

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1976)

Rubrik: Telecommunications

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Telecommunications

Traffic analysis

In 1976, the number of radio telegraph messages between ICRC headquarters and delegations in the field totalled 11,871 as compared with 7,780 in 1975, an increase of more than 33%. Exchanges with the Middle East ran far ahead of all others, accounting for 73% of the total.

A total of 23,739 such messages was exchanged between field stations.

These figures do not include radiotelephone conversations which enabled the responsible officials in Geneva to follow closely, sometimes hour by hour, changing situations in the field.

The total of telex, telegraph and radio traffic increased by 60%, with 25,626 messages as compared to 16,398 in 1975.

ICRC stations in service in 1976

Headquarters. — The ICRC radio station at Versoix near Geneva has been in service since December 1974. The station at headquarters continued to be used however, to ensure continuous weekend service and provide for radiotelephone conversations when the Versoix station was overloaded.

The telecommunications service in Geneva employed 17 persons, regular and part-time, in 1976 as compared with 12 in 1975.

Field stations. — Six new stations were opened in 1976, at Lusaka, Huambo, Nicosia, Salisbury, Jounieh and Tripoli. The stations at Huambo and Luanda were subsequently closed.

As of 31 December 1976, the network consisted of:

12 stations in direct communication with Geneva:

- Amman, Jordan
- West Beirut, Lebanon
- Jounieh, Lebanon
- Tripoli, Lebanon
- Cairo, Egypt
- Rawalpindi, Pakistan
- Vientiane, Laos
- Lusaka, Zambia
- Salisbury, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe
- Lomé, Togo
- Santiago, Chile
- Caracas, Venezuela

4 stations with indirect communication with Geneva:

- Damascus, via Amman
- Dacca, via Rawalpindi
- Bangkok, via Vientiane
- New Delhi, via Rawalpindi

2 stations without communication with Geneva:

- Nicosia
- Jerusalem

A total of 19 radio operators were on mission during the year.

Red Cross emergency network

The number of National Societies which had either installed their own radio stations or obtained authorization to use frequencies and call signals assigned to the Red Cross remained unchanged as compared with 1975 (see list in 1975 annual report).