

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

Rubrik: Asia

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 02.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



An Afghan casualty being conveyed to the ICRC hospital at Peshawar in Pakistan (photo Jean-Jacques Kurz)

The ICRC continued its activities in Asia in relation to the Kampuchea conflict. It maintained its delegations in Bangkok and Phnom Penh, and gave particular attention to the Khmer civilians and Vietnamese refugees held up on the Thai border, in the midst of the combat zone. It also supported the UNHCR in its efforts to protect the "boat people", who were again victims of numerous acts of piracy in 1982.

The Afghanistan conflict also remained a major cause of concern for the ICRC in 1982. Whilst developing its medical activities on behalf of Afghan victims who had taken refuge in Pakistan, it repeatedly approached the various parties to the conflict to be able to provide protection and assistance, in accordance with its mandate, both for the prisoners held by the Afghan authorities and for those detained by the Afghan opposition movements.

The ICRC also continued its assistance and protection in East Timor where, in co-operation with the Indonesian Red Cross, it set up a programme to help the displaced persons at the camp on Atauro, a small island off the coast of Dili.

Finally, two new delegations were opened in Asia in 1982, one in Manila on 1 January, and the other in New Delhi in October. The work of the regional delegation in Kuala Lumpur was suspended towards the end of June.

Activities resumed by the regional delegation in New Delhi

The ICRC had had to suspend the work of its regional delegation in New Delhi in 1978, mainly for financial reasons, but had maintained a liaison office there until 1980, run by a local helper. It was not until 1982 that the ICRC was able to reopen this delegation, whose geographical location is an excellent base for the ICRC to develop its contacts with the governments and National Societies of the region, carry out its protection and assistance work and disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law.

After a first mission to take up contact in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, in August and September, the regional delegate received the Indian authorities' consent to open the delegation in New Delhi at the end of October.

The new regional delegate's main tasks included missions to Dacca, in August and November, to discuss the repatriation from Lebanon to Bangladesh of about 400 Bangladesh citizens released from the Insar prison camp. The ICRC also sent a list of 22 Sri Lankan prisoners, whom it had seen and registered at the Insar camp, to the Sri Lankan authorities, who had informed it of their anxiety about a number of their citizens in the Lebanon.

Conflict in Afghanistan

In 1982, the ICRC continued to seek permission from the various parties involved in the Afghan conflict to carry out its protective activities on behalf of all persons taken prisoner during the fighting, both those detained by the Afghan authorities and those captured by the opposition movements. These negotiations resulted in the conclusion of an agreement for the internment in Switzerland of Soviet soldiers held prisoner by the Afghan opposition movements. Furthermore, the ICRC delegates were invited by the Afghan authorities to return to Kabul where they began their work of protection and assistance. However, their mission had to be prematurely interrupted at the request of these same authorities.

In Pakistan, the Peshawar delegation continued and developed its activities, which were centred mainly on medical assistance for the Afghan victims of the armed clashes within their country. The wounded were still flocking in to the delegation in 1982, and its medical infrastructure was consequently reinforced.

Internment of Soviet soldiers in Switzerland

In 1982, seven Soviet prisoners captured by the Afghan opposition movements were handed over by the latter to the ICRC to be interned in Switzerland under the responsibility of the Swiss authorities. The transfer of the first group of three Soviet citizens took place on 28 May. Accompanied by the ICRC head of delegation in Pakistan and an ICRC doctor and interpreter, they were received in Zurich by the delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, who then handed them over to the Swiss authorities. Two further transfers took place on 10 August and 22 November, with similar arrangements.

This operation finally came about after lengthy negotiations with the Afghan opposition movements, Pakistan, the USSR and Switzerland, which led to an agreement on a procedure for internment in a neutral country as provided for in the Third Geneva Convention, especially Article 111.

In conformity with the ICRC's fundamental principle of never acting contrary to the wishes of those it is assisting, the whole procedure of internment in Switzerland and repatriation to the USSR, provided for after a period of two years, was explained to each prisoner during an interview without witnesses, in the presence of only the delegate and an interpreter chosen by the ICRC.

The ICRC has kept a regular check on the conditions of detention and the treatment of the Soviet internees in

Switzerland, who were first visited by delegates, including a doctor, in their place of internment on 2 June 1982. These visits have been repeated at two-monthly intervals, in conformity with the ICRC's usual criteria.

Activities in Afghanistan

On 15 June 1980, the ICRC had found itself obliged to recall its representative in Kabul to Geneva for consultations. Since then, negotiations and contacts had been maintained with the Afghan authorities and the various parties to the conflict in Afghanistan, to enable the ICRC to send back a mission to the Afghan capital. On 14 June 1982, at a meeting in Geneva between the Afghan Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Dost, and the ICRC President, agreement was reached in principle on such a return.

In response to the official confirmation of this invitation, an ICRC delegation of four delegates, including a doctor, arrived in Kabul on 14 August, where the Foreign Affairs Minister at once confirmed the Afghan government's consent to a resumption of protection and assistance activities in accordance with the conditions proposed by the ICRC.

The delegates thereupon began their work by visiting the Puli Charki Prison in Kabul according to the usual procedure. Between 24 August and 5 September, they visited Block 1, where they had access to 338 convicted prisoners and spoke without witnesses with 66 of them.

The delegates also went to four hospitals in Kabul where wounded civilians were receiving treatment, and to six dispensaries run by the Afghan Red Crescent. In view of the evident needs, emergency medicaments and material were ordered from Geneva, and distributed immediately after their delivery in Afghanistan by the delegates themselves.

After having completed the first part of their protection and assistance programme, the delegates returned to Geneva on 8 October at the express request of the Afghan government, which had asked them to discontinue their mission.

Since their return, negotiations on another mission to Kabul have continued, above all in October when the delegate-general for Asia and Oceania visited New York and discussed this matter in particular with the Afghan ambassador.

Activities in Pakistan

In 1982, the ICRC delegation in Peshawar continued to provide assistance, mainly medical, for the victims of the Afghan conflict.

It was also in regular contact with the representatives of various Afghan opposition movements, which enabled it to discuss protection activities for the prisoners in their hands.

In addition, the delegate-general for Asia and Oceania twice went to Pakistan in 1982, where he met the Pakistan authorities, the leaders of the National Society and representatives of various Afghan opposition movements. During his first mission in March, he was accompanied by the ICRC Chief Medical Officer, who was responsible for reassessing the entire medical action and drawing up the programmes and budgets for 1982. An overall budget of 6,465,000 Swiss francs was fixed for the period from 1 March to 31 December, and the appeal to donor countries and National Societies, launched in April, brought in a total amount of 4,995,000 Swiss francs.

The delegate-general returned to Peshawar, from 7 to 11 November, to re-examine the current programmes and again have talks with the leaders of the Afghan opposition movements. He then went to Islamabad to meet the Pakistan authorities.

Medical assistance

Medical assistance provided in 1982 by the ICRC delegation to the Afghan victims of clashes within Afghanistan amounted to 1,534,610 Swiss francs, including transport costs. The operation was divided into three parts:

— *EMERGENCY SURGICAL HOSPITAL.* — This hospital, which opened in June 1981, continued to develop throughout the year. A series of surgical teams worked there, either recruited directly by the ICRC or placed at its disposal by the Finnish, New Zealand and Danish Red Cross Societies. The number of medical staff remained stable, with fifteen expatriates and about a hundred local helpers.

The hospital was equipped with two operating theatres (units of blood were supplied regularly by the National Society of the Federal Republic of Germany), an X-ray unit, a laboratory and a polyclinic, and its occupancy rate fluctuated between 90% and 120% throughout the year, reaching a record figure in June. Two ambulance teams, each comprising a doctor, a medical orderly and a driver of the Pakistan Red Crescent, were stationed in the Parachinar region to give first aid to the wounded arriving at the Pakistan border and transport them quickly to Peshawar.

Between June 1981 and 31 December 1982, the ICRC hospital in Peshawar treated 1,938 hospital patients and performed 3,755 surgical operations.

— *ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHAN AMPUTEES AND PARAPLEGICS.* — This operation began in November 1981 with the establishment of an orthopaedic workshop. The use of a very simple technique (an artificial limb made of wood and leather) made it possible to fit 157 amputees with prostheses.

A team of local employees were trained by an ICRC prosthetist and took over the work in October 1982.

In addition, 53 paraplegics (this category of patients represents about 4.5% of the wounded admitted to the Peshawar hospital) were treated by three ICRC physiotherapists, and received walking apparatus made on the spot at the orthopaedic workshop.

In view of the high number of paraplegic cases, the ICRC offered to the authorities and the Pakistan Red Crescent to set up a specialized centre in Peshawar for both Afghan and Pakistani patients. An agreement to this effect was concluded between the ICRC and the Pakistan Red Crescent in October 1982 and work on the buildings was due to begin in January 1983, on a site made available free of charge by the Pakistan government. The total cost of this centre was estimated at 2,348,000 Swiss francs, to be divided over a period of three years.

— *FIRST AID COURSE AND PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT.* — As from February, the ICRC regularly gave first aid courses to Afghans arriving in Peshawar. In addition, it supplied parcels of first aid and basic medicaments to various charitable organizations helping the victims of the Afghan conflict.

Finally, the ICRC medical team which had been assigned, in February 1982, to the Adisai refugee camp near Peshawar was withdrawn in the spring of 1982. The running of the dispensary set up in the camp in 1981 was then transferred to the Pakistan Red Crescent on 1 May 1982, whilst the ICRC remained responsible for its financing.

Protection and tracing activities

In 1982, the delegates had interviews without witnesses with several Soviet prisoners held by the Afghan opposition movements and organized the transfer from Pakistan to Switzerland of seven of them in accordance with the agreements concluded (*see above*).

Travel documents were issued for them by the Central Tracing Agency, as well as for refugees of various nationalities.

Finally, in connection with the ICRC's activities in the Middle East, the ICRC delegation in Pakistan transmitted Red Cross messages between the Pakistani prisoners held in Insar camp in the Lebanon and their families.

Conflict in Kampuchea

In 1982, the ICRC delegations in Thailand and Phnom Penh continued their activities in relation to the Kampuchea conflict. As the emergency phase was over, the ICRC concentrated on its traditional tasks of protection, tracing and medical assistance.

There were still more than 200,000 persons living in jeopardy along the Khmer-Thai border, near the fighting, and towards the end of the year the number of civilian victims increased considerably as the hostilities became more severe. For example, in November, the number of wounded treated by the Khao-I-Dang surgical team had more than tripled in comparison with the total recorded for the three previous months. The increase in fighting also had repercussions on the

provinces in west Kampuchea, where the ICRC found it necessary to supply emergency medical assistance.

The worsening of the situation at the end of the year confirmed the need for the ICRC to maintain its delegates, medical teams and technicians, both in Thailand and in the People's Republic of Kampuchea, in 1983, especially as several voluntary agencies were preparing to leave the region.

In addition the ICRC organized dissemination activities in co-operation with the National Red Cross in the schools and for the Thai armed forces, as well as on the border and inside Kampuchea.

Missions and contacts

Periodic reassessments of the aid programmes according either to emergency criteria or the safety of the assisted regions, and the financing problems involved, necessitated several missions by headquarters staff to Thailand and Kampuchea.

The delegate-general for Asia and Oceania went twice to Bangkok and the Khmer-Thai border, in July and December. During his July mission, the programmes and targets for the second half of the year were drawn up in conjunction with the delegates in Thailand and those from Phnom Penh and Hanoi. The delegate-general also represented the ICRC at the annual meeting of the Coordination Committee for Succouring Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT). In December he went to Phnom Penh and Hanoi, where he had talks with the authorities.

In March, the ICRC Chief Medical Officer went on mission to Phnom Penh, where new emergency programmes were set up while the phasing out of ordinary medical activities continued.

Financing the action

The ICRC budget for its emergency and protection activities in relation to the Kampuchea conflict had been fixed at 30.2 million Swiss francs for 1982. The appeal to donor countries, launched in February, brought in a total amount of 19,750,000 Swiss francs. During the last meeting of the year in New York, the ICRC presented its 1983 programme and budget, estimated at 20,792,646 Swiss francs, to donor countries.

Activities in Kampuchea

Medical assistance

The ICRC's medical assistance programme, begun in 1979, was gradually phased out as from July 1981, because the situation was no longer considered as warranting ICRC emergency action. However, as tensions persisted in some

provinces in 1982, the ICRC was induced to set up new emergency programmes on behalf of the civilian victims.

During the first half of the year, the ICRC's ordinary medical activities were transferred to the League of Red Cross Societies. At the end of June, the ICRC had in fact withdrawn from the public health programme, being no longer responsible for its co-ordination. But as the League itself left Kampuchea at the end of August, the ICRC continued to provide logistic and administrative assistance, during the last few months of the year, to the surgical teams of the Swiss Red Cross in Kompong Cham and the Swedish Red Cross in Kompong Chnang, as these two National Societies had concluded a bilateral agreement with the Kampucheans to continue their work in the country.

The programme for supplying medical equipment and basic medicaments to the 134 provincial centres (*sroks* dispensaries) and provincial hospitals was transferred to UNICEF in 1982. It should be pointed out, however, that, at the beginning of the year, 117 *sroks* dispensaries were still receiving the material which the ICRC had supplied to the Ministry of Health at the end of 1981. Likewise, 89 medical units, also left over from the 1981 programme, were delivered to the fifteen hospitals assisted by the ICRC and the League.

As part of its new programmes for 1982, the ICRC delivered emergency aid, consisting of sets of dressings and surgical instruments, equipment for perfusions and sutures, and dressings for severe burns, for war casualties at hospitals in Kompong Thom, Battambang, Mongol Borei, Pursat and Siem Reap.

First aid equipment and medical instrument cases were distributed to thirteen *sroks* dispensaries in the four provinces particularly affected by the conflict (Pursat, Battambang, Siem Reap and Kompong Thom), all visited by delegates.

Moreover, the principal hospitals in Kampuchea all received assistance according to the needs observed. In addition, the ICRC set up a programme for the making of perfusions. Thus, at the end of 1982, three Phnom Penh hospitals and the Takmau hospital began to receive a simple apparatus enabling them to make their own glucose and saline perfusions.

Finally, a large emergency stock of medical material (amounting to about 120,000 Swiss francs) was created in Phnom Penh, to deliver supplies quickly to the Kampuchean hospitals in case of need, and be prepared for any deterioration of the situation.

The Phnom Penh blood bank, which had become operational at the end of 1981, had had to launch a publicity campaign among the population to recruit sufficient blood donors. The ICRC helped the local Red Cross organize this campaign.

In 1982, ICRC medical assistance to Kampuchea, including transport costs, amounted to 1,112,640 Swiss francs.

Material assistance and logistic support

PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE TO ORPHANAGES. — This programme of special assistance, begun in 1981 for an

initial group of eight orphanages in the provinces of Pursat, Pray Veng and Svay Rieng, was renewed in 1982. The second phase of the programme (first half of 1982) enabled eight more orphanages in the coastal regions (Kompong Som and Kampot) and the provinces near Phnom Penh to be assisted. The third phase (second half of 1982) concerned eight other orphanages, located further away in the provinces of west Kampuchea. Simple relief supplies (bedding, kitchen and sanitary equipment, etc.) were distributed by the Ministry of Social Action in co-operation with the delegate in charge of this programme.

DELIVERY BY AIR. — From 1 January to 30 July, the ICRC organized 57 shuttle flights between Bangkok and Phnom Penh to carry emergency medicaments and relief for the ICRC and other organizations, mainly UNICEF and the UNHCR. Started in 1979, this shuttle flight was discontinued at the beginning of August, and replaced, in September, by a weekly airline service to Ho Chi Minh City, and then by a DC-3 chartered by the ICRC between Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh (sixteen flights).

Protection and tracing activities

Throughout 1982, the ICRC tried without success to obtain permission to visit certain categories of prisoners in Kampuchea (persons taken while bearing arms, civilians arrested in connection with events and foreign nationals having no diplomatic protection).

ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF "UNACCOMPANIED MINORS". — Since October 1980, in co-operation with the UNHCR, the ICRC had organized a tracing programme within Kampuchea for unaccompanied Khmer children living in UNHCR camps in Thailand. The initial purpose of this programme was to identify and locate the probable parents of 733 unaccompanied children, before subsequently arranging for families to be reunited within Kampuchea. On 29 July 1982, the ICRC was obliged to abandon this programme, as it had not received the authorization to take up direct contact with the parents concerned in Kampuchea, and so could not establish their kinship with the unaccompanied children. The ICRC therefore finally had to be content with keeping a record of these 733 children by compiling a file on each case.

Activities in Thailand

While continuing to support the National Society's assistance programme for the Thai people affected by the events in Kampuchea, the ICRC carried on its protection and tracing activities and kept up a minimum programme of emergency assistance, along the Khmer-Thai border, for Khmer and Vietnamese victims.

Protection

To carry out its protection activities along the border, the ICRC repeatedly approached all the authorities concerned, appealing to them to co-operate and authorize delegates to visit their prisoners in conformity with the rules laid down by the Geneva Conventions.

PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE NATIONALS. — In 1982, as in the previous year, the fate of the Vietnamese nationals grouped together in camp NW82 (the supposedly provisional Samet camp), as well as in several camps along the border, remained one of the ICRC's major concerns. Throughout the year, it met and discussed with representatives of the UNHCR and the countries concerned on numerous occasions, both in Geneva and Bangkok, in the hope of obtaining the transfer of this particularly vulnerable group of people to an area of greater safety.

Vastly overcrowded, NW82 camp, which had been intended originally to receive some 800 persons, numbered over 2,000 in October. At the end of 1982, more than 2,800 persons had been registered, including the Vietnamese refugees of NW82 and the new arrivals housed in the camps along the border (Nong Chan, Nong Samet and Phnom Chat). In addition to their protection work, the delegates provided the population of these camps with material assistance. They also continued their tracing activities and transmitted family messages.

During a visit to Geneva, on 12 October, of a Thai delegation led by Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, Secretary General of the National Security Council, the ICRC President informed him of the latest measures undertaken (meetings held in conjunction with the UNHCR at headquarters and in Bangkok, to which the representatives of the Permanent Missions of about twenty potential host countries had been invited) and of the ICRC's hopes to reach at least a partial solution of the situation soon.

In December, the Thai government confirmed its consent to the procedure proposed, which would allow these refugees to leave the border in stages, as the host countries agreed to receive them. The technical arrangements for individual examination of each refugee's case, to enable them to be transferred without delay to a safer place, were immediately worked out. The selection was due to start at the beginning of January, under the supervision of ICM (Intergovernmental Committee for Migration).

VISIT TO PLACES OF DETENTION ALONG THE BORDER. — The delegates continued visiting and registering the prisoners in the places of detention along the border, i.e. Samet, Nong Chan and Phnom Chat. Miscellaneous relief (food, mosquito nets, mats, etc.) was distributed on these occasions.

The delegates also paid weekly visits, in 1982, to the "illegal immigrants" detained in the military prisons at the Aranyaprathet base.

Medical assistance

As the situation along the border remained tense and unsettled, the ICRC's medical activities there had to be continued throughout 1982.

The ICRC had set up a network, to the north and south of Aranyaprathet, for evacuating the emergency cases, transporting the seriously wounded (by mines or bullets) by ambulance to the Khao-I-Dang hospital. At the end of the year, this network was extended to the border area to the north-east of Aranyaprathet (O'Smach/Chong Chom and O'Bock regions). A surgical unit was due to be set up at Kab Cherng, near Chong Chom (Surin province), at the very beginning of 1983.

At the end of 1982, the ICRC had to reinforce its surgical teams, because of the fierce fighting, the departure of the Japanese medical team from the Khao-I-Dang hospital and the closing of the Italian surgical hospital in Ta Praya.

KHAO-I-DANG CAMP. — The Khao-I-Dang hospital, which had been chosen since 1980 as a rear base for medical activities along the border, continued this role in 1982, with priority given to the treatment of war casualties. Two surgical teams (i.e. fifteen persons placed at the ICRC's disposal by the National Societies of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) treated 783 patients for war injuries and performed a total of 1,503 operations.

NORTH AND SOUTH OF ARANYAPRATHET. — An ICRC medical team of a doctor and three nurses gave medical attention to the displaced civilians, both Khmer and Vietnamese, along the border. They made regular visits to Nong Pru, Taprik and Khao Dinh to the south of Aranyaprathet, as well as other localities there, and went to Phnom Chat, Kok Tahan and, at the end of the year, Sihanouk-Borey (O'Smach), to the north.

Moreover, besides evacuating the wounded from the border to Khao-I-Dang, the medical team took part in the visits to the places of detention in Aranyaprathet, on the border, and to NW82 camp.

Thanks to the co-operation of the Japanese, Australian and Thai Red Cross Societies, the ICRC was able to provide the Khao-I-Dang hospital and the Ta Praya, Samet and Nong Chan hospital units with blood throughout the year. It also supplied blood to various voluntary agencies, including *Médecins sans frontières*, making a total of 7,470 units of blood distributed in 1982.

In Aranyaprathet, the ICRC dispensary supplied medicines and medical equipment to the Khao-I-Dang teams and to various voluntary agencies.

The cost of ICRC medical assistance to Thailand in 1982 amounted to 1,027,610 Swiss francs.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency at the Bangkok delegation was mainly concerned with the civilians arriving from Kampuchea by land

(people gathered in camps inside Thailand or on the border). Among these civilians, principally Khmer, were some Vietnamese refugees ("land people") and a number of unaccompanied minors (see also chapter "Activities in Kampuchea").

The Tracing Agency, in association with the Tracing and Mailing Service of the Thai Red Cross, also had to deal with problems relating to the "boat people" (see chapter "Refugees in South-East Asia").

During 1982, the following services were organized on behalf of these various categories of victims:

- 4,178 persons (either Khmer or Vietnamese victims) were the subject of tracing requests made by members of their families or were the subject of requests for transfers or family reuniting; 1,152 persons were found, transferred or united with their families;
- 31,450 letters and air letters were transmitted between the Vietnamese "land people" and their families in other countries;
- various certificates were issued, e.g. 38 travel documents.

In 1982, the Bangkok Tracing Agency enlarged its data processing programme in order to include the files of the Vietnamese refugees, which could then be fed directly into the Central Tracing Agency's computer in Geneva.

Lastly, as a sideline to its activities for the Khmer and Vietnamese victims, the Bangkok Tracing Agency, with the help of the Hanoi delegation, organised the repatriation via Bangkok of citizens of countries without diplomatic representation in Viet Nam: 301 persons of Chinese origin were thus able to return to Taiwan on two flights in 1982.

Other activities in Thailand

VISITS TO SECURITY PRISONERS. — In 1982, the ICRC resumed its visits to security prisoners in Thailand, which had been discontinued in 1979 owing to the priority which had to be given to its humanitarian activities in connection with the Kampuchea conflict. As a result of negotiations since 1981, delegates had access to a dozen rehabilitation centres under the authority of the Internal Security Operations Command, where they saw 278 prisoners between mid-February and the end of April 1982. After this series of visits, the delegation requested the Ministry of the Interior for permission to begin another series and visit other categories of prisoners detained by this same Ministry. These requests were renewed at the end of the year.

Personnel

Whereas the total number of people on 1 January 1982 in the ICRC delegation in Thailand (including members of National Societies and local helpers) was 234, this figure had fallen by 31 December to 149 employees at Bangkok, Aranyaprathet

and Chantaburi, consisting of 108 local helpers, 21 ICRC expatriate employees and about twenty experts lent by National Societies (medical teams).

Refugees in South-East Asia

The ICRC continued its assistance for the "boat people" mainly through the Central Tracing Agency (CTA). The problem of the Vietnamese refugees flocking to the Khmer-Thai border is dealt with in the chapter "Activities in Thailand".

The scourge of piracy of which the "boat people" were the victims was also of grave concern to the ICRC.

Central Tracing Agency

In 1982, the Central Tracing Agency continued its work, begun in 1979 on behalf of the Vietnamese refugees, especially the "boat people". The amount of work was still considerable, as although the number of people leaving Viet Nam by sea or land had declined, the ICRC was still receiving numerous tracing requests.

As in previous years, this activity was carried out by the Central Tracing Agency in close collaboration with:

- the Tracing and Mailing Service networks set up by seven South-East Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross and the Macao branch of the Portuguese Red Cross). These tracing and mailing services are financed by the ICRC;
- the National Societies of the host countries, whose tracing services were receiving more and more enquiries as the problem shifted to the countries where most of the refugees were being resettled. In this context, the Central Tracing Agency organized a workshop bringing together, for the first time, senior tracing service representatives of the National Societies in the principal countries of permanent asylum (United States, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Australia) and in the seven countries forming the Tracing and Mailing Service network. At this meeting, which was held in Geneva on 11 November 1982, the participants made a comprehensive review of working methods and undertook to promote a wider exchange of information between the various services concerned.

The Central Tracing Agency, moreover, continued to co-ordinate tracing operations for the Vietnamese refugees by visiting the seven South-East Asian units making up the Tracing and Mailing Service and by organizing the network's fourth workshop, in Manila, from 21 to 25 June 1982.

In Geneva, the "Vietnamese boat people" section of the Central Tracing Agency made a considerable effort to

streamline its working methods and was thus able to cut down appreciably on staff and budgets. The growing use of data processing also made it possible for the ICRC to improve the services it had undertaken to provide for the Vietnamese refugees.

Piracy

Although the repression of piracy, to which the "boat people" were still victims in 1982, falls within the scope of governments, the ICRC continued to approach the countries bound by the Law of the Sea to remind them of their responsibilities and request them to protect these refugees as soon as possible. In particular it urged the international community to give coastal countries, especially Thailand, the technical and financial resources required to combat these crimes, mainly in their territorial waters. These steps were undertaken in close collaboration with the UNHCR, the organization competent to deal with questions of piracy, and with the support of the League of Red Cross Societies and UNICEF.

As Thailand had expressed its willingness, in December 1981, to resume and step up its anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Siam, which had been suspended after only six months, the UNHCR and the ICRC requested sixteen Western European governments and the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan to provide the necessary funds for this programme, assessed at 3.67 million dollars for six months. Thailand and Malaysia, the countries of first asylum, also took part in the meetings organized at the ICRC and the UNHCR.

On 23 June, an agreement was concluded between the UNHCR and the Thai government, to which the funds collected from donor governments were handed over. On 20 July, Thailand officially took over the anti-piracy programme.

In addition to carrying out negotiations, in Geneva and Bangkok, the ICRC sub-delegation in Chantaburi helped co-ordinate the activities in the field, in collaboration with representatives of the UNHCR.

Finally, the ICRC was kept informed of the work of the International Committee against Piracy (ICAP), and of the German Committee of Emergency Doctors ("Notärzte"), which had chartered the vessel "Cap Anamur".

Other activities in the Far East

Indonesia and East Timor

Besides its protection activities in Indonesia, the Jakarta delegation continued the assistance and protection programme in East Timor in 1982, and its delegates had regular access to the island throughout the year.

During the June mission of the delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, the objectives of the assistance programme for East Timor, carried out jointly with the Indonesian Red Cross, were reassessed. The question of developing the ICRC's protection work, both in East Timor and in Indonesia, was also discussed with the Indonesian authorities.

In July, the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister was received by the ICRC President at the Geneva headquarters. In addition to the ICRC's activities in East Timor, the problem of reuniting families in Australia or Portugal and the repatriation of Portuguese nationals was also brought up (*see below*).

Protection in Indonesia

During the delegate general's June visit, the Indonesian authorities confirmed their consent to another series of ICRC visits to the detainees of the former G.30.S/PKI category (those arrested after the attempted *coup d'Etat* of 30 September 1965). At the end of the year, the ICRC's visit was scheduled for January 1983. The previous visit dated back to the first half of 1981.

Activities in East Timor

The ICRC had drawn up two six-month budgets for 1982, together amounting to 3,144,308 Swiss francs. In March, an appeal was launched to the principal donor governments and National Societies for the sum of 1,211,000 Swiss francs.

During the debates on East Timor at the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations, the ICRC's rôle was polemically cited several times. In its reply, in a press release issued in New York, the ICRC briefly described its activities in East Timor and Atauro, stressing their strictly humanitarian character and the danger to the victims if these activities had to be suspended because of being used for political ends.

Protection

On 18 January 1982, the Indonesian authorities confirmed their agreement allowing the ICRC to visit the places of detention on East Timor and the displaced persons camp on the island of Atauro. After receiving this authorization, a team of four delegates, including a doctor, went to the island of Atauro during the second half of February and visited 3,332 displaced persons there. At Dili prison, on the main island, the delegates saw thirteen persons detained on account of the internal situation. At the end of this visit, various relief supplies (blankets, toilet articles, leisure items, etc.) were handed over to the prison administration.

From 30 October to 10 November, another team of four delegates carried out a second series of visits to Dili prison and the displaced persons camp on Atauro. Another place of detention, the "Kodim", at Los Palos, on the main island, was visited for the first time. In all, 128 detainees on East Timor

(including 27 on account of the internal situation) and 3,794 displaced persons on Atauro were seen and registered during this second series of visits.

Food and medical assistance

In December 1981, the agreement concluded with the Indonesian Red Cross was renewed for the first half of 1982, so that the joint assistance programme could be continued. Following the February visits to the displaced persons camp on Atauro, a special programme had to be set up to deal with the state of malnutrition of the population, particularly the children. During the delegate-general's June mission, when he was accompanied by a leader of the National Society, the food and medical assistance programme, readjusted to meet the needs observed by the delegates, was renewed for the second half of the year. Finally, after another reassessment in November, the ICRC concluded that its assistance to East Timor and Atauro must be continued in 1983.

As the villages requiring assistance were difficult to reach by land, a helicopter service operated throughout the year. As from 1 July 1982, 42% of its cost was borne by the authorities, 30% by the ICRC and 28% by UNICEF. Moreover, in 1982, UNICEF took over some of the assistance programmes previously set up in the course of joint ICRC-Indonesian Red Cross operation.

ON THE MAIN ISLAND. — In the medical sphere, the Indonesian Red Cross and the Ministry of Health gradually took over the entire programme which had been set up during the joint operation. The ICRC's rôle then consisted principally in supplying medical aid to the women and children, the two categories of the population most affected by the lack of food. During the first half of 1982, the ICRC also continued to deliver medicaments to the health units in the fourteen villages assisted by the joint action. As from the second half of 1982, the local authorities took over the responsibility for supplying medicaments to these villages, where some ninety Indonesian Red Cross volunteers continued to work in 1982.

With regard to food aid, the ICRC recommended to the Indonesian authorities that an extra 1,000 tons of maize be delivered to East Timor in view of the anticipated poor harvest in 1982, due to the drought which had affected certain parts of the island during the planting season in 1981 and because the inhabitants of some villages, being restricted in their movements, had not been able to cultivate sufficient ground. The emergency reserve thus created enabled those responsible for the joint operation to help the villages where the situation was most acute. The need to maintain a limited degree of assistance in certain places was confirmed during the delegate-general's visit in June, although the situation had improved in most of the villages covered by the joint operation since 1979. Thus, during 1982, maize was distributed to about 25,000 persons in 27 villages. An intensive feeding centre was set up in Iliomar, one of the most affected villages, providing food to about 200 persons, mainly young children, pregnant women or nursing mothers. After completing the final survey of the year,

in November, the ICRC decided that its food and medical aid must be maintained in 1983. It also recommended to the Indonesian authorities that two new feeding centres be opened in Luro and Kailako.

ON THE ISLAND OF ATAURO. — As a result of the recommendations made by the delegates following their February visit to the displaced persons on Atauro, an emergency food and medical assistance programme was set up jointly with the Indonesian Red Cross. Begun by an initial distribution of food at the end of April, this programme, designed to cover a period of six months, consisted of several parts. Maize was regularly distributed to some 3,800 persons, and the delivery of monthly food parcels and butteroil supplemented this basic food. An intensive feeding centre was opened, providing 460 children under six and 580 adults (mainly pregnant women and nursing mothers) with daily food rich in proteins. At the end of 1982, about 1,500 meals were being served each day in this centre. In addition, milk was distributed to 870 children in the schools; this became known as the "drop of milk operation".

From the survey carried out in November, it was evident that the food and medical needs of the displaced population, especially the new arrivals, made it necessary to renew the programme for another six months (November 1982 to May 1983). Various improvements were also made to increase the efficiency of the distributions and the feeding centre.

In the medical sphere, the main object of the programme on Atauro was to combat the most common diseases (malaria, worms, skin diseases). The medicaments provided by the ICRC were distributed by the Indonesian Red Cross doctor and two nurses.

Throughout 1982, the delegates regularly had access to the island of Atauro and were able to monitor the smooth running of the programme.

Tracing activities

In 1982, the ICRC continued to give financial and technical assistance to the Indonesian Red Cross tracing services, whose personnel had taken part in the registration of the displaced persons on Atauro.

To enable family messages to be exchanged between the inhabitants of East Timor and their relatives in various other countries, the Indonesian Red Cross and the National Societies of the countries concerned set up a mailing system. The ICRC was responsible for centralizing tracing requests and carrying out enquiries in the field.

In addition to handling registrations, the ICRC continued its programme for reuniting families, in Portugal and Australia, in co-operation with the Indonesian authorities. In 1982, fifty persons left East Timor, i.e. 22 persons for Australia and 28 for Portugal.

Finally, the programme for repatriating a group of Cape Verde citizens, begun in December 1981, was completed in April 1982. This operation, which was financed by the UNHCR, enabled 71 Cape Verde citizens to be transported,

under the auspices of the ICRC, from Dili to Praia. An ICRC delegate, on mission in West Africa, went to Praia in March to find out from the Cape Verde authorities and Caritas how those who had already been repatriated were settling down.

Malaysia

With the departure, in May 1982, of its delegate, the work of the Kuala Lumpur regional delegation, which until then had covered South-East Asia and Oceania, was suspended. As from June 1982, the Kuala Lumpur office restricted its activities to Malaysia, Oceania and Singapore.

Protection

In order to complete the 1981 visits to the two main centres grouping persons arrested under the Internal Security Act (Batu Gajah and Kamunting), the ICRC received permission from the Malaysian government to visit police stations where other people belonging to the same category of prisoners were also detained. From 2 to 5 February 1982, the regional delegate and a medical delegate saw sixteen security detainees at three police stations.

Philippines

As from 1 January 1982, a new ICRC delegation was opened in Manila to cover the Philippines and neighbouring countries. Previously, the ICRC's work in the Philippines had been carried out from the regional delegation in Kuala Lumpur.

Protection

Between 20 April and 17 June 1982, three teams of delegates (i.e. six delegates in all, including a doctor) made a general visit to all the places of detention. They saw 913 detainees, including 340 "Public Order Violators", in 43 places of detention.

Between 26 October and 26 November, three delegates, including a doctor, carried out a series of visits to eleven places of detention, six of which were being visited for the first time, whilst five had already been visited in the first half of 1982. During this series of visits, they saw 1,054 detainees, including 170 "Public Order Violators".

In addition, the regional delegate paid an interim visit, in mid-January, to the Fort Bonifacio Prison in Manila, where he saw 22 detainees, including 21 "Public Order Violators".

Two other places of detention on the island of Mindanao were also visited in February, where 75 prisoners, including eleven "Public Order Violators" were seen.

Assistance

In 1982, in collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross, the ICRC continued its assistance for persons displaced as a result of the disturbances mainly affecting the islands of Mindanao and Samar.

During the first half of 1982, several on-the-spot missions were undertaken to assess the results of the current assistance programmes and to adapt them, where necessary, to the needs observed. The regional delegate thus went to the province of Davao Del Sur, in the south of the island of Mindanao, in February. In May, accompanied by a medical delegate from Geneva, he then visited the provinces of Davao Del Sur and Davao Del Norte in order to set up, with the National Society, a medical assistance programme for the most vulnerable of the displaced persons, i.e. young children, pregnant women, nursing mothers and old people. It was decided to continue this programme, initially established for the financial period covering July to December 1982, in 1983. In the course of this programme about 4,000 displaced persons were assisted in the province of Davao Del Norte, thanks to the opening of 158 feeding centres supervised by a nutritionist and a nurse, both recruited locally by the ICRC. About 3,800 persons received similar assistance in the province of Davao Del Sur, in the 27 centres supervised by a Philippine Red Cross specialist and a nurse belonging to the local health services.

Other activities

Following the ICRC President's discussion with the Philippine Defence Minister, at the end of 1981, at the time of the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference in Manila, the head of the ICRC Information Department stayed in the Philippines in June 1982 to examine the possibilities for undertaking a dissemination campaign among the armed forces.

The regional delegate went to Hong Kong and Macao, from 15 to 22 March, to have talks with senior representatives of the tracing and mailing services of the British and Portuguese National Societies. The technical seminar, which was held for them in Manila in June, is described in the chapter "Refugees in South-East Asia" of this Report.

Viet Nam

Throughout 1982, the ICRC was represented in Viet Nam by a delegate based in Hanoi.

The visit to headquarters, on 7 October, of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ha Van Lau, who was received by the ICRC President, made it possible for various questions of mutual interest to be taken up again, i.e. the ICRC's activities in Kampuchea and the programme for repatriating foreign citizens without diplomatic representation in Viet Nam.

At the beginning of December, the delegate-general for Asia and Oceania went to Hanoi, where he met the authorities, in particular the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the leaders of the National Society. Besides again discussing subjects of mutual interest, the delegate-general presented a draft dissemination programme for the Vietnamese armed forces.

Repatriation of foreign residents

The ICRC has been concerned since 1975 with the repatriation of foreign nationals without diplomatic representation in Viet Nam. Between September 1976 and December 1982, 4,893 Taiwan citizens were repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC. In 1982, two flights were organized, carrying 301 persons to Taiwan by way of Bangkok.

Medical assistance

On 26 April 1982, the Ho Chi Minh City blood bank was inaugurated in the presence of the ICRC Hanoi delegate.

Mission to Laos

From 8 to 11 March, the delegate based in Hanoi went to Vientiane to resume contact with the authorities, in particular

the Deputy Minister of Health, and with representatives of the Lao Red Cross.

Other countries

From 19 to 24 August, Mr. R. Pestalozzi, ICRC Vice-President, accompanied by a delegate from the Principles and National Societies Division, went to the **People's Republic of China**, where he had talks with representatives of the Red Cross Society of China. He was also received by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as by senior officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education. Dissemination was the main topic of discussion during this mission.

The two ICRC representatives then visited the **People's Democratic Republic of Korea** from 24 to 27 August. They were received by leaders of the National Red Cross Society and one of the Deputy Prime Ministers. The main purpose of this mission was to foster relations with this country, which had been visited in 1981, for the first time since 1959, by the delegate-general for Asia and Oceania.

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

ASIA

Country	Beneficiaries	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. Fr.
		Tonnage	Value in Sw. Fr.	Value in Sw. Fr.	
East Timor.	Displaced civilian population, sick persons	260	890,130	123,550	1,013,680
Indonesia.	Detainees	0.2	7,280	—	7,280
Kampuchea	Displaced civilian population, sick persons	22.5	178,720	1,112,640	1,291,360
Pakistan	Refugees, sick persons	—	—	1,534,610	1,534,610
Philippines	Displaced civilian population, detainees, National Society	1,355.4	2,530,410	62,000	2,592,410
Thailand	Refugees, sick persons	1,355.5	2,479,200	1,027,610	3,506,810
Viet Nam**	Refugees	—	12,670	—	12,670
TOTAL		2,993.6	6,098,410	3,860,410	9,958,820
<p>* 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.</p> <p>** Expenses incurred during the Viet Nam/Taiwan repatriation.</p>					