

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

March—April 1984

Africa

Angola

On 26 April, 89 persons (19 children and 70 adults) held by UNITA were released and handed over to a group of ICRC delegates in southern Angola. The group of persons released consisted of 68 Portuguese, 16 Filipinos, one Japanese, one Spaniard, one Italian, one Brazilian and one Pole; eight of them were missionaries.

An ICRC chartered aircraft transported the 89 persons from southern Angola to Johannesburg airport, where they were handed over to the consular representatives of their respective countries.

Republic of South Africa

On two occasions in March and once in April, ICRC delegates visited the Cuban prisoner being held by the South African armed forces.

Furthermore, the delegation continued its assistance activities for detainees' families, distributing vouchers entitling them to receive food-stuffs (604 vouchers worth about 38,000 Swiss francs in March and 809 vouchers worth about 50,000 Swiss francs in April). It also took over the travel expenses of various families wishing to visit their detained relatives: 124 travel vouchers (35,000 Swiss francs) were allocated in March and 147 (46,000 Swiss francs) in April. The delegation also financed medical treatment and other urgent needs of recently released indigent detainees.

Namibia/South West Africa

In March and April, ICRC delegates visited three detainees who had been transferred from Robben Island prison to Windhoek prison.

As in the past, the delegation continued to provide assistance to the detainees and their needy families; assistance for the months of March and April amounted to about 12,000 Swiss francs.

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Our January-February 1984 issue (No. 238), under the heading Namibia/South West Africa, contains a printing mistake. Please read: "ICRC delegates in Namibia, on 17 and 18 November, visited fourteen Angolan prisoners of war and 131 security detainees..."

We apologize for this mistake, which appears in our English edition only.

Zimbabwe

In March, the ICRC regional delegation, in co-operation with the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, provided relief supplies of foodstuffs (11 tonnes) and clothing (2.8 tonnes) to some 22,500 children suffering from malnutrition in Matabeleland and to some 30,000 persons who had sought refuge in Mozambique. In April, approximately 18 tonnes of foodstuffs were distributed to the above-mentioned children.

As concerns information and dissemination, a number of ICRC publications and cassettes explaining and illustrating various ICRC activities and destined for use in sound and television broadcasts, were sent to the National Red Cross Societies in those countries covered by the regional delegation in Harare: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Mozambique

The rehabilitation centre in Maputo, where three ICRC technicians are working on assignment, has, since the beginning of 1984, fitted 49 persons with artificial limbs. It has also produced 140 pairs of crutches and 13 wheelchairs for disabled persons.

In April, 10 persons finished a two-year apprenticeship as fully-qualified prosthetists. Another course to train eight more persons was started during the same month.

An agreement was reached between the ICRC and the Mozambique Ministry of Health to keep the rehabilitation centre open for a further period of time.

Zaire

In March, ICRC delegates in Kinshasa visited 289 detainees in two detention centres. They distributed food parcels and hygiene articles to the detainees. In April, food aid and some medical relief supplies were distributed to the detainees and their needy families.

The ICRC made representations to obtain the central authorities' agreement to visit without restriction all the security detainees.

Chad

After several months of negotiations, the ICRC delegation in N'Djamena was authorized to resume its visits to places of detention. From 7 to 26 March, the delegates visited the central prison in the capital, where they saw 661 prisoners of war and 21 other detainees and distributed about 4.5 tonnes of relief supplies to them, including foodstuffs, health and hygiene articles. In April, the delegates visited some 80 prisoners of war near Abeche and Biltine in the east of the country and provided them with foodstuffs and hygiene articles (a total of 7.7 tonnes). During the visits, an ICRC medical delegate examined sick detainees.

In the north, on the other side of the front, ICRC delegates based in Bardai, the main locality in Tibesti, continued to visit prisoners of war around Zuar and Zumri. Some relief supplies (foodstuffs, blankets, hygiene articles) were distributed.

ICRC medical delegates continued training local health workers. The programme, which had started at the beginning of the year, consists of basic instruction on hygiene in general and of health education for mothers and children.

Family messages were distributed in both parts of Chad: messages from prisoners being held in the north were distributed to families in the south and vice versa.

Uganda

The general situation in Uganda deteriorated in March and the danger increased to such an extent that the Red Cross emergency operation conducted, under the responsibility of the ICRC, in conjunction with members of the Uganda Red Cross and delegates from the League and other National Red Cross Societies, could be continued only on a more limited scale.

Whereas weekly distributions of foodstuffs had been possible in 28 distribution centres, for about 115,000 displaced persons in March, only 60,000 displaced persons received such assistance in April and only 15 distribution centres could be maintained. In March 1,032 tonnes of food, 7,500 blankets and 17 tonnes of other relief supplies were distributed; in April these amounts had diminished to 636 tonnes of food, 2,900 blankets and 16 tonnes of various relief supplies.

The seven Red Cross medical teams, one of which is specifically in charge of vaccinations, were very active, although their activities, too, were limited in April. In March they examined 55,000 people in 15 places,

and vaccinated over 9,000 people. In April, the figures decreased to 7,600 examinations and about 900 children vaccinated.

Parallel with the efforts of the authorities, who, with the help of several humanitarian agencies, are trying to resettle the displaced civilian population, in particular by providing tools and corn seed, the ICRC delegates distributed notebooks and pencils to the schools that had been opened in the regions concerned.

Furthermore, protection activities continued in March and April in the prisons and police stations. ICRC delegates, including two medical delegates, visited 10 prisons and 14 police stations in and around Kampala.

During these two months, the local Tracing Agency offices dealt with reuniting families (330 families were reunited in March, 579 in April), transferring displaced persons (17 in March, 982 in April), tracing persons declared missing (64 persons found in March, 240 in April) and transmitting family messages (1,531 in March, 740 in April).

Various technicians were made available by National Red Cross Societies. A food specialist, sent by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, continued his survey of the state of health of the population and the food available in several districts; the same technician is also in charge of training Uganda Red Cross personnel. A sanitary engineer was sent by the New Zealand Red Cross to organize water supply systems and deal with other hygiene problems on behalf of the displaced persons. A pharmacist sent by the Danish Red Cross and an ICRC technician are co-operating in laboratory and pharmaceutical work.

As concerns information and teaching, weekly courses are given by ICRC delegates to members of the Uganda Red Cross. Other courses have been organized for members of the police force.

Moreover, special correspondents from the ICRC and the National Societies of Sweden, Finland and Denmark observed Red Cross activities in Uganda and brought back information, news reports and photographs.

Kenya

One of the tasks of the ICRC regional delegation in Nairobi is to give logistical support to Red Cross activities in Uganda.

Furthermore, the delegation has organized, in Kenya itself, courses on international humanitarian law for instructors in the three branches of the armed forces, as well as for members of the Youth Red Cross. ICRC publications on the subjects studied were distributed during the courses.

Mauritius and Madagascar

In March, the ICRC regional delegate in Nairobi visited Mauritius and Madagascar on a two-week mission. He gave lectures to the members of the Red Cross Societies and had talks with representatives of the governmental authorities in both countries.

Ethiopia

The prolonged drought and the continuing hostilities have considerably aggravated the situation of the civilian population, especially in Tigre and Eritrea. Since the beginning of the year, rural inhabitants have been thronging into the towns in search of food. Assessment missions carried out by ICRC delegates in Tigre, Eritrea, North Wollo and Bale have shown that the civilian population in these areas is in urgent need of increased food aid. Plans that take into account programmes of the League, the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, UN agencies and various volunteer organizations have been drawn up by the ICRC. These plans advocate a substantial increase in relief supplies, and consequently also in the number of vehicles to transport relief supplies and personnel to carry out these activities.

In March, 566 tonnes of relief supplies were distributed to 45,000 persons in the provinces of Tigre, Gondar, Harar, Bale/Genale and Eritrea. In April, 843 tonnes were distributed to 73,800 beneficiaries.

Medical relief supplies (medicaments, dressings, transfusion equipment) were distributed to various hospitals and dispensaries. A child feeding centre was opened by the ICRC in Mekele, where 950 children are being cared for.

In March, ICRC delegates visited 10 Somali prisoners of war in Awasa and 206 in Harar, according to traditional ICRC procedure. The prisoners were given relief supplies and games.

Somalia

The ICRC delegation distributed food aid, mainly fruit and vegetables, to 208 Ethiopian prisoners of war and to the Cuban prisoner of war being held in Somalia. Cigarettes were also given to the prisoners. This assistance amounted to 2,000 Swiss francs in March and 4,000 Swiss francs in April.

Medical material, dressing material, medicaments, mattresses and blankets for a total value of 9,000 Swiss francs were given to hospitals.

The activities of the local office of the Tracing Agency are beginning to show some results: 33 family messages were exchanged in April between Somali prisoners of war in Ethiopia and their families in Somalia.

Dissemination activities

Virtually all over Africa, ICRC delegates' activities to increase knowledge of the Red Cross and its principles and the essential rules of international humanitarian law have expanded considerably and gained momentum. Besides the work mentioned above, also worthy of note are the dissemination activities in Namibia (lecture and films), Zimbabwe (cassettes and films), Zaire (lectures), Congo (photograph exhibition, lectures and films) and Sudan (courses for members of the armed forces and the National Red Crescent). Various ICRC publications, in particular the *Soldier's Manual* and the *Summary of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols* were distributed during these events.

Latin America

Missions from Geneva

During the first two weeks in March Mr. E. Corthésy, assistant delegate-general of the ICRC for Latin America and the Caribbean, went on a mission which brought him first to El Salvador and then to Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica in order to assess current ICRC activities in those countries. He was joined in El Salvador and Nicaragua by Dr. Russbach, chief medical officer of the ICRC.

In *El Salvador* the ICRC delegate was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Magana, and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Chavez Mena, and discussed with them problems relating to protection and relief activities in the country.

In *Honduras* Mr. Corthésy had talks with the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pineda, and described ICRC activities in the country; he reminded him of the institution's willingness to undertake protection activities.

In *Nicaragua* the ICRC delegate had a discussion with the Minister for Health, Mrs. Léa Guido, on the operation on behalf of displaced persons. Dr. R. Russbach discussed the assistance which the ICRC might give to the Invalid Re-education Centre.

In *Costa Rica* discussions were held with Mr. R. Bermudez, a delegate of the League, and with the Costa Rican Red Cross concerning, in particular, the question of refugees in that country.

El Salvador

In March the ICRC delegates made 144 visits (29 in the capital and 115 in the departments) to 87 places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence and Public Security. They interviewed, without witnesses, 115 new detainees who had been imprisoned for security reasons.

In April, during the course of 136 visits they went to 91 detention centres in the capital and in the provinces. They had interviews without witnesses with 129 new detainees who were being held for interrogation.

The ICRC Tracing Agency offices in San Salvador, San Miguel and Santa Ana continued to receive several hundred visitors per month who came to enquire about the fate of relatives reported missing.

The delegation continued its assistance activity. Thus in March more than 86 tonnes of food aid were distributed to about 14,500 needy displaced persons in 12 villages, and to hospitals and prisons in the central part of the country. In the eastern region, more than 198 tonnes of food aid were distributed to approximately 29,500 recipients in villages, Red Cross centres and schools. In the department of Usulután, building material was made available for families who had just been displaced.

In April, 178 tonnes of relief supplies were distributed to more than 19,000 people in 19 villages in the centre of the country and, in the eastern region, 272 tonnes of food products to more than 37,500 recipients. Building material was also given to more than 60 recently displaced families.

While these relief supplies were being distributed, mobile medical teams gave consultations for the sick (1,564 in March and 2,855 in April) and the dentist examined more than 850 patients during these two months.

In addition, the delegates gave medicines and medical material, to a total value of approximately 44,000 Swiss francs for these two months, to various hospitals, dispensaries, prison clinics and schools.

On the night of March 6 an ambulance of the El Salvador Red Cross came under fire and two Red Cross volunteer workers were killed. Grievously affected by this new tragedy, the ICRC and the El Salvador Red Cross made a public appeal urging that the Red Cross emblem and its personnel be respected. Furthermore, both institutions, in the hope of increasing respect for the Red Cross emblem and the safety of those who work under its protection, have intensified their efforts to give the combatants a better knowledge and understanding of humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross.

Nicaragua

Continuing their protection activities in Nicaragua the ICRC delegates, between 5 and 23 March, visited the "Zona Franca" prison in Managua where they saw 692 detainees; on 3 and 4 April they went to prisons in Juigalpa, Chinandega, Esteli and Matagalpa, situated in the provinces, and met 193 detainees. These visits were made in accordance with the customary ICRC procedure.

The ICRC delegates distributed relief supplies to the detainees (food parcels, mattresses, medical material and hygiene products) to a value of more than 40,000 Swiss francs each month. In addition, the delegation gave assistance throughout the country to some 1,000 detainees' families in need; it provided them with various relief supplies which came to about 24,000 Swiss francs each month.

The delegation also gave relief supplies to needy detainees and to some 1,500 displaced persons in the southern part of the country.

Following a survey made in March to assess needs in regions inhabited by the Miskito Indians, the delegation, in April, initiated an assistance programme for 26,000 displaced Miskitos living along the eastern coast. They received about 10 tonnes of provisions to a value of 24,000 Swiss francs.

For its part, the ICRC Tracing Agency office in Managua continued to transmit family messages between Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras and their relatives in Nicaragua.

About 65 people took part in a seminar organized in Managua on 2 and 3 April and attended by the National Council of the Nicaragua Red Cross and the presidents of the local and departmental branches. On this occasion the ICRC regional delegate in San José (Costa Rica) described the activities of the ICRC, the principles of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law. Then, from April to the middle of May, he gave a series of lectures on the same subjects in twenty local branches of the Nicaragua Red Cross.

Honduras

A programme, which started at the beginning of 1983, to strengthen the operational framework of the Honduran Red Cross was completed by the end of April. As part of this programme a radio-communication network was set up linking eight local branches of the National Red Cross in the southern part of the country; four first aid posts and a stock of emergency material were also established.

The ICRC delegates visited the Jacaleapa camp in the south of the country and handed over Red Cross messages to the Nicaraguan refugees.

In San Pedro Sula and Tala the ICRC delegate gave lectures to members of the National Red Cross on the principles of the Red Cross and the activities of the institution.

Regional delegation at Costa Rica

Mr. A. Kobel, the ICRC regional delegate, stayed in Guatemala from 20 to 30 March. He had several talks with the authorities on subjects concerning protection and dissemination of knowledge of the Red Cross principles.

From 24 to 29 April the ICRC regional delegate went on mission to the Dominican Republic in order to establish contacts with the authorities and the National Red Cross Society. He met Mr. Americo Espinal, Attorney General of the Republic, on 26 April.

Peru

On 19 April the ICRC delegation obtained the consent of the government authorities to open an office in Lima.

A new round of visits to places of detention began on 4 April at the "Carceleta" prison, where the ICRC delegates saw 30 detainees. The following day they visited the "Fronton" prison, where 363 people of concern to the ICRC are being held. On 19 April thirteen detainees were visited at the "Dircote" in Lima.

Colombia

Mr. G. Heumann, the ICRC regional delegate for the Andean countries, commenced a new round of visits to places of detention on 24 March.

Uruguay

From 12 to 15 March, ICRC delegates visited the Military confinement establishment No. 2 (Punta de Rieles), a place of detention for women only, and saw 100 detainees.

From 19 March onwards the delegates visited 631 detainees in military confinement establishment No. 1 (Libertad).

Chile

An ICRC delegate, based in Buenos Aires, went to Santiago, Chile, on 3 April. On 5 April he visited people detained in the "Carcel Publica" (Public Prison) on account of recent events.

Asia

Mission by delegate-general to Sri Lanka

From 29 April to 2 May, Mr. Jean de Courten, ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, accompanied by a delegate, carried out a mission in Sri Lanka, where he had talks with the Minister of National Security, representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Red Cross. The discussions dealt with the situation now prevailing in the country and the possible role of the ICRC in the context of that situation.

After the departure of Mr. de Courten, the delegate who had accompanied him went to Jaffna where he visited a camp for displaced persons. He had discussions with the authorities and with representatives of various local organizations, including the local chapter of the Sri Lanka Red Cross.

Conflict in Afghanistan

Pursuant to agreements between the ICRC and all the parties concerned (Afghan opposition movements, Pakistan, the USSR and Switzerland), another Soviet prisoner in the hands of an Afghan movement has been transferred to Switzerland for a two-year period of internment. The transfer took place on 9 April, under the auspices of the ICRC.

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In Pakistan, the ICRC continued its medical assistance programme for Afghan victims of the fighting in their country. The ICRC hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta received 308 and 139 war casualties respectively, in March and April, an appreciable increase over the totals in the first two months of the year. At Quetta, it was even necessary to set up a tent temporarily to cope with the influx of wounded. The two medical teams working at Peshawar — one from the Finnish Red Cross and the other from the ICRC — and the Italian Red Cross team working at Quetta carried out a total of 802 surgical operations and treated 2,536 out-patients.

In addition, the medical first-aid teams of the Pakistan Red Crescent, supplied with medical material and medicaments by the ICRC, gave assistance to 196 wounded Afghans and carried out the evacuation of 128 others to the ICRC surgical hospitals. It should be noted in this

connection that the team based at Badini, which had been forced by weather conditions to suspend its activities in December, resumed its normal operations in April.

The orthopaedic workshop at Peshawar produced 106 prostheses in March and April and the centre for paraplegics admitted 29 new patients in the same period. At the end of April, 75 persons including 18 Pakistanis were following rehabilitation courses at the centre.

Thailand

The ICRC surgical teams working at the Khao-I-Dang hospital were particularly active in April following the resumption of fighting along the Khmer-Thai border, especially in the central sector. Additional personnel (a surgeon, an anaesthetist and two nurses seconded by the Danish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies) were rushed to Thailand to reinforce the teams already present, which include specialists provided by the National Societies of Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Iceland, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, the team at the ICRC surgical hospital at Kab Cherng continued working at their normal rhythm. The Khao-I-Dang hospital, in March and April, admitted 404 patients (including 204 war casualties, in contrast to 104 in January—February) while the Kab Cherng hospital admitted 210 patients (of whom 14 were war casualties).

The value of medical assistance given by the ICRC to the Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng hospitals, to the prison infirmary in Aranya-prathet and the frontier camp dispensaries, in March and April, amounted to about 173,300 Swiss francs. In the same period, the ICRC distributed in the camps various relief materials (food, paramedical equipment, bedding, cooking utensils and clothing) worth more than 36,700 Swiss francs.

The ICRC Tracing Agency office in Bangkok received 984 requests to locate missing persons. It also transferred 377 persons between different camps along the Khmer-Thai border, brought about 18 family reunions and arranged for the transmission of 2,800 letters between refugees and their families, living either in other camps or abroad.

Kampuchea

The ICRC continued to provide medical material to several hospitals in Phnom Penh. In addition, 3 tonnes of medical assistance were supplied to the medical teams of the French, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross

Societies working respectively in Phnom Penh, Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Cham.

In March and April, flights between Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh enabled the ICRC to deliver 4.7 tonnes of relief, either on its own account or for various other humanitarian organizations.

Indonesia/East Timor

ICRC delegates in March visited more than 2,100 displaced persons on the island of Atauro, East Timor, and saw 122 persons, detained because of the events, at the Comarca prison at Dili. The delegates also visited 7 sick detainees at the Dili military hospital.

In addition, during March and April, as part of the ICRC programme for repatriation and family reunions, 50 persons were transferred from East Timor to Portugal and 4 to Australia.

Middle East

Presidential missions

Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Jean Hoeffliger, ICRC delegate-general for the Middle East and northern Africa, and Mr. Serge Nessi, Head of the Finance Division, was in *Tunisia* from 22 to 25 March on a courtesy visit.

He had talks on subjects of mutual interest with representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed ICRC activities. He stressed that the ICRC is always prepared to co-operate in the solution of humanitarian problems within its competence.

The ICRC President then visited the *Arab Republic of Yemen* and from 31 March to 2 April took part at Sanaa in the Fifteenth Conference of Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

After Sanaa, Mr. Hay visited *Saudi Arabia* from 2 to 6 April.

Finally, the ICRC President went to *Iraq* on 30 April. On 1 May, he met Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The latter three missions are dealt with in detail elsewhere in the *Review*.

Conflict between Iraq and Iran**Iran***Prisoners of War*

After the suspension in July 1983 of visits to Iraqi prisoners of war detained in Iran, the ICRC made repeated approaches, both in Geneva and Teheran, seeking to resume these activities in accordance with its customary procedures.

On 4 March, a note from the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, asking for a resumption of our activities in Iran, was delivered to the ICRC delegation in Teheran. It offered the guarantees repeatedly demanded by the ICRC; namely, its delegates will be protected from any attack against their persons or their rights; they will have access to all prisoner-of-war camps; they will be able to have interviews with the prisoners without witness, without limitation of frequency and duration and with no illicit intervention by the authorities. In addition, it is guaranteed that the ICRC delegation will be able to collect and distribute family messages as specified by the Conventions. The religious life of the prisoners will be provided for in conformity with Articles 34 et seq. of the Third Convention, and only the disciplinary forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be in charge of the administration of prisoner-of-war camps.

The ICRC replied to the note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 4 March by stating that it was prepared to resume its activities for prisoners of war in Iran and to send the delegates and doctors necessary for that purpose.

Discussions took place in Teheran between the authorities and the delegation to determine the procedures and the schedule for visits, which were resumed on 19 May.

ICRC medical mission and appeal

At the beginning of March, the ICRC sent a medical mission to Iran to evaluate the needs for assistance resulting from the fighting on the Irano-Iraqi front. The medical mission, in visits to several hospitals in Teheran, saw about 500 cases of wounded combatants who all showed a series of signs and symptoms constituting a disturbing clinical picture of such character as to support a presumption of the recent use of products prohibited by current international law.

Together with the representations it made to the parties concerned, the ICRC stressed that the use on the battlefield of toxic substances is

incompatible with respect for the principle of humanity and constitutes a violation of both the customary and codified laws of war.

Iraq

On 1 May, Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Jean Hoeffiger, ICRC delegate-general for the Middle East, went to Baghdad where he met Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Their discussions dealt with all the ICRC activities in Iraq for the benefit of prisoners of war and civilian internees.

Lebanon

Violent fighting took place in March and April in the Lebanese capital and its outskirts, where the cease-fire was no more than partially observed. South Lebanon was cut off on several occasions from the rest of the country. In Tripoli, there were violent clashes between different groups on 15 and 16 April, breaking a relative calm which otherwise prevailed there.

Under these circumstances, the ICRC delegation in Lebanon concentrated its efforts on supplying relief and medical assistance to victims of the fighting. Two ICRC vessels were able to enter the ports of Sidon and Jounié, bringing large quantities of relief and medicaments and a number of ambulances. The port and airport of Beirut remained closed and the hospitals and dispensaries had supply difficulties which the ICRC strove to alleviate.

The medical personnel of the ICRC delegation continued its evaluation missions in the hospitals and dispensaries in Beirut and in the provinces, in Tripoli, Sidon, in the Chouf and in the Bekaa. Medicaments and medical supplies were delivered on the occasion of their visits, as well as plasma and whole blood to meet surgical needs. During the two months, 462 standard medical kits were distributed, to a total value of about 176,000 Swiss francs. In addition, medicaments and medical material worth about 142,000 Swiss francs were purchased locally and distributed immediately. The ICRC also delivered to the Lebanese Red Cross, during March, 11 ambulances donated by the Federal Republic of Germany and, in April, 9 more ambulances given by the Danish Red Cross. In addition, it delivered 84 wheelchairs from the Spanish Red Cross and blood and plasma donated by the Norwegian and Finnish Red Cross Societies. It also provided the Lebanese Red Cross with an electric generator. The ICRC furthermore agreed to finance a socio-medical

centre and first-aid facilities for the Lebanese Red Cross, in a southern suburb of Beirut. The cost of installation and 6 months' operation was estimated at about 90,000 Swiss francs.

Activities in aid of amputees continued in the three orthopaedic centres of Beit Chebab, Sidon and the Syrian capital of Damascus. The latter centre is being administered in co-operation with the Swedish Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent." ICRC technicians also gave orthopaedic consultations in the Chouf and the Bekaa.

The ICRC delegation in March and April distributed increased quantities of emergency relief supplies to persons affected by the fighting. In March, in Beirut alone, 175 tonnes of relief supplies (food, soap, candles, kitchen equipment, etc.) were distributed to about 40,000 persons and in April, 215 tonnes, plus 6,000 blankets, were distributed to some 45,000 persons. In addition, convoys were organized to take relief supplies to the provinces. In March, 143 tonnes of various kinds of relief, mostly food, were delivered in the Chouf for about 12,000 beneficiaries; 130 tonnes for some 19,000 persons in the Upper Metn and Caza Aley; 7 tonnes of food, blankets, kitchen equipment and candles were distributed in the Bekaa; 19 tonnes of relief went to Tripoli. In April, these distributions continued and a total of 317 tonnes of various forms of relief went to 40,000 victims of the events in the provinces.

During the two months, the ICRC continued its protection and tracing activities throughout Lebanon. In the Ansar camp, weekly visits continued to recently arrested detainees. At the end of March, 338 prisoners had been registered, and 418 at the end of April. Between 20 and 23 March, ICRC delegates made a complete visit, in conformity with the customary ICRC procedure, including interviews without witness with the detainees. The first family visits to the detainees were organized by the detaining authorities on 9 April.

In addition, ICRC delegates made daily visits to the Palestinian camps near Sidon and Tyre and attempted to provide protection for the entire population of the occupied territories.

The 3 Israeli prisoners detained by the Syrian authorities were visited on 19 March and 18 April.

The 291 Syrian prisoners held at the Meggido camp in Israel were visited on 2 April, in conformity with the customary procedure of the ICRC.

ICRC delegates, on 7 and 9 March, also visited persons detained by the "Lebanese forces" and the "Amal" and "PSP" movements.

The activities of the Tracing Agency offices also continued. In March, 8,145 family messages and in April 8,482 family messages were exchanged

between displaced persons or detainees and their families, in Lebanon or abroad. In the same two months, 162 missing persons were found and 10 persons were transferred or repatriated by the ICRC delegation.

Israel and the occupied territories

During the latter half of 1983 and the first few months of 1984, the ICRC delegation in Israel and the sub-delegations in Jerusalem and Gaza continued their activities. After September 1983, Lebanese territory south of the Awali River became the responsibility of the delegation in Tel Aviv.

ICRC delegates continued to visit the places of detention. In principle, a complete visit is made to each prison once a year, and special visits are arranged when special events indicate the need.

In Israel and the occupied territories, 44 visits were carried out during the latter half of 1983 in 15 prisons, with 3,225 protected persons. Special visits were made to prisons in Jenin, Ramallah (2 visits), Damoun, Kishon, Neve Tirzah (4 visits) and Ramleh (2 visits). The delegates in Jerusalem visited detainees under interrogation in the prisons of Hebron, Ramallah, Nablus and in the police stations Moscobieh and Kishon. In addition, regular weekly visits were made to the military prison of Far'a. All the police stations in the region between Jerusalem and the Jordan were visited.

The sub-delegation for Gaza is responsible for four prisons — Ashkelon, Beersheba, Gaza and Nafha — with a total of about 1,700 detainees. The delegates also visited, twice a week, the detainees under interrogation in the Gaza and Ashkelon prisons and, on seven occasions, in the various police stations in the Gaza Strip.

The delegates also made 12 visits to the passengers and crews of 2 ships captured by the Israeli navy, seeing 50 prisoners.

The ICRC delegation continued its assistance programme in the prisons, supplying medical assistance, distributing books, games and winter clothing and providing transport for families coming to visit their relatives.

In addition, the delegation arranged the transfer of 12 persons released by the Israeli authorities: 6 to Jordan, 2 to Syria and 4 to Lebanon.

Tracing Agency activities continued. More than 524,000 family messages were received and forwarded by the delegation in the latter half of the year, an average of 2,900 a day.

Jordan

The principal activity of the ICRC delegation in Amman during the latter half of 1983 and the beginning of 1984 was the protection of detained persons in places of detention and in places of interrogation. The ICRC delegates visited these places regularly — the places of interrogation being visited in principle every two weeks — and in conformity with the customary procedure of the ICRC.

Agency activities continued and remained substantial, with tracing requests for missing persons coming from Israel and the occupied territories and from other ICRC delegations. During visits to places of detention in Jordan, such requests were also made to the delegates, who passed them on to other delegations or to ICRC headquarters in Geneva.