

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1982)

Rubrik: Africa

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AFRICA

As in the previous year, Africa was the main area of ICRC activity. In 1982 some 70 delegates, divided among 12 delegations and 4 sub-delegations, endeavoured to furnish protection and assistance to prisoners of war, wounded combatants, handicapped persons, persons detained on security grounds, displaced civilian population and other categories of victims of events. In most countries the government authorities provided the ICRC with the facilities necessary for the performance of the tasks assigned to it by the international community; in some countries, however, difficulties arose which prevented the ICRC delegates from performing some or all of their tasks.

In order to meet its many commitments, the ICRC maintained delegates in the following countries and territories: South Africa, Angola, Chad, Egypt (*activities in that country are described in the chapter in this report on the Middle East*), Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia/South-West Africa, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Zaire and Zimbabwe. However, at the demand of the government of Uganda, it had to close its delegation in Kampala and its sub-delegation in Arua (West Nile District). Even so, taking account of the ad hoc missions carried out by ICRC delegates in 15 other countries (Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia), all in all, the ICRC was active in 28 African countries during 1982.

To finance its humanitarian programme, the ICRC made an appeal at the end of February for 48,475,600 Swiss francs, to cover all its activities in Africa during the year. The appeal was accompanied by detailed reports describing programmes in course of execution and the budgets for further activities. The ICRC also drew the attention of donors (and in particular the governments and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) to the need for funds not specifically earmarked for a particular country to enable it to intervene rapidly where the needs of victims were particularly urgent. By 31 December the ICRC had received, in response to this appeal, contributions or promises of contributions in cash and goods, totalling 52,565,572 Swiss francs.

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It is worthy of mention that the ICRC regional delegation for West Africa, based in Lomé (Togo), the activities of which had been suspended since 1978, was re-activated in November 1982 with the appointment of a new regional delegate. This delegation covers the following countries in addition to Togo: Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia,

Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, São Tome and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Upper Volta.

Southern Africa

Repatriation in August of 20 Angolan prisoners of war

On 16 and 17 August, 20 Angolan prisoners of war who were being held by South Africa at the Mariental camp in Namibia — 10 of them wounded or sick — were repatriated from Windhoek to Luanda on board two ICRC aircraft. They were accompanied by four delegates — one of them a doctor — who handed them over to the Angolan authorities on their arrival in Luanda. This operation was the outcome of long negotiations with the South African and Angolan authorities which required the co-operation of the ICRC delegations in South Africa, Namibia and Angola through Geneva headquarters.

Simultaneous repatriations of prisoners in November

Simultaneous repatriations of prisoners and of mortal remains took place in Lusaka (Zambia) between 15 and 17 November under the auspices of the ICRC. This operation was the outcome of negotiations which had been going on for over a year between the ICRC and the countries concerned, namely South Africa, Angola, the USSR, Cuba, the United States and Zambia (the country selected for the execution of the operation) and also with UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola).

The following persons were freed and repatriated:

- 94 Angolan prisoners of war held in Namibia, two prisoners of war (a Russian and a Cuban) held in South Africa and the remains of 5 persons (four Soviet citizens and one Cuban) which were in Pretoria's possession;
- two Soviet citizens held by UNITA;
- three United States citizens held in Angola and the remains of two South African soldiers in the possession of the Luanda authorities.

The United States and Soviet citizens were handed over to their embassies in Lusaka; the 94 Angolan prisoners of war and the Cuban citizen were transported to Luanda by the ICRC.

The ICRC used three aircraft for the transportation of these prisoners and remains. The success of this major humanitarian operation was due to combined efforts of the ICRC delegates and of the authorities of the countries concerned and to the assistance provided by the South African Red Cross.

Angola

Continuance of ICRC activity in Angola was made necessary by the humanitarian needs arising, firstly, from the fighting between South African forces and FAPLA (the Angolan army) and SWAPO (South West African People's Organization) on the Namibian frontier, and secondly, the fighting in the centre and South-East of the country, where armed opposition units — belonging mainly to UNITA — were operating. Specifically, the activities conducted consisted in continuance of the assistance programmes begun in 1980 for displaced persons in the highlands of the provinces of Huambo and Bié (Planalto) and those begun in the South in 1981 to assist the civilian population living in the region between the Cunene river and the Namibian frontier.

The activities of the ICRC in Angola were seriously hampered by security problems; even so, they constituted the largest single ICRC operation on the continent of Africa.

The humanitarian work of the ICRC was hampered by a number of incidents — some of them extremely serious. In particular, mention must be made of the attack on the municipality of Mungo, in the central Planalto, which took place on 20 February. The ICRC premises in that town came under fire from the combatants, and one of the local employees of the ICRC, Mr. Gabriel Sanchez Rodrigues, aged 20, was shot, even though his clothing bore the Red Cross emblem. On 25 May an ICRC convoy was ambushed a few kilometers from Katchiungo (also in the central Planalto); during the ambush an ICRC nurse, Miss Mary-Josée Burnier, was captured and subsequently held by UNITA for four months; she was not freed until 18 September. On two occasions — in March and in July — the orthopaedic centre in Bomba Alta was damaged by explosions. Lastly, on 25 September, during a night attack on Katchiungo, the ICRC premises were looted. Fortunately, there were no ICRC employees on the premises at the time.

Two other serious incidents, which occurred in the southern part of the country, deserve mention. On 4 June the vehicle of a delegate was blown up by a mine; its occupants miraculously escaped without injury. On 18 October four local ICRC employees were abducted in the province of Cunene.

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The ICRC learned with deep regret of the death of one of its delegates — Mr. André Redard — who was killed in a car accident in Luanda on 11 May. Mr. Redard joined the

ICRC on 1 December 1980; after his first mission in Thailand, he was appointed administrator of the Luanda delegation on 25 November 1981.

Missions by the Vice-President of the ICRC and the delegate-general for Africa

The scale of the operations undertaken in Angola and the difficulties encountered were such as to call for a number of missions from headquarters. From 23 to 28 March the Vice-President of the ICRC, Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, was in Angola with the delegate-general for Africa for discussions with the Angolan authorities, and in particular with the ministers for Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs and Security, as well as with the principal officers of the Angolan Red Cross. During the mission, the Vice-President of the ICRC also had talks with the President of SWAPO.

The delegate-general, in addition to the above-mentioned mission, went to Angola in July, September and December 1982.

Material assistance to displaced persons in the Planalto

From the beginning of 1982 onwards the movements of the delegates in the Planalto region had to be restricted on account of insufficient assurance of safety. As a result, the municipalities of Bailundo (Huambo province) and Kuito (Bié province) could no longer be reached except by air. In the Katchiungo area, travel by road was continued until the ICRC convoy was attacked on 25 May. From that date onwards only the municipal capitals (Bailundo, Katchiungo and Kuito) could be visited. In the circumstances the ICRC brought into operation a system of general distribution to "non-residents"; it was first introduced in April on an experimental basis in Kuito, for Bié province, and was subsequently extended in stages to Bailundo and Katchiungo. The new system made possible the continuance of relief for the inhabitants of the villages, who come regularly to bases organized by the ICRC to receive supplies (monthly rations of food such as maize flour and dried beans).

During the early months of the year approximately 60,000 displaced persons were receiving monthly relief distributed directly on the spot by the delegates. During August and September some 110,000 persons received assistance. By the end of September, as a result of these general distributions, the nutritional condition of the population had improved significantly.

Following the events of 25 September in Katchiungo, and pending the provision of guarantees of safety acceptable to the delegates, the ICRC decided, after an additional mission undertaken by the delegate-general at the end of September, temporarily to suspend its activities in the Planalto region.

At the end of 1982, activities had still not been resumed. Consequently, daily shuttle services by air were established between Luanda and Huambo and Bié, among other things, to ensure management of stocks. In this connection, it should be

mentioned that, thanks to the devotion of the local employees and to the fact that reserves had been accumulated in the Planalto by the ICRC, the three special feeding centres (*see the section on "medical assistance"*), the municipal hospital in Bailundo, the creche and the camp in Bailundo and the hospital in Katchiungo continued to receive supplies regularly.

Unfortunately, notwithstanding all these efforts, according to the different sources of information available locally to the delegates, the nutritional condition of the Planalto population began to deteriorate in December. This was to some extent due to the suspension of relief distributions. The ICRC therefore began negotiations at the end of the year with the Angolan Red Cross and Caritas with a view to handing over to those organizations limited amounts of aid for immediate distribution pending the resumption of its own assistance activities at the beginning of the following year.

During 1982, the ICRC distributed approximately 4,470 tons of relief supplies, of an estimated value of nearly 6.5 million Swiss francs, in the Planalto region.

Activities of the ICRC in the southern part of the country

On 30 August 1981 the ICRC had offered its services to the Angolan authorities and to the President of the Angolan Red Cross for the purpose of providing assistance to the civilian population who had suffered as a result of the hostilities in the southern part of Angola.

A sub-delegation was opened in Lubango in November 1981; a month later it was strengthened by the opening of an ICRC outpost in N'Giva. In these regions the nutritional condition of the population proved to be much more satisfactory than in the Planalto region; consequently the activities of the ICRC in the southern part of the country were directed primarily towards the re-establishment of a medical infrastructure — involving the training of local personnel, the opening of dispensaries and the provision of supplies and basic equipment — and the development of the activities of the Tracing Agency (transmission of family messages and reuniting of families).

As in the Planalto region, the development of ICRC activities in southern Angola was hampered by danger and logistical difficulties.

Supply flights between Luanda and N'Giva were organized as regularly as possible. However, a considerable number of flights had to be cancelled because of danger. During April and May, for instance, the service had to be shut down completely and the delegates were stuck in N'Giva. However, the delegates in N'Giva were able to meet those in Lubango several times, travelling by road to the bridge over the Cunene river for the purpose.

Medical assistance

AID FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE PLANALTO REGION. — The ICRC medical teams (two doctors and five

nurses) continued their activities until the end of September, when they were forced to withdraw temporarily from the region for safety.

In Bailundo, the medical team (a doctor and two nurses), which had arrived in August 1981, restored the municipal hospital — which had been left for several years without a staff or facilities — to working order. In addition to dealing with emergency medical and surgical cases, the ICRC team undertook the training of local personnel and provided equipment so as to enable the hospital to go on functioning after the team had left. It also developed the hospital dispensary with a view to converting it into an out-patient and health education centre for the population of the region. Lastly, a laboratory in which routine examinations could be performed (detection of malaria, digestive parasitoses, etc.) was set up by an ICRC laboratory technician, who trained an Angolan assistant on the spot.

The two special feeding centres in Katchiungo and Bailundo, which had been opened respectively in September 1980 and January 1981, continued to operate during 1982 under the supervision of the medical teams. On 12 April 1982 a third centre was opened in Kuito. This step saved the lives of several hundred children suffering from serious malnutrition.

AID FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN THE SOUTH. — Until June the ICRC nurses regularly visited and supplied approximately ten dispensaries located within a radius of about 100 km around N'Giva. After June travel within the region became too dangerous and had to be suspended. However, local employees made regular trips out from N'Giva to take supplies to the dispensaries.

In N'Giva itself, the two ICRC nurses gave each week out-patient treatment to an average of 300 patients who came in from distances of up to 50 km. The patients requiring major hospital care (operations, blood transfusion or treatment of serious burns for example) were transferred to mission hospitals to receive proper treatment there. Up to the time of the suspension of road travel, the delegates used to take 4 to 6 patients to hospital every week. Subsequently, alternative arrangements had to be made, in particular with the assistance of a missionary at Mongua. However, danger had increased to such a degree that journeys of this kind could not be made as regularly as in the past.

BOMBA ALTA ORTHOPAEDIC CENTRE (HUAMBO). — The ICRC programme of assistance for war amputees at the Bomba Alta centre, which began in August 1979, was to continue, under the agreements concluded with the Angolan Red Cross, until July 1983. However, in view of the increasingly dangerous conditions on the Planalto, ICRC participation had to be cut back from October 1982 onwards. Thus during the last three months of the year it was confined primarily to providing the equipment and supplies needed to enable the Angolan staff to continue their work in co-operation with two technicians detached to Bomba Alta from the Luanda orthopaedic centre (Ministry of Health). In March and July 1982 the centre was attacked, and considerable material damage temporarily reduced output.

During the first nine months of the year, 275 amputees were fitted with prostheses and 394 pairs of crutches were manufactured in Bomba Alta. Approximately 40 employees — all members of the Angolan Red Cross — worked at the centre as assistant orthopaedic technicians, welders, joiners, shoemakers and plastic and plaster workers.

A second centre, independent of Bomba Alta, was established by the ICRC in the premises of the hospital in Kuito to meet the needs of the region. The prostheses manufactured in Bomba Alta were adjusted in Kuito; thus the amputees did not need to travel.

Protection

APPROACHES TO THE ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES. — The approaches to the Angolan authorities begun in 1981 by the Luanda delegation with a view to securing the repatriation of 20 Angolan prisoners of war continued into 1982. The repatriation took place on 17 August 1982 and was followed by the simultaneous repatriation of prisoners and of mortal remains between Angola and South Africa which took place on 16 November (see page 11).

The prisoners of war in question had been regularly visited by the ICRC in Namibia before they were repatriated to Angola; the reports on the visits, and the cards officially recording their capture, had been handed over to the Angolan authorities by the Luanda delegation.

The negotiations begun in 1980 at the request of the Pretoria authorities for the repatriation of the body of a South African soldier killed in Angola continued into 1982. Negotiations were also begun on the repatriation of the bodies of two other South African soldiers. These two bodies were returned to South Africa during the simultaneous repatriation operation which took place in November; at the same time, the ICRC continued its efforts to secure the repatriation of the third body requested by the Government of South Africa.

The Luanda delegation also visited the three Americans detained in Luanda several times until they were released on 16 November.

It also visited a number of other detained persons, e.g. a Zaïre soldier and a stateless person of Haitian origin detained in Luanda.

SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONER DETAINED BY SWAPO. — In 1982, the ICRC continued to visit a South African prisoner of war detained by SWAPO in Angola since February 1978; it was able to visit him several times. It should be mentioned that the most recent visit — which took place on 3 May 1982 — was entirely in line with ICRC criteria, whereas the previous visits, although they took place without witnesses, were not at the actual place of detention. On 5 May the prisoner in question was freed and repatriated to South Africa as a result of negotiations conducted independently of the ICRC. During his detention the prisoner had been able, with the assistance of the Angolan Red Cross, to receive regularly messages and parcels from his family.

Relations with UNITA

The dangerous conditions encountered by ICRC delegates in the field induced it to develop regular contacts with the representatives of UNITA in Europe, America and Africa. At the beginning of the year, during a meeting between the ICRC Director of Operational Activities and high officials in UNITA, the latter confirmed the movement's intentions to comply with the principles of humanitarian law and, consequently, to refrain from interference with ICRC activities on the Planalto. Subsequently, following the attack on Mungo in February, the ICRC recalled the assurances it had received from UNITA and asked it to undertake investigations. At the end of May, following the abduction of Miss Burnier, repeated approaches were made to UNITA which finally resulted in her being freed on 18 September together with 14 other persons, belonging to a variety of organizations, who had also been abducted in Angola.

In 1982 the ICRC reaffirmed its offer to act as a neutral intermediary with a view to the release and possible repatriation of prisoners in the hands of UNITA. Following this declaration, two Soviet citizens detained by UNITA were freed with the assistance of the South African Red Cross during the simultaneous repatriation operation which took place in Lusaka on 16 November.

Tracing Agency

The beginning of 1982 saw a substantial increase in the work-load of the ICRC Tracing Agency in Angola; the principal factor in the increase was the transmission of family messages between Angolan prisoners of war visited in Namibia and their families. In response to this increase, two delegates were sent out in January to organize the offices in Luanda and Lubango and to set up the network of outposts needed for the conduct of the operation. After 20 prisoners of war had been repatriated to Angola during the month of August and a further 94 in November, the volume of work of the Agency decreased, and the staff could be reduced to a single delegate. During the year, approximately 5,000 family messages were transmitted, 16 families were reunited and 424 requests for enquiries were dealt with.

Personnel

At the beginning of the year the ICRC had approximately 40 expatriates in Angola. The number increased to approximately 50 by the middle of the year, following which — on account of the temporary suspension of activities in the Planalto region — it was reduced by almost half by the end of 1982. In addition, up to the end of October the ICRC received the assistance of some 250 local employees who worked in the hospital, the dispensaries, the special feeding centres and the offices of the ICRC.

South Africa

Protection

The regional delegation of the ICRC, based in Pretoria, continued to visit convicted security prisoners and persons held in preventive detention under section 28 of the Internal Security Act of 1982 (previously known as section 10 of the "Internal Security Amendment Act"); these are the only two categories of prisoners whom the authorities of the Republic of South Africa have so far allowed it to visit. The ICRC continued its efforts to gain access to the other categories of security detainees, i. e. persons detained under section 29 of the Internal Security Amendment Act of 1982 (formerly section 6 of the Terrorism Act) and section 31 (State Witnesses Act) and detained persons awaiting trial. Once again, the ICRC's offer of its services was rejected. In addition, the ICRC repeated its request to be allowed to visit security prisoners condemned to death and to talk with them without witness in accordance with the usual procedure. The latter request was not accepted by the South African authorities for administrative reasons (internal prison regulations).

As in previous years, the Pretoria delegation also took an interest in the condition of prisoners held in Namibia and in South Africa following the clashes between the South African forces and the FAPLA and SWAPO combatants.

Lastly, half way through November 1982, following negotiations begun over a year earlier with the parties concerned, the simultaneous repatriation took place of Angolan, USSR, Cuban and American prisoners of war and of the mortal remains of two South African soldiers killed in Angola and of five Soviet and Cuban citizens (see page 11).

PERSONS IMPRISONED BECAUSE OF THE INTERNAL SITUATION. — As it has done every year since 1963, the ICRC again carried out a series of visits to convicted security prisoners; between 6 and 21 September the delegates and medical delegate sent from Geneva, visited 10 places of detention, where they met 413 convicted security prisoners and 2 persons in preventive detention.

The Pretoria delegation likewise inquired into the condition of possible security detainees held in the homelands. They were able to meet prisoners of this kind in Bophuthatswana and Venda. During the second half of the year new approaches were made in the latter with a view to visiting the detainees again. Similar efforts were made in the Transkei with a view to obtaining access to security detainees. In addition, in Bophuthatswana the ICRC, acting as an intermediary between that territory and Zimbabwe, helped to arrange the repatriation on 16 March of 81 Zimbabweans who had immigrated illegally into the homeland.

VISITS TO USSR AND CUBAN PRISONERS OF WAR. — A Soviet prisoner of war captured in 1981 by the South African army in Southern Angola was again visited by ICRC

delegates several times during 1982. An ICRC doctor and interpreter took part in those visits. The ICRC had requested the South African authorities to free this prisoner of war on humanitarian grounds; he was freed on the occasion of the simultaneous repatriation operation of 16 November. A Cuban prisoner of war was also visited several times by the delegates. He too was freed on 16 November.

Lastly, a South African prisoner of war detained in Angola since February 1978 (*see previous annual reports and the section on Angola in the present report*) was freed on 5 May 1982 as a result of negotiations conducted independently of the ICRC.

Assistance

In addition to its protective activities, the ICRC continued its programme of assistance to former detainees and to families of security detainees in distressed circumstances. The number of recipients of such assistance was about 400 persons per month. The aid supplied took the form of food parcels (4,386 parcels of an estimated value of 255,440 Swiss francs), blankets or the payment of travel costs for persons visiting close relatives in detention (878 transport vouchers to a total value of 197,600 Swiss francs). The ICRC also financed medical treatment for 37 patients.

Following the series of visits carried out in September, the ICRC was authorized to supply prisoners with aid equivalent to 15,000 Swiss francs, with priority to security prisoners.

Tracing Agency

The Pretoria delegation handled approximately one hundred cases relating to requests for enquiries, requests for repatriation and family messages, in co-operation with the South African Red Cross.

It also made arrangements for exchanges of messages between USSR and Cuban detainees and their families.

Namibia/South West Africa

The intensification of military operations between the South African forces and SWAPO, combined with the increasing number of victims, induced the ICRC to open a permanent office in Windhoek in 1981. In 1982 the delegation continued its activities on behalf of Angolan prisoners of war and of security detainees in Namibia. In addition, a number of missions were carried out in the northern part of the territory — in which the majority of the Namibian population lives — to make contact on the spot with the families of detainees and ex-detainees and also to propagate knowledge on international humanitarian law among the armed forces.

Protection

In 1982 the ICRC delegates were authorized to continue to visit the 136 persons detained in the Mariental camp under the Administrator General's proclamation No 9 (AG 9). These visits were made on three occasions — from 16-18 March; from 8-9 June with the participation of the delegate-general for Africa; and from 27-28 September. However, notwithstanding repeated approaches to the competent authorities by the Pretoria and Windhoek delegations, the ICRC was unable to gain access to the other detainees in this category held in prisons in the territory (with the exception of a few prisoners in northern Namibia). Efforts were also made to obtain authorization for AG 9 detainees with families in Namibia to receive visits by the latter. As a result, authorizations were granted in individual cases.

In addition, in 1981 the ICRC obtained the consent of the South African authorities to visit Angolan prisoners of war captured during the clashes in southern Angola and detained in Namibia. Visits took place three times during 1982, on each occasion in the Mariental camp. In March and in June, the delegates visited 114 Angolan prisoners of war. Following repeated interventions locally and from headquarters, 20 prisoners of war — 10 of whom were wounded and on whose behalf an application for repatriation had been made to the authorities — were repatriated from Namibia to Angola on 17 August (see page 11). At the end of September the ICRC delegates once again visited the 94 prisoners remaining. Ultimately it proved possible to repatriate them to Luanda via Lusaka on 16 November (see also page 11).

Assistance

In 1982 the ICRC continued its programme of assistance for detainees' families and for recently released detainees, organized along lines similar to the one in South Africa. Notwithstanding the difficulties encountered in contacting the families — some of which were living in areas difficult to reach — the programme steadily gained momentum in 1982. The sum of 42,600 Swiss francs was devoted to assistance for the families of detainees and to aid given to detainees and prisoners of war on the occasion of visits.

In addition, transport vouchers were given to families of detainees; this enabled them to visit relatives detained either in Robben Island prison in South Africa or in Namibia.

Tracing Agency

The activities of the Tracing Agency of the Windhoek delegation continued in 1982, consisting in particular of the registration of Angolan prisoners of war. In all, 1,200 family messages were transmitted between Angolan prisoners of war and their families with the assistance of the ICRC delegation in Angola. In addition, the delegates gave some prisoners of war family parcels from Angola.

Mozambique

Medical assistance

The ICRC activities to assist Mozambique war disabled, which began on 1 April 1981, continued in 1982. On 17 May 1982 the technical co-operation agreement concluded between the Ministry of Health and the ICRC was renewed until 31 March 1983.

Since the orthopaedic centre in Maputo was opened, 160 amputees have been fitted with artificial limbs (the production technique permits the use of local raw materials to provide essential items of equipment). At the beginning of 1982 ten Mozambique employees trained by the ICRC team began to operate independently. An inquiry conducted in October in the northern part of the country by two ICRC specialists established that 95% of the persons who had been fitted in Maputo were wearing their prostheses regularly. Some of them even managed to walk more than 20 kms per day with an artificial leg.

Protection

Following the abduction of a number of foreigners of various nationalities by the Mozambique national resistance movement (RNM), the ICRC, in response to requests from the families and/or the representatives of the countries of origin of the persons abducted, took active steps to ascertain what had become of them. By the end of the year, 19 of them had recovered their freedom.

Missions to Lesotho and Swaziland

Since these two countries are covered by the ICRC delegation in Mozambique, the delegate in Maputo went to Swaziland in April and to Lesotho twice, at the end of February and at the beginning of October. His principal objective was to re-establish contact with the authorities and with the representatives of the National Society there with a view in particular to examining questions of propagation of knowledge of international humanitarian law and of the principles of the Red Cross.

In the course of his second mission to Lesotho — during which the delegate was also seeking to resume negotiations with the government on the subject of the ICRC's offer of its services in the field of protection — the delegate was authorized to visit 12 convicted security prisoners. However, by the end of 1982, the ICRC had still not succeeded in obtaining a reply from the authorities concerning access to detained persons under questioning.

Zimbabwe

In addition to his activities in Botswana, Malawi and Zambia, the regional delegate based in Harare maintained regular contact with the authorities in Zimbabwe and continued his efforts to propagate knowledge of humanitarian law. The regional delegation in Harare also provided assistance to the aid programme in Angola (purchase of food and equipment, routing of vehicles to Angola).

Assistance

The ICRC provided assistance to war disabled in Zimbabwe; it contributed the equivalent of 150,000 Swiss francs to finance the activities of the orthopaedic centre for war victims at Ruwa, near Harare.

Tracing Agency

Since June 1981 the greater part of the tracing activities previously carried out by the regional delegation have gradually been transferred to the National Society. Thus by the end of 1982 the Tracing Agency in Harare only had a few cases relating to transfers or repatriation to handle, together with about thirty requests for enquiries, most of which called for tracing work in Angola or in Zambia.

Other countries

In **Botswana**, from 29 March to 5 April, the regional delegate of the ICRC based in Harare and the delegate based in Maputo represented the ICRC at the regional seminar organized in Gaborone by the League. The delegate-general for Africa also attended the meeting on the day devoted to the question of the dissemination of international humanitarian law and to the preparation of National Societies for activities in times of hostilities.

In **Malawi**, the regional delegate carried out two missions — at the end of January and at the end of June — to take part in two meetings organized by the National Society. Questions of protection and dissemination were discussed on these occasions.

In **Zambia**, two delegates sent from Geneva and the regional delegate attended with observer status the regional meeting of Red Cross Societies of Southern Africa, which took place in Lusaka from 13 to 17 September. In addition, a number of contacts were made with the Zambian authorities, who agreed that the simultaneous repatriation of Angolan, USSR and Cuban prisoners should take place in Lusaka (see page 11).

East Africa

Ethiopia

In 1982, the activities of the ICRC in Ethiopia related primarily to the provision of aid to the victims of the armed conflicts or the disorders in Eritrea, Ogaden and also the Tigré region. Assistance was also given to the inhabitants of the Gondar region.

The effectiveness of the assistance activities, which were carried out jointly with the Ethiopian Red Cross, improved considerably during the second half of the year, thanks to the fact that the delegates obtained permission to travel freely within the country; this enabled them better to evaluate needs and supervise distributions.

In contrast, protection activities came to a halt, since no visit could be made, in particular to Somali prisoners of war. The delegate-general for Africa undertook a mission in June, but by the end of 1982 no concrete results had been achieved.

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Mr. Dawit Zawde, the President of the Ethiopian Red Cross, was received at headquarters during April. On that occasion different aspects of the activities of the ICRC in his country were discussed.

Protection

VISIT TO SOMALI PRISONERS OF WAR. — It will be recalled that on 6 July 1981 the ICRC was officially informed that visits to Somali prisoners of war had been suspended. The approaches begun in 1981 with a view to securing the resumption of visits continued throughout 1982 but were unsuccessful; no visits could be made during the year.

VISIT TO ETHIOPIAN PLACES OF DETENTION. — Although in December 1980 the Ethiopian authorities agreed to allow the ICRC to visit all places of detention, the steps taken to secure the practical implementation of that agreement have not led to any positive results during the two ensuing years.

Medical assistance

DEBRE ZEIT CENTRE. — The operational and financial responsibility for the rehabilitation centre at Debré Zeit, which had been established by the ICRC for war disabled soldiers (amputees and paraplegics), had progressively been handed over to the Ethiopians during 1981. Only two ICRC specialists — a prosthetist and a physiotherapist — remained on site during the first half of 1982 as technical advisers. With effect

from the end of June, the Ethiopian technicians and physiotherapists trained by the ICRC's medical specialists (see *Annual Report for 1981*, p. 14) took over sole responsibility for the rehabilitation of war disabled soldiers and for fitting them with prostheses.

During its three and a half years of operation the Debré Zeit centre has treated some 950 disabled persons. The workshop there has produced 2,060 temporary and permanent artificial legs, 14 artificial arms, 1,104 pairs of crutches, 300 supports for paralysed persons, 271 wheel chairs and 3 tricycles. The physiotherapy department has treated some 700 disabled persons.

CENTRE FOR THE CIVILIAN DISABLED. — The negotiations begun in 1981 with the Ethiopian authorities concerning the possible establishment of two rehabilitation centres for disabled civilian victims of the hostilities were concluded in 1982; on 26 June an agreement was signed between the ICRC and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The establishment of these centres was rapidly begun. One of them — located in Asmara (Eritrea) — opened its doors to patients for the first time in November, and the manufacture of appliances was begun immediately. By the end of the year there were 32 registered patients, 11 of whom were already receiving treatment. The other civilian centre — in Harar — was still being fitted out at the end of 1982.

ASSISTANCE IN THE REGIONS AFFECTED BY HOSTILITIES. — As part of the programme of activities carried out jointly by the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross in the regions affected by disorders or hostilities (Balé, Gondar, Eritrea, Tigré, Harrarghe and Sidamo), the ICRC regularly supplied standard medical units to the dispensaries. When the military situation in Eritrea worsened in March and April, additional emergency medical aid was sent there.

In addition, in September, two ambulances were handed over by the ICRC to the Asmara local branch of the Ethiopian Red Cross.

Relief

Assistance to displaced persons in the war-stricken regions continued as in previous years. The programme was conducted in conjunction with the Ethiopian Red Cross on the basis of a bi-lateral agreement regulating the technical aspects of the programme. Food, blankets and soap were distributed in six administrative regions — Eritrea, Harrarghe, Gondar, Tigré, Balé and Sidamo.

In order to improve the effectiveness of relief work — and in particular to provide better opportunities for evaluation and control — and in order to consolidate methods of cooperation with the National Society by helping it to develop the operational capacity of its local branches, the ICRC requested permission to increase the numbers of persons in its delegation; permission was granted in December 1981 and two relief delegates arrived in Addis Ababa shortly afterwards. But

it was not until the end of June 1982 — when the authorities granted the ICRC delegates travel permits — that the latter were able to come fully into action. During the second half of the year a large number of evaluation and supervisory missions were undertaken, as a result of which co-operation with the National Society was strengthened.

The ICRC also co-operated with national bodies such as the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission.

Somalia

The ICRC regional delegate based in Nairobi went on two occasions to Mogadishu — in February and again in June — to continue discussions on the protection of the prisoners of war captured in the Ogaden conflict and to assess the essentially medical needs in the region along the Somali-Ethiopian border. He was received by the Director General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and by the leaders of the Somali Red Crescent. In the course of his June visit, the regional delegate obtained access to the prisoners who had been seen once previously in December 1980. He was accompanied on this visit by a medical delegate and by a delegate specialized in Tracing Agency work.

When clashes again took place in July on the Somali-Ethiopian border, the regional delegate went a third time to Somalia. During this mission, he visited in hospital a wounded Ethiopian prisoner of war who had been newly captured. An ICRC doctor also went to Somalia to make an appraisal of the medical situation. Moreover, the Somali Red Crescent having informed the ICRC that the Somali authorities would accept the presence of the ICRC in their country on a permanent basis, a delegate arrived in Mogadishu on 10 August to develop the contacts already established. His objectives included more frequent visits to places of detention, the assessment of the medical needs and the pursuit of negotiations with a view to the official establishment of a delegation. At the end of the year, this last point had not been settled.

In connection with the ICRC's relations with the National Society, two representatives of the Society were received on 21 September at ICRC headquarters, while the delegate who had newly arrived in Mogadishu gave a lecture on the principles of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions at a seminar organized for young people by the Somali Red Crescent.

Protection

In June, the ICRC delegates visited 192 Ethiopian prisoners of war and one Cuban; in December 1980, three prisoners had been seen.

As mentioned earlier, the regional delegate, during his mission to Mogadishu in July, saw a wounded Ethiopian prisoner of war who was being tended at the Martini military hospital.

A follow-up visit to the prisoners of war visited in June was carried out in November by the delegate based in Mogadishu. He was accompanied by a Tracing Agency delegate and a doctor. The delegates also had access to 14 prisoners (one of them the wounded prisoner seen in July) detained by the Army Security Services.

The Tracing Agency delegate registered the prisoners' names and collected the family messages which nearly all of them had filled in during the visit.

Medical aid

In 1982, medical delegates went to Somalia on three separate occasions. The first visit was in June when a medical delegate was one of the team visiting prisoners of war. The second mission was in July after further clashes on the Somali-Ethiopian border. The medical delegate visited the wounded in the Martini military hospital at Mogadishu, supplied the hospital with medicaments and surgical material and drew up a list of the needs. Various medical relief supplies were later despatched to Mogadishu from Nairobi. Medicaments for some of the prisoners visited in June were also handed over during the July visit.

A third medical delegate took part in the visits to prisoners of war in November and assessed the medical needs both in Mogadishu and Belet Huen near the border. A number of hospitals and the National Society's blood bank were visited. On the conclusion of this mission, it was decided that the ICRC would continue to provide medical aid for three hospitals (two in Mogadishu and the one in Belet Huen) and for the prisoner-of-war camps. The first consignment to be sent, containing medicaments and dressing material, was forwarded at the end of the year.

The Somali Red Crescent received blood transfusion material and a number of standard kits containing medicaments, surgical material and dressings.

In 1982, the ICRC provided Somalia with medical aid to a value of 176,930 Swiss francs.

Relief

Besides medical assistance, the prisoners of war visited received relief supplies. In June, 400 blankets and some mattresses were distributed. At the end of the year, the ICRC set in action a programme for the distribution of fruit, books and recreation material.

Sudan

The ICRC continued its assistance and tracing activities for various groups of refugees on Sudanese territory (victims of the conflicts in Eritrea and Tigre; and Ugandans), and also sent relief supplies to Eritrea and Tigre through various aid

organizations. Aid was also channelled from Khartoum to the region controlled by the "Armed Forces of the North" (FAN) in the East of Chad, and a delegation was opened in Abéché in that area. When N'Djamena was later taken by the FAN, the Khartoum-Abéché link was no longer necessary (*see section on Chad*).

With regard to medical aid, the ICRC relinquished a part of its activities when it transferred to the League and the Sudanese Red Crescent the responsibility for Kassala Hospital and for the medical aid programme in the refugee camps at Khashm-el-Girba and "Km 26".

In the field of the dissemination of international humanitarian law, the head of the delegation gave a lecture to an audience of about a hundred senior officers of the Sudanese Army. A programme to disseminate humanitarian law to members of the armed forces was also devised.

On 16 March, President Hay received at ICRC headquarters the Sudanese Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Abdel Magid Bashir Elahmadi.

The delegate-general for Africa went to Khartoum in June to assess with the ICRC delegation there the ICRC's activities in Sudan.

Medical aid

In January, an ICRC doctor went on a mission to Sudan, with the aim, among other tasks, of making a re-appraisal of Kassala Hospital's medical activities. With the co-operation of the Swiss Red Cross, the ICRC had taken over, at the beginning of 1979, the responsibility for this hospital. Most of the patients were the victims of the Eritrean conflict, both combatants and civilian, but the local inhabitants could also be treated there, although to a lesser extent and depending upon circumstances. The medical team was provided by the Swiss Red Cross, which also kept the Kassala Hospital supplied with medicaments and medical material. On 1 April 1982, the ICRC, observing the development of the situation and the needs of the refugee population, transferred the responsibility of the action to the League.

During his mission, the ICRC doctor also brought in a Norwegian Red Cross team to replace the Swiss Red Cross team working in the refugee camps at Khashm-el-Girba and "Km 26". The Norwegian team stayed only three months, and when, on 1 April, the ICRC withdrew from this activity, too, it was taken over by the Sudanese Red Crescent, in co-operation with the League.

As in previous years, the ICRC supplied medicaments and medical material to the hospitals of the Eritrean and Tigre movements via their assistance organizations.

Relief

Material assistance, consisting mainly of food, was sent to the assistance organizations of the Eritrean and Tigre movements, to be distributed to prisoners and the needy displaced

civilian populations. This aid was distributed by the "Eritrean Relief Association" (ERA), the assistance organization belonging to the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), by the "Eritrean Red Cross and Red Crescent Society" (ERCCS), the assistance organization belonging to the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), and by the "Relief Society of Tigre" (REST), belonging to the Tigrean People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

Tracing Agency

The Khartoum Tracing office, which directed its activities to the refugees crossing the border from Ethiopia and Uganda, endeavoured to trace persons, as in 1981, with the assistance of its correspondents established in the various camps where the refugees had been grouped.

In the case of Ugandan refugees, the work involved in tracing members of separated families and in forwarding family messages was carried out in close co-operation with the Ugandan Red Cross. Arrangements were made in collaboration with the UNHCR for families to be re-united abroad.

The locally recruited personnel, for the three past years in the ICRC's service, were employed in Khartoum and in the regions of Port Sudan, Gedaref, Kassala and Juba. The flow of refugees arriving in Juba in Southern Sudan from Uganda kept increasing during the whole year, and several more camps were opened. Accordingly, a member of the Central Tracing Agency staff in Geneva arrived in Sudan at the end of November for a two-month mission, with the object of ascertaining the general situation regarding population movements in Sudan, and more particularly in the south.

Uganda

At the end of 1981, the Ugandan authorities had informed the ICRC of their decision that its assistance activities be transferred to the Ugandan Red Cross or other Ugandan bodies and that its visits to places of detention would no longer be allowed (*see Annual Report 1981, pp. 16-17*). Accordingly, the delegate-general for Africa went to Kampala in January 1982 to talk over the ICRC's future in Uganda. The Vice-President, Mr. Muwanga, told him that the Ugandan authorities' decision was final. When the ICRC was notified by the authorities that its delegation's departure had been fixed for 31 March, the ICRC Vice-President, Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, went to Kampala and met the Vice-President of Uganda and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Pestalozzi handed to his interlocutors a memorandum, in which the ICRC expressed its desire to continue negotiations with a view to an early resumption of its protection activities, as they constituted one of its specific tasks and were a humanitarian need.

As the Ugandan Government stood firm by its decision, the ICRC handed over to the Ugandan Red Cross its aid

programme in the West Nile Province and in the area around Kampala, and part of its Tracing Agency activities. As from 31 March, therefore, there was no longer an ICRC delegation in Uganda, and the regional delegate based in Nairobi was appointed to act as the ICRC representative in the event of any dealings with the Ugandan authorities. His role was confined to the examination of outstanding questions, in particular those dealt with by the tracing office. He carried out a few missions to Kampala in 1982, principally with a view to negotiating the resumption of ICRC visits to places of detention, but without success.

Protection

No protection action for the benefit of detainees was undertaken in 1982, the Ugandan Government having withdrawn on 14 December 1981 its authorization to the ICRC to make such visits (*see Annual Report 1981, p. 17*) and the negotiations for the resumption of visits to places of detention not having succeeded.

Relief

In the first three months of 1982, the ICRC provided assistance in the West Nile Province to many displaced persons who had fled into the interior, and to those others who, after having temporarily found refuge in Zaire, had returned to Uganda. This activity of the ICRC became even more intense as more and more people began to return from Zaire. Food, blankets, clothes, soap and other relief were distributed by the ICRC to needy persons, and dispensaries receiving supplies from the ICRC organized distributions of milk to destitute children.

In the region around Kampala, a climate of insecurity was created at the beginning of 1982 by disturbances; many persons moved away in search of safety. The ICRC provided them with some relief, especially food and blankets. It received assistance in this task from the Ugandan Red Cross, which carried out the distributions.

In addition, released detainees and the families of detainees also received some relief, mainly in the form of blankets and soap.

When the ICRC closed down its delegation at the end of March, its stocks of relief supplies in Uganda were divided up between the Ugandan Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the UNHCR.

Medical aid

In the first three months of 1982, the ICRC continued to provide aid to the dispensaries active in the West Nile Province. About a dozen dispensaries received in this way medicaments and standard medical kits. In addition, the medical unit, consisting of a doctor and a nurse, who had

arrived in September 1981 to reinforce the Arua sub-delegation, continued to work with the dispensaries personnel, providing them with medicaments, giving consultations for difficult cases and arranging for the evacuation of casualties.

Medical units were also sent to two hospitals near Kampala, where the victims of the disturbances which had broken out at the beginning of 1982 in the area were being treated.

A medical aid programme was continued after the closing down of the delegation: the orthopedic workshop at the Mulago Hospital in Kampala received some material for the production of prostheses. In the course of one of his missions to Kampala, the regional delegate based in Nairobi visited this workshop and, together with the surgeons, drew up a list of materials that were needed; the goods were later sent to the Ugandan Red Cross, which undertook to deliver them to the Mulago Hospital.

Tracing Agency

The work of the Kampala Tracing Agency office was mainly related to the considerable movements of people in the West Nile Province and, to a lesser extent, in the area around Kampala. It worked in close collaboration with the Tracing offices in Sudan, Kenya and Zaire (in particular, with the correspondent attached to Aru in Upper Zaire region where thousands of West Nile Ugandans had sought refuge). The Kampala office carried out enquiries for missing persons, forwarded family messages and undertook to transmit school attendance certificates.

After its withdrawal from Uganda, the ICRC divided its tracing activities concerning Uganda between its Nairobi-based regional delegation — which took over the co-ordination tasks with the tracing offices in the neighbouring countries and ensured the transmission of mail — and the Ugandan Red Cross, for whom the ICRC's local employees began to work as from 31 March. The ICRC furnished financial aid to the Ugandan Red Cross for its tracing activities, consisting mainly in receiving enquiries in respect of Ugandan refugees in neighbouring countries. A Tracing Agency delegate carried out a mission to Kampala in July to ensure proper co-ordination.

Other countries

In Kenya, the ICRC offered its services to the governmental authorities: it requested access to the persons arrested following the attempted *coup d'Etat* of 1 August 1982. The ICRC offer was transmitted to the government on 30 August, but at the end of the year no reply had been received. With respect to the dissemination of international humanitarian law, a programme was organized for members of the police force. The first lecture was delivered by the regional delegate and was attended by 250 listeners.

As in 1981, the regional delegation in Nairobi was the logistics base for the programme of assistance in Uganda. After 31 March, when the Uganda delegation was closed down, the Nairobi delegation took over the outstanding questions: the Kenya Tracing Agency office continued its work of tracing missing persons and forwarding family messages; it worked in close collaboration with the ICRC delegations in Sudan and Zaire and after 31 March co-ordinated its tasks with the Ugandan Red Cross employees engaged in tracing activities. The majority of persons resorting to the tracing office's services were Ugandan nationals, who were thus able to maintain contact with members of their families, some of whom had taken refuge in other countries and some had stayed in Uganda.

The ICRC regional delegate in Nairobi went to Tanzania in March. In the course of his mission, he delivered to the authorities the reports on the visit carried out in September 1981 by the ICRC to about twenty persons detained in Tanzania, following the conflict with Uganda. In 1980, these persons had refused to be repatriated, and the UNHCR was asked to find a country of reception. The mission was also the occasion for the resumption of contacts with the representatives of the National Red Cross Society, concerning in particular questions relating to the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

In May, the regional delegate in Nairobi went on a mission to Madagascar, with the aim of resuming contact with the authorities and with the representatives of the National Red Cross Society. The question of the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law to members of the armed forces and in the universities was discussed on that occasion.

Central and West Africa

Burundi

In 1981, the ICRC had obtained from the Burundi authorities their agreement to the principle of ICRC visits to places of detention in the country, in accordance with the customary ICRC conditions.

A series of visits was carried out from 4 to 29 September 1982 by three ICRC delegates based in Kinshasa. They had access throughout the country to eleven places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, containing altogether 3,322 detainees arrested on various grounds. The visits were carried out in accordance with the customary ICRC norms and were the occasion for a distribution of relief by the ICRC (toilet articles, kits of medicaments and dressings, carpentry tools and recreational material) to a value of about 36,000 Swiss francs.

Furthermore, the Minister of the Interior agreed in principle that the ICRC would be allowed, on subsequent visits, to extend its protection activities to the detainees incarcerated in

the places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior.

During this mission, the ICRC delegates had talks with Lieutenant-Colonel Stanislas Mandi, Minister of the Interior, Mr. Laurent Nzeyimana, Minister of Justice, and senior officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and of the Prison Administration. They also conferred with the leaders of the Burundi Red Cross.

This September mission gave the ICRC the opportunity to broach with the Burundi authorities the question of Burundi's accession to the 1977 Protocols.

Cape Verde Islands

At the invitation of the authorities of the Cape Verde Islands, an ICRC delegate carried out a mission to that country at the end of March. He was received by the Head of State, President Aristides Pereira, and had talks with Mr. Julio Cesar de Carvalho, Minister of the Interior, Dr. David Hopffer Cordeiro Almada, Minister of Justice, and Dr. Ireneu Fileto Gomes, Minister of Health and Social Affairs.

One of the objectives of this mission was to visit security detainees. On 25 March, the ICRC delegate was granted access to fifteen persons, sentenced on charges of imperilling the security of the State and detained in Mindelo Prison on the island of Sao Vincente. Subsequently, the ICRC obtained the authorization of the Head of State himself to repeat such visits. Accordingly, the regional delegate for West Africa and a doctor went in September to the Cape Verde Islands and were allowed access to twelve of the fifteen persons seen in March (three having been released in the meantime) in accordance with customary ICRC procedure.

The two missions carried out in 1982 also gave the ICRC delegates the opportunity to discuss with the authorities and with the President of the local Red Cross society the question of the Cape Verde Islands' accession to the Geneva Conventions and the procedure for the recognition of the Red Cross society.

Gambia

Following the abortive *coup d'Etat* of 29 July 1981, the ICRC had tried to obtain access to the arrested persons: in August, an offer of services had been addressed to the Gambian authorities and, later, several missions had been despatched to Banjul. But at the end of 1981 those overtures had still not produced any result.

After another unsuccessful mission at the end of March 1982, an ICRC delegate went to Gambia in June for further negotiations to obtain access to the places of detention in the country. He was received by the Vice-President of Gambia, Mr. Bakary Derbo, and by the Minister of the Interior, Mr. A. S. M'Boob, and other senior officials. These talks did

not produce any result, as the Gambian authorities did not accept the ICRC's offer of services. The Senegalese authorities at Dakar and their representative at Banjul were also approached on several occasions, but at the end of the year, the situation remained unchanged.

The missions to Gambia gave the ICRC the opportunity to confer on several occasions with Gambia Red Cross leaders.

Ghana

Right at the beginning of the year, the ICRC sought to obtain access to the persons arrested after the *coup d'Etat* of 31 December 1981. To that end, it carried out four missions to Ghana: in April, June, August and November. ICRC delegates had talks with the highest authorities in the land, including Lieutenant Rawlings, President of the "Provisional National Defence Committee", and, on several occasions, with Brigadier Nunoo Mensah, also a member of the Defence Committee and Army Commander-in-Chief, and with the Minister of the Interior, Mr. J. Hansen. Numerous meetings also took place with leaders of the Ghana Red Cross.

In April, an offer of services from the ICRC and a memorandum describing the procedure established by the ICRC concerning visits to places of detention were transmitted to the Ghana authorities. This offer of services was favourably received and the Government's basic acceptance was communicated to the ICRC in June. However, two months later, the rule that detainees should be interviewed without witness was challenged, and the ICRC was therefore impelled to call off its action. Since then, despite repeated overtures, the situation has not changed.

Rwanda

In 1982, as in the previous year, the ICRC continued its attempts to obtain access to security detainees. The Rwandan authorities were favourably inclined to the ICRC's request, but they pointed out that, taking into account local legislation, they were not prepared to accept the principle of interviews without witness with the persons detained, especially those in preventive detention. The ICRC therefore found itself obliged not to make use of the authorization it had been granted to visit all categories of detainees and all the places of detention.

The mission also gave the ICRC delegates the opportunity to discuss with the authorities and with Red Cross leaders the procedure to be followed for Rwanda's accession to the 1977 Protocols and the question of the official recognition of the Rwandan Red Cross (*see, too, the chapter on "National Societies"*). The delegates conferred about these questions more particularly with Mr. F. Ngarukiyintwali, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Mr. Ch. Nkurunziza, Minister of Justice, Mr. I. Musafiri, Minister of Health, and Mr. Karemara, Minister at the Presidency.

Western Sahara

Since 1975, the ICRC has been following developments in the conflict in the Western Sahara, endeavouring to discharge its treaty obligations in aid of the victims — mainly prisoners of war — and reminding the parties concerned of their obligations under the Geneva Conventions. Although the ICRC has made repeated attempts to put an end to the deadlock that has now existed for several years, it is still unable to undertake its protection activities. The last visits carried out by ICRC delegates to prisoners in Moroccan hands took place in 1978 (a visit to 99 Algerian prisoners), and to prisoners held by the Polisario Front in 1976 (a visit to 57 Moroccan and Mauritanian prisoners out of an unspecified total).

At the end of 1981, the ICRC reminded the parties of the applicability of the Geneva Conventions to the conflict in the Western Sahara, and it again addressed an offer of services to King Hassan II of Morocco and Mr. Mohamed Abdel Aziz, secretary general of the Polisario Front. This offer was followed, at the beginning of 1982, by the despatch of a memorandum, setting out the measures taken by the ICRC and its activities in connection with the conflict since 1975, to seven African Heads of State, members of the "Committee for action to be taken on the Western Sahara", set up by the OAU in 1981: Mr. Arap Moi (Kenya), Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Sekou Touré (Guinea), Mr. Moussa Traore (Mali), Mr. Shesu Shagari (Nigeria), Mr. Siadka Stevens (Sierra Leone), Mr. Gaafar Nimeiri (Sudan) and Mr. Julius Nyerere (Tanzania). A copy of the memorandum was also sent to the Committee itself in Addis Ababa.

Despite its renewed attempts, the ICRC made no progress in its action for the victims of the conflict in the Western Sahara.

Prisoners in Moroccan hands

Its offer of services addressed to King Hassan II not having elicited a reply, the ICRC renewed its offer to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on 15 October and drew attention to Morocco's treaty obligations. The Moroccan authorities, through their Permanent Mission in Geneva, declared that they were not opposed in principle to ICRC action in the field of protection. Nevertheless, in 1982, the ICRC was unable to carry out any visits to prisoners (whether Algerian soldiers or Polisario Front combatants captured during the conflict). The ICRC Central Tracing Agency all the same managed to arrange, with the co-operation of the Algerian and Moroccan Red Crescent Societies, for 558 parcels and 64 letters to be forwarded to the Algerian prisoners from their families, and for 8 letters to be sent by prisoners to their families.

Prisoners in the hands of the Polisario Front

On 24 November 1981, the ICRC had repeated its request to the secretary general of the Polisario Front to be allowed to visit the prisoners held by the Front and to set up a system for

the exchange of Red Cross messages between prisoners and their families. A favourable reply reached the ICRC on 6 March 1982. The ICRC then proposed, in a letter written by its President, to set a date for the start of the protection action and indicated that its operation rested on the principle that the agreement it had received covered, too, the customary procedures fixed by the ICRC for its visits. In March and April, it despatched a delegate to Algiers to prepare the ground with the Polisario Front representatives for the protection action, but no satisfactory results were obtained. On two further occasions, at the end of April and the end of June, it asked the Polisario Front to send it an express confirmation of its acceptance of the ICRC's conditions for visits (in particular access to all prisoners, interviews without witness and the possibility to repeat the visits). It did not receive this confirmation or any indication of the number of prisoners held by the Front. In October, the ICRC informed the Algerian Government of its unfruitful negotiations with the Polisario Front.

Former prisoners in Mauritanian hands

The Mauritanian Red Crescent Society transmitted to the ICRC a list of 150 Polisario Front combatants released by Mauritania in 1979 and 1980. This list was the official notification sent by the Mauritanian Army General Staff. In 1981, the ICRC had already been informed by the Mauritanian Red Crescent that there were no longer any members of the Polisario Front held captive by Mauritania.

Chad

At the end of 1981, ICRC action in Chad was restricted to a rehabilitation project for war disabled. The delegation had been closed down in October. But at the beginning of 1982, fresh combats having broken out between the forces of the GUNT (*Gouvernement d'union nationale de transition* — Transitional Government of National Unity) and the Armed Forces of the North (FAN), the ICRC despatched a delegate to N'Djamena to study the possible resumption of its activities in aid of war victims, in particular prisoners. At the same time, ICRC delegates set out from Khartoum to visit the areas controlled by the FAN. Following those two missions, the ICRC decided to open a delegation in N'Djamena and one in Abéché, each delegation's task being to organize assistance and protection activities in aid of the inhabitants and of prisoners of war.

The subsequent military events in Chad rapidly led to changes in the ICRC's set-up. With the capture of N'Djamena by the FAN, the ICRC's Abéché delegation became as a matter of course a sub-delegation of the N'Djamena office, though the primary objectives of the action remained unchanged.

From then, until the end of the year, ICRC delegates travelled throughout the country, in order to assess the food and medical situation of the inhabitants. The results of these missions were communicated to the Chad authorities and to various international organizations at the express request of the Head of State of Chad.

In August, the delegates found that the problem of food supplies had worsened to an alarming extent, owing to circumstances arising out of the conflict and to climatic conditions. The ICRC accordingly exerted itself to inform and warn international agencies. Following an appeal by the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO), a relief action was swiftly organized and an air-lift was in operation until the beginning of October. Not only did the ICRC contribute to the organization of this assistance action, but it also took part in the air-lift.

As regards protection activities, the Chad Head of State granted the ICRC access to the prisoners of war and its delegates were able to visit them from the end of August. From October, the ICRC in Chad was principally involved in protection activities, as the aid organizations were now capable of providing assistance to the needy inhabitants. The emergency character of the action had by then considerably abated, and the work of assistance was made easier when the roads were again practicable.

In Geneva, at ICRC headquarters, the ICRC President received on 30 November Mr. Idriss Miskine, Vice-President of Chad and Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had come to Geneva to attend the United Nations Conference on Chad.

Protection

During the first 1982 mission to Chad by an ICRC delegate, the authorities of the GUNT allowed visits to be made to FAN prisoners of war whom they had captured: on 4 March, eight wounded prisoners were seen in N'Djamena Hospital. Subsequently, 20 FAN prisoners of war, five persons detained for political reasons and a soldier undergoing disciplinary punishment were visited on two occasions. At the second visit, family messages were exchanged. In May, the prison in N'Djamena was visited by ICRC delegates, who saw there 344 detainees.

After N'Djamena had fallen to the FAN, the new authorities in Chad granted the ICRC authorization to visit all prisoners of war throughout the country. These visits began in August and were carried out in a great number of places located in the centre, north and east of Chad. From August to 31 December 1982, a total of 804 prisoners of war were seen by the ICRC delegates, who distributed to them some relief items.

In addition to the visits to prisoners of war, the ICRC asked the authorities for access to civilian detainees, who had been arrested in connection with the events. These were mostly officials and former senior employees of the GUNT. The ICRC's preliminary approach made on 18 November had not yielded any result by the end of the year.

Relief

In March and April 1982, two teams of ICRC delegates, each including a doctor, went to the conflict zones in Chad to assess the needs of the inhabitants affected by the fighting. One started from N'Djamena and visited the provinces of Batha and Guera; the second, composed of delegates based in Khartoum, went to the areas controlled by the FAN, in particular to Biltine and Abéché.

In the zone controlled by the Armed Forces of the North led by Hissène Habré, the ICRC's assessment was followed by the practical application of a food aid project for the hospital, leprosarium and orphanage at Abéché. It was also decided to provide some aid for the prisoners of war in the Abéché prison.

As soon as the delegates were installed in Abéché at the end of May, further assessment missions were carried out in the Ouaddai, Biltine and Ennedi regions. After the FAN's victory, the delegates in Abéché worked in concert with their colleagues based in N'Djamena, when conducting assessment missions and also when distributing food and medical relief.

In May, the delegates based in N'Djamena conducted further assessment missions in the centre of Chad (regions of Ati and Mongo). They found that, owing to the war and to severe drought, the children were suffering from malnutrition and that it was necessary to organize feeding centres. Two feeding centres were rapidly set up at Ati and Mongo for children and for pregnant and nursing women. The foodstuffs were provided by the World Food Programme (WFP). In June alone, some 52 tons of food were distributed in the Mongo feeding centre to 9,500 persons.

In August, the torrential rains which fell after the prolonged dry spell caused a grave deterioration of the food situation, particularly in the prefectures of Guera and Ennedi. The ICRC delegates made great efforts to alert the Chad authorities and the international organizations. In addition, they reorganized the Mongo centre so that it would provide more persons with all the food they needed and not merely part to supplement their own resources. Following an appeal to UNDRO, an air-lift was organized (all roads having been rendered impassable by the rains). It was co-ordinated by the ICRC and various aid organizations co-operated. The air-lift operated from 1 September to 5 October, bringing supplies to the areas in the centre and north of the country. The ICRC, for its part, forwarded, from 23 September to 5 October, 342 tons of food mainly to Mongo and also to Abéché, Iriba and Oum Chalouba. When the rainy season was over, consignments of food were sent by road.

After the end of the emergency phase, the ICRC handed over its assistance activities to other bodies. The still not fully organized Chad Red Cross society, supported by the League of Red Cross Societies, took over the Mongo feeding centre, while the Ati centre was taken over by *Médecins sans frontières*.

The delegates found that the Faya region needed aid. In August, a food convoy carrying 40 tons of aid was sent there and the distributions were carried out by *Protection maternelle et infantile* to 10,500 persons in that area.

In the course of the year, the ICRC provided relief to the prisoners of war visited by its delegates and to various categories of persons particularly prone to the effects of disaster situations, such as lepers, orphans and the sick in hospitals. This assistance comprised foodstuffs, blankets and clothing.

Medical aid

The first assessments made in March in the regions of Batha and Guéra showed that the medical infrastructure was ill-provided and the ICRC immediately supplied the dispensaries concerned with the aid needed for their minimum requirements. A system for the distribution of medicaments based on the available medical facilities was organized in May, to ensure that the wounded received adequate care and to build up stocks of medicaments in Ati and Mongo. The hospitals of both these provincial capitals were re-equipped. The ICRC also took part in drawing up a food programme and in keeping a check on the persons given special treatment in the feeding centres in Ati and Mongo. In this particular activity, the ICRC worked in close co-operation with the young Chad Red Cross society and the League.

A number of persons wounded in the fighting were evacuated by the ICRC: two Zaire soldiers were transported to N'Djamena, and eleven other wounded were taken from Busso to the capital.

Generally speaking, the ICRC delegates, throughout the year, and whenever the need was found in the course of their assessment missions, distributed medicaments, in particular in the regions of Abéché and Faya. For instance, *Médecins sans frontières* in Faya received from the ICRC medical and sanitary supplies, so that it might be able to continue its work in the most effective fashion.

It should be recalled that, in 1981, the ICRC had decided to lend its support to the work carried out for the war disabled by a priest of the Catholic Mission of Kabalaye in N'Djamena, by contributing to the purchase of material and by sending out a physiotherapist. This assistance to the war disabled was pursued during the whole of 1982. From the time ICRC assistance was begun in September 1981 until the end of 1982, the orthopedic workshop at the Kabalaye Mission produced 166 artificial legs and walking aids.

Medical supplies of all kinds — combat front kits, dispensary and pediatric kits, dressings and perfusion material, surgical instruments — distributed in Chad amounted to a value of some 320,000 Swiss francs.

Tracing Agency

From October 1981 (when the delegation was closed down) to September 1982, enquiries to the Tracing Agency were processed at headquarters. The protection activities undertaken by the ICRC required the presence on the spot of a delegate specialized in tracing work. Accordingly, this delegate

took part in visits to prisoners of war and was responsible for their registration, the exchange of family messages and the collection of enquiries.

Zaire

In 1982, the ICRC's presence in Zaire was officialized when an agreement for the establishment of a delegation was concluded with the Zaire Government on 27 February. It will be recalled that the ICRC had not ceased to be active in Zaire since 1978, the year of the Shaba episode.

The ICRC's principal activity in 1982 was the protection of detained persons, supplemented by an aid programme and the restoration of relations between these detainees and their families.

So that its work might be better known, the ICRC organized during the first half of 1982 more than thirty lectures with films, addressed to various groups. In December, a series of lectures was begun, on the subject of the Red Cross movement and international humanitarian law, for senior officials of the Zaire Red Cross.

Protection

After having obtained authorization in 1978 to visit places of detention in Shaba, the ICRC had finally obtained, after a series of negotiations, access to all places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, the armed forces (military prisons, police cells, etc.) and the security services. Specific permission by the authorities still had to be requested, however, for each visit. During the last three months of 1981, the ICRC's protection action had run up against difficulties: it had not found it possible to carry out visits in accordance with the conditions it had set. A memorandum, listing the main problems met by the ICRC in the field of protection, had therefore been addressed to the First State Commissioner.

Shortly after, in January 1982, the ICRC delegate-general for Africa carried out a mission to Kinshasa. He was granted interviews with the highest authorities of Zaire: the Head of State, President Mobutu Sese Seko, the First State Commissioner, the State Commissioners for Foreign Affairs and Justice, the Attorney-General of the Republic of Zaire, the General Administrator of the *Centre national de recherches et d'investigations (CNRI)* and the principal officials of the National Security Centre. President Mobutu confirmed that the Government of Zaire was willing to grant the ICRC authorization to continue its protection activities. Moreover, at a working session organized at the request of the Head of State, the delegate-general was able to discuss in depth the various problems encountered, in the presence of the Attorney-General and the directors of the places of detention visited by the ICRC.

Following the guarantees obtained by this mission, visits to detained persons were resumed at the beginning of February

and were continued until the end of the year. In Kinshasa, the ICRC delegates visited about ten places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, the armed forces and the security services; some places were visited several times. In the rest of the country, four series of visits were carried out to three different regions: in March, the ICRC delegates went to Kivu in the east of Zaire, where they were granted access to 27 places of detention under the authority of three different bodies (Ministry of Justice, the armed forces and the security services), holding in all 1,071 detainees; in August, they went to Shaba, where they saw 1,630 detainees in 8 places of detention under the authority of the same three bodies; in October, ICRC delegates went to four places of detention under the authority of the Zaire armed forces, and to one other place under the authority of the security services which the delegates had visited previously in August, holding altogether 23 detainees; and in November, they visited, in the province of the Upper Zaire, seven places of detention, under civilian and military authority, containing a total of 214 detainees.

Thus, in 1982, over 6,000 detainees were visited in places throughout the country. Confidential reports on the visits were sent to the authorities of Zaire. Interim visits were also made, with the object of handing over relief items and following up cases dealt with by the Tracing Agency.

Medical assistance

A medical delegate took part in most of the visits to places of detention in Kinshasa and in the provinces. The Shaba visits in August were carried out with the assistance of a doctor of the regional prison administration. The ICRC supplied the dispensaries of some of the prisons visited with medicaments and dressings. It also provided some detainees and former detainees with specific medicaments.

Relief

In addition to providing medical supplies, the ICRC distributed in the prisons visited foodstuffs, blankets, toilet articles, games and various utensils. A number of needy families of detainees and of former detainees also received some assistance.

The ICRC also concerned itself with the sanitary conditions in the places of detention and twice despatched a specialist in hygiene to Zaire. He visited the prisons in Kinshasa, Kivu and

Shaba, with a view to organizing a sanitation programme. Articles for the disinfection, upkeep and disinfestation of prison premises were distributed. Material for the repair — and even the construction — of drains and septic tanks was provided. In addition, in each prison, a number of detainees attended instruction courses on hygiene.

A further ICRC decision was to encourage the development of agriculture in certain places of detention. This was done with the close collaboration of the Ministry of Justice in Kinshasa and with leaders of rural development in Shaba. Maize seed, fertilizers and farm implements were distributed to five prisons in Shaba Province, while seed and tools were issued to Makala and Luzumbu prisons in Kinshasa.

Tracing Agency

The Kinshasa Tracing Agency office, in connection with the protection activities of the ICRC, registered all the detainees visited and did whatever was possible to restore relations between the detainees and their families: it informed the latter of the arrest of their next of kin and it dealt with the exchange of family messages. In the case of foreign detainees, the tracing office contacted the embassies concerned.

The Tracing Agency also endeavoured to trace missing persons, on the basis of enquiries submitted by their families, and pursued its enquiries in various parts of Zaire and in other African countries. For example, the Tracing Agency's activities at Aru (Upper Zaire) — where it had opened a subsidiary office in 1981 — were considerably expanded because of the arrival of large numbers of Ugandan refugees. In 1982, it processed some 800 enquiries. This subsidiary office's work consisted at first in bringing together members of refugee families in that region of Upper Zaire, but it also collaborated with the Khartoum and Nairobi Tracing Agencies and with the Ugandan Red Cross.

Other countries

In 1982, the regional delegate for West Africa went also to **Benin, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Togo**, the principal objective being to strengthen relations between the ICRC and those countries' National Red Cross Societies. The head of the Kinshasa delegation carried out a short mission to **Congo Brazzaville** with similar aims.

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

AFRICA

Country	Recipients	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. Fr.
		Tonnage	Value in Sw. Fr.	Value in Sw. Fr.	
Angola	Displaced civilians, disabled persons	8,373.8	10,579,650	906,650	11,486,300
Burundi	Detainees	17.3	25,100	10,940	36,040
Cape Verde	Detainees	—	700	—	700
Chad	Displaced civilians	334	342,170	321,370	663,540
Ethiopia	Displaced civilians, disabled persons	3,045	5,306,690	469,360	5,776,050
Ghana	National Society, detainees	0.3	1,130	19,310	20,440
Mozambique.	Refugees	—	—	188,580	188,580
Namibia	Detainees and their families	5.9	42,600	—	42,600
Somalia	Prisoners of war	1.3	15,800	176,930	192,730
South Africa	Detainees and their families	157.8	476,100	1,600	477,700
Sudan	Displaced civilians	3,327.6	7,692,040	210,200	7,902,240
Uganda.	Displaced civilians, refugees	111	484,220	60,150	544,370
Zaire	Detainees and their families	118.4	141,150	39,410	180,560
TOTAL		15,492.4	25,107,350	2,404,500	27,511,850

* Includes food assistance from the EEC and Swiss Confederation, aid to National Societies, to detainees and their families, and aid provided in programmes financed by special funds.