

South America

CHILE

Visits were made to security detainees in 29 prisons run by the *Gendarmeria nacional* (Ministry of Justice), and to detainees under interrogation at the *Policia de Investigaciones* and the *Carabineros*. Negotiations with the new government which came into power in March resulted in permission to continue these visits.

In total, 193 visits were made and 530 detainees visited. 69 of these 530 were registered for the first time.

Food aid, medical assistance and other assistance in the areas of housing, hygiene, education, clothing and leisure were given to security detainees at a cost of 78,259 Swiss francs. Families of detainees and released detainees also received food aid valued at 232,512 francs and assistance with costs of family visits and other financial aid totalling 10,173 francs. Limited medical assistance was also provided to released detainees.

COLOMBIA

Over the year ICRC delegates made 66 visits to 34 places of detention in Colombia, all of which were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice. During these visits 810 security detainees were seen and 217 new detainees were registered. In spite of repeated attempts, ICRC delegates were not granted access to detainees being interrogated by the armed forces and the police. Nonetheless, in December 1990 the *Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad* (DAS), which comes under the direct control of the Presidency, gave formal authorization for ICRC delegates to visit its detainees.

Last year the ICRC also assisted in the release of 13 persons captured by opposition movements. Those freed included members of the national police force and the armed forces, as well as seven civilians, two of Swiss nationality.

In order to try to put an end to forced disappearances, the ICRC made constant efforts to obtain access to persons detained for interrogation by the army and the police. At the end of the year the outlook for access appeared positive.

In addition to tracing work, which involved the handling of 39 tracing requests, transport costs were paid to 243 families so that they could visit their detained relatives. On December 24 the ICRC paid for 100 children to visit their incarcerated parents at Medellín.

Relief and medical activities

Throughout 1990 the ICRC provided detention centres and penitentiary infirmaries with medicines, cleaning materials, mattresses, cooking utensils, clothing and sport and leisure equipment at a total value of 5,609 Swiss francs (medical assistance not included). The ICRC also footed the bill for repairs to several odontological units in detention centres and a reserve of medical supplies purchased in view of an anticipated substantial rise in prices. The civilian population also received mattresses, blankets, food and medical supplies at a cost of 8,868 Swiss francs (medical assistance not included), after families were displaced by the violence, especially in the departments of Cesar, Santander and Aranca. Medical supplies distributed amounted to 33,913 francs.