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I. OPERATIONS

In 1974 the ICRC undertook large-scale action following the outbreak of hostilities in Cyprus in July. Concurrently it pursued its activities on behalf of victims of conflicts in the Middle East, in Indo-China and in the Asian sub-continent.

The ICRC also consolidated its presence in southern Africa.

In Chile it intensified its action on behalf of detainees, and its programmes of assistance to the families of detainees were considerably increased.

Through its regional delegations in Africa, Latin America, South-East Asia and the Middle East, the ICRC developed its contacts with National Societies and public authorities in many countries and thereby contributed to a greater awareness of the principles of the Red Cross and of international humanitarian law. It continued to visit places of detention.

Altogether the ICRC visited in 1974 some 24,000 prisoners of war and about 310 places of detention holding more than 90,000 persons detained for offences or on grounds of a political nature, or for offences under common law.

In the field of relief the ICRC expended 2,257,163 Swiss francs on supplies from Geneva and on local purchases made by delegations in the framework of its traditional activities.

Further, it arranged for forty-nine consignments to thirty-four countries, totalling 9,981 tons of food donated by the European Economic Community and the Swiss Government. To these figures should be added the special activities in Cyprus and Chile, where the relief aid distributed by the ICRC accounted for 10.5 and 2.5 million Swiss francs respectively.

To fulfil its various tasks the ICRC maintained some 130 delegates in the field on a permanent footing.