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## MIDDLE EAST

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In 1982, as in the previous year, the ICRC had seven delegations in the Middle East: in Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Israel and the occupied territories, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, and also a regional delegation for the Arabian Peninsula based in Geneva. ICRC activities in this part of the world increased significantly from the month of June onwards due to the intervention of the Israeli armed forces in Lebanon. Apart from this theatre of operations which required concerted efforts on the part of all the delegations, activities took place in connection with the war between Iran and Iraq and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The ICRC also continued its protection work in Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic.

In March the President of the ICRC undertook a mission to Saudi Arabia in the company of the Director for Operational Activities and the Head of the Financing Division. He had discussions principally with Prince Saud Al Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Hussein Abdul Razzak Al Jazairi, Minister of Health, and Dr. Abdul Aziz Mudarris, President of the Saudi Red Crescent.

For the year under review, the total value of material assistance and medical relief supplied or despatched to the Middle East amounted to about 48 million Swiss francs, including 41.9 million Swiss francs for the operation in Lebanon alone (see table on page 67).

### **Lebanon**

The nature of ICRC activities in Lebanon changed substantially after the intervention of the Israeli armed forces in that country on 6 June. Prior to that date Lebanon had been enjoying a relative degree of calm despite the sources of constant tension in the region and a moderate sized delegation had been sufficient for the task. With effect from June, however, the operation in Lebanon made more demands on the resources of the ICRC than any other theatre of activity during the year; the field staff increased more than tenfold within a few weeks and were still present in large numbers in December. In carrying out this operation on such a scale, in respect of both the number of persons involved and the quantities of medical and material relief despatched and distributed, the ICRC was helped considerably not only by the local Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" but also by the National Societies throughout the world which responded to its appeals. In this respect reference should be made to the meeting of National Societies held at Jeddah at the end of July for the specific purpose of studying the situation in Lebanon and supporting ICRC co-ordination of Red Cross action in that country.

### **Appeals for funds**

In order to finance its activities in Lebanon, the ICRC was obliged to launch three appeals for funds during the year. The first appeal, in the month of February, for 2,787,500 Swiss francs was intended to cover expenses during the first half of the year. However, with the radical change in the situation at the beginning of June, the ICRC launched another urgent appeal on 11 June for 38.5 million Swiss francs for the purpose of financing its activities in June, July and August. At the end of August a third appeal was launched for 38 million Swiss francs with a view to financing the last four months of the year. The two latter appeals met with an excellent donor response, both from governments and National Societies, and the ICRC had a balance of more than 8 million on 31 December which enabled it to make provision for the continuation of its operation in 1983.

### **ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO THE INTERVENTION OF THE ISRAELI ARMED FORCES**

During the first five months of 1982, the relative calm prevailing in Lebanon was nevertheless interrupted on several occasions by direct clashes between factions in Tripoli (principally in February and May), in Beirut and in the south (in April) and also by Israeli raids and bombardments (in April and May). The ICRC delegation pursued its traditional activities, visiting areas affected by the clashes, evaluating medical or material needs and distributing relief where necessary. Various protection and Tracing Agency activities were also carried out.

With regard to the dissemination of knowledge of humanitarian law, the delegates organized a seminar for the senior staff of UNIFIL (the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon). A lecture was also delivered to students of the Faculty of Law at Beirut University College.

On 6 May the President of the ICRC was visited in Geneva by Dr. Fathi Arafat, President of the "Palestinian Red Crescent".

### **Medical assistance**

At the beginning of the year, the ICRC transferred full responsibility for the mobile clinics at Niha and Knat (in the north of Lebanon) to the Lebanese Red Cross, thereby terminating its operation in that sphere. The course of action taken by the delegates was largely governed by events; they

visited hospitals and dispensaries in the areas affected by clashes and Israeli raids and distributed medicines, surgical dressings and blood where needed. In February the delegates also helped with the evacuation of seriously wounded persons from Tripoli to Beirut. Medical assistance distributed during the first five months of the year amounted to 71,140 Swiss francs.

### Relief

The ICRC distributed blankets and powdered milk to meet the needs of persons in distress who had temporarily abandoned their villages due to clashes between various factions. In May 750 kg of milk was supplied through dispensaries in Tripoli to needy children in that town.

### Tracing Agency

The ICRC continued its Tracing Agency activities by registering the names of persons detained by various factions, transmitting family messages (totalling 1,709 from the beginning of January to the end of May) within the country or between delegations in the Middle East, and dealing with requests for news (186 inquiries were conducted during the same period). Three persons released after being detained by factions were handed over to the ICRC which arranged their transfer within Lebanon.

## ACTIVITIES SINCE THE INTERVENTION OF THE ISRAELI ARMED FORCES

Israeli air raids and the subsequent entry of Israeli forces into Lebanon on 6 June caused a radical transformation in ICRC activity in the Middle East. (*The activities of the delegations in Tel Aviv and Damascus in the light of the new situation are described in the chapters "Israel and the occupied territories" and "Syria"*).

While ICRC headquarters was despatching additional delegates after 9 June, those already on site immediately supplied the necessary assistance, in the form of blankets and foodstuffs, to persons fleeing combat zones. They also helped to evacuate the wounded and provided various medical supplies and medicaments for hospitals run by the Lebanese Red Cross, the "Palestinian Red Crescent" and the Lebanese Ministry of Health.

With a view to the protection not only of the civilian population but also of the combatants captured by the various forces involved in the hostilities, on 7 June the ICRC appealed to the belligerents to respect their obligations under prevailing humanitarian law. Two days later the ICRC made another strong and solemn appeal to the Israeli authorities, requesting that all possible measures be taken to ensure that civilians of all nationalities were spared in the conflict. For its part, the

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) officially announced that it had decided to respect the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I of 1977.

Intensive endeavours were rapidly made in the sphere of medical and material assistance: in response to an ICRC appeal launched on 10 June, medical teams from National Societies were sent to Lebanon at short notice and both medical and material relief was promptly despatched on a large scale. This operation was made possible by the establishment of three logistic bases at Larnaca, Tel Aviv and Damascus (*see under "medical assistance" and "relief"*), the deployment of staff from numerous National Societies and a massive increase in the number of delegates.

From the outbreak of the conflict, the ICRC endeavoured to obtain notification of captures and authorization to visit combatants taken prisoner by the various forces involved. Although some wounded Syrian and Palestinian prisoners of war in Israeli hands were visited by ICRC delegates in June, visits to prisoners held at the Insar camp in southern Lebanon could not begin until 18 July. With effect from the month of August, Syrian prisoners of war detained in Israel and Israelis held captive in Syria also received visits by the ICRC. Until the end of the year, in accordance with its obligations under the Conventions, the ICRC made representations to request improvements in detention conditions and to obtain releases on humanitarian or medical grounds.

On several occasions during the summer the blockade of West Beirut led the ICRC to repeat its appeals to the parties to the conflict. On 4 July it renewed its appeal of 9 June by calling on all the parties to the conflict, and all the authorities concerned, to put an end to the sufferings inflicted on the civilian population of Beirut and to take all the necessary measures to ensure the safety of all persons, particularly women and children. On 1 August a solemn appeal was addressed from Beirut to all the parties to the Conventions and, in the face of the bombardments to which the Lebanese capital was subjected, the President of the ICRC sent a personal message to the Israeli Prime Minister on 4 August. Throughout the siege the ICRC did its utmost to convey medical and material relief to West Beirut and to monitor the situation and sanitary conditions within the city. The vessel "Flora", which had been placed at the disposal of the ICRC by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, was struck by a shell in the port of Jounieh during one of its voyages to transport relief supplies. One crew member was killed and five others wounded. The ICRC once more immediately reminded the parties to the conflict of their obligation to respect the emblem of the red cross.

Another major ICRC operation consisted in the evacuation from West Beirut of 238 wounded Palestinian combatants which was achieved in the course of two voyages by the vessel "Flora" on 26 August and 6 September.

The massacres at the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Chatila led the ICRC to address an appeal to the international community on 18 September. In the wake of these massacres medical and, above all, protective measures were taken as soon as the ICRC was able to enter the camps on 18 September (*see below the section relating to these events*).

During the autumn the assistance needs of the civilian population decreased as persons displaced during the summer gradually returned home. The ICRC assistance operation decreased accordingly. However, since internal disturbances between various factions had resumed in numerous parts of Lebanon, the ICRC continued its task of evaluating needs, providing medicines and surgical dressings and evacuating the wounded as and when necessary. Since these activities were hampered by the armed clashes, the ICRC delegation in Lebanon was obliged to make an appeal on 18 November, in which it called on the parties to the conflict to respect the emblem of the red cross and red crescent. This general appeal was followed by another, in similar vein, made at Tripoli (northern Lebanon) on 9 December through the local media.

### Missions from Geneva

The major operations conducted in Lebanon were, of course, closely monitored and supported by the Committee in Geneva. Members of the Committee also travelled on mission to the region: from 4 to 7 August Mr. Harald Huber, the Vice-President, was in Israel where he met Mr. Menahem Begin, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Ariel Sharon, the Minister of Defence. The following week Mr. Marcel Naville, a member of the Committee, visited the various delegations and sub-delegations in Lebanon itself. He was received by Mr. Elias Sarkis, the President of the Republic, and had discussions with Mrs. Issa El-Khoury, the President of the Lebanese Red Cross, and Dr. Fathi Arafat, the President of the "Palestinian Red Crescent". In December Mrs. Weitzel, a member of the Committee, visited the delegations and sub-delegations in Lebanon.

The senior officials in charge of operations at headquarters also personally followed the course of events in Lebanon. The Director for Operational Activities visited the region in late summer in order to evaluate the situation and the foreseeable needs and hold discussions with the heads of the various delegations.

The Delegate-General for the Middle East spent almost the entire summer in the region and subsequently returned to Damascus and Beirut in October. The officials responsible for more specific activities also studied the situation on site: the head of the Relief Division carried out a general evaluation at the beginning of July and again at the beginning of October. From 11 to 23 June the Chief Medical Officer of the ICRC visited all the areas affected by the hostilities in order to determine their needs as quickly as possible. He also re-evaluated the situation at the end of August. Finally, the head of the Central Tracing Agency visited the various offices and delegations dealing with the new situation in Lebanon.

### Protection

**CIVILIAN POPULATIONS.** — In a conflict such as that which took place in Lebanon in 1982 and in which military forces mingle with civilian populations, the latter are pro-

foundly affected by the events and efforts must be made to ensure their protection in view of the dangers to which they are exposed. This is why the ICRC made a large number of appeals calling on the combatants and in particular the occupying forces to respect the civilian population in accordance with the rules of law applicable in armed conflicts.

In effect, through its presence, the ICRC was frequently able to ensure protection of the civilian population. For example, during the early days of the intervention of Israeli armed forces in Lebanon, about 10,000 inhabitants of Tyre sought refuge at the delegation and were installed on the beach next to the ICRC premises. A medical service established inside the premises was operated on a 24-hour basis with the help of doctors from the town.

**MASSACRES AT SABRA AND CHATILA.** — The ICRC delegates had been in the habit of making daily visits to the southern suburbs of Beirut in order to provide assistance and protection for the civilian population until access to that zone, in which the Palestinian refugee camps were situated, was denied to them by the Israeli army with effect from 15 September.

By 17 September the delegates had been able to transfer the most serious cases being treated in the Gaza and Akka hospitals on the outskirts of the camps to other hospitals in the capital but they were not in a position to intervene until they were able to enter the precincts of the camps the following day, 18 September. (The massacres began on the 16th).

On that date, 18 September, the ICRC addressed an appeal to the international community in which it condemned the fact that, according to reports from its delegates in Beirut, "hundreds of women, children, adolescents and elderly persons have been killed in Beirut in the district of Chatila, the streets of which are strewn with their bodies. The ICRC is also aware that wounded persons have been killed in hospital beds and that others, including doctors, have been abducted". The ICRC further announced that its delegates had evacuated two hospitals and that hundreds of persons were seeking refuge at the delegation. The appeal ended with the words: "The ICRC solemnly appeals to the international community to intervene to put an immediate stop to the intolerable massacre perpetrated on whole groups of people and to ensure that the wounded and those who treat them are respected and that the basic right to live is observed".

At the same time, in a letter from President Hay to Mr. Begin, the ICRC reminded the occupying authorities that, under the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, it was their duty to restore and ensure public order and safety.

On 18 September the Gaza and Akka hospitals at Beirut were completely evacuated. Due to overcrowded conditions in the Beirut hospitals and the prevailing state of insecurity, the ICRC placed the Gaza, Lahoud, Amel-Moussaitbé and Najjar hospitals under its own control and protection for several days. About 5,000 persons seeking refuge at the ICRC delegation were given temporary shelter under its protection.

From 18 September the ICRC also organized and participated in the identification and interment of the victims of the massacres. To this end it received substantial help from the



Lebanese Red Cross, whose relief workers took part in the operation with the utmost devotion to duty. ICRC medical personnel based in other parts of the country also came to Beirut to help.

Once this first phase was completed, the ICRC continued its daily visits to the camps in order to reassure the population through its presence. A permanent medical service was provided at the Akka and Gaza hospitals until 11 and 13 October respectively.

Due to the prevailing insecurity in southern Lebanon, the delegates made daily visits to the Palestinian camps from September until December in order to protect and reassure the population.

**PRISONERS OF WAR.** — From the beginning of June the ICRC engaged in discussions with the various forces involved with a view to obtaining notification of captures and authorization to visit combatants taken prisoner.

Most of the wounded *Syrian prisoners of war* held captive in Israeli hands were visited in June. It was not possible to register the able-bodied Syrian prisoners of war before 17 August but, with effect from September, the delegates made regular visits to all the 296 Syrian prisoners of war of whom three, including two paraplegics, were repatriated by the ICRC.

Access to *Palestinians* held captive by the Israeli army was obtained in a similar manner: the wounded in hospital were visited by the ICRC in June and subsequently, from 18 July, the ICRC began its visits to the Insar camp in southern Lebanon at which Palestinians, Lebanese and foreigners captured since 6 June had been assembled. On the first visit 212 children were registered; these were released on the same day and taken in charge by the ICRC, which made every effort to reunite them with their families in various parts of the country. In this respect it should be noted that the Israeli authorities refuse to grant prisoner-of-war status to the detainees at Insar. The ICRC nevertheless believes that the combatants among them should enjoy this status. ICRC delegates registered all of the prisoners at Insar whom they also interviewed without the presence of witnesses, during their daily visits. Such daily visits were found to be necessary for the protection of the detainees and also in order to register new prisoners on arrival and to be present during releases. By the end of the year the ICRC had registered 8,485 prisoners of whom 3,086 were released.

The ICRC played an active role with regard to releases by submitting to the Israeli authorities cases which met the requirements for liberation or transfer on medical or humanitarian grounds, in conformity with Article 110 of the Third Convention, and also by helping the released prisoners to locate their families and return to their homes or go to a country of asylum if so desired. The Insar camp also contained a number of foreigners who were authorized to leave provided that they were accepted by a host country. In such cases the ICRC organized their release and repatriation. By the end of the year 639 persons had been handed over in this way to the representatives of several diplomatic missions.

Throughout this period the ICRC made numerous representations to the Israeli authorities at all levels in Geneva, Tel Aviv and at Insar itself, calling for an improvement in the

conditions of detention. The overcrowding and the lack of preparations for the winter were a source of particular concern to the ICRC and President Hay sent two personal messages in this respect to the Israeli Prime Minister on 30 September and 10 November. The ICRC intervened yet again after two incidents at Insar one of which, during the suppression of a disturbance, resulted in eight wounded while the other, accidental, caused the death of three detainees and injured three others.

Other persons captured in Lebanon were detained in Israel itself. Nine women and one man received visits from ICRC delegates.

Since it appeared certain that numerous other prisoners had not been reported to the ICRC and, consequently, had never been visited by it, representations were made at the end of the year with a view to putting an end to that violation of the Geneva Conventions.

*Three Israeli soldiers held captive by the Syrians* could not be visited by ICRC delegates until the month of August. They were subsequently visited on several occasions when the delegates were able to interview them without witnesses although always away from their place of detention, which is not in conformity with the Third Geneva Convention.

The ICRC also undertook the protection of *Israeli prisoners of war in Palestinian hands*. An Israeli pilot captured at the very start of the war was visited by ICRC delegates on three occasions until his release, together with that of an Israeli soldier captured two days previously, was arranged on 20 August. On the same day the ICRC also acted as a neutral intermediary for the return to Israel of the mortal remains of nine Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon (including four killed in 1978). Eight other Israeli soldiers were captured by Palestinian combatants in September; six of these, detained by Fatah, were visited by the ICRC on three occasions but not in their place of detention. During the third visit the delegates obtained permission to interview the prisoners without witnesses. On the other hand, by the end of the year it had still not proved possible to visit the other two Israeli prisoners of war detained by the "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command".

After 20 September, the Lebanese authorities arrested hundreds of persons in the Palestinian camps and the suburbs of Beirut. Although the protection of such persons does not fall within the scope of the Geneva Conventions the ICRC, being concerned about their fate, contacted the authorities in pursuance of its right of initiative.

#### Medical assistance

The intervention of the Israeli armed forces in Lebanon and the blockade of West Beirut entailed a considerable increase in medical activities. From the early part of June, the ICRC delegation helped with the evacuation of the wounded and provided various medical supplies and medicaments for hospitals and dispensaries run by the Lebanese Red Cross, the

"Palestinian Red Crescent" and the Ministry of Health. The National Societies responded to an appeal made by the ICRC on 10 June and medical and surgical teams were rapidly deployed in the south, in West Beirut, in Tripoli and in the Bekaa Valley. On 1 July a medical co-ordinator was appointed to supervise the operation throughout the country. In effect, the entire summer was a time of intense activity; organizations such as the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" were provided with medical supplies, medicaments and blood in order to help them to cater for the basic medical needs of the civilian population, dispensaries were opened where needed, and emergency stocks were constituted. Emergency centres were set up in West Beirut.

The ICRC received numerous donations in kind, which were sent to Beirut for distribution. For example, 73 ambulances replaced the vehicles of the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" that had been rendered unserviceable by the first bombardments. Three field hospitals were used; one with a 40-bed capacity, which had been installed in the basement of a West Beirut hotel during the siege, was subsequently transferred to Baalbek, another was available at Zahlé and the third at Tripoli.

To ensure that fresh blood reached Lebanon, the ICRC organized a regular refrigerated supply from Europe via Larnaca. From June to September about 2,500 litres of fresh blood were transported in this way.

A sanitary programme was also set up, with the help of the American University of Beirut and UNICEF, in the places most affected by the conflict. To this end, an ICRC specialist was sent out to resolve the most urgent problems. An emergency programme for the disinfection of drinking water, and rodent and vermin control was put into operation in Beirut. In southern Lebanon the ICRC public health specialist was able to advise the persons in charge of the refugee camps at Tyre and Sidon; in the town of Baalbek he made a thorough study of the drinking water supply system. This emergency programme was concluded at the end of October.

Two very special operations were included among the customary medical activities that had already been intensified as a result of the events in Beirut. Firstly, the ICRC evacuated 238 wounded Palestinian combatants from West Beirut. These men were taken from Beirut to Larnaca and then on to Athens on board the vessel "Flora", made available by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, in two voyages on 26 August and 6 September. The wounded on board were cared for by two medical teams, of which one was from the German Red Cross and the other from the "Palestinian Red Crescent", under ICRC co-ordination. The most seriously wounded were treated at Cyprus and in Greece while the others were transferred to other countries. Secondly, the massacres at Sabra and Chatila had necessitated an emergency operation to care for the wounded and to identify and inter the victims (*see above, under the chapter entitled "Protection", the paragraph giving an account of these events*).

The ICRC also supervised an operation undertaken by the *Corps Suisse d'Aide en Cas de Catastrophes*, of which one team was working in Beirut and in southern Lebanon on the

reconstruction of laboratories, sanitary installations, and the repair of dispensaries in collaboration with the Lebanese Red Cross.

The autumn witnessed a decrease in the medical work of the ICRC. However, sporadic fighting in the Mountain and in Tripoli made it necessary for the delegates to carry out evaluation missions and distribute medical kits to dispensaries where they were needed. Some evacuations of wounded also took place, principally at Tyre following the explosion at the Israeli army headquarters.

With the gradual stabilisation of the situation, the ICRC was able to turn its attention to assistance for the war disabled. In the course of an evaluation mission carried out in October, it was established that there were more than 400 war wounded in need of prostheses. An orthopaedic programme for the establishment of centres and workshops for the fabrication of prostheses at Beit Chebab (Mount Lebanon), Sidon (southern Lebanon) and Damascus (for Palestinian patients) was set up in co-operation with local organizations, including the Lebanese Red Cross. Two ICRC technicians began work at the centre established in the Muslim orphanage at Sidon and orthopaedic material to a value of 40,000 Swiss francs was purchased and despatched before the end of the year.

A medical delegate also paid daily visits to the Insar prison camp in order to study medical problems needing to be brought to the attention of the Israeli authorities.

The total value of medical relief supplied to Lebanon from 1 June to 31 December, including more than 4,000 standard medical kits, amounted to 19,170,760 Swiss francs.

## Relief

Full details of the assistance programme established for the civilian population in Lebanon are given in the chapter entitled "Relief" (see page 69). Since the despatch and distribution of relief could not be effected in a regular manner due to the events, the following account is mainly concerned with the highlights of that operation.

Although, from the very beginning of the war, the ICRC delegates on the spot immediately supplied the necessary assistance, in the form of blankets and food, to civilians fleeing the combat zones, the rapid establishment of a complete logistic structure was essential for the despatch of large-scale relief. Larnaca, Damascus and Tel Aviv were therefore immediately designated as logistic bases; relief supplies were sent there by air to be stored and subsequently transported by road from Damascus to the Bekaa Valley and West Beirut and from Tel Aviv to southern Lebanon. From Larnaca relief was sent by air to Tel Aviv and Damascus or by sea to Haifa to begin with and later to Jounieh (see the sketch map on page 70). This system was organized without delay and the first aircraft landed at Larnaca already on 11 June. By the end of June more than 1,000 tons of relief had reached Lebanon.

The number of displaced persons increased rapidly. By the end of July ICRC relief, in the form of family parcels containing foodstuffs and cooking utensils, was being dis-

tributed to 170,000 persons throughout the country and particularly in the Bekaa Valley where many had sought refuge.

At the end of July a further outbreak of fighting in West Beirut hindered distribution and impeded the passage of east-west convoys. The blockade forced the ICRC to negotiate every passage with each of the various parties to the conflict. Only trucks carrying foodstuffs were allowed to pass and no consignment of fuel (intended for hospital use) was permitted by the Israelis. As soon as the blockade was lifted from the city the ICRC sent in large quantities of foodstuffs in order to assist the most needy categories of the population. By 30 August 30 convoys had entered West Beirut.

In September traffic was flowing more freely throughout the country and the despatch of supplies was thereby facilitated. Moreover, many people who had fled their homes were gradually able to return. The pace of ICRC assistance activities therefore slackened and the air lift which had been in operation since 11 June was suspended in mid-September. Re-evaluations of the situation during the autumn led to the decision to close down the logistic bases, discontinue the shuttle service by the vessel "Flora" and progressively decrease food distribution until the end of the year. The distribution of blankets and cooking utensils, on the other hand, was stepped up in preparation for winter.

Between June and September 7,231 tons of material assistance was supplied by the ICRC to no less than 250,000 persons.

The prisoners at the Insar camp also received material aid: the ICRC provided them with 4.3 tons of relief supplies consisting of clothing, footwear, books, notepaper, pencils and recreation equipment.

### Tracing Agency

In order to deal with the new situation created by the intervention of the Israeli armed forces, the ICRC established a network of Tracing Agency offices throughout the country. Seven of these offices (at West Beirut, Jounieh, Tyre, Sidon, Ksara, Baalbek and Tripoli) handled a considerable number of tracing requests and family messages both inside Lebanon and to or from other countries. From June to December, seven delegates and 42 local employees were engaged in these activities in which they were helped by an enlarged team at the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

By 31 December, the Agency had handled 25,360 requests for inquiries concerning persons reported missing and had been instrumental in the exchange of about 135,000 family messages.

In accordance with the provisions of the Third Convention, the Tracing Agency registered the 8,500 prisoners at the Insar camp and those held by other parties to the conflict. It also monitored the release of more than 3,000 persons from Insar and the negotiations leading to the repatriation of foreign detainees. The prisoners also were able to exchange family messages.

### Staffing

Such a rapid and large-scale deployment for action was made possible only by the immediate assignment of more delegates to the region (Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus, Tel Aviv) and by increasing the number of locally recruited employees. Whereas nine delegates had been sufficient for the task in Lebanon until the end of May, 29 were working in Lebanon, Cyprus and Damascus on 11 June and, five days later, no less than 57 persons (ICRC delegates and medical personnel provided by the National Societies) were assigned to protection and assistance activities in Lebanon. This substantial increase in staff was made possible by the National Societies, which responded rapidly and fully to ICRC appeals for medical personnel and, within the institution, by transfers from other delegations and from headquarters. By the end of June, 55 delegates and 19 members of medical teams provided by National Societies were working in all parts of Lebanon and also in Damascus, Larnaca and Tel Aviv (these figures refer only to delegates engaged in the operation in Lebanon and do not include those working in the occupied territories since 1967). The events during the summer necessitated a further increase in staff and, by the end of August, their number had risen to 124 delegates of whom 44 were provided by various National Societies. Subsequently it became possible to gradually reduce the number of delegates and, by the end of the year, their number had dropped to 69, including 11 provided by National Societies.

The number of locally recruited personnel also increased substantially until the end of the year in view of the need to organize large-scale distribution of relief: on 31 December 132 local employees were working for the ICRC.

### Israel and the occupied territories

From June onwards the workload of the ICRC delegation in Israel increased considerably as a result of the intervention of the Israeli armed forces in Lebanon.

In Israel and the territories occupied since 1967 the ICRC continued its activities which were based principally on the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons. In this respect it should be noted that the ICRC believes that the conditions for the application of the Fourth Convention are met with in the conflict between Israel and the Arab countries, whereas the Israeli authorities maintain that the Fourth Convention is not applicable.

In 1982 the West Bank and, to a lesser extent, the Gaza Strip, experienced a level of turbulence and violence that had been unprecedented in that region in recent years. The ICRC delegates were faced, in particular, with problems such as: the mass arrests of young persons who were detained in places previously unknown to the ICRC (makeshift prisons); a series of trials, under *flagrante delicto* procedure, which the delegates made a point of attending; acts of brutality committed with increasing frequency against protected persons, more than 40 of whom met their deaths in this way; the destruction and



walling-up of houses; and collective punishments such as prolonged curfews, restrictions on movement in entire towns and villages, and encroachments on the freedom and quality of education.

With regard to Jerusalem and the occupied territory of the Golan, the ICRC endeavoured to ensure that their residents were not deprived of the benefits of the Fourth Convention and that their rights under Article 47 were respected.

Throughout the year, in addition to their activities relating to the conflict in Lebanon, the fifteen members of the delegation in Tel Aviv and the sub-delegations in Jerusalem and Gaza regularly visited security detainees under interrogation, persons awaiting trial and convicted prisoners. Their duties also included the arrangement of repatriations and transfers across the demarcation lines, making representations in the event of the destruction of houses or other breaches of the Fourth Convention, transmitting family messages and generally assisting protected persons.

The ICRC delegation in Israel also continued its activities pertaining to the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law. In this connection lectures were delivered to prison warders attending a training course.

In order to accurately assess the medical situation of the protected population, an ICRC medical delegate carried out a mission lasting almost two months in the occupied territories. He visited a large number of hospitals and dispensaries and, as usual, the reports on his findings were transmitted to the Israeli medical authorities concerned and also to the authorities in the Arab States.

Specific activities were carried out in connection with Israel's restitution of Sinai to Egypt and also within the context of the general strike declared by the Druze in the Golan in protest against Israel's annexation of that territory.

## Protection

**CIVILIAN POPULATION.** — The establishment, in November 1981, of a civil administration in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 created considerable tension in that region throughout 1982 and particularly in the months of March and April. A large number of demonstrations were severely suppressed, with the aid of firearms, by the Israeli authorities and curfews were frequently imposed.

The immediate task of the ICRC was to visit the villages and refugee camps in the region, request the lifting of curfews to allow supplies to reach the population, and arrange for the wounded to be transferred.

At the same time, the ICRC informed the Israeli authorities of its concern in the face of such a situation. In March, the Delegate-General for the Middle East travelled on mission to Israel where he held discussions with representatives of the authorities. In April, the head of the delegation met Mr. Itzhak Shamir, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to whom he expressed the concern of the ICRC at the use of weapons and munitions of war for the suppression of disturbances and also with regard to the expansion of the "village league" whose

increasing activity was impeding the daily life of the population. The same issues were raised by ICRC delegates during discussions at the Ministry of Defence.

**DESTRUCTION OF HOUSES.** — About 35 houses were partially or completely walled-up or destroyed, for security reasons according to the authorities, and a further thirty dwellings were destroyed for administrative reasons (lack of building permit or encroachment on public land), again according to the same authorities. The ICRC renewed its protests against such acts of destruction which, in violation of Article 53 of the Fourth Convention, affected numerous protected persons.

**SETTLEMENTS.** — The establishment of town and village settlements by the Occupying Power, together with the transfer of part of the Israeli civilian population to the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, continued at a very intensive pace throughout 1982. The acceleration of this population movement is a source of concern to the ICRC, which considers it to be contrary to Articles 27, 47 and 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

**ARRESTED PERSONS.** — In 1982 the ICRC continued its protection activities in favour of arrested persons by paying visits, without witnesses, to detainees under interrogation to whom the ICRC has had access since 1978, and also to other categories of detainees (convicted persons, persons awaiting trial, and administrative detainees).

**DETAINEES UNDER INTERROGATION.** — In 1982 ICRC delegates visited 1,378 detainees under interrogation in the course of 2,579 visits (1,433 in the West Bank and 1,146 in the Gaza sector). The ICRC also visited numerous persons arrested by the Israeli army during demonstrations in the occupied territories in the spring of 1982 and who were detained in military barracks and police stations due to lack of space in the regular prisons. The sudden increase in the number of places of detention caused delays in the notification process and, consequently, in the visits. In this respect the situation remained far from satisfactory until the end of the year although, under agreements previously concluded between the Israeli authorities and the ICRC, the latter was entitled to receive notification of arrests within twelve days of their occurrence and had the right of access to detainees under arrest and interrogation for security reasons not later than fourteen days after their arrest and subsequently once every fourteen days during their interrogation. However, since the notification process operates in a highly irregular manner, visits can not take place within the agreed time limits and are sometimes even cancelled.

**OTHER DETAINEES.** — The ICRC continued its visits to detainees arrested for security reasons. In addition to the regular places of detention, police stations and military barracks were being used by the army for the detention of persons arrested during demonstrations in Gaza and the West

Bank, some of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment. In spite of the practical difficulties due to the number of delegates occupied with the conflict in Lebanon, prison visits took place at virtually the same rate as in previous years. In 1982, 40 visits were made to 15 prisons run by the Prison Service and 24 visits to five military detention centres in Israel and the occupied territories. The ICRC delegates saw about 3,000 detainees. As usual, most of the visits formed the subject of reports which were transmitted to the Detaining Power and also to the countries of origin of the detainees. Since 1967 the ICRC has made representations to the Israeli authorities with a view to obtaining improvements in detention conditions; overcrowding remains the primary source of concern for the ICRC, particularly in prisons in the occupied territories.

In 1982 the only administrative detainees were Druze from the Golan who were released during the summer (*see below*).

**LEGAL SAFEGUARDS.** — The ICRC continued to help protected persons against whom legal proceedings had been instituted. Since 1973 the Israeli authorities have notified the ICRC of cases brought before the military courts. As in previous years, the ICRC delegation continued its efforts to obtain notification of all trials in good time. In 1982 the ICRC legal delegate attended 40 hearings by tribunals in the West Bank, Gaza, Lod and Tel Aviv and by the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem.

During the year the ICRC continued to draw the attention of the competent authorities to the question of the confessions written in Hebrew (which detainees are obliged to sign even though most of them are not familiar with that language) and the fact that detainees under interrogation are not allowed to contact a lawyer. The length of procedures was also among the subjects discussed with the authorities. However, these problems were still unsolved at the end of the year.

#### **ASSISTANCE TO DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

— As in the past, the ICRC continued to provide material assistance for detainees and their families. The detainees received books, periodicals, recreation equipment and parcels containing winter clothing. The neediest among them were also given money to spend in the prison canteens. In addition, 196 detainees received medical assistance in the form of dentures, medical trusses and spectacles paid for by the ICRC.

Transport facilities continued to be provided by the ICRC in order to help families to visit their relatives in detention once a month. However, families from the Golan were not able to avail themselves of these facilities until October 1982 because of the general strike in that region during the first part of the year. Nevertheless, a total of 32,435 persons benefited from these ICRC facilities in 1982.

Assistance given to detainees and their families throughout the year amounted to a total of 507,700 Swiss francs.

#### **Sinai**

The full restitution of Sinai to Egypt by Israel on 25 April 1982 was preceded by numerous demonstrations of protest.

particularly at Rafah (a town bisected by the new international frontier), which often led to the imposition of a curfew by the Israeli authorities. In this context, until 20 April, the ICRC delegates frequently travelled to Rafah, which they visited every day during periods of curfew, in order to meet with the authorities and negotiate a lifting of the curfew to allow supplies to enter the town. On such occasions the delegates also visited police stations to see any persons who might have been arrested.

In May and June the ICRC delegation made representations to the Israeli authorities in an attempt to obtain more time for the relocation of persons living in houses marked for demolition due to their proximity to the international frontier in the centre of Rafah. These efforts proved unsuccessful.

On several occasions during the year the ICRC delegates in Israel met their colleagues from the delegation in Cairo for whom the situation in Sinai would henceforth be a matter of concern (*see below under "Egypt"*).

#### **Golan**

In protest against the decision of the Israeli Government to annex the Golan plateau, the Druze community living in that territory declared a general strike which lasted from 14 February until 22 July. The Israeli military authorities imposed a blockade on the region from 25 February until the end of March, broke up demonstrations, made dozens of arrests and placed local personalities under administrative detention; the latter were all released by the end of June.

In the view of the ICRC, the annexation of the Golan can in no way deprive its civilian population of the protection of the Fourth Convention, Article 47 of which embodies the principle of the inviolability of the rights of protected persons living in occupied territory. The delegates therefore paid a number of visits to persons under arrest or administrative detention. After several refusals by the Israeli authorities, the delegates were finally allowed into the Golan for the first time on 25 and 26 March when they made an extensive tour of various villages in the region and evaluated possible needs. Following that visit, the ICRC delegates made representations to the authorities to request that sick persons evacuated to Israel for treatment be accompanied by a relative and that the population of the Golan be allowed to obtain supplies of fresh vegetables. The delegates also conveyed family messages between arrested persons and their relatives.

In addition to their customary activities in the region, the delegates revisited the Golan on several occasions until the end of summer.

#### **Transfers and travel across the demarcation lines**

With the concurrence of the authorities concerned in the occupied territories and neighbouring countries, ICRC delegates arranged for certain categories of people to travel across the demarcation lines. These consisted mainly of released detainees being repatriated or expelled and persons



who had entered the occupied territories without authorization.

In 1982 the following operations took place under ICRC auspices:

At *ROSHANIKRA* 12 persons were transferred; 11 to Lebanon and 1 to Egypt via Israel.

At *KUNEITRA*, between the occupied territory of the Golan and Damascus, 19 persons detained in southern Lebanon (including one Syrian prisoner of war) were able to return to Syria during the course of four transfer operations.

At the *ALLENBY BRIDGE* 27 persons (prisoners and illegal entrants) were transferred either to Jordan (19 persons) or to the West Bank (8 persons).

#### Tracing Agency

In this sphere ICRC delegates conducted inquiries to locate missing civilians and military personnel. In 1982 they submitted to the authorities concerned various tracing requests, a large number of which remained unanswered.

Thirty-five requests for inquiries, mainly from civilian internees in the occupied territories who were without news of their families, were transmitted to the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

The delegates also arranged the exchange of Red Cross messages and transfers of money between detainees and their families. In 1982, 4,659 messages were delivered to detainees and 9,524 to families in about fifteen Arab countries. All of these activities were carried out in co-operation with ICRC delegations in neighbouring countries and with the assistance of the National Societies of the countries concerned.

**FAMILY REUNITING.** — In accordance with the procedure established by the Israeli authorities, applications for family reuniting involving entry into the occupied territories must be made directly to those authorities by members of families already living in the occupied territories. It is only in the event of a negative response by the authorities and at the request of the families concerned that the ICRC will consider intervening with the Israeli authorities in individual cases.

In 1982, four cases were submitted (three for the West Bank and one for the Gaza Strip); one was rejected and the other three were still outstanding at the end of the year. Since 1978, 66 applications have been submitted of which 32 were accepted, 29 rejected and 5 still outstanding at the end of 1982.

#### Food assistance

The ICRC continued its food assistance to needy civilians in the occupied territories. Relief provided by the European Economic Community was distributed, under the supervision of ICRC delegates, by the Israeli Ministry of Social Affairs and with the co-operation of various charitable organizations.

## Conflict between Iraq and Iran

In 1982 there were several large-scale military actions in the conflict between Iraq and Iran. At the end of March the Iranians launched a military operation in the region of Suza and Dezful; at the end of May they retook the town of Khorramshahr and, in July, recovered territories which had been occupied by Iraq since the beginning of the war and during attacks in October and November even penetrated into Iraq itself. These developments in the military situation directly affected ICRC activities, particularly with the substantial increase in the number of prisoners of war.

In view of the magnitude of the conflict and the difficulties which the ICRC was still encountering in its endeavours to discharge, in both countries, the functions assigned to it under the Conventions, the heads of delegation in Baghdad and Teheran were on three occasions recalled for consultation at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. The Director for Operational Activities and the delegate-general for the Middle East also carried out missions in both Iraq and Iran. The Director for Operational Activities visited both capitals in October in order to hold discussions with the authorities of the two belligerent countries concerning the difficulties encountered by the ICRC. In Iran he had talks with Hojjatolislam Ali Khamenei, President of the Islamic Republic, Hojjatolislam Hashemi Rafsanjani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament, General Zahir Nejad, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, Mr. Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and also with the Head of Military Intelligence, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Minister of the Interior and the President of the Red Crescent of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In Iraq the Director for Operational Activities met the governmental authorities and was received by Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of the Republic. He also had talks with Dr. Saadoun Hammadi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and an extensive working meeting with the Standing Committee for Victims of the War. In both Teheran and Baghdad, the representative of the ICRC was assured that the two States intended to increase their efforts in the humanitarian sphere and would respect all the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

Since 1981 a few changes were made in the size of the delegations. In Iraq the number of expatriate staff increased from eleven at the start of the year to seventeen. In Iran the number of staff fluctuated since, in view of the difficulties encountered, half of the delegation members returned to Geneva at the beginning of August. By the end of 1982, however, the delegation once again consisted of 11 members, the same number as at the start of the year. About thirty local employees were working for the ICRC in Iran.

#### Appeals for funds

In order to finance its activities the ICRC launched two appeals for funds, at six-monthly intervals, for the sum of 5,635,600 francs (covering the 1981 deficit) and 8,890,000 francs respectively. Since there was no improvement in the

financial situation of this specially financed operation, the ICRC convened meetings of representatives of the principal western and Arab donor countries on 10 and 25 November in order to inform them of the increasing deficit and the budgetary estimates for 1983. Nevertheless, the Iraq/Iran operation showed a deficit of almost 6 million francs on 31 December 1982, which was a most abnormal situation for an operation carried out in discharge of the obligations specified in the Geneva Conventions and quite exceptional in the history of the ICRC.

### **Tracing Agency**

The main activities of the Tracing Agency in Iraq and Iran consisted in registering prisoners of war whom the ICRC was able to visit, filling in capture cards, exchanging family messages between prisoners and their relatives, and transmitting tracing requests to the authorities concerned. In 1982 the Tracing Agency conveyed 516,533 family messages and received 23,897 requests for inquiries concerning civilians or military personnel reported missing.

### **Family visits to prisoners of war**

As a neutral intermediary, the ICRC endeavoured to arrange family visits to prisoners of war. To this end, it drafted a memorandum establishing the procedure for such visits. This memorandum was subsequently transmitted to the various parties concerned, namely Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Kuwait, the latter two countries being the proposed places of transit for the families. In May the delegate-general for the Middle East visited Teheran, Baghdad and Kuwait and the delegate-general for Europe travelled to Ankara in order to finalize the procedure and check on preparations for the operation. A final memorandum, in which suggestions and requested amendments were taken into account, was submitted to all the parties at the end of July. The delegate-general for the Arabian Peninsula made two visits to Kuwait to study the requirements for such an operation. However, the difficulties encountered by the delegates in the discharge of their duties under the Geneva Conventions impeded the implementation of this project for family visits.

## **Activities in Iraq**

### **Protection**

As in 1981, ICRC delegates visited Iranian prisoners of war each month in military hospitals, in the three camps at Anbar, Ramadi and Mosul and also in two new camps opened at Mosul during the year. Prisoners captured in the fighting were registered by ICRC delegates until May. Following the mission to Baghdad by the Director for Operational Activities in October, the ICRC delegates were granted access to the

prisoners of war captured during the battles at Basra in July, at Mandali in October, and at Amara in November. The total number of Iranian prisoners of war seen by the ICRC by the end of the year amounted to 5,285, including 2,521 captured during the year.

Most of the prisoners were seen shortly after their capture. Hence, the ICRC continued to feel concern about the fate of captured persons to whom it had not been given access, such as the Iranian Minister of Petroleum. However, at various times during the year ICRC delegates were able to see some of these prisoners, such as four women from the Red Crescent of the Islamic Republic of Iran and 18 Iranian army officers who had been captured at the beginning of the conflict in the autumn of 1980.

ICRC medical delegates made regular visits to prisoners of war in camps and in hospitals where wounded or sick prisoners were being treated. A list of sick or wounded prisoners of war eligible for repatriation on medical grounds under the Third Convention was prepared and submitted to the Iraqi authorities. A Mixed Medical Commission was established towards the end of the year, in accordance with the provisions of that Convention, to examine individual cases with a view to eventual repatriation. Two ICRC medical delegates took part in the work of the Commission which examined 487 prisoners during the month of December and immediately reported dozens of cases which met the requirements for repatriation without delay.

Within the context of its protection activities, the ICRC made regular representations to the Iraqi authorities concerned with a view to ensuring that detention conditions were brought into conformity with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions. Acts of brutality in disciplinary methods, to which several persons had fallen victim in July and November, caused particular concern to the ICRC.

The ICRC also drew the attention of the Iraqi Government to the fate of Iranian civilians, including children and elderly persons, large numbers of whom were detained in prisoner-of-war camps.

### **Occupied territories and displaced persons**

The ICRC was unable to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of the civilian population. Two types of activity may nevertheless be mentioned.

In April, the ICRC delegates visited the outskirts of Khorramshahr, where they had not been allowed access since April 1981; a month later, on 15 May, the delegates visited the area of Qasr-I-Shirin, to which they had last been in October 1981.

The ICRC delegates also carried out several visits to Iranian Kurd civilians who had sought refuge on Iraqi soil, first near the border at Doura and Sangher, and then further inland, near Ramadi, where they had been displaced. The only result of these visits was a limited exchange of Red Cross messages.

The ICRC was unable to provide protection to the civilian population.

## Activities in Iran

### Protection

The protection activities of the ICRC delegates with regard to Iraqi prisoners of war suffered various setbacks in 1982.

While negotiations on the resumption of visits to camps, which had been suspended since November 1981, were underway (*see the 1981 Annual Report, p. 48*), the registration of prisoners of war continued at the start of 1982. Once certain problems had been resolved, visits as required by the Third Geneva Convention could be fully carried out with effect from mid-January. Consequently, visits were made to the Parandak and Heshmatiyeh camps, containing some 7,000 prisoners of war, in accordance with a programme agreed with the Iranian authorities concerned, for the first time in January-February and once again in April.

From the beginning of May, the ICRC delegates commenced the registration of newly captured prisoners of war taken during a large-scale operation launched by the Iranian army in the region of Suza and Dezful at the end of March. However, since registration was proceeding too slowly, the President of the ICRC sent a note asking the authorities to make greater endeavours to facilitate the work. After a new suspension of three weeks, registration resumed on 12 June in the hospitals where wounded prisoners of war were being treated, and also in the camps.

While the number of new Iraqi prisoners of war had substantially increased and, according to the Iranian authorities, amounted to about 40,000, the delegates encountered serious difficulties during visits at the end of July and their work had to be discontinued. The head of the delegation and half of the staff were recalled to Geneva and ICRC visits in Iran were suspended. Registrations were resumed after the mission by the Director of Operational Activities at the end of October but they still proceeded too slowly given the number of prisoners to be listed. By the end of the year the problem of these delays had still not been resolved. On 31 December no complete visit, as defined in the Geneva Conventions, had been carried out since April. From the start of the conflict 28,000 Iraqi prisoners of war had been registered but, of these, only 7,316 had received complete visits in accordance with the Conventions, and only in the first part of the year.

As in Iraq, an ICRC medical delegate took part in the visits to prisoners of war. A Mixed Medical Commission was also established in Iran in December and two doctors were sent from Geneva to Iran for that purpose. However, this Commission met only twice and examined only a dozen cases of prisoners who might be eligible for repatriation on medical grounds.

Although it was not possible to register all the prisoners of war, the ICRC decided to provide limited assistance and began the distribution of 40,000 individual parcels containing pyjamas, a hand towel and a bar of soap. This programme alone cost a total of 1,036,610 francs.

### Assistance to displaced persons

As noted on page 48 of the 1981 Annual Report, following an evaluation mission in October 1981 in the provinces of Esfahan, Fars, Khuzistan and Ilam where 120,000 displaced families were living, the ICRC contacted various National Societies to collect warm clothing. As a result, more than 100 tons of clothing was distributed. ICRC delegates travelled to the province of Ilam at the end of February to supervise the distribution of this clothing on the occasion of which they visited eight camps for displaced persons. Basic medicines and medical equipment to a value of 65,000 Swiss francs were also supplied to dispensaries in the provinces of Ilam and Esfahan.

The ICRC was also concerned with groups of Iraqi Kurds who had sought refuge on Iranian territory in the neighbourhood of Ziveh (Western Azerbaijan). After their needs had been ascertained during an evaluation mission in August, a convoy of trucks transporting 20 tons of warm clothing and 150 kilos of multivitamines reached Ziveh at the end of October.

### Persons detained as a result of the internal situation

In 1982 the ICRC was unable to resume its activities in favour of persons detained as a result of the internal situation. No places of detention were visited either in the capital or in the provinces.

## Activities of other ICRC delegations in the Middle East

### EGYPT

Following the return to Egypt of the last part of the territory of Sinai occupied by the Israelis, the ICRC delegates based in Cairo made periodic visits to the frontier town of Rafah in order to meet their colleagues stationed in Israel. Questions of common interest, such as Tracing Agency matters, were studied on these occasions. A programme established by the ICRC in 1980 for the distribution of 100 tons of powdered milk to needy persons in Sinai was continued in 1982 and ended, as scheduled, on 31 December. The distribution was carried out by CARE ("Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere") in accordance with ICRC principles.

The delegation continued its visits, in the presence of witnesses, to foreign detainees held in prisons near Cairo. These visits took place solely within the framework of Tracing Agency activities, in the same way as the handling of requests for news, the transmission of family messages, the issue of travel documents, etc., which the Cairo delegation undertook either within the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as in previous years, or, with effect from June, in connection with

the intervention of the Israeli armed forces in Lebanon (which considerably increased the delegation's workload).

ICRC representatives met Mr. Boutros Ghali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, on two occasions, once at Geneva and again at Cairo during the first Egyptian seminar on international humanitarian law held from 20 to 24 November (see page 82). A number of problems concerning the situation in the Middle East were discussed at these meetings.

## JORDAN

As in previous years, the ICRC delegation at Amman continued to extend its protection and assistance to detainees in Jordan. A series of visits was carried out between March and mid-July and the second annual series, begun at the start of September, was still underway at the end of the year. The delegates visited about 4,260 detainees, including 150 security detainees, in fifteen prisons and two interrogation centres. The interrogation centres were visited twice a month. Relief in the form of clothing, sports equipment and recreation material etc. was supplied during these visits.

Within the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict the ICRC delegation at Amman, in co-operation with that at Tel Aviv, arranged for 27 persons to cross the Jordan in the course of 17 operations. Most of these persons were detainees released from Israeli prisons who were being repatriated or expelled to Jordan and illegal entrants from both sides of the Jordan Valley. Two North Yemenis captured by Israel in Lebanon and subsequently released were also transferred to Jordan in this way for repatriation.

The delegation transmitted messages between members of dispersed families, some being in Jordan and others in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 or in other Arab countries, and also between visited detainees and their families. Over 11,000 messages were exchanged in this way in 1982.

## SYRIA

The ICRC delegation at Damascus witnessed a considerable increase in its workload from the beginning of the intervention of the Israeli armed forces in Lebanon, particularly since Damascus was immediately designated as a logistic base. The

delegation's visits to POWs and its other activities in connection with the conflict in Lebanon are described in the chapter on "Lebanon".

In 1982 the ICRC delegation continued its traditional activities within the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It transmitted family messages to and from Israel and the territories occupied since 1967.

The ICRC continued to provide assistance for children by taking part in the "school milk" operation during which fifty tons of powdered milk were distributed by the Syrian Red Crescent.

Following violent clashes in the town of Hama on 2 and 3 February, the ICRC decided to offer its services for a possible medical assistance and protection operation. This offer was conveyed to Syria's Permanent Mission in Geneva on 12 February. It was not accepted by the authorities at Damascus.

On 22 April 1982 the ICRC Geneva headquarters was visited by Dr. Ziad Darwish, President of the Syrian Red Crescent.

## Yemen Arab Republic

In December 1981 the ICRC regional delegate for the Arabian Peninsula based in Geneva had visited places of detention in the Yemen Arab Republic although the visit to the central prison at Sana'a was not complete since interviews with detainees took place in the presence of witnesses. Following representations by the ICRC, a further visit to the central prison at Sana'a was arranged in November 1982 in accordance with the usual principles and the regional delegate was able to see 171 detainees. At the end of the year an operation was organized to assist detainees, mainly through the provision of medicines, disinfectants and books.

During his stay in the Yemen Arab Republic the regional delegate visited a camp in the region of As-Sawwadiyeh in which about 100 families were accommodated after their displacement during the events of 1979. On the basis of his evaluation a relief programme (blankets, cooking utensils, foodstuffs) was organized for these people.

The regional delegate also had discussions with the Ministers of Health and the Interior and with officials from the National Society.

**RELIEF AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SUPPLIED  
OR FORWARDED BY THE ICRC IN 1982 \***

*MIDDLE EAST*

Country	Beneficiaries	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. Fr.
		Tonnage	Value in Sw. Fr.	Value in Sw. Fr.	
Egypt. . . . .	Civilians and others	—	400	—	400
Iran. . . . .	Displaced population, prisoners of war	359.6	2,424,500	171,380	2,595,880
Iraq. . . . .	Prisoners of war	0.5	30,000	380	30,380
Israel . . . . .	Detainees and their families, local Red Crescent Societies, civilians in occupied territories	2,692	2,933,910	24,470	2,958,250
Jordan . . . . .	Detainees	1	18,900	—	18,900
Lebanon . . . . .	Displaced civilian population, detainees, sick persons	9,289	22,692,940	19,241,900	41,934,840
Syria . . . . .	Civilian population, refugees	50	477,410	—	477,410
Yemen Arab Republic . . . . .	Detainees	3	47,660	100	47,760
TOTAL . . . . .		12,395.1	28,147,800	19,438,230	48,063,950

\* Including food aid from the EEC and the Swiss Confederation, aid to National Societies, aid to detainees and their families, and aid provided in the course of activities with special financing.





*Wounded Palestinian combatants debarking in Cyprus after their evacuation from Beirut by the ICRC (photo Luis Esteves)*