

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES**September-October 1989***Africa****Angola**

In September, the ICRC began its annual seed distribution programme for some 120,000 families on the Angolan Planalto. The delegation continued to keep the food situation there under close observation and distributed food where necessary. The many nutritional surveys carried out on the Planalto showed an alarming rise in the rate of malnutrition.

Also in September, delegates visited 95 members of the government armed forces held by UNITA in south-eastern Angola.

Mozambique

In October, the ICRC delegation completed a series of visits begun in May to 11 places of detention holding Mozambican security detainees and first visited between June 1988 and February 1989.

The delegates also endeavoured during the period under review to continue all their assistance activities in the field despite difficult access to the parts of the country affected by the conflict.

Uganda

On 18 October, the head of the ICRC delegation was received by Mr. Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda, with whom he reviewed the activities and concerns of the ICRC in the country.

The delegates continued their visits to security detainees and, after assessing the situation in the Gulu and Soroti regions, provided food, material and medical assistance there. In the period under review, delegates were particularly active in Soroti distributing Red Cross messages to a large number of families of recently visited detainees.

Ethiopia

After talks with the Ethiopian authorities at the OAU summit in Addis Ababa in July, at which the ICRC was represented by Mr. Rudolph Jäckli, a member of its Executive Board, together with the Delegate General for Africa and the head of the ICRC delegation in Ethiopia, a mission was carried out in the north of the country by the head of delegation, an agronomist, a doctor and representatives of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. This joint mission enabled the ICRC representatives to assess food and medical needs, especially those resulting from the conflict, in Eritrea, Gondar and Wollo.

Following the mission, the ICRC drew up a plan of action which it submitted to the Ethiopian government on 16 October. At the end of the month, the ICRC had not yet received a reply from the authorities.

Somalia

During a mission to Somalia by the Delegate General for Africa from 28 September to 2 October, consideration was given to a possible extension of ICRC activities in the north of the country, especially in connection with the surgical hospital in Berbera, which was opened in August with equipment provided by the Norwegian Red Cross. In the period under review, teams of delegates flew to various parts of northern Somalia to check how the population affected by the conflict was faring and see whether facilities could be set up to provide first aid for the wounded and evacuate the most serious cases to the ICRC hospital in Berbera. On several occasions it was possible to fly out several casualties on the aircraft used by the ICRC teams.

Finally, the ICRC began a food-aid programme in October for about 1,250 people from hospitals, orphanages and other social welfare institutions in Berbera.

Sudan

During the period under review, the ICRC had seven subdelegations in Sudan and was present from time to time in eleven other places. As from September, when the harvest began, the ICRC concentrated on continuing its emergency rehabilitation programmes such as the vaccination of livestock, distribution of fishing tackle and medical care. Food distributions were confined to the most vulnerable groups of civilians affected by the conflict.

Latin America

Peru

The agreement in principle granted to the ICRC in June, during the ICRC President's mission to Peru, and the subsequent discussions with the authorities on arrangements for visits to detainees enabled delegates to begin daily visits on 24 October to the premises of the *Dirección contra el terrorismo* (DIRCOTE) in Lima. Since then, the ICRC has had access to the register containing the detainees' names and has been able to interview without witnesses each detainee who has reached the end of his interrogation period and is about to be transferred to another place of detention.

Delegates also continued their visits to the places of detention situated in areas under a state of emergency and administered by the Ministry of Justice. These visits were resumed in June when permission was granted by the authorities, also during the ICRC President's visit.

The delegation continued expanding its other activities (mostly assistance and dissemination) in the areas under a state of emergency. In September, some 30,000 people in the departments of Ayacucho and Cuzco took part in an anti-malaria campaign combining an information programme with a distribution of chloroquine.

Honduras/Nicaragua

In October, the ICRC received permission to make regular visits to Yamales, the main refugee camp linked to the armed Nicaraguan opposition. This enabled delegates based in Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica to undertake extensive tracing work in connection with requests made to the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency.

El Salvador

The ICRC continued all its activities in El Salvador, though the fighting which flared up again as from September compelled the delegates there to cancel a large number of planned field missions. On 31 October, the head of delegation was received by President Cristiani, the head of State and informed him about the ICRC's various concerns in connection with the Salvadoran conflict.

During the period under review, the ICRC was twice asked to act as a neutral intermediary. On 7 October, with the consent of the parties concerned, an aircraft chartered by the ICRC flew 48 war amputees to Cuba. These members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation

Front had taken refuge in the Mexican Embassy in San Salvador. On 6 October, again at the request of the parties concerned, 18 members of a human rights organization who had occupied the Costa Rican embassy in San Salvador and 13 people who had been taken hostage during the occupation were escorted home by the ICRC.

Guatemala

On 13 September, the ICRC signed a headquarters agreement with the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Affairs setting out the terms and conditions for its presence in the country. An ICRC delegation was opened in Guatemala City in January 1988.

Asia

Sri Lanka

In early October, after years of negotiations, the ICRC was authorized to open a delegation in Sri Lanka to carry out its customary activities for victims of the disturbances. The President of Sri Lanka announced that the ICRC would be allowed to visit security detainees, search for missing persons and provide medical assistance where necessary. An initial team of two delegates, a doctor and a nurse, arrived in Colombo on 16 October. They immediately set to work preparing for the arrival of further delegates and carried out several medical surveys in the south of the island.

Afghan conflict

During the period under consideration, the Afghan capital continued to be the target of attacks which caused casualties among the civilian population. On 1 October, a rocket hit the office of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, killing two people and injuring 13 others among the National Society's staff and people who had come there for help. The surgical teams of the ICRC hospital in Kabul worked non-stop to cope with the influx of wounded people. A record number of 144 beds were occupied in mid-October, representing the hospital's maximum capacity. The situation then gradually began to ease. On 15 October, the sub-delegation in Herat, west of Kabul, opened a dispensary to give first aid to the wounded. The ICRC hospitals in Quetta and Peshawar, across the border in Pakistan, also worked at maximum capacity to treat

wounded people brought there from the towns of Khost, Kandahar and Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan.

During their many missions in Afghan territory, delegates based in Pakistan visited dozens of prisoners held by Afghan opposition movements and organized the exchange of Red Cross messages between them and their families living in Afghanistan and abroad.

China/Viet Nam

On 8 September, an ICRC team of two delegates and one doctor visited several Chinese prisoners held by the Vietnamese authorities. The previous ICRC visit to these prisoners was in January 1989.

Cambodian conflict

After 26 September, the date on which Vietnamese troops officially completed their withdrawal from Cambodian territory, the resumption of fighting in Cambodia led to a rise in the number of casualties brought to the ICRC hospital at Khao-I-Dang and to the first-aid center in Kab Cherng.

The ICRC received permission from the Cambodian authorities to begin working in Battambang. Several surveys were conducted in the region to prepare for setting up a medical system. The ICRC plans to send a mobile medical team there which can go where it is most needed.

Middle East

Lebanon

On 6 October, unidentified armed persons abducted Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, both ICRC delegates assigned to the orthopaedic centre in Sidon, as they were on their way to work. Seven weeks after their abduction, no one has claimed responsibility and no news has been received from the two hostages.

In Lebanon and from its headquarters in Geneva, the ICRC immediately contacted all groups represented on Lebanese territory and governments with influence in the country and has continued to do so ever since. All have condemned this act, which violates the basic conditions without which no humanitarian work is possible. With demonstrations of solidarity being organized throughout Lebanon, the ICRC made several appeals demanding the release of its delegates and a

return to the respect essential for it at all times and in all circumstances to carry out its mission in behalf of the victims of war (see also p. 579, the text of the *Appeal on behalf of the ICRC delegates kidnapped in Lebanon*, adopted by the Council of Delegates on 26 October).

Before the abduction, and before the ceasefire between the parties to the conflict on 23 September, the ICRC delegation in Lebanon continued to assist the civilians affected by the fighting. Working with UNICEF in Beirut, it pursued its programme to restore sanitation facilities; civilian shelters were disinfected and two pumping stations for drinking water were repaired. In the Christian area of northern Lebanon, in the Beka'a valley and especially in the south of the country, the ICRC continued bringing material and food assistance to people who had fled the appalling fighting in Beirut. Delegates regularly visited the dispensaries and hospitals, which were treating a constant influx of wounded people. Wherever necessary, medical equipment and medicines were distributed.

Israel and the occupied territories

In the period under review, the ICRC delegation in Israel obtained permission from the Israeli authorities to visit several military detention centres to which it had previously not had access. Visits were conducted there in accordance with the institution's customary criteria and will be repeated on a regular basis.

Jordan

From 19 September to 18 October, the ICRC delegation in Jordan carried out its annual series of visits to seven places of detention administered by the prison service.
