

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Africa

Mission of the delegate general

Between 18 November and 12 December, Mr. Frank Schmidt, ICRC delegate general for Africa, carried out a mission which took him successively to Uganda, Ethiopia and the Sudan.

In Kampala, where he stayed from 20 to 27 November, Mr. Schmidt held discussions with representatives of the authorities, notably Mr. Paulo Muwanga, chairman of the military committee. He also met Mr. Milton Obote who subsequently became President of the Republic, following the elections on 10 December.

At Addis Ababa, from 29 November to 6 December, the delegate general had discussions with several members of the government, including the Minister of Health and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and with representatives of the National Red Cross Society.

Finally, from 7 to 12 December, Mr. Schmidt stayed in Khartoum (see below under "Sudan").

Namibia / South West Africa

From 19 November to 8 December, having received the necessary authorizations, ICRC delegates visited three condemned prisoners and four people detained under Proclamation AG 26.

These visits were conducted in accordance with the usual ICRC criteria.

The prisoners visited were, moreover, given permission to correspond with their families through the ICRC.

On 28 November, Mr. O. R. Tambo, President of the African National Congress (ANC), delivered a statement to the President of the ICRC in which his movement pledged to respect the principles of international

humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, in its struggle in South Africa. The text of the statement is given elsewhere in the *Review*.

Angola

During November and December, danger and logistic difficulties somewhat hampered the medical aid and relief operations of the ICRC in Angola. In November, distributions of food, soap, blankets and clothes in aid of some 40,000 displaced persons in the northern zone (Bailundo) and the eastern zone (Katchiungo) totalled approximately 130 tons. In December, operations in the field were suspended, conditions being deemed too hazardous. Nevertheless, on 4 and 5 December, delegates provided the special feeding centre at Katchiungo with supplies for a month and delivered 6 tons of semolina in aid of 750 displaced persons; at Alto Chiumbo and at Kaialula, they organized a general distribution of food for a month.

The activity of the ICRC medical team was particularly focused on training local staff who work in the six health stations set up by the ICRC to provide first aid to the inhabitants of about fifteen villages. An anti-scabies campaign was started in the orphanage of Bailundo (280 children). In the same locality, bandages and dressings were delivered to the State hospital and to the Protestant Mission hospital. In addition, the medical team conducted surveys at Trappa, Sachipangela and Valodia and closely followed progress at the special feeding centre of Katchiungo.

The orthopedic centre for amputees at Bomba Alta fitted ten more patients with artificial limbs in November.

With a view to the programme in Angola for the first six months of 1981 an on-the-spot survey was carried out from 19 to 30 November by Mr. Philippe Dind, head of the ICRC Relief Division.

Zimbabwe

A new air-lift was organized to transport relief supplies from Zimbabwe to Angola. In the course of three flights on 10, 23 and 25 November, 35 tons of food, 10 tons of soap, rolls of plastic sheeting, medicines, various material and stores and three cross-country vehicles were delivered to Huambo.

Ethiopia

From the beginning of November to 8 December, the ICRC delegation at Addis Ababa supplied the Ethiopian Red Cross with 140 tons

of food, 12 tons of dried milk, 40 bales of blankets and 12 bales of cotton material, representing a total value of 260,000 Swiss francs, for distribution in the administrative provinces of Gondar, Harar, Bale, Sidamo, Tigre and Eritrea. Various medical stores were also delivered to supply the dispensaries in the region of Asmara.

Since its foundation in January 1979 and up to the end of November 1980, the rehabilitation centre for the war disabled, set up by the ICRC at Debra Zeit, has produced 513 pairs of crutches, 601 artificial limbs and 53 wheel-chairs. Eight specialists from the ICRC, assisted by fifty-five employees recruited locally work in this centre.

Sudan

From 7 to 12 December, a delegation from the ICRC took part in the XXIInd Conference of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, organized by the Sudanese Red Crescent. The delegation was led by Mr. Jacques Moreillon, director of the department of Principles and Law at the ICRC, and included Mr. Frank Schmidt, delegate general, and Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, regional delegate.

Somalia

From 7 to 18 December, Mr. Hans-Peter Gasser, head of the legal division, and Mr. Francis Amar, assistant to the director of the Department of Operations, were in the Somali Democratic Republic at the invitation of the authorities. Received by the leaders of the National Red Crescent, they had several discussions with the Minister of Defence and Vice-President of the Republic, the Minister for Local Governments and Rural Development, the Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office, the Commander-in-Chief of the Prison Service and other government officials. Problems inherent in the aid and welfare mission of the ICRC were raised during these conversations.

On the 14 December, the two ICRC delegates visited, for the second time, a Cuban prisoner of war (already visited by the ICRC in May 1979) and obtained permission to visit the Ethiopian prisoners of war captured following the fighting in the Ogaden, on behalf of whom numerous applications have been made by the ICRC since 1977. As a result, 197 prisoners were seen on 14 December and seven others on the 15 December in the outskirts of the capital. During these visits, capture cards were filled out and family messages written by the prisoners.

From 9 to 12 December, Mr. Gasser and Mr. Amar made a tour of the region bordering Ethiopia (in the North-Eastern Province)

accompanied by members of the Red Crescent and by a representative of the Ministry of Defence, with a view to organizing aid for civilian victims of the fighting.

Uganda

Following a survey in the districts of Arua and Moyo, from 10 to 13 November by the head of the ICRC delegation at Kampala, an emergency programme was initiated in aid of the civilian victims of armed combats which had broken out at the beginning of October in the West Nile province in north-western Uganda. The first truck loaded with 10 tons of relief supplies (food, medicines, blankets, kitchen utensils, soap) was sent to Moyo on 17 November. It was followed on 27 November by a second consignment of 8.5 tons of food (maize, dried milk, oil), a gift from the World Food Programme and from "CARE-Uganda".

The beneficiaries of the aid were principally civilians taking refuge in and around the missions. Four centres for distributing milk to children and women in labour were set up at Arua and Nebbi. In addition, hospitals and dispensaries were supplied with medicines. Four batches of medicines and two of dressings were dispatched to the hospital at Moyo on 20 December.

Moreover, within the context of its traditional activities, the ICRC carried on with its visits to detention centres in Uganda. From 19 to 21 November, a delegate and a nurse went to the prisons of Jinja, Luzira and Murchison Bay where they delivered various relief supplies, including 1.6 tons of dried milk, food, medicines, soap and recreational items. Relief supplies of the same kind were distributed in the prisons of Mbale and Soroti between 25 and 28 November. A special visit was made to sick prisoners and a programme started to fit disabled prisoners with artificial limbs.

In October and November, the Tracing Agency in Kampala opened 58 new inquiries and transmitted 3,033 family messages.

Chad

As reported in the previous issue of the *International Review*, the ICRC was compelled to suspend its activities in Chad at the beginning of October, and to recall its delegates to Geneva, because conditions had become too dangerous to continue working there.

In mid-December, following the fall of N'Djamena to the armed forces of the Government of the National Union of Transition (GUNT),

the ICRC was invited by the GUNT president to resume its operations in Chad. As a result, five delegates including a specialist from the Central Tracing Agency and two nurses arrived in N'Djamena on 21 December, to bring emergency aid to the civilian and military victims of the fighting. There they joined Dr. Charles Jeanmaire, former ICRC delegate in Chad, who was engaged in looking after the refugees from Chad at Kousseri, under the programme of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The first task of the delegates was to conduct a tour of the hospitals of N'Djamena and the outskirts of Farcha where they delivered 300 kilos of medical relief supplies (basic medicines and dressings). Contacts were also made with the authorities with a view to resuming protection operations and the activities of the Tracing Agency.

Latin America

Mission of the delegate general

Mr. André Pasquier, ICRC delegate general for Latin America, carried out a mission in Argentina and Chile from 3 to 17 December.

In Argentina, where he stayed until 10 December, the delegate general met Colonel Cerda, Legal and Technical Under-Secretary to the Presidency, and senior officials of the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice, with whom he reviewed the ICRC protective activities in the country.

In Chile, Mr. Pasquier took part in the visit to the Santiago prison and had discussions with the president of the National Red Cross Society.

Argentina

The last series of visits to detention centres in Argentina for 1980 finished on 15 December. During the last three months of the year, the delegates of the ICRC visited the prisons of Caseros and La Plata, where they saw, respectively, 214 and 673 detainees, and four other detention centres with a total of 91 detainees. In addition, a medical delegate visited three detainees in the hospital at Borda.

Bolivia

The protection and aid programme of the ICRC in Bolivia for the benefit of political detainees and their families came to an end on 18

December with the departure from La Paz of the last remaining delegates. Begun shortly after the change of regime on 17 July 1980, this programme was completed by the end of November with the release, expulsion from the country or placing under house arrest of people who had been detained on account of the events.

From 2 August to 4 December, ICRC delegates made 84 visits to 18 places of detention in Bolivia: 9 in La Paz and 9 in the provinces, including four in the tropical region of the country. During that period, the number of detainees visited totalled 664, including 36 women. Some of the detainees were visited several times.

The relief supplies delivered to the detainees (food, straw mattresses, blankets, clothes, kitchen utensils, recreational items), and the financial aid provided to the most needy of the prisoners' families, represented a value of approximately 22,000 dollars.

Chile

Mr. François Robadey, ICRC regional delegate for the countries of the Southern Cone, based in Buenos Aires, started a new series of visits to detention centres in Chile. From 27 November to 14 December, he visited four centres where he saw a total of 78 detainees. During a visit to the "Penitenciaría" in Santiago, in which the delegate general for Latin America took part, 620 kilos of food was delivered to the detainees.

Ecuador

While in Ecuador from 13 to 16 November, Mr. Armin Kobel, ICRC regional delegate for the Andean countries, took part in the first Symposium for the propagation of international humanitarian law, meeting at Machala, where he conducted two debates on the activities of the ICRC in Latin America.

Nicaragua

During the last two months of 1980, the delegates of the ICRC twice visited the two large detention centres at Managua: the "Centro de readaptación social Jorge Navarro" (ex Carcel Modelo) and the "Centro de readaptación social héroes y mártires de Nueva Guinea" (formerly Zona Franca). During the first visit they saw 2,355 detainees in the first centre and 1,870 in the second.

In the provinces, the delegates visited Chinandega (where they saw respectively 518 and 400 detainees in two detention centres), Granada

(also with two centres holding respectively 73 and 266 detainees), Jinotepe (245 detainees) and Masaya (602 detainees).

At the same time the ICRC approached the authorities with a view to extending its protection to all the detainees in Nicaragua. To this end, it requested access to places under the control of State Security, as it had been visiting only places within the jurisdiction of the national prison system.

During the second half of 1980, 293 tons of food, representing a value of 258,000 dollars, was distributed to prisons.

In order to be able to carry on its protection and aid programmes in Nicaragua during 1981, the ICRC appealed at the beginning of December to certain governments and National Red Cross Societies for 2.5 million Swiss francs.

El Salvador

During the last months of 1980, the renewed outbreak of violence in El Salvador prompted the ICRC to devote particular attention to the condition of several tens of thousands of displaced persons—mainly women, children and old people—in various parts of the country, especially in Chalatenango, Cabanas, San Vicente, Morazán and San Miguel.

Acting in co-operation with the Salvadorean Red Cross, the ICRC had drawn up a plan, as early as the month of October, for emergency aid to some 45,000 civilians in the fighting areas that were difficult to reach. First and foremost, the Red Cross programme aimed to supply food and medical supplies, as well as clothes and kitchen utensils.

Started at the beginning of November, aid to these victims of events steadily increased, insofar as security conditions permitted the relief convoys to arrive on site and the delegates of the Red Cross to carry out distributions. By the end of December, over 20 tons of food had been distributed in aid of 3,500 people in the regions to the north and centre of the country and 93 tons in the region of San Miguel where 42,000 displaced persons had been recorded in a census taken on 1 November—a figure that had fallen to 23,000 by 20 December.

Following an assessment of the structure and resources of the principal hospitals in the country, the ICRC, in conjunction with the National Society, drew up a programme for the collection of blood in order to establish emergency stocks to supply hospitals. A medical delegate left Geneva for San Salvador in January 1981 for the purpose of setting up this blood collection centre and supervising its organization.

To provide protection, the ICRC delegates made 267 visits to detention centres in San Salvador and the provinces between 15 June and 23 December 1980, gaining access to a total of 537 prisoners. Some of these were visited several times.

During the last five months of the year, the Tracing Agency at San Salvador received some 700 requests for inquiry into missing persons. Nearly 160 cases were solved, including about 50 people located by the ICRC delegates during their visits to places of detention.

Asia

Mission by a member of the Committee to Thailand and Cambodia

Dr. Athos Gallino, a member of the Committee, carried out a mission in Thailand and Cambodia from 17 to 24 November. He was accompanied by Dr. Rémi Russbach, chief medical officer, and Mr. René Kosirnik, delegate in charge of the Cambodia-Thailand action at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

During his stay in Thailand, Dr. Gallino travelled the length of the Khmer-Thai frontier visiting medical centres in which treatment is dispensed to Cambodian national under the medical aid programme of the ICRC. He also went to the camp at Prasat Sarokot (NW9), where refugees of Vietnamese origin are housed.

In Kampuchea, Dr. Gallino visited three of the five hospitals functioning with ICRC assistance, in Kompong Speu, Takhmau and Svay Rieng, where are working the medical teams provided by the National Red Cross Societies of Hungary, the USSR and Sweden, respectively.

Assistance to Kampuchean people

Financing of the relief operation for the Khmer population in Thailand and Kampuchea was discussed at two meetings held by donor countries on 19 November and 10 December in New York, under the aegis of the United Nations. During the second meeting, thirteen States and governmental organizations announced contributions totalling 63.6 million dollars. Eleven others promised contributions of sums as yet unspecified. The budget presented by the organizations engaged in humanitarian operations in aid of the populations of Kampuchea (ICRC, UNICEF, HCR, FAO, WFP) amounts to approximately 200 million dollars for 1981.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, director of the Operations Department, represented the ICRC at these two meetings and on the same occasion he had talks with leading officials of the United Nations and representatives of several donor countries.

On 31 December 1980, UNICEF and the ICRC ended their joint participation in the humanitarian assistance programme to the Khmer population, while continuing to collaborate closely. In 1981 the ICRC will concentrate on its traditional activities. In Kampuchea, for instance, it will continue to provide medical assistance and will try to extend its tracing and protection functions. In Thailand it will pursue its medical activities and its duties of protection and seeking missing persons. The Bangkok delegation will remain the logistic base for the action as a whole.

Kampuchea

It was a year ago, on 19 January 1980, that the ICRC medical action began in Kampuchea, with the arrival of the first medical team provided by National Societies, which was sent by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR. This group was followed by four others, from the Red Cross Societies of Hungary, Poland, the German Democratic Republic and Sweden. In twelve months these doctors and technicians have made it possible for the ICRC, working with other organizations, to repair, re-equip and restock five hospitals in four provinces of Kampuchea.

Over the same period the ICRC was engaged in reactivating the medical infrastructure in Kampuchea, by organizing the distribution, in village and district dispensaries, of about 500 "units" of assorted basic medicines and paramedical material to a value of 600,000 dollars.

In a mission to Kampuchea from 20 November to 1 December 1980, Dr. Rémi Russbach visited the five hospitals where the ICRC teams were working. He was thus able to evaluate the medical work performed during the emergency period of the action and to draw up the general outline of the assistance programme for the first few months of 1981. Before leaving Phnom Penh, Dr. Russbach had an interview with the Minister of Health, Mr. Nu Beng.

Relief supplies have been ferried in by the ICRC aircraft shuttling between Bangkok and Phnom Penh: it made 40 flights between 4 November and 31 December, transporting 493 tons of supplies to a value of 1,058,000 dollars. A further 139 tons of relief goods were taken into Kampuchea during the same period for other organizations, particularly the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR).

Thailand

Several surveys having led to the conclusion that the situation no longer required emergency action, the ICRC suspended its participation in the programme of food relief on the Khmer-Thai frontier on 16 December. The last distributions at the two "land bridges" of Ban Kalor and Nong Chan were made on the 8-9 and 15-16 December: on these occasions rations of rice were handed out to a total of 24,588 persons, 4,560 of whom arrived at the two distribution points in ox-drawn carts. From 1 November to mid-December, the relief distributed at the "land bridges" totalled more than 4,600 tons, representing about 1,690,000 dollars. Also during this period, some 84 tons of food and various relief supplies (approximate value 40,000 dollars) were handed over by the ICRC to about 3,000 refugees of Vietnamese origin living in Camp NW9.

The medical activity included a vaccination campaign in the north of Aranyaprathet for roughly 1150 children ranging in age from 3 months to 12 years. The anti-malaria programme was successful, resulting in a considerable drop in the number of deaths in the camps. The ICRC medical teams continued the transfer of sick persons from the frontier to hospitals in the holding centres. Finally, the four centres for traditional medicine, set up by the ICRC at Khao-I-Dang, Sakeo and Kamput, treated an average of 1,700 patients a day. In November and December, the ICRC's medical and paramedical assistance on the Khmer-Thai frontier amounted to 198,200 dollars.

The tracing agency in Bangkok, the staff of which at the end of December numbered ten delegates and around one hundred people recruited locally, was kept very busy in the last two months of the year. In November alone, 815 new enquiries were begun and 113 completed. Also the agency sent out or received 120,289 letters and carried out some 500 transfers of persons.

Mr. Ulrich Wasser, director of the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva, visited Thailand from 1 to 6 December, in order to study on the spot the problems related to tracing activities, with an eye to the 1981 action programme.

Indonesia

On 26 November, under the programme for reuniting families between East Timor and Portugal, the ICRC organized the transfer of two persons, an adult who was sick and a child. Six children from

East Timor had previously been flown to their parents in Lisbon, under the auspices of the ICRC, on 8 October.

Pakistan

In October and November, Dr. Pascal Grellety, ICRC medical co-ordinator, twice went to the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan to visit the ICRC mobile medical teams working in the camps of Afghan refugees in the Kurram and in North Waziristan. Another purpose of his missions was to study the possibility of improving the ICRC's medical aid, in particular by setting up and equipping permanent dispensaries in the principal camps.

On 30 November, the first two dispensaries, each to be run by two locally recruited nurses, one male, one female, and serving a population of about 40,000 refugees, were put into service in the camps at Tindu and Satin (in the Kurram). Similar permanent medical centres are to be established in other camps, such as that at Adisai, about thirty kilometres from Peshawar.

The ICRC also proposed to the Pakistan Government that a fourth medical team be installed in the Peshawar area. At the beginning of January 1981 the Pakistan authorities gave permission for the opening of two medical centres in Peshawar, one specializing in post-operative treatment and the other reserved for women and children.

It should also be mentioned that the ICRC provided aid in the form of parcels of dressings and of basic medicines to various organizations (e.g. "Médecins sans Frontières") helping victims of the conflict in Afghanistan.

Philippines

From 26 October to 23 November, three ICRC delegates, one of them a doctor, carried out a mission to the Philippines, with the intention of assessing the situation and the needs of the displaced civilians on Mindanao and Samar having fled the fighting between Government armed forces and opposition movements.

The ICRC is supporting the relief action of the Philippines Red Cross to help about 40,000 displaced persons. The Committee sent 1,000 tons of rice and 500 tons of milk powder donated by the European Economic Community (EEC); and gave 40,000 Swiss francs to the National Society for its medical assistance programme.

In its protective capacity, the ICRC continued its negotiations with the authorities in Manila to obtain permission to visit certain categories of detainees to whom it has not yet had access.

Viet Nam

Fourteen Taiwan fishermen whose boat had strayed into Vietnamese territorial waters and who had been detained in Viet Nam since May 1980 were freed and repatriated under ICRC auspices on 4 December.

Middle East

Iraq-Iran conflict

In November and December, the ICRC delegates continued their visits in Iraq and Iran to prisoners of war taken in the armed conflict opposing the two countries.

Following negotiations with the Iraqi authorities, based on the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, the ICRC was authorized to visit the territories occupied by the Iraqi armed forces in order to assess possible humanitarian needs. Between 9 and 22 December, the ICRC delegates visited the areas of Qasrh-e-Shirin, Mehran, Khorramshahr and Shalamjeh, and were able to conclude that material assistance from the ICRC did not appear to be necessary at that stage. Nevertheless, it offered to set up tracing activities for separated families.

In Iran, two ICRC delegates went to Ahwaz on 13 January. They were received by Mr. Bani Sadr, President of the Republic, and General Fallahi, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian forces. The delegates discussed with them problems in relation to the ICRC's protection activities.

In addition to their duties arising from the conflict between Iraq and Iran, the ICRC delegates in Teheran continued to visit political detainees. From 22 November to 1 December, a team composed of five delegates, one of them a doctor, visited 1,088 detainees, including 73 women, in the prison at Evin. In 1980, 3,235 detainees subject to the Islamic courts were seen by the ICRC delegates in eleven towns in Iran.

Israel and the occupied territories

Mr. Jean Hoeffliger, ICRC delegate general for the Middle East, was in Tel-Aviv from 16 to 22 December. This mission enabled him to appraise ICRC activities in Israel and the occupied territories.

Visits to detainees were continued: between 31 October and 2 January 1981 the ICRC delegates made 172 visits to detainees under interrogation in the West Bank (129 of them for the first time), and made 244 other visits (130 for the first time) in the Gaza Strip.

In the same period, visits were made to the prisons of Kfar Yona, Nafha, Jenin, Neve Tirza, Ramleh, Beersheba, Ramallah and Gaza.

Transfers

On 24 November two Lebanese nationals who had been detained in Israel were transferred to Lebanon under ICRC auspices.

On the same day, two transfers between the occupied territory of Golan and Syria were organized by the ICRC to reunite a family in Syria and to repatriate a person who had been detained in Israel and had completed his sentence.

Two other transfers took place across the Allenby Bridge through the good offices of the ICRC: on 12 December a South Korean national who had strayed into Israel was taken back to Jordan; the same day the Jordan authorities handed over to the Israeli authorities a youth who had strayed into Jordanian territory.

Lebanon

Emergency medical supplies were sent by the ICRC delegates on 22 December to Zahlé, where the local branch of the Lebanese Red Cross was treating some 50 wounded persons, following fighting between troops of two opposing factions. The town was surrounded and cut off from the outside; nevertheless the delegates succeeded in evacuating an injured woman to the hospital and later took a sick man to Beirut. Two surveys were subsequently made in Zahlé; one sick person was transferred to Beirut on 26 December.

In the last quarter of 1980, the Beirut tracing agency opened 51 inquiries and completed eleven. In addition, it sent 1,371 family messages, carried out eight transfers of persons between various zones within Lebanon, and issued three travel documents.

Jordan

From 1 to 20 December, a team composed of three ICRC delegates made a fresh series of visits to seven places of detention in Jordan. During the visits, sports equipment and leisure items were handed to the detainees.

The ICRC delegation in Amman carries out two series of visits a year to all detainees in Jordan. The visits mentioned above were part of these series.

In addition, the delegation visits every three weeks all security detainees under interrogation.

All these visits are made according to usual ICRC procedures.

The ICRC delegation is the only means of rapid communication between dispersed families, some of whose members live in Jordan and others in the occupied territories. Each week the delegation sends and receives family messages written on Red Cross forms (about 8,700 such family messages were exchanged in 1980); it transmits urgent family messages by radio (8,450 radio messages were exchanged between Amman and Jerusalem in 1980).

Red Cross family messages are subject to strict rules: they may only contain personal or family news to the exclusion of any other matter (commercial, for example).

Arab Republic of Yemen

Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, regional delegate for the Middle East and North Africa, carried out a mission in the Arab Republic of Yemen from 12 to 21 December. During his stay in Sanaa, Mr. Bornet had talks with representatives of the authorities and with the leaders of the "Red Crescent" of North Yemen. He also visited two places of detention
