle East. The purpose of the mission was to discuss with the Israeli authorities the problems encountered by the ICRC both in southern Lebanon and in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. The ICRC representatives conferred with Prime Minister Itshak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens. They also had a working luncheon with the usual ICRC contacts in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Appeals for funds

In January, the ICRC launched an appeal for 38,940,000 Swiss francs, to finance its 1984 programmes in Lebanon. With a carry-over from the previous year, the ICRC needed 32,840,000 Swiss francs in order to continue its activities in Lebanon through 31 December 1984.

The ICRC also launched an appeal for 8,950,000 Swiss francs to cover its activities related to the Iraq-Iran conflict for the period 1 January through 31 December 1984. Given the deficit of the preceding year, the ICRC needed 10,580,000 Swiss francs in order to pursue its activities in 1984.

Europe and North America

Missions by the Head of the Information Department

Mr. Alain Modoux, Head of the ICRC's Information Department, was in the *United States*, from 5 to 7 February, at the invitation of the American Red Cross. In Washington, Mr Modoux addressed an audience of fifty prominent persons (representatives of the State Department, members of the staff of Congressmen and Senators, journalists, representatives of universities, and representatives of the Ford Foundation). His account of current ICRC activities and concerns was followed by a

number of answers to questions on the ICRC's commitments throughout the world and issues of principle and international humanitarian law.

Mr Modoux took the opportunity of being in Washington to examine with his colleagues in the American Red Cross ways to strengthen co-operation between the two institutions in the field of information and public relations. He also visited the National Society's audiovisual centre in order, inter alia, to determine arrangements for co-operation with the ICRC's Audiovisual Communication Division.

In response to the invitation of Mr Baltiyski, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, Mr Modoux visited the *Soviet Union* from 22 to 29 February. He was accompanied by the ICRC regional delegate for Eastern Europe. The main purpose of the mission was to carry out an on-the-spot study of the Alliance's work in the sphere of information and to examine the possibilities for enhancing co-operation between the two institutions in that respect. In addition to meetings with representatives of the Alliance's Central Committee in Moscow, the ICRC delegates were also welcomed by the Red Cross of the Leningrad region, and by the Red Crescent of Uzbekistan, in Tashkent.

Mr Modoux's visit to the USSR was also marked by various discussions with representatives of the Alliance's Foreign Affairs Department. These talks focused primarily on the ICRC's activities throughout the world, its financing problems, and on the Red Cross contribution to peace.
