

Dissemination activities

Owing to the climate of violence in the country, throughout the year the ICRC continued to work alongside the National Society within the context of its vast programme of dissemination. Major target groups were university students and staff, the national police force, government officials, lawyers, members of the armed forces, the National Society and non-governmental organizations.

PERU

The delegation in Lima, which was opened in 1984, has expanded over the years, to keep pace with the mounting violence throughout the country, in its efforts to assist security detainees and civilians affected by the internal conflict. The expatriate staff was increased to 31 by the end of the year and after numerous field surveys, operations were extended into areas previously cut off to any aid whatsoever. The ICRC therefore played a key role in bringing assistance and protection to victims of the conflict where no one else could.

At the beginning of June the ICRC's Director General carried out a mission to Peru, where he met with the newly-elected President Alberto Fujimori, together with the Delegate General for Latin America and the head of delegation in Lima. The ICRC representatives explained the role of the institution and its activities in Peru.

Travel in the country being particularly precarious, the delegates moving around in the emergency zones were obliged to follow very strict security regulations and, although acceptance of the ICRC and hence its security improved considerably over the year, efforts continued to develop dissemination activities among the armed forces and the opposition, in an

attempt to forestall any future security problems.

With the opening of a new office in Huancayo the ICRC consolidated its presence in the emergency zones. The institution thereby increased public awareness of what the ICRC actually does and as a result became more effective in carrying out its work. By the end of the year, apart from its main delegation in Lima, the ICRC had offices in Ayacucho, Abancay, Tingo María and Huancayo.

Protection activities for detainees

In 1990 a rise in the number of security detainees was noted. Visits to the DIRCOTE (*Dirección contra el terrorismo*) anti-terrorist unit in Lima were resumed on 19 October, after 56 days of denied access.

Visits in 1990 were made to 77 centres of detention under the Ministry of Justice (*carceletas*, penitentiaries in the capital and detention centres in emergency zones) as well as 6 transit centres under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior in Lima and Tingo María. A total of 762 visits were made and 1,967 security detainees were registered, 1,097 for the first time.

Visits to detention centres meant that delegates were able to carry out interviews without witnesses with detainees. Visits also allowed the ICRC to bring medical and material assistance to security detainees, and facilitated the fumigation of several detention centres. Total medical assistance was valued at 63,525 Swiss francs, while material assistance totalled 42,829 francs.

Numerous high-level discussions were held with a view to obtaining access to detainees held for interrogation in places under the army and the police. In this way the ICRC hoped to see an end to

the cases of forced disappearances so often denounced in Peru. By the end of 1990, however, access had still not been given.

Tracing Agency

Efforts were concentrated on registering security detainees and informing their relatives. Transport was also paid for families to visit detained relatives.

Medical activities for the civilian population

Besides traditional ICRC medical work such as medical consultations and caring for the wounded, vaccination programmes formed an integral part of medical operations in 1990.

As the ICRC was firmly rooted in the emergency zones of Apurimac, Ayacucho, Huanuco and Junín, its medical teams were able to make regular visits to health centres in regions most affected by the fighting, bringing medical supplies and basic medicines and providing training for health workers located in these regions. These visits allowed the ICRC to carry out an average of between 200 and 300 medical consultations per month and also facilitated a programme for prevention of diarrhoea among children, with the help of material supplied by UNICEF.

Additional medical assistance was brought to civilians wounded in the fighting. The ICRC ensured medical attention for 425 such civilians in public hospitals throughout the country.

Relief assistance

1990 relief targets were principally people who had been displaced or made homeless because of the violence, and security detainees and their families. In the first group, orphans and families whose

homes had been destroyed or damaged accounted for a large proportion of the beneficiaries, while in the second group assistance was directed at newly-released security detainees with no means of self-support, as well as those still interned and living under difficult conditions engendered by the critical economic situation in the country. In all, assistance was provided to over 19,000 persons.

Assistance came in many forms such as blankets, second-hand clothes, shoes, mattresses, canvas, kerosene, cleaning products, kitchen sets, tools and food. A special project in Peru involved providing meals in school canteens for over 2,000 children who were affected by the disturbances, most of whom had been orphaned as a result of the violence in the country, particularly in Ayacucho and in Abancay.

Cooperation with the National Society

Working with some of the National Society's branches throughout the country was effective during the whole year. In particular, in December after the flooding of the River Shullcas which runs through the town of Huancayo, the ICRC provided vehicles and material aid to the local branch of the Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) to help it to cope with the damage. Other aid for 1990 came in the form of material assistance for social programmes run by the PRC in emergency zones, and in the form of HF radios to link up the National Society's headquarters with local branches.

Dissemination

In 1990 special efforts were made to widen people's understanding of the movement and of international humanitarian law in remote areas previously inaccessible to the ICRC. Presentations were made both inside and outside the emergency zones

to audiences including high-ranking members of the armed forces and police and academics. In addition, interviews were given in the press, on radio and on television. Puppet theatres were also used to spread information among more than 5,000 school children aged 14 to 17 last year in schools in Lima and in the emergency zones.

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

SAN JOSÉ — (*Costa Rica, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, the Lesser Antilles*)

HAITI — The National Society received technical and financial assistance from the ICRC which enabled it to continue its programme of dissemination to members of its individual branches within the country, as well as to other sectors of the population, especially law students.

MEXICO — The President of the ICRC visited Mexico on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Mexican Red Cross. While there, he met with the highest authorities and discussed with them the question of opening a regional delegation in Mexico. The ICRC President met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and with the Minister of the Navy and raised questions related to the Additional Protocols with them.

PANAMA — In 1990, two series of visits were carried out to 52 detainees in Panama, and four prisoners of war (POWs) incarcerated in the United States, at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre in Miami (Florida), all being held for reasons related to the events of December 1989. In January and February 1990 ICRC delegates visited 1,021 POWs and

331 civilian internees under United States administration in Panama, in accordance with the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions.

TRINADAD AND TOBAGO — The ICRC took steps to obtain access to persons being held in connection with the attempted *coup d'état* of 27 July, carrying out two missions to discuss this matter with the authorities, in July and again in September. However, by the end of the year, access had still not been obtained.

BOGOTÁ: (*Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela*)

ECUADOR — On 24-26 April delegates visited 13 detainees in two detention centres in Quito. This was followed by a visit to a further two detainees in Guayaquil. Eight of these security detainees were registered for the first time, and some medical and material assistance was given to all 15.

An agreement between the Ecuadorean Red Cross and the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior and the Police, which was signed in 1989, was fully implemented in 1990. The agreement established a formal link between the National Society and the above-mentioned bodies, and allowed the ICRC to lend its support to a specific programme of courses and conferences aimed at members of the police and armed forces. Seventeen such courses were given by ICRC delegates to audiences totalling 775, mostly made up of army and naval officers, as well as air-force cadets and other groups.

SURINAME — Missions were carried out in April, July, September and November to Suriname from the regional delegation in Bogotá to evaluate the situation and