

carried out to specific problem areas in the north-east.

In close cooperation with the National Society, the ICRC financed and participated in the purchase and construction of traditional temporary shelters (cadjans) for about 4,000 particularly hard-hit families (between 20,000 and 30,000 people). It also assisted the National Red Cross in providing food parcels and clothing as needed.

At the end of the year, the ICRC also sent a relief specialist to Sri Lanka to cooperate with the National Society and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which was active in the other non-conflict areas.

Dissemination

While carrying out its activities in the north-east, south and centre of Sri Lanka, the ICRC also endeavoured to spread knowledge of basic humanitarian principles among officers and soldiers as well as LTTE combatants and their leadership.

Sessions on the law of war were held in all districts for members of the Sri Lanka armed forces. Furthermore, the ICRC produced dissemination material in English, Sinhalese and Tamil, which it distributed as widely as possible.

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

NEW DELHI: (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, India, the Maldives, Nepal)

BANGLADESH — Negotiations with the country's authorities concerning a possible joint ICRC/League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies/National Society survey in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were at a standstill.

BHUTAN — Following a first ICRC mission to Bhutan and contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the government decided to accede to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

MYANMAR — Persistent problems requiring humanitarian assistance and the ongoing conflict on the country's eastern borders raised ICRC concern, as in previous years. No headway was made regarding the situation of security detainees, despite the institution's continuing representations with a view to obtaining permission for protection visits.

Following the signature of an agreement with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Defence and the National Society, the ICRC continued its activities aimed at helping to develop orthopaedic programmes in progress (manufacturing artificial limbs, training local staff). Its work focused on civilian amputees in four orthopaedic centres in Myanmar. At these centres 1,149 patients were fitted with prostheses for the first time, and 292 with orthoses. The centres also manufactured 1,232 prostheses, 297 orthoses and 1,047 pairs of crutches.

INDIA — The ICRC continued to help the Indian Red Cross with the development of a nationwide tracing network and dissemination activities. It monitored the situation in different parts of the country to obtain a clearer picture of medical, relief and protection needs, particularly in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, and to be prepared in case ICRC intervention was required.

NEPAL — The ICRC maintained its dialogue with the government about questions concerning the protection of those detained under emergency regulations. During several ICRC missions following the disturbances in Kathmandu in April,

delegates evaluated the general and medical situation, and handed emergency medical supplies over to the National Society. Together with the Nepal Red Cross Society, the ICRC organized a dissemination meeting in Dharan, in the south-east of the country, which was attended by National Society members and representatives of various ministries.

JAKARTA: (*Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore*).

INDONESIA — ICRC delegates carried out a series of visits to 39 detainees arrested in connection with the events of 30 September 1965 (ex-G 30 S/PKI) in 11 places of detention. In March, the ICRC had made a written protest against the execution of four of these detainees the previous month. The ICRC undertook steps to obtain the authorization for an evaluation mission to be carried out in the province of Aceh, where disturbances had been reported. The ICRC maintained financial and technical support for the Indonesian Red Cross Society in its activities on behalf of Vietnamese boat people, as part of the Tracing and Mailing Service coordinated by the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

Irian Jaya — ICRC delegates made registration and follow-up visits to security detainees in seven places of detention, during which they also distributed medical and material assistance. Of 52 detainees visited, 44 were newly registered.

For the first time, six security detainees held at Kalisosok prison in Surabaya (Java) were able to receive family visits from Irian Jaya (a distance of almost 3,000 kilometres). The ICRC organized and financed these visits.

During registration visits to "returnees", the ICRC distributed material assistance

to 553 people who had made their way back to Irian Jaya from places in Papua New Guinea where they had sought refuge. Their situation after their return continued to be monitored through regular follow-up visits.

EAST TIMOR

An ICRC nurse and a delegate had been present in Dili since 1988 and March 1989, respectively. In 1990, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received an ICRC report on the situation of the civilian population and of detainees, and on ICRC activities in East Timor as well as the problems the institution had encountered in its work there in 1989.

Registration and follow-up visits to persons detained in relation with events in East Timor took place all year round. A series of complete visits was carried out in three places of detention in Jakarta and Dili. In all, 148 detainees were visited, of whom 99 were newly registered. Among those prisoners were six who had previously been transferred to prisons in Jakarta, far from their families. They received family visits in January, with the ICRC covering the cost of the air transport for family members.

In the framework of the ICRC's sanitation programme, launched in 1989 to improve water supply and sanitary conditions in isolated villages, a sanitation engineer carried out a four-month mission in East Timor.

The ICRC repatriated 147 Timorese to Portugal. Of these, 28 were former Portuguese civil servants, and 119 hardship and family reunification cases. Six of those cases were transferred to Australia.

MALAYSIA — According to an agreement negotiated with the Malaysian authorities in 1989, the ICRC began car-

rying out a new series of visits to people detained under the Internal Security Act, thus following up visits made in 1988. However, the visits had to be suspended in May as they could not be conducted in accordance with ICRC criteria and the aforementioned agreement. The ICRC proceeded to clarify the conditions for ICRC visits to detainees with the Malaysian authorities so as to be able to resume its detention-related activities in the country. No progress was registered.

FIJI — The ICRC discussed the opening of a regional delegation in Suva (Fiji) and a dissemination programme with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Fiji and the National Society, respectively. At the end of the year the headquarters agreement necessary for the opening of the delegation was awaiting signature by the authorities. The regional delegation was to cover Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, and autonomous States, territories and colonies in the Pacific.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA — In 1990, the ICRC regional delegate undertook three missions to Papua New Guinea in connection with the rapidly deteriorating situation on Bougainville. The ICRC made efforts to monitor the developments so as to be able to intervene if humanitarian needs required. The ICRC also visited several camps for refugees from Irian Jaya. A dissemination programme for the armed forces and other audiences was set up in cooperation with the National Society. In the framework of this programme, a delegate conducted a mission from April to August in Port Moresby, during which she trained a National Society member in dissemination work.

HANOI: (Viet Nam, Laos)

VIET NAM — At the invitation of the Vietnamese Red Cross, the ICRC President had meetings with the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the President of the Council of Ministers, and the Prime Minister. He received the agreement in principle that the ICRC would have access to security detainees and those detained in re-education camps, a matter which the ICRC discussed further with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior throughout the year, along with various tracing requests.

Activities continued at the workshop producing orthopaedic components in the rehabilitation centre of Ho Chi Minh City, set up in December 1988 in cooperation with the ministry responsible for labour and the war-disabled. While the Vietnamese Red Cross was in charge of identifying and transporting patients, the ICRC took care of managing the centre, and producing and fitting orthopaedic devices. Between 31 August and 31 December 1990, the workshop produced 683 prostheses.

In cooperation with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Vietnamese Red Cross, the first dissemination courses were held for representatives of various ministries.

Through the Tracing and Mailing Services for Vietnamese boat people in four countries, namely Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, and Hong Kong, 748,494 letters were distributed. The service was coordinated and financed by the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva, and implemented by the National Societies concerned. Some 8,500 tracing requests involving boat people were also handled, of which 3,481 were solved.

LAOS — In 1990, the ICRC on several occasions held talks with National Society and government representatives about detention-related topics and tracing agency matters.

HONG KONG: (*China mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong/Macao, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea* and since September 1990, *Mongolia*)

CHINA/TAIWAN — The regional delegate in Hong Kong carried out several missions to mainland China and Taiwan. In January, he travelled to the Sino-Vietnamese border to participate in the simultaneous repatriation of five Chinese prisoners of war (liberated by the Hanoi authorities) and 17 Vietnamese prisoners of war formerly held by the Chinese authorities. The delegate was able to talk freely without witnesses with the Vietnamese POWs before their repatriation. Later on in Beijing, he discussed the situation of the remaining Vietnamese POWs with representatives of the armed forces and various ministries. With the Red Cross in Taipei, he raised repatriation issues (concerning people from mainland China who had entered Taiwan illegally).

Tracing activities concerned mainly families separated during the events of 1949. The ICRC received tens of thousands of tracing requests from both mainland China and Taiwan, which it then, as required by its mandate as a neutral intermediary, transmitted to Beijing and Taipei. In 1990, it received 4,337 tracing enquiries from mainland China and Taiwan. In December 1990, the Chinese National Society and the Red Cross in Taipei resumed direct contact so that the majority of tracing files were treated without ICRC involvement.

HONG KONG— The Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross continued to receive technical and financial support for its activities on behalf of Vietnamese boat people, as part of the Tracing and Mailing Service coordinated by the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

JAPAN — During missions in February, May and December, the regional delegate met with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Defence Agency and the National Society. The variety of topics discussed included dissemination among executive officers of the National Defence Agency, ratification of the Additional Protocols and the ICRC's observer status in the United Nations General Assembly.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA — The regional delegate went on a mission to Pyongyang, where he met representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Society. Together with a dissemination delegate from Geneva and in cooperation with the National Society he organized a dissemination seminar for 25 Red Cross representatives, the first of its kind to be held in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA — The regional delegate met representatives of the National Society and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Korea, with whom he exchanged views about dissemination, visits to security detainees, and the north-south dialogue. He also gave a presentation on the ICRC to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1990				
<i>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</i>				
Country (in French alphabetical order)	Medical assistance	Relief		Total Sw. fr.
	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	(Tonnes)	
Afghanistan	1,713,445	531,831	320.5	2,245,276
Cambodia	1,420,085	59,194	20	1,479,279
Indonesia	3,071	16,570	8.5	19,641
Myanmar	95,413			95,413
Nepal	9,050			9,050
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan)	1,355,373	199,141	151	1,554,514
Philippines	203,042	268,804	307.9	471,846
Sri Lanka	217,617	48,382	6.7	265,999
Thailand (conflict in Cambodia)	708,949	57,829	8	766,778
Viet Nam	86,985			86,985
TOTAL	5,813,030	1,181,751	822.6	6,994,781