

Tracing Agency

As soon as the violence broke out in December 1989, communications in the country became extremely difficult. By opening a tracing office, the ICRC enabled separated families to exchange news. Communication links were re-established fairly soon, which meant that the number of tracing requests did not rise as the year progressed.

Programme of surgical activities

A Programme for Surgical Units was set up in February 1990 by the ICRC, with technical support from National Society specialists. The aim was to supply all hospitals carrying out surgical activities in Romania with standardized units of basic medical supplies, the composition of the units having been decided upon after ICRC evaluations in hospitals all over the country. The number of units to be made available to each province was directly proportional to the number of hospital beds, one unit being allocated for every 1,000 beds. In order to meet the needs of all 41 districts, including Bucharest, 302 units costing 50,000 Swiss francs each were necessary. Units were paid for by National Societies, the EEC¹ and the ICRC.

Dissemination

As part of the programme to increase awareness of the principles of international humanitarian law and the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, an ICRC dissemination delegate was posted to Romania in March 1990. In cooperation with the Romanian Red Cross Society (RRCS) and the League, the programme was elaborated to support development plans for the National Society. Information meetings for current and future members of the RRCS

¹ European Economic Community.

were held throughout the country and training courses for RRCS officials at national and district level were organized in the second half of the year.

Over the year contacts were established with the armed forces and a seminar was held in April at the central military hospital in Bucharest, in which 170 officers and doctors participated. A number of Red Cross publications were printed in Romanian and distributed on a large scale in 1990, mostly among military personnel.

The ICRC also established regular contacts with the media and academic circles, holding regular dissemination conferences throughout the year and producing several press articles and TV programmes. From March 1990 an ICRC dissemination delegate was posted in Tirgu Mures, following the ethnic clashes witnessed there the same month.

Personnel

At the beginning of 1990 there were 34 ICRC delegates and 28 National Society expatriates posted in Romania. During the course of the year, as ICRC involvement decreased, the team was gradually cut back, leaving two ICRC expatriates at the end of 1990.

UNITED KINGDOM

In June the ICRC carried out a follow-up visit to 1,634 prisoners in four detention centres: Magilligan, Maghaberry, Belfast and Maze.

USSR

The ICRC travelled to the Soviet Union on several occasions, in particular to Moscow, Vilnius, Minsk, Kiev, Tashkent and Boukhara. The aim of the visits was, on the one hand, to develop contacts with

Red Cross and Red Crescent representatives and government officials, and on the other hand, to participate in seminars on international humanitarian law and human rights.

Two ICRC delegates took part in a seminar on detention matters in the USSR organized in October by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Bukhara, Uzbekistan.

In December the ICRC was invited to participate in a course on the promotion of international humanitarian law within the Soviet Armed Forces, chaired by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Soviet Army. Military Regional Commanders and army legal advisers attended this seminar.

YUGOSLAVIA

Following negotiations begun with the Yugoslav federal authorities the previous year, an agreement was reached enabling delegates to carry out an initial series of visits to 291 sentenced security detainees held in various places of detention in all the country's republics and provinces. These visits, which took place from April to June, were conducted in accordance with standard ICRC procedures, in particular interviews without witnesses between delegates and detainees selected by them. As is customary, it was agreed that the visits would be repeated at intervals yet to be determined.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1990				
<i>EUROPE</i>				
Country	Medical assistance	Relief		Total
	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	(Tonnes)	Sw. fr.
Romania	14,680,205	18,225,164	6,783.5	32,905,369