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forwarding of the supplies and their distribution were carried out by the Ethiopian Red Cross and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission.

For the displaced persons on the other side of the fighting line, two consignments were taken in by air from Nairobi during September: 6 tons of relief supplies, comprising tents, blankets and medical supplies.

As the needs of the victims increased, the ICRC found it necessary to make plans to send relief to the Ogaden by truck from Nairobi, via Somalia. A relief delegate was sent to Nairobi to co-ordinate the operation.

However, as a result of a decision by the Kenyan authorities, a convoy carrying food supplies was held up at the border between Kenya and Somalia, and the ICRC was forced to rethink its methods of sending relief to the Ogaden. It decided to do so by direct charter flights from Geneva to Mogadishu. The Somali Red Crescent undertook to forward the supplies to the combat zone, where the regional delegate and a doctor delegate helped in the distribution.

### Relief statistics

Since the beginning of its relief operations for the victims of the conflict in the Ogaden, the ICRC has sent 258 tons of relief supplies (44 tons of medicines and medical supplies, 212 tons of food, tents and blankets and 2 tons of soap), to a total value of 1,757,100 Swiss francs.

These figures do not include the consignments of food sent by the Swiss Confederation, listed on page 32 of the present report.

### Protection

*ETHIOPIA.* — In the course of the discussions with the First Vice-President of the DERG, the regional delegate asked to be given a list of prisoners in Ethiopian hands and permission to visit them.

In addition, he expressed the wish for the prisoners to be relocated in the capital, in a single place of detention, to facilitate the visits, since the combat zones were prohibited to non-military personnel for security reasons.

The first two items in his request were granted, and on 2 August the regional delegate visited two prisoners in hospital in Dire Dawa and another held in Addis Ababa.

When the delegate general for Africa visited Ethiopia during his mission in October, the authorities handed him a list of 161 persons reported missing. The ICRC transmitted the list to the opposing party.

*SOMALIA.* — In October the ICRC regional delegate was in Mogadishu and visited 150 persons (a list of whose names had

been supplied to him) held in the Geladi centre in the Ogaden. Family messages written by the prisoners were sent to Addis Ababa for distribution by the Ethiopian Red Cross.

## Southern Africa

The aggravation of the situation in southern Africa induced the ICRC to step up its activities in that region.

It took many steps in accordance with its traditional protection activities in order to obtain permission to visit all persons being detained as a result of the current conflicts—although, in fact, it was able to visit only certain categories of detainees.

In addition, the ICRC increased its medical aid to victims of the conflicts by supporting the medico-social infrastructure which already existed or was being created. It also provided additional food supplies reserved, first and foremost, for children, women, and the sick and wounded victims of the events taking place. In order to carry out this programme, the ICRC made three appeals (in February, June and December) to governments, National Societies and the specialized international agencies in order to obtain their financial and material support. The ICRC relied for support in performing its humanitarian tasks in the field, on the governments, National Societies and liberation movements in the countries concerned.

The ICRC delegates kept in touch with the representatives of the southern African liberation movements including the "Patriotic Front" (ZAPU and ZANU) and the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO). Through such contacts, the ICRC developed its co-operation with these movements in providing humanitarian aid and protection and disseminating knowledge of the principles of humanitarian law and of the Red Cross.

Several batches of drugs were handed over to the representatives of these movements in Angola, Mozambique and Zambia.

## Rhodesia/Zimbabwe

The ICRC delegation in Salisbury — consisting of a single delegate at the beginning of 1977 — grew considerably during the year. During the first half of the year, the Head of Delegation was joined by an Agency delegate and a field delegate. From June, the second delegate centred his activities on the western part of the country, once an office had been opened in Bulawayo.

During the second half, the delegation was reinforced by another four people with the arrival of an administrator, a

delegate responsible in the main for problems relating to detention, a doctor and a nurse to supervise medical activities in the "protected villages".

*APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW.* — In view of the development of the situation in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, the President of the ICRC sent the following appeal to the various leaders of the parties in conflict on 14 January 1977:

*In November 1976, on the occasion of the Geneva Conference on Rhodesia, senior staff members of the International Committee of the Red Cross and myself met with the leaders of all the delegations attending the Conference and reviewed with them the humanitarian problems arising from the armed conflict opposing the nationalist movements and the authorities of Salisbury.*

*In view of the increasing number of victims caused by the armed struggle and the possible escalation in the fighting should the Conference not end in a negotiated solution, we invited all the parties to the conflict to respect and to make their combatants apply in practice the existing humanitarian law and in particular the following basic humanitarian principles:*

*1. Persons "hors de combat" and those taking no direct part in hostilities are entitled to respect for their life, and for their physical and moral dignity. They shall in all circumstances be protected and treated humanely, without any adverse distinction.*

*2. The wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for by the party to the conflict which has them in its power. Protection also covers medical personnel, medical establishments, means of transport and equipment. The Red Cross is the emblem denoting that such protection must be given; it may not be displayed for any other purpose and shall always be respected.*

*3. It is forbidden to kill or wound an enemy who is "hors de combat" or who surrenders.*

*4. Prisoners of war and civilians in the power of the adverse party are entitled to respect for their life, their dignity, their family rights and their convictions. They shall be protected from any act of violence. They shall be entitled to exchange news with their families and to receive relief consignments.*

*5. Everyone shall enjoy basic judicial guarantees. No one shall be held responsible for an act he has not committed. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel or degrading punishment or treatment.*

*6. Parties to a conflict and their armed forces do not have an unlimited choice of methods and means of warfare. It is forbidden to use weapons or any methods of warfare likely to cause unnecessary losses or suffering.*

*7. Parties to a conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants, in order to spare the population and civilian objects. They shall direct their attacks only against military objectives.*

*We further asked that the ICRC be granted full facilities for visiting prisoners taken on both sides and for providing humanitarian aid to civilians falling victim to the fighting. In particular, we repeated to Mr. Ian Smith the request by the ICRC that it be allowed to visit all of the nationalist fighters taken bearing weapons and anyone else arrested in connection with the fighting (sentenced prisoners as well as the 30 and 60-day detainees) in addition to the administrative detainees whom the ICRC delegates had been visiting regularly for many years.*

*Although negotiations are continuing in quest of a peaceful solution, we fear that fighting, and hence suffering, may well intensify. The ICRC would, therefore, urgently appeal to all parties to the conflict asking them publicly to undertake to respect and apply humanitarian law, the basic principles of which have been summarized above. It offers its services to the parties and would ask them to provide its delegates with every facility so that they may succour the victims.*

As a result, on 16 June 1977, Mr. Joshua N'Komo announced the intention of the African National Council-Zimbabwe African People's Union (ANC-ZAPU) to undertake to apply the Geneva Conventions and the Protocol I, additional thereto. On 8 September Reverend Sithole of the ANC undertook to respect the Geneva Conventions and the two additional Protocols, and the Executive Committee of Bishop Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC) followed suit on 23 September 1977.

On 28 July, the President of the ICRC sent a message to the Rhodesian Prime Minister. In that message, the ICRC recalled its appeal of 14 January and proposed that the Rhodesian Government should either declare its intention to apply the Geneva Conventions and Protocol I or else undertake to respect the basic principles of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC approached the Rhodesian Prime Minister on 2 December to have the execution of all the nationalists sentenced to death deferred.

The ICRC had still received no official reply to these two overtures to the Rhodesian Government by the end of the year.

Furthermore, the ICRC also tried to obtain from all parties to the conflict an undertaking that the protective red cross emblem would be respected so that hospitals and clinics might be spared from the effects of the fighting. At the end of August, the Rhodesian Minister of Health informed the ICRC that he agreed to the display of the red cross emblem by hospitals and medical staff.

*VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION.* — Early in April, the delegate-general for Africa undertook a mission to Salisbury with the prime aim of obtaining access to all persons being detained as a result of the conflict, including the freedom fighters who had been captured and sentenced to periods of imprisonment and the 30 and 60-day detainees.

Despite that mission and various steps taken by the delegation during the year, the Salisbury authorities did not permit any extension of ICRC visits to those categories of prisoners. They did, however, allow the ICRC to visit administrative detainees who had been interned without trial under the Emergency Regulations.

Two series of visits to such detainees were carried out in 1977. The first, from 2 to 16 May, was to eight detention centres containing 817 inmates (Wha-Wha, Gwelo, Connemara, Que-Que, Gatooma, Salisbury Remand, Buffalo Range and Chikurubi). The second visit, from 28 November to 9 December, took the ICRC delegates to nine detention centres containing 946 inmates. In fact, they visited the same centres as in May and the Marandellas Prison. On this occasion, the ICRC delegates provided the detainees with various relief supplies (see table on p. 33) and gave the detainees' families some material assistance.

As is customary, the ICRC provided only the government concerned with the official and confidential reports on the delegates' findings. Taking account of certain recommendations, the Rhodesian authorities agreed to free 15 detainees for medical and humanitarian reasons.

*AID.* — At the end of 1976, the Salisbury delegation assessed, as thoroughly as possible, the humanitarian—and especially medical—problems and needs of the civilians assigned by the authorities to the "protected villages". That assessment was supplemented by a medical mission carried out from 8 to 23 August 1977 by the Head of the ICRC Medical Division.

In providing medical aid, the ICRC has, throughout the year, supplied the hospitals and clinics of certain missions with drugs and medical equipment, such missions being the only permanent medical facilities available to the people living in the areas affected by the war. Moreover, financial aid was given to an association concerned with the rehabilitation of persons left handicapped or blind by the fighting.

Since the beginning of the year, the ICRC has also, with the technical support of the Rhodesian Red Cross, launched a programme for the training of Red Cross volunteers recruited from among the inhabitants of the "protected villages".

Once trained, those volunteers assumed responsibility for first aid posts in the villages which, until then, had had no medical facilities. By the end of the year, 31 such posts had been opened in the districts most exposed to military operations.

The ICRC continued to provide the inhabitants of the "protected villages" with material aid in the form of food, clothing and blankets.

## South Africa Namibia/South-West Africa

As the ICRC does not have any permanent delegation in South Africa, the humanitarian problems of that part of the world were dealt with by missions based in Geneva and by the delegations in Rhodesia or Lusaka (Zambia).

### South Africa

*PRESIDENTIAL MISSION.* — The President of the ICRC accompanied by the delegate-general for Africa went on mission to South Africa from 19 to 26 April, in order to discuss with the authorities all the humanitarian problems arising in that country.

He met the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Health, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and representatives of the South African Red Cross. He then went to Robben Island where convicted political prisoners are held.

*PSYCHIATRIC ASYLUMS.* — While on this mission, the President of the ICRC informed the South African authorities of the International Committee's decision not to visit psychiatric asylums, following on the exploratory mission carried out at the end of 1976. The ICRC had decided that, given current circumstances, such visits would take it beyond the normal scope of its activities.

*VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION.* — In this country, the ICRC has access to convicted political prisoners and persons being held under the *Internal Security Amendment Act*. However, it has not obtained access to persons being held under the *Terrorism Act* or other acts relating to security, despite the repeated steps it has taken to this end, including those taken by the President of the ICRC during his mission.

Two series of visits were made during 1977 in South Africa. On the first, from 29 March to 6 April, an ICRC team comprising four delegates and a doctor went to four places of detention—Robben Island, Pretoria and Kroonstadt—where a total of 373 prisoners were being held, and they distributed relief supplies (see table on p. 33).

On the second occasion, from 8 to 14 December, the delegate-general and another delegate, visited persons being held in preventive detention under the *Internal Security Amendment Act*. They went to four detention camps—at Grahamstown, Kingwilliamstown, Modderbee and Johannesburg—holding a total of 61 detainees.

*VISITS TO CUBAN PRISONERS OF WAR.* — In February, April, August and December, ICRC delegates visited three Cuban prisoners of war being held in Pretoria. These prisoners

have been able to correspond regularly with their families through the intermediary of the Cuban Red Cross and the ICRC.

### **Namibia/South-West Africa**

An ICRC delegate went to Namibia/South-West Africa from 19 to 30 July where he contacted the local branch of the National Society.

### **Regional delegation, Lusaka**

The ICRC regional delegate in Lusaka continued his mission liaising with the Zambian government authorities, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR) and other institutions and with the liberation movements represented in Zambia. His aim was to promote respect for and the application of humanitarian principles and to plan new protection and assistance activities to help the victims of the conflicts in Southern Africa.

Also within the scope of his normal duties, he visited Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland.

He helped the ICRC delegates with the various missions and activities they carried out in connection with the conflicts in Southern Africa.

In November 1977, the regional delegate was relieved by a new man who also took over some of the activities of the Nairobi delegation relating to Tanzania, i.e. contacts with the liberation movements represented in Dar-es-Salaam, the OAU Liberation Committee and the Tanzanian Government and Red Cross, to discuss matters concerning the conflict in Southern Africa.

### **Botswana**

The ICRC received two official requests from the Rhodesian Minister of Foreign Affairs asking for help after the departure for Botswana of children settled in missions near to the border with that country. As a result, an ICRC delegate set off for Botswana in February 1977 where he was able to talk, without witnesses, with some of the children at the Francistown camp. The Botswana authorities then authorized the parents of these children to visit them and those who so wished were allowed to return home.

The regional delegate in Lusaka visited Botswana four times, in March, April, May and August 1977. On these occasions, he was able to further his contacts with both the Botswana authorities and the leaders of the National Red Cross Society and to organize material aid for the refugees pouring into the refugee camps at Francistown and Selebi Pikwe.

The Botswana Red Cross, which took the initial steps in providing the refugees with emergency aid, did, however, find itself in financial difficulties. The ICRC consequently made available to it 30,000 Swiss francs for the on-the-spot purchase of relief supplies such as blankets, drugs, basic foodstuffs and clothing, and for the employment of camp managers.

Then, in September, the regional delegate participated in a seminar jointly organized by the Botswana Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies.

Finally, the regional delegate went to Botswana in December 1977 in order to introduce himself to the authorities and to the leaders of the National Society, and to continue his assistance work in the refugee camps.

### **People's Republic of Angola**

An ICRC delegate went to the People's Republic of Angola (PRA) from 10 to 26 September in order to establish contact with the Angola authorities and the leaders of the emergent Red Cross Society.

The purpose of his mission was to inform the Angola authorities of the readiness of the ICRC to help it in its humanitarian tasks. The offer was, however, turned down.

This visit also provided the ICRC delegate with a chance to speak to the senior medical officers of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) and to hand them drugs to a total value of 65,790 Swiss francs.

Furthermore, throughout the year, the ICRC continued to approach the Government with a view to obtaining permission to visit the eight South African soldiers being held in Luanda. Although this permission was not granted, the eight soldiers were allowed to correspond with their families and the ICRC acted as intermediary, conveying parcels to the eight PoWs from their families.

### **Mozambique**

*MAPUTO CONFERENCE.* — The "International Conference for the Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia" was held in Maputo, under the ægis of the United Nations, from 16 to 21 May 1977. Two ICRC observers, the delegate-general for Africa and the assistant delegate to the International Organizations, attended. The ICRC considered this Conference a good opportunity for drawing the attention of all the participants to the humanitarian problems resulting from the armed conflicts being waged in Southern Africa.

Staying on a while in Mozambique, the ICRC representatives were able to contact the Minister of State to the Presidency and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the latter being informed of the wish of the ICRC to open a delegation in Maputo.

**REFUGEE AID.** — On this same mission, the ICRC representatives also spoke to the HCR, the “Patriotic Front” and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) representatives about the situation in the refugee camps. The assistant delegate to the International Organizations then visited two camps with the permission of the Mozambique authorities.

This gave him a chance to meet the camp leaders and to assess the requirements of the inmates. This first contact was followed by two further ICRC missions to Mozambique.

The first, from 26 September to 23 October, aimed at planning—together with the Mozambique authorities, the ZANU and various organizations—continued aid for the Rhodesian/Zimbabwean refugees in Mozambique. The ICRC delegate visited the refugee camps at Doroi and Tronga where most of the requirements proved to be for food and medico-social aid. Then, in December, a second mission was carried out by the Head of the ICRC Medical Division and another delegate. Accompanied by members of the Mozambique authorities, they visited five hospitals—at Maputo, Beira, Chimoio, Tete and Songo—and a clinic at Changara.

With the agreement of the Minister of Health, the Refugee Support Committee, the ZANU and the HCR, the ICRC decided to add its help to the more general and long-term aid provided by the HCR. Consequently, during 1977, it sent relief supplies (of food, drugs, clothing, blankets and three ambulances) valued at 834,092 Swiss francs. This amount does not include what was sent by the Swiss Confederation as listed on page 32. In addition to all this, on-the-spot purchases were made to a value of 50,000 Swiss francs.

The ICRC also gave the League of Red Cross Societies 10,000 Swiss francs to help those who had suffered from the floods.

Finally, the ICRC, the Government, the “Patriotic Front” and ZANU signed an agreement under which the ICRC would contribute financially to treatment and provision of artificial limbs for 27 war casualties. At the end of the year, two more plans were being prepared. One was aimed at increasing the capacity of the Chimoio, Tete and Songo hospitals by providing the Mozambique Ministry of Health with tents, beds, mattresses and blankets to help it cope with emergency situations.

The other consisted in supplying equipment to help with a first aid training programme in the refugee camps.

**APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW.** — The ICRC delegates took the opportunity offered by their missions to Mozambique to raise the question of the application of the Geneva Conventions, the Protocols and the principles of international humanitarian law with those whom they encountered and, in particular, with the Minister of State to the Presidency and the leaders of the ZANU. By the end of 1977, these efforts had still not produced any results.

## **Indo-China**

In January 1977, the Director of the ICRC Department of Operations went on a mission to Viet Nam and Laos, where he was accompanied by the regional delegate of the League, and then to Thailand.

In *Viet Nam*, the two representatives of the International Red Cross met the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Director of the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health and the President and senior officials of the Viet Nam Red Cross. The talks dealt with the assistance programme carried out by the International Red Cross (IRC) in 1976 and its continuance in 1977. There were also discussions of the problems of foreigners who had lacked diplomatic representation since 30 April 1975 and who wished to return to their countries.

In *Laos*, the two IRC spokesmen had talks with leaders of the Laos Red Cross and with representatives of the Ministries for Foreign Affairs and Public Health. The talks provided the basis for a programme of assistance by the International Red Cross, especially for hospitals in Vientiane.

In *Thailand*, the Director of the ICRC Department of Operations met representatives of the Ministries for Foreign Affairs and the Interior and of the Thai Red Cross, with whom he discussed the activities of the ICRC delegation in Bangkok.

Following this mission, it was decided that the relief action carried out jointly by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies for victims of the conflict in Indo-China would continue in 1977. A change was made however in the structure established on 1 April 1975 known as the “Indo-China Section” (INDSEC). Although the International Red Cross maintained its delegations in Viet Nam and Laos, work for the victims in Thailand of the Indo-China conflict became the exclusive administrative responsibility of the ICRC.

INDSEC sent regular reports to donors (governments, National Societies and other organizations) to inform them of the use made of their gifts and of developing needs.

The financial status of the INDSEC action is shown in Tables IX and X on pages 70-71.

## **Viet Nam**

### **Hanoi Delegation**

During the first half of 1977 the IRC delegation, including two delegates of the ICRC, carried out numerous activities in close co-operation with the Red Cross and the authorities of the