

SYRIA

In 1990, the delegation based in Damascus was mainly concerned with activities related to the regional conflicts in the Middle East, specifically the hostilities in the territories occupied by Israel and in Lebanon. The ICRC continued to assist the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society with a nutritional programme for children.

The delegation provided tracing services in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent primarily for separated families living in Syria and the territories occupied by Israel. A total of 2,320 Red Cross messages were handled by the delegation and 21 families were reunited in 1990.

The ICRC provided technical support for the Doummar orthopaedic centre in Damascus.

North Africa

WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT

Up to the end of the period covered by this report, the ICRC continued working for the repatriation on humanitarian grounds of 200 Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front. No date had been set for the repatriation by year's end.

The ICRC continued parallel discussions with the Polisario Front and the Moroccan government.

With the Polisario Front, the ICRC discussed visits to the Moroccan prisoners.

Talks held with the Moroccan government centred on the notification of capture which would enable prisoners to be visited.

The ICRC handled 1,540 Red Cross messages between Moroccan prisoners of war and their families.

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

ARABIAN PENINSULA: (*Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Republic of Yemen, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates*).

The ICRC regional delegate for the Arabian Peninsula was based in Geneva. Nevertheless, since 2 August 1990 the delegate in charge was present in the region. (*For further details see Iraq/Kuwait above*).

In addition, this regional delegation was responsible for visits to detainees in the Republic of Yemen.

TUNIS: (*Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Western Sahara*).

The delegation continued to develop contacts with the authorities and the National Societies of the respective countries in the region.

MAURITANIA — Between 26 October and 21 November, an ICRC team, including a medical doctor, visited 765 prisoners, 140 of them security detainees, in 13 places of detention. Reports on the visits were submitted to the authorities.

This was the second such series of visits made by the ICRC in Mauritania.

In cooperation with the Mauritanian Red Crescent, the delegation continued tracing activities, such as the exchange of family news, in behalf of victims of the

conflict between Mauritania and Senegal. A total of 2,876 Red Cross messages were handled by the delegation in 1990.

LIBYA — Throughout the year, the delegation participated in negotiations in behalf of Libyan prisoners of war held in detention centres in Chad. (*See also Central and West Africa*).

In December, 433 Libyan POWs were released when the government changed in N'Djamena. The regional delegate met with Libyan authorities in Tunis to discuss plans to visit the former POWs. Following their repatriation, the ICRC interviewed the former prisoners of war to determine whether they had returned voluntarily to Libya.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1990
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH ARFICA

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Medical assistance	Relief		Total Sw. fr.
	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	(Tonnes)	
Iraq	211,936	808,012	35.2	1,019,948
Iran	6,792			6,792
Israel and the occupied territories	394,712	1,665,803	297.7	2,060,515
Jordan	137,943	6,339,971	1,074.7	6,477,914
Lebanon	1,190,785	4,267,734	3,192.3	5,458,519
Mauritania	1,305			1,305
Western Sahara (conflict in)		200,923	12.5	200,923
Syria	21,561	256,846	84	278,407
TOTAL	1,965,034	13,539,289	4,696.4	15,504,323