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## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In 1985, the ICRC's two biggest medical assistance programmes were carried out in Asia: in Pakistan, on behalf of Afghan war wounded managing to reach the border, and along the Khmer-Thai border where some 230,000 Khmer civilians were still stranded. The ICRC also continued its efforts to extend its protection activities.

The ICRC launched special appeals to finance activities carried out in connection with the conflicts in Afghanistan and Kampuchea and assistance activities in the Philippines. The regional activities of the delegations based in New Delhi, Jakarta, Hanoi and Manila were financed by the regular budget. The balance in hand from 1984 plus voluntary contributions enabled the ICRC to continue its activities in East Timor without launching a new appeal.

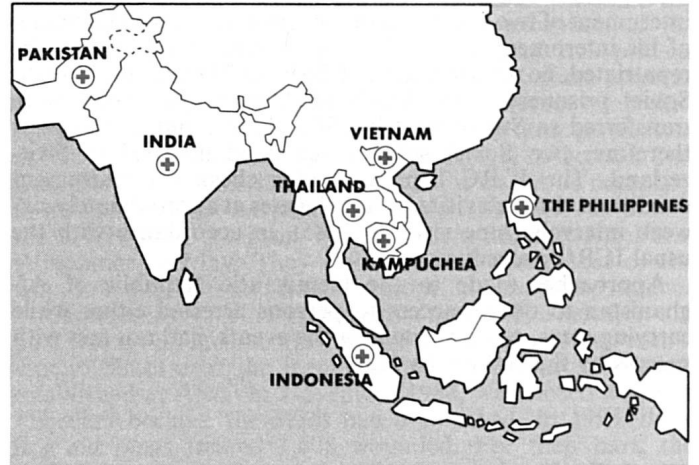
The number of delegates (including medical and administrative personnel) working in Asia in 1985 was about 120.

### CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN

In 1985, as in previous years, the ICRC continued to seek permission from the various parties to the conflict to carry out its protection and assistance activities for *all* victims of the conflict, civilian and military, in accordance with the mandate conferred on it by the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the International Red Cross. It reiterated its availability to visit persons arrested while carrying arms or on account of the events, to set up medical and food aid programmes after prior surveys of needs and with subsequent monitoring, and to develop the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law. To this end, the ICRC several times met representatives of the Afghan government in Geneva and New York and on 18 September delivered an *aide-memoire* for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In addition, at the beginning of September, the ICRC offered its services to carry out medical assistance activities on behalf of victims of the heavy fighting taking place in Paktia and resulting in a considerable number of wounded. In addition, during a meeting with the Secretary General of the Afghan Red Crescent Society on 25 October, the possibility of ICRC and National Society co-operation in rehabilitation work for the disabled was raised.

During 1985 the ICRC also had frequent contacts in Geneva with representatives of the government of the USSR, in an attempt to solve the grave problems resulting from the conflict situation in Afghanistan.

At the end of the year, despite all these endeavours, ICRC activities on behalf of the victims of the conflict were still limited to the provision of medical assistance (surgical and orthopaedic) in Pakistan by the delegation at Peshawar (North-West Frontier Province) and the sub-delegation at Quetta (province of Baluchistan).



To cover its activities in 1985, the ICRC launched an appeal at the beginning of the year for 11,520,000 Swiss francs, but a balance in hand at the end of 1984 enabled the appeal figure to be reduced accordingly. Nevertheless, a supplementary appeal for 2,660,700 Swiss francs had to be launched in September to meet the expenses entailed by the exceptional influx of wounded in Peshawar.

#### Protection and tracing activities

The ICRC sought unremittingly to obtain permission to carry out its protection activities on behalf of all persons taken prisoner during the fighting or arrested on account of the conflict situation, both those detained by the Afghan authorities and those captured by the opposition movements.

Throughout the year, the ICRC held talks with the various parties holding prisoners to remind them of their responsibilities towards the latter, referring by analogy to the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention. It also requested access to these prisoners. In Pakistan, the ICRC delegates had regular contacts with the leaders of Afghan opposition movements concerning prisoners in their hands (Soviets, members of the Afghan regular army, civilians) and asked permission to visit them in their places of detention. This proposal had not elicited any clear response at the end of the year. Nevertheless, the ICRC received a Red Cross family message from a Soviet prisoner, forwarded by an Afghan opposition movement (the ICRC had in fact tried to set up a system in 1984 for the exchange of family messages, on behalf of prisoners detained by Afghan opposition movements). The agreements signed in 1982 between the parties concerned and providing for the internment in a neutral country, under the

responsibility of the authorities of that country, of Soviet prisoners captured by Afghan movements—the neutral country in this case being Switzerland—continued to be applied *vis-à-vis* the three Soviet soldiers still interned at the end of 1984. The parties concerned having agreed on a duration of internment of two years, one of these internees reached the end of his internment period; having adhered to his wish to be repatriated, he returned to the USSR on 23 October. No new Soviet prisoners in the hands of Afghan movements were transferred to Switzerland in 1985. At the end of the year, therefore, two Soviet soldiers remained interned in Switzerland. The ICRC kept a regular check on internment conditions through visits by its delegates at approximately six-week intervals (nine visits in 1985), in accordance with the usual ICRC procedures.

Approaches made to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to obtain access to persons arrested either while carrying arms, or on account of the events, had not met with success by the end of the year.

## Activities in Pakistan

The ICRC delegation in Peshawar and the sub-delegation in Quetta (Baluchistan) expanded their assistance activities, chiefly medical, for the victims of the Afghan conflict. They also kept in contact with the various Afghan opposition movements.

In September, the ICRC delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific visited Pakistan to define the ICRC's aims and action programmes with the delegates on the spot. In November, the President of the ICRC, accompanied by the deputy delegate-general, also went to Pakistan. He had discussions in Islamabad with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Mohamed Khan Junejo, both on ICRC action for victims of the Afghan conflict and the ICRC's main activities throughout the world, and on ratification of the Additional Protocols by Pakistan. The President of the ICRC also visited Peshawar and Quetta. He had talks with the respective governors of the two provinces and visited the various centres of ICRC activity.

The Pakistan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Shahabzada Jakub Khan, visited the ICRC headquarters on 29 August. He was received by the President and the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific.

The number of field staff varied during the year in accordance with needs and the expansion of medical activities. Locally recruited employees totalled 550 on average and the delegates, including National Society personnel, about 40.

### Medical assistance

ICRC medical activities in Pakistan, already large-scale, showed a marked increase in 1985, as a consequence of the growing number of Afghan wounded who reached the ICRC

emergency hospitals. Apart from the medical and paramedical personnel recruited directly, the ICRC was helped by 86 persons (doctors, nurses, etc.) placed at its disposal by the Australian, Canadian, Danish, Finnish, Italian, New Zealand, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies. The medical assistance alone, provided by the ICRC, was worth almost 2.5 million Swiss francs.

ICRC medical aid in Pakistan consisted of various activities:

**PESHAWAR EMERGENCY SURGICAL HOSPITAL.**—In service non-stop since it was opened in June 1981, the ICRC hospital experienced a maximum occupancy rate in 1985. Equipped with two operating theatres, an X-ray unit, a laboratory and a polyclinic, this hospital, with an optimal capacity of 100 beds (which can be increased to 120, and even 150 beds when necessary), functioned in the same way as in preceding years: two surgical teams, one provided by the ICRC and the other by a National Society, in co-operation with an ICRC head nurse, her assistant, and about 130 locally recruited employees, gave treatment to the war wounded, although reception possibilities at times became stretched to the limit by the situation (219 admissions in March, for example). Fierce fighting in Afghanistan, especially from July onwards in the province of Paktia, caused a heavy influx of wounded into the ICRC hospital. At the end of August, the usual emergency measures no longer sufficed—the hospital treated 198 wounded—and reinforcements in supplies and personnel became necessary. Consequently, a field hospital with a capacity of 50 to 100 beds was provided by the Norwegian Red Cross and three surgical teams and eleven nurses were sent by the National Societies of New Zealand, Denmark, Canada, Finland and Sweden and by the Swiss Disaster Relief Corps. Extra local staff had to be engaged.

Having arrived in Peshawar on 6 September, the field hospital was promptly set up and admitted its first patients on 8 September. The main hospital continued to do the triage, perform complex surgical operations and treat the wounded arriving during the night, whereas the field hospital was used for simpler surgical operations—one tent was equipped as an operating theatre—and to provide post-operative care. The number of admissions remained high until October (256 in August, 268 in September and 186 in October). Subsequently, the situation returned almost to normal so that the field hospital could be dismantled on 10 November.

In 1985 a total of 2,108 patients, all war wounded, were admitted to the two hospitals, where 4,368 surgical operations were performed (more than 400 of which took place in the field hospital). The ICRC hospital also has an out-patient department which, in 1985, gave 10,303 consultations. In addition, the training of local personnel was continued.

**SURGICAL HOSPITAL AT QUETTA.**—Opened in July 1983 to treat the war wounded from the south of Afghanistan, this ICRC surgical hospital with a capacity of 60 beds (which can be increased to 80 if necessary) received a total of 727 war casualties. It had a steady occupancy rate of about 80%

throughout the year. The surgical team provided by the Italian Red Cross performed 1,460 operations and gave 5,022 consultations to out-patients. As at Peshawar, the training of local personnel was continued; an ICRC physio-therapist trained a four-member team.

**BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTRE.**—The blood collection and transfusion centre, set up in Peshawar in 1954 in co-operation with the Norwegian Red Cross, enabled the ICRC emergency surgical hospital in that city to be autonomous in this respect, even during the considerable influx of war wounded in the autumn. By means of a blood donation campaign among the families of patients, students in first-aid courses, and visitors, the Quetta blood transfusion centre also managed, unaided, to supply the hospital's needs.

**ASSISTANCE FOR PARAPLEGICS.**—The ICRC rehabilitation centre for paraplegics, installed since 6 February 1984 in a new building with a capacity of 100 beds, has since then received both Afghan and Pakistani paraplegics (the latter are entitled to 50% of the beds), under an agreement signed by the ICRC and the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) branch of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society. This centre continued its paraplegic rehabilitation work with the help of some 120 locally recruited employees and two ICRC specialists. In 1985, 180 paraplegics were admitted to the centre, whilst 96 were able to leave (the average length of stay at the centre is one year, until the patient has attained a minimum of autonomy). Since it was opened in 1981, 534 paraplegics have been treated at the centre (including 189 Pakistanis since February 1984) and 461 have been discharged. The ICRC supplied each rehabilitated patient with a pair of crutches, a wheelchair (made in the ICRC workshop) and the specific appliances required by his condition.

**ASSISTANCE FOR AMPUTEES.**—The orthopaedic workshop in Peshawar, set up in November 1981, continued to supply prostheses to patients from the surgical hospitals at Peshawar and Quetta, and to other Afghan war wounded. In 1985, locally recruited and trained craftsmen made prostheses or orthoses for 433 patients, under the supervision of an ICRC specialist. The production of rubber feet, which was begun at the end of 1984, was continued and it was no longer necessary to import them from Jaipur in India; 340 rubber feet were made in 1985. The orthopaedic centre, where the patients stay during the manufacture and adjustment of prostheses, has a capacity of about 30 to 35 persons; it also receives war wounded with physical handicaps. In 1985, 45 to 50 prostheses and 40 to 45 rubber feet were produced monthly.

**FIRST-AID POSTS AND EVACUATION OF WAR WOUNDED.**—The five first-aid posts set up in 1982 and 1983 in the North-West Frontier Province (at Parachinar, Miram Shah and Wana) and in Baluchistan (at Baldini and Chaman) run by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and financed by the

ICRC, each comprising a doctor or experienced medical orderly, a chauffeur and a caretaker, gave first aid to wounded Afghans arriving at the Pakistan frontier. Throughout the years these posts, which are equipped with ambulances, transported the wounded in need of hospital treatment to the Peshawar and Quetta hospitals (with the exception of the Badini post, which was closed from January to April on account of climatic conditions). The ICRC delegates based in Quetta visited Chaman and Badini several times to ensure that the ambulance teams' work was going well and to reassess needs. They also visited the district of Chagal in October and December; these missions showed that it would be necessary to set up a new first-aid post in this region in the near future. In the NWFP, the delegates visited Miram Shah in April and Parachinar in May. They also made an assessment of the situation in the Dir and Bajaur regions. In view of the number of wounded arriving in Pakistan from the north, a new first-aid post was set up at Khar (in the Bajaur region) in June, with a unit in Shahi near the frontier. The Parachinar post's unit established at Alizai in November 1984, was closed down in February because the needs had diminished. In 1985, these first-aid posts treated 1,478 wounded. For their part, the ambulance teams evacuated 1,081 wounded to the Peshawar and Quetta hospitals, 59% more than in the previous year, largely as a consequence of the severe fighting in the summer. The wounded thus evacuated represented respectively 43% of the admissions to the Peshawar hospital and 42% of those of Quetta.

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The ICRC learned with deep regret of the death on 2 November of an ambulance driver from the Parachinar first-aid post, Mr. Arif Gul, who was the victim of a road accident while transporting two wounded persons to Peshawar.

**FIRST-AID COURSES AND SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT.**—In 1985 the ICRC continued giving the first-aid courses started in March 1982 for Afghan nationals, with the aim of training them as relief workers to administer first aid on the spot and to prepare the wounded for their journey from the scene of the fighting to the frontier (where the mobile teams take charge of them). Seventeen four-week courses, including a week's practice at the Peshawar or Quetta hospital, were each attended by some fifteen people having passed the entrance examination. A total of 279 first-aid workers were trained in 1985 (159 at Peshawar and 120 at Quetta). Since March 1982, 624 Afghans have obtained their first-aid diploma after 44 courses (36 at Peshawar and eight at Quetta).

So as to teach the maximum number of people the rudiments of first aid, "Red Cross" courses of one to two days were set up in 1984. The courses continued in 1985 with great success, both

in Peshawar and in Quetta. First-aid courses of this type were also organized at the Chaman first-aid post, when security conditions permitted. A total of 5,617 Afghans attended these courses during the year.

At the end of the first-aid courses, the ICRC gave parcels of medical supplies (dressings and basic treatment) to those students who had passed the final examination. Persons who had taken the "Red Cross" courses similarly received parcels of dressings. The ICRC also continued to provide medical assistance to Afghan first-aid workers going to Afghanistan to assist victims of the fighting. The cost of this medical assistance amounted to 552,877 Swiss francs in 1985.

*FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE HEALTH CENTRE AT THE ADESAÏ CAMP.*—Up to the end of March 1985 the ICRC continued to finance health care given by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in the Afghan refugee camp at Adesaï. This aid amounted to 16,600 Swiss francs for these three months. The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies subsequently took over responsibility for this activity.

### **Dissemination and information**

The ICRC delegation in Pakistan increased its efforts to give Afghans a better knowledge of the principles of the Red Cross and the basic rules of international humanitarian law protecting civilians and wounded or captured combatants. Lectures were given to various groups of people, such as combatants, and hospital patients and their families. The first-aid courses given to Afghans provided an excellent opportunity to pass on such knowledge: six hours of the four-week first-aid courses and two hours of the one- to two-day "Red Cross" courses were therefore devoted to dissemination, backed up by a whole range of teaching aids in vernacular languages. This material was either used during the lessons (films, posters), or handed out to participants (combatant cards—a pocket-size summary of rules for combatants, cartoon strips, etc.).

A special information mission was carried out to cover the emergency phase in August-September, at the time when the field hospital arrived and was set up. A team comprising a journalist, a cameraman, a sound engineer and an ICRC photographer spent a week in Peshawar at the beginning of September and produced video reports which were sent to donor National Societies and to television channels. A press file was sent to 25 National Societies, as well as to the international press.

## **INDIA**

The New Delhi ICRC regional delegation continued its activities, both in India and in the other countries it covers — Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, the Maldives and Nepal.

In India, the delegates remained in constant touch with the National Society to co-ordinate efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and of Central Tracing Agency activities. A member of the Committee, Mr. Jäckli, visited New Delhi in February and during his visit met the Secretary General of the Indian Red Cross, Mr. Bhowmick, with whom he discussed these subjects. Future prospects as regards dissemination were also examined during the mission to India of the head of the ICRC Information Department, at the beginning of July. To promote understanding of the Central Tracing Agency's work and of training activities, a seminar was organized from 6 to 12 October for representatives of the National Society's central headquarters in New Delhi and of its local branches (Punjab, Haryana, Kashmir, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and New Delhi). The regional delegate also visited several regions of India to meet the local branches of the Indian Red Cross Society, travelling to Tamil Nadu in May and the Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir in September.

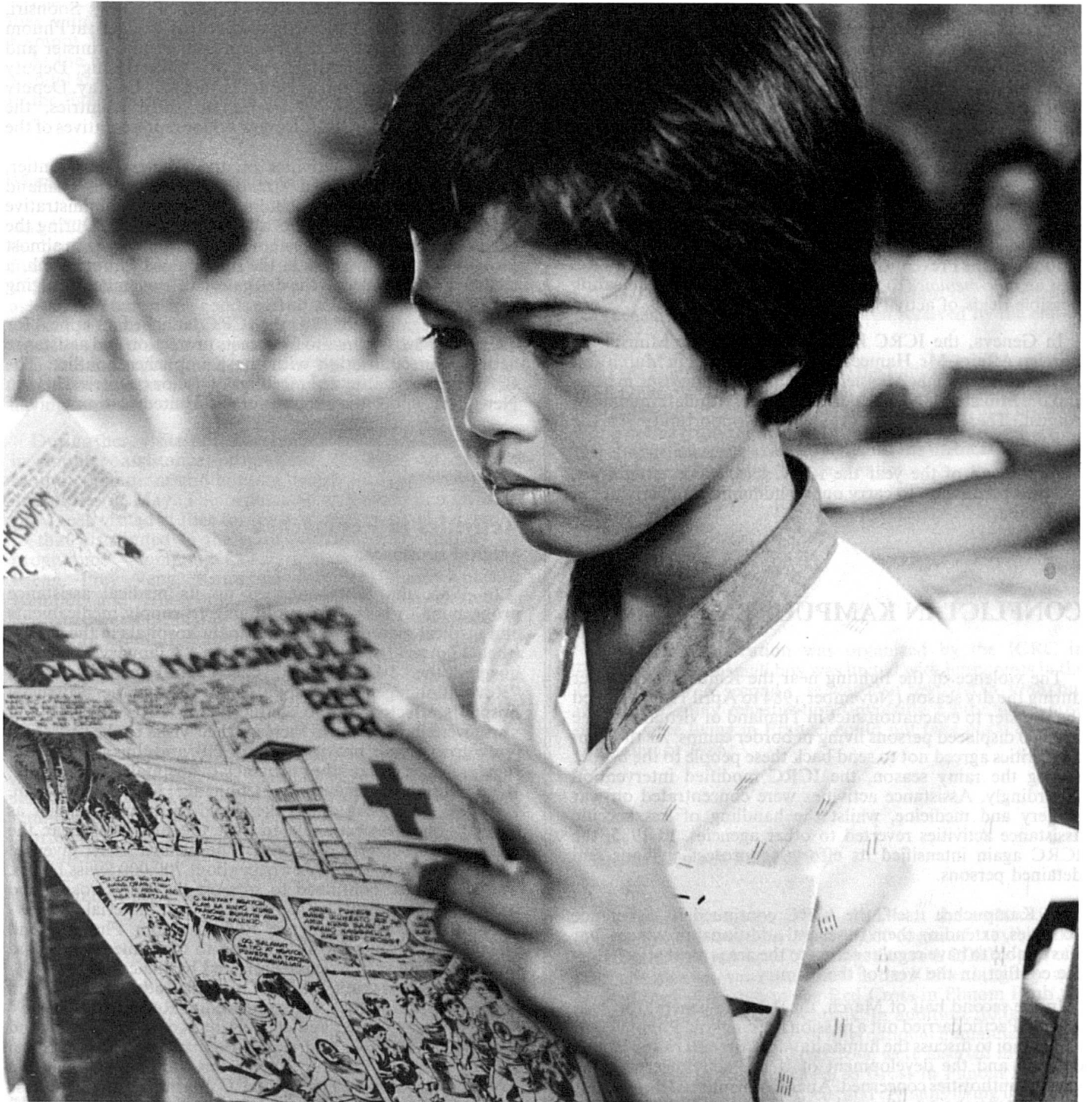
In Geneva, the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, accompanied by several high-ranking Indian officials visited the ICRC headquarters on 17 June, where he was received by the President and senior ICRC members.

## **BURMA**

During a mission carried out from 25 April to 4 May by the New Delhi regional delegate and by an orthopaedist, the Rangoon Hospital for the Disabled was visited and a project for co-operation between the National Red Cross Society, the Ministry of Health and the ICRC was prepared. The project involved the training of local staff in the physiotherapeutic treatment of amputees, and in the manufacture of artificial legs and—a more complex task—of knee prostheses. The programme started in mid-November when the New Delhi regional delegate accompanied to Rangoon the three specialists (two prosthetists and a physiotherapist) in charge of implementing the project. This team immediately began setting up the material facilities necessary for their work. The ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled is providing 147,500 Swiss francs to get these activities under way.

## **SRI LANKA**

The ICRC kept in close touch with the authorities and the leaders of the National Society of Sri Lanka, following its offer of services, reiterated in 1984, to give assistance and protection



*Dissemination of the principles of the Red Cross by means of cartoon strips in a Philippines school. (Photo: Thierry Gassmann)*

(visits to places of detention). It expressed its concern about the events and its wish to assist the victims of the clashes. In April, the ICRC delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific, accompanied by a delegate, visited Colombo, where he had interviews with the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Jayawardene, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hameed, and high-ranking officials of the Ministries of Justice, Rehabilitation and Foreign Affairs. These discussions enabled the delegate-general to repeat the ICRC's offer of services in the way of assistance—notably the dispatch of relief to the north and east of the country and support for the existing medical structure—and protection—ICRC visits to detainees held under the Emergency Regulations and the Prevention of Terrorism Act. In July, the ICRC sent an *aide-memoire* to the Sri Lanka authorities, delineating possible fields of activity.

In Geneva, the ICRC had contacts with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hameed, on two occasions, in March and July, as well as with the Minister of Health, Mr. Attanpatu, in May, and the Minister of National Security, Mr. Athulathmudali, in August. These talks also provided an opportunity for the ICRC to renew its offer of services.

At the end of the year the ICRC had, however, still not received permission to carry out its humanitarian activities in Sri Lanka.

## CONFLICT IN KAMPUCHEA

The violence of the fighting near the Khmer-Thai border during the dry season (November 1984 to April 1985) entailed the transfer to evacuation sites in Thailand of virtually all the 230,000 displaced persons living in border camps. As the Thai authorities agreed not to send back these people to the border during the rainy season, the ICRC modified intervention accordingly. Assistance activities were concentrated on war surgery and medicine, whilst the handling of less specific assistance activities reverted to other agencies. In 1985, the ICRC again intensified its efforts to protect civilians and detained persons.

In Kampuchea itself, the ICRC continued its assistance activities, extending them to several additional provinces, but was unable to have regular access to the areas most affected by the conflict, in the west of the country.

In the second half of March, the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific carried out a mission to Bangkok, Phnom Penh and Hanoi to discuss the humanitarian problems raised by this conflict, and the development of ICRC activities, with the various authorities concerned. Apart from internal discussions with delegations to review the situation, he had talks with representatives of the authorities in all three countries: in

Thailand, he met Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, Secretary General of the National Security Council; at Phnom Penh, he had talks with Mr. Hun Sen, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Chea Thang, Deputy Minister of Health; and at Hanoi he met Mr. Le May, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. In all three countries, the delegate-general for Asia also saw senior representatives of the Red Cross Societies.

To carry out its activities on the Khmer-Thai frontier, the ICRC maintained a sizeable delegation in Thailand (35 delegates on average, including medical and administrative personnel, and 250 to 300 locally recruited staff). During the first months of the year, the number of delegates rose to almost 50, owing to the increase in the fighting. At Phnom Penh, a technician was added to the delegation in November, bringing the number of delegates to five.

At the beginning of 1985 the ICRC launched an appeal for 19,994,000 Swiss francs to finance its protection and assistance activities in connection with the Kampuchea conflict. The ICRC regularly attended meetings of donor countries, held in New York under the auspices of the United Nations.

## Activities in Kampuchea

### Medical assistance

In 1985, the ICRC stepped up its medical assistance programme to hospitals, continuing to supply medicaments and medical material to the four main hospitals in the capital (the "17 April" surgical hospital, the "7 January" paediatric hospital, the "2 December" gynaecological hospital, and the "Revolution" general hospital) and visiting the provincial hospitals affected by the conflict. The ICRC delegate and nurse were in fact able to increase their visits to the provinces (with access to six provinces out of 20), and thus to carry out regular surveys at the provincial hospitals of Kandal, Kompong Speu, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Cham, Kampot, Prey Veng and Takeo, and to distribute relief as needed. They were unable to visit the provinces near the western frontier of the country. The medical relief given to these hospitals in 1985 was worth about 700,000 Swiss francs. The ICRC also continued to support the Red Cross blood bank at Phnom Penh by supplying it with material.

The ICRC also gave the Red Cross in Phnom Penh 10,000 first-aid kits for distribution to the armed forces and civilians living in the regions affected by the conflict.

As in previous years, the ICRC provided administrative and logistic support to the Swiss and Swedish Red Cross Societies' surgical teams, based respectively at Kompong Cham and Kompong Chhnang, and to the French Red Cross medical team in charge of the anti-tuberculosis programme operating from the capital. In 1985, the ICRC pharmacy supplied these three teams with medicines and medical material worth 510,000 Swiss francs.

The ICRC also continued its discussions with the authorities with a view to setting up an ICRC medical team at Kampot, in one of the provinces affected by the conflict.

At the beginning of the year, the ICRC also supplied the Kandal and Takeo provincial hospitals with medicines to help in the fight against a malaria epidemic.

### Material assistance and logistic support

**ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME IN ORPHANAGES.**—At the beginning of the year the delegates delivered relief to the five orphanages assessed in 1984: Kompong Cham, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Speu, Kampot and Battambang. This assistance, comprising goods essential for the improvement of hygiene, housing, clothing, the preparation of meals and the teaching and practice of sport, was distributed direct by the delegates in the first four places. For Battambang, it had to be handed over to the Social Action Committee, the delegates not having been able to go there personally.

During these visits, new assessments were made and resulted in another assistance programme, designed to improve sanitary conditions and housing, which was approved by the authorities in May. The orphanage at Prek Phneu (Kandal province), visited in June for the first time, received aid similar to that distributed to the eight orphanages covered by the programme: Kompong Cham, Kompong Chhnang, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kompong Kantuot, Kiem Khleang, Kampot and Kompong Speu. Distributions, started in September and primarily channelled to the orphanages at Kompong Cham, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Speu and Kampot, had not yet been completed by the end of the year. In all, the cost of the relief distributed in 1985 amounted to some 76,000 Swiss francs.

**BANGKOK — HO CHI MINH CITY — PHNOM PENH AIRLIFT.**—As in previous years, there was a weekly airline service from Bangkok to Ho Chi Minh City, from where a semi-commercial aircraft belonging to Air Viet Nam and chartered by the ICRC went on to Phnom Penh. Besides passengers, these flights carried medicaments and relief supplies, both for the ICRC (32 tonnes) and for other humanitarian organizations.

### Protection

Since 1981, the ICRC has been trying to obtain permission to visit certain categories of prisoners in Kampuchea (persons captured while carrying arms, civilians arrested in connection with the events, and foreign nationals having no diplomatic protection). During his missions to Phnom Penh in March 1985, the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific reiterated

this request during his interview with Mr. Hun Sen, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. The reply was wholly negative, except in the case of possible detainees who may be nationals of countries not bordering on Kampuchea. The ICRC nonetheless raised the question again, by delivering an *aide-memoire* to Mr. Hun Sen on 3 August setting out the ICRC's offer of services. No fresh reply had been received at the end of the year. The ICRC also approached the Kampuchean authorities by sending them a *note verbale* on one specific question—the arrest, at the beginning of October, of three Thai soldiers—after the Thai authorities had officially informed the ICRC of the matter and asked it to play its role of neutral intermediary. Similarly, the plight of two Thai citizens, arrested respectively in the summer of 1983 and in May 1985, was brought up again, the ICRC requesting permission to register, visit, assist and possibly repatriate the five persons concerned. No official reply had been received by the end of the year.

At the beginning of 1985, when the fighting taking place on the Khmer-Thai border was acute and taking a heavy toll, the ICRC reminded the authorities in Kampuchea that civilians living in this region should be protected and should not be the target of attacks, the same applying to the medical teams and establishments working on the frontier.

### Tracing Agency

A family reunification was organized by the ICRC in February, when a small boy was united with his parents in the United States. A second case was also resolved in 1985, but the actual family reunification (involving a little girl whose parents were living in France) could not take place until the beginning of 1986.

### Dissemination and information

Following the agreement reached with the authorities in Kampuchea in November 1984, 30,000 copies of a textbook on the principles of the Red Cross, together with 2,000 copies of a teacher's manual, were published in the Khmer language and handed over in March to the Red Cross in Phnom Penh for distribution in secondary schools. In addition, 10,000 cards summarizing the basic rules of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross, were inserted in first-aid kits delivered in April to the Red Cross in Phnom Penh for distribution to the armed forces and civilians living in regions affected by the conflict.

## Activities in Thailand

### Protection

*CIVILIANS.*—At the end of 1984, 30,000 persons previously living in border camps had already found asylum on the evacuation sites inside Thailand, following the dry season offensive begun in mid-November. The fighting continued in 1985, compelling the people who had remained in the camps to flee as well, so that by the end of February, practically all the 230,000 displaced persons living in the border region were assembled at the evacuation sites in Thailand. Up to the end of April, certain groups had to be re-transferred, sometimes urgently, from one site to another, as the fighting advanced. The ICRC was highly active helping with the transfers, both evacuating the war wounded and transporting the physically most vulnerable persons (mothers, children, old people and the sick) during the moves from one site to another.

In addition to helping with these transfers or evacuations, the ICRC approached the parties concerned, stressing the need for the protection of civilians endangered by military operations. In view of the proximity of the fighting, the ICRC kept a constant check on the degree of safety provided by the evacuation sites. Anxious to protect civilians against possible attacks, it also made numerous representations to ensure that they were clearly separated from the military. It was equally concerned for the internal security of the camps and evacuation sites and regularly contacted the Khmer and Thai authorities on the subject.

Once the fighting was over, the ICRC considerably reduced its activities along the frontier itself, as the parties concerned had refused to grant access to this area, now essentially military, especially along the southern section of the frontier. Nevertheless the ICRC was able on several occasions to transfer newly arrived refugees from the frontier to an evacuation site.

Fearing that the civilian population would have to return to the border once the military offensives had ended, the ICRC and the United Nations agencies concerned requested the Thai authorities to allow the civilians to remain in security in their temporary asylum in Thailand, until such time as appropriate conditions prevailed for them to return in dignity and safety to their countries and, in general, for their protection to be ensured. On 22 November, the special role of the ICRC under the mandate conferred on it by the international community was reaffirmed by the United Nations agencies represented in Thailand.

As in previous years, the ICRC was especially anxious about the plight of a group of particularly vulnerable persons, the *Vietnamese refugees* stranded on the border. Mainly gathered since September 1983 in the Dongrek camp, these refugees, too, were transferred to a temporary evacuation site in Thailand when the fighting endangered them at the end of January. Subsequently, they were settled on evacuation site "2", in a location separated from the Khmers. In 1985, the ICRC continued to provide these persons with food and other

relief supplies (497 tonnes of food worth almost 270,000 Swiss francs). In addition, it intervened several times with the Thai authorities, alone or jointly with other humanitarian agencies, so that the utmost might be done to ensure the protection of this group, endangered both by the military operations and their forced cohabitation in the midst of the Khmers. Apart from these emergency activities, the ICRC also continued to collaborate with the UNHCR and the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) in accordance with the procedure established in 1984, which enabled countries likely to offer these refugees definitive asylum to examine the cases individually. The process of refugee selection by the governmental representatives, started in November 1984 but interrupted by the fighting, was resumed on 28 January at the evacuation sites. At the end of March, 1,364 refugees had been accepted by host countries and transferred to Panat Nikhom by the ICRC; another 244 refugees had been accepted and transferred by the end of the year. The ICRC therefore continued its contacts with the agencies concerned, the main potential host countries and the Thai authorities to seek long-term solutions for particularly vulnerable categories of persons. But with new arrivals and births during the year, there were again more than 4,000 Vietnamese refugees stranded in this region by the end of 1985.

At the end of the year, the ICRC was also concerned for the plight of another especially vulnerable group, some 200 Degas refugees from the Vietnamese mountains who reached the Khmer-Thai border in September, considering it to be the ICRC's responsibility to give them the minimum of protection by registering them and by raising this problem with the Thai authorities and representatives of potential countries of asylum.

*ARRESTED PERSONS.*—The ICRC continued its endeavours to obtain access to persons detained by the various coalition government factions of Democratic Kampuchea and by the Thai authorities. In August 1984 it delivered a memorandum to the three coalition government factions once again explaining the need for the ICRC to be able to carry out its protection activities in full, including the registration of prisoners and interviews without witnesses with each prisoner in the categories covered by its mandate (captured Vietnamese and Kampuchean soldiers, Khmer security detainees). It should be recalled that the ICRC delegates had been able to visit a few Khmer or Vietnamese prisoners in 1984, but that the renewed outbreak of fighting had halted the visits to the camps in mid-November. At the beginning of 1985, delegates were granted access to certain Khmer or Vietnamese prisoners at evacuation sites of the FNLPK (sites "1" and "3"), and were able to register them and interview them without witnesses. No other visit could be carried out during the remainder of the year, despite the delivery to the coalition government in February of a report on the situation, reiterating the ICRC's request for access to all the prisoners, as well as numerous verbal approaches to the coalition government leaders, in particular Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Son Sann. The situation

furthermore became especially difficult as from the end of April, because the ICRC was banned access to military areas near the border.

Of the prisoners detained by the Thai authorities in connection with the Kampuchean conflict, the ICRC continued to pay weekly visits to the Vietnamese "illegal immigrants" detained at the military prison of Aranyaprathet, and made notable progress: the frequent but not yet systematic granting of interviews without witnesses. In 1985, the ICRC visited 274 Vietnamese detainees. During their visits, the delegates regularly provided the detainees with assistance in the form of hygiene requisites and blankets.

Conversely, the ICRC was unable to obtain access to the Vietnamese soldiers taken prisoner during border clashes and to detainees in Thai hands, despite formal requests made on two occasions in 1984, quoting the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the International Red Cross. In 1985, the question was taken up again several times with the ICRC's main Thai interlocutors, including Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, Secretary General of the National Security Council, and in a letter addressed to the Chief of Staff of the royal armed forces, General Pathom, on 21 February. At the request of the Thai authorities the ICRC visited nine Vietnamese detainees transferred to Bangkok; three visits, including interviews without witnesses, were paid, the purpose of which was to ascertain whether these persons wished to be repatriated or on the contrary to find a country of asylum. During the visits, these captives filled in Red Cross family messages.

### Tracing Agency

Following the confusion which arose in locating civilians evacuated several times from border camps to different evacuation sites, the activities of the Tracing Agency office at the Thailand delegation increased considerably in 1985, especially in June, July and August. The volume of mail to be forwarded between the various sites increased substantially (displaced persons not being permitted to move freely from one site to another). The number of tracing requests also went up following the transfer of civilians. The ICRC also sought to reunite family members dispersed at different sites. The Tracing Agency office in Bangkok provided the following services:

- 12,109 persons of Khmer origin were the subject of tracing requests made by members of their families, as were 748 Vietnamese refugees;
- 2,812 persons, Khmer or Vietnamese, were transferred from one site to another, or to the transit centre of Panat Nikhom with a view to resettlement in a host country;
- 150 persons of Khmer origin and one Vietnamese were reunited with their families in camps or at evacuation sites in Thailand;

- 45,338 family messages, letters and air letters were exchanged between displaced persons from the border and their families living either in other camps or evacuation sites, or in other countries;
- during visits to places of detention along the border, the Agency registered detainees, principally at the military prison of Aranyaprathet;
- 379 Vietnamese refugees, either new births or recent arrivals, were also registered by the Tracing Agency when they were gathered in the Dongrek "platform" camp, and subsequently site "2".

### Medical assistance

As in previous years, the ICRC maintained its medical activities along the Khmer-Thai border; it is the only agency in this region taking charge of war surgery in its hospitals at Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng, evacuating the wounded to these hospitals by means of its fleet of ambulances. During the first four months of the year work there was intense as a result of the fighting, and the existing facilities had to be increased, in particular those of the Khao-I-Dang hospital, to provide treatment for the exceptional number of war wounded evacuated to this hospital in January; in March, heavy demands were made on that of Kab Cherng. The ambulance staff had also to be increased and two posts were established temporarily to facilitate the triage of wounded and the provision of first aid prior to their evacuation. In 1985, 68 specialists were made available to the ICRC by thirteen National Societies: the Red Cross Societies of Austria, Canada, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. They carried out their medical activities with the help of about one hundred locally recruited persons, Thai or Khmer. Besides its traditional medical activities on the border, the ICRC launched a programme of one-week first-aid courses in October, each attended by 20 to 30 participants. At the end of the year, 11 courses had been given and 249 first-aid workers recruited, in five camps and sites along the border under the authority of the three coalition government factions. In addition, donations of first-aid kits were made.

In all, the medical material and medicines provided by the ICRC in 1985 represented a value of 1.3 million Swiss francs.

Opened in 1980, the *Kao-I-Dang emergency surgical hospital*, with its capacity of 100 beds, received a total of 2,672 patients in 1985, of whom 1,227 were war wounded. At the beginning of the year, the influx of wounded was such that the basic three surgical teams had to be reinforced by two additional teams, provided by the Thai Red Cross Society (which subsequently kept a surgical team on stand-by in Bangkok to intervene if necessary) and the Norwegian Red Cross.

The second ICRC emergency surgical hospital, situated at *Kab Cherng*, opened in 1983 and, with a capacity of 60 beds, had to cope with such heavy demands at the beginning of the year (in March, no less than 117 wounded were evacuated to Kab Cherng) that an additional surgical team was temporarily assigned there; subsequently, the number became so few that on 22 June the hospital was transformed into a first-aid centre. An ICRC nurse remained to give first aid and to prepare serious cases requiring transfer to Khao-I-Dang. During these six months of activity, Kab Cherng hospital treated 520 patients, of whom 255 were war wounded. After 22 June, 185 wounded had to be transferred from Kab Cherng to Khao-I-Dang.

Monthly consignments from the Australian and Japanese Red Cross Societies enabled the ICRC to maintain a supply of fresh blood throughout the year for its two hospitals and to meet the needs of the voluntary agencies working on the border under the auspices of UNBRO (United Nations Border Relief Operation). The blood bank set up at the Khao-I-Dang hospital received 6,582 units of blood in 1984, including emergency donations from the New Zealand Red Cross Society in February and March. In order to increase the self-sufficiency of these hospitals, the ICRC continued its endeavours (begun in 1984) to sensitize the public and encourage people to donate blood. Beginning in October, a regular blood collection was begun on site "2" and 540 units of blood had been collected there by the end of the year.

In view of the relative lull during the rainy season, the ICRC surgeons based at Khao-I-Dang began in August to make regular weekly visits to displaced persons at four evacuation sites, including site "2", and to examine people likely to need a surgical operation. By the end of the year, 528 such consultations had been given to these patients, half of whom required treatment fairly urgently.

Also in August, the ICRC initiated a physiotherapy programme at the Khao-I-Dang hospital to facilitate the rehabilitation of the wounded. Two physiotherapists worked there and started training assistants. A three-month course was given for about ten locally recruited persons, four of whom were subsequently engaged as employees.

*The ICRC mobile medical team*, consisting of four nurses and with twelve ambulances, had a heavy workload during the first months of the year, sorting out the wounded, giving first aid, and evacuating serious cases from the border to the ICRC hospitals. In 1985, a total of 2,716 patients were evacuated by the ICRC.

In September 1983 the ICRC had taken charge of the dispensary for Vietnamese refugees at Dongrek and the ICRC mobile team had provided daily services since 1984, six days a week, at this consultation centre. The refugees transfer to an evacuation site did not halt this operation during the first six months. On 20 July, however, these medical activities were handed over to a Thai voluntary agency working under the

auspices of UNBRO, as the ICRC wished to withdraw from medical fields other than emergency surgery.

The mobile medical team also took part in visits to detainees in the military prison at Aranyaprathet and in camps along the border.

### Dissemination and information

In 1985, the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law received considerable impetus, both among the Khmer populations and among the Thai armed forces. With the help of the Thai Red Cross Society, the dissemination delegate gave many talks to various target groups. In particular, he regularly explained the principles of the Red Cross and main rules of international humanitarian law during the first-aid courses organized by the ICRC for displaced people. Cards summarizing these principles and rules were systematically inserted in the first-aid kits distributed. Standard methods, such as films, posters, the preparation of cartoon strips, etc. were also used. In co-operation with the Thai Red Cross Society, the ICRC published the handbook for soldiers *Rules for Behaviour in Combat* in the Thai language and distributed 5,000 copies to units of the royal armed forces stationed along the border.

A less traditional method was also employed by the ICRC—the production of a stage play representing a conflict situation and its effects on civilian and military victims before and after the Geneva Conventions. This play was staged and acted by displaced persons for their fellow inhabitants at site "2". Between September and the end of the year thousands of people at site "2" saw this play.

## VIET NAM

In 1985, the ICRC maintained its regional delegation in Viet Nam, which also covers activities in Laos.

Throughout the year, the delegate kept in contact with the authorities and, at the end of March, the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific visited Hanoi. There he met Mr. Le May, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed the main humanitarian questions of mutual interest. The delegate-general reminded the Deputy Minister of the ICRC's wish to undertake protection activities on behalf of persons detained in re-education camps and to have access to the

persons captured during incidents on the Sino-Vietnamese border, and that it had made offers of services to this effect. The ICRC's concern with the plight of some 230,000 civilians then living on the Khmer-Thai border who were directly affected by the fighting, was also discussed. This question had already been raised with the Vietnamese authorities in January, when the fighting became heavier: a *note verbale* had been delivered at the time, recalling that civilians as well as medical personnel and installations on the frontier should be protected.

In 1985, as in previous years, the ICRC intervened on behalf of Taiwanese boats which had run aground or been lost in territorial waters off the Vietnamese coast. In the absence of diplomatic relations, the ICRC provided its services as a neutral intermediary and acted as substitute for the consular authorities. Its mediation facilitated the tracing of the boats and enabled crews and boats to be repatriated.

A seminar on dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law, the first of its kind, was organized jointly by the ICRC and the Red Cross of Viet Nam in Hanoi from 12 to 16 November, chiefly for leading officials of local branches of the National Society in 19 provinces in the north of the country, and for representatives of the authorities.

The delegate based at Hanoi also visited An Giang, in the south of the country, to supervise the distribution of relief made available by the Swiss Red Cross for the victims of the floods in the Mekong delta.

#### **Repatriation of residents of Chinese origin**

Since 1975 the ICRC had been handling the repatriation of foreign citizens without diplomatic representation in Viet Nam. On 18 April, a repatriation flight enabling 191 people of Chinese origin to return to Taiwan, via Bangkok, was organized under ICRC auspices. Since the first such flight on 14 September 1976, the ICRC has repatriated a total of 5,394 persons.

#### **Assistance**

Continuing the liquidation of the funds allocated to the INDSEC programme (formerly "Indo-China Bureau"), various activities were carried out in 1985. The ICRC financed the printing of Additional Protocol I in Vietnamese and gave the National Society material on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law for its staff training school in Ho Chi Minh City. The ICRC also provided the Red Cross of Viet Nam in Hanoi with 1,000 first-aid kits. Assistance given in 1985 amounted to a total of 124,400 Swiss francs.

## **REFUGEES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

In 1985 the ICRC continued its activities on behalf of the Vietnamese "boat people", mainly through the Central Tracing Agency (CTA). As in the past, the CTA worked in close co-operation with the Tracing and Mailing Services network set up among the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in South-East Asia. In 1985 this network mobilized the National Societies of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and the Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross. The system continued to demonstrate its usefulness; in the course of the year it enabled the exchange of 310,808 letters and also received 1,190 tracing requests.

The Central Tracing Agency in Geneva continued to co-ordinate all tracing activities. In September, it organized a seminar in Bangkok which brought together the five Tracing and Mailing Services concerned, and in which the head of the CTA participated, as well as delegates specialized on these questions. The seminar enabled the activities of each service in the network to be reviewed. In response to the wish expressed by certain National Societies during the Third Regional Conference of the National Societies of Asia and the Pacific, held in Melbourne in February 1985, for an extension of the network's activities and the development of co-operation between the ICRC and the National Societies in fields other than those of the Tracing Agency, part of this seminar was also devoted to the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law. The participants visited the refugee camps on the Khmer-Thai border and were introduced to the ICRC dissemination activities being implemented in the camps.

The ICRC also continued to support the efforts of the UNHCR to combat the piracy to which "boat people" are prey.

## **MALAYSIA**

The ICRC continued its approaches to the authorities concerning protection activities. It had been unable since April 1983 to resume its visits to persons arrested under the Internal Security Act (ISA); a series of visits had been halted at that time, because of its inability to obtain access to all the places of detention holding this category of detainee. The regional delegate based in Jakarta carried out several brief missions to Kuala Lumpur, during which he met representatives of the Ministry of the Interior. At the end of the year, no response had reached the ICRC.

## INDONESIA

The ICRC maintained its regional delegation in Jakarta which, in addition to Indonesia, covers Australia, Brunei, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea, Singapore and the states and territories of the Pacific.

In February, the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific visited Jakarta to review the situation with the delegation and to discuss with the Indonesian authorities various questions relating to ICRC activities in Indonesia and East Timor. Apart from requesting access to the interior of East Timor to assess nutritional and medical needs and to visit displaced persons having returned there from the island of Atauro, as well as places of detention, the delegate-general informed the Indonesian authorities of the ICRC's wish to carry out a new series of visits to the persons detained under the former category G.30 S/PKI (persons arrested after the attempted *coup d'état* of 30 September 1985) and to be able to undertake activities in Irian Jaya.

### East Timor

#### Protection

At the end of the talks with the Indonesian authorities in February and March, it was agreed that the ICRC could carry out regular series of complete visits, and that interim visits could be organized as needed. Moreover, the Indonesian authorities promised to give the ICRC lists of detainees under interrogation, to whom the ICRC does not have access. Two series of complete visits took place in April and November; during each series four places of detention were visited, two in Jakarta and two in Dili (Comarca and Becoa). The visits were made in accordance with the usual ICRC procedures, including interviews without witnesses, by two delegates, a nurse and a medical delegate from Geneva. The first series of visits enabled the delegates to see 225 detainees and the second, 228. A total of 279 detainees were visited, once or twice. The ICRC nurse, who spends some time regularly in East Timor each month, paid several interim visits to the places of detention in Dili. Material and medical relief supplies were delivered to the detainees at the end of each visit. Assistance was also given to the families of detainees in need.

The two series of visits also included a visit, in accordance with ICRC criteria, to Atauro; the number of displaced persons on the island decreased in 1985, as people returned to the main island. Compared with 1,267 at the beginning of the year, the number of displaced persons there was down to 940 by December 1985.

#### Tracing Agency

The exchange of family news by Red Cross messages in accordance with the procedure established by the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross functioned throughout the year without interruption. The detainees visited by the ICRC, as well as the displaced persons, made full use of this service. About 10,000 Red Cross messages were exchanged in 1985.

In addition, the ICRC continued to organize family reunifications and the repatriation of humanitarian cases to Portugal and Australia: in 1985, nine persons left East Timor for Portugal and five for Australia, under ICRC auspices. To settle certain questions, one of the delegates based in Jakarta carried out a brief mission to Australia in August, in the course of which he met the leaders of the Australian Red Cross Society, as well as representatives of the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In February 1985, the ICRC was asked officially by the Indonesian and Portuguese authorities to organize the repatriation of former Portuguese officials who had remained in East Timor. Arrangements for this were discussed during the year, and an ICRC delegate visited Lisbon to work out the details with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Public Administration. The first repatriations took place at the beginning of 1986.

In accordance with an agreement reached with the Indonesian authorities in 1983, the ICRC continued to inquire into the whereabouts of missing persons. At the beginning of 1985, a reply was received from the Indonesian authorities concerning the eight cases which, based on information provided by the families, had been transmitted to them in 1984. In September, a second list of cases was submitted to the authorities; at the end of the year, the ICRC had as yet received no reply to this inquiry.

#### Food and medical assistance

At the beginning of 1985, the ICRC received a generally positive reply to the requests it had formulated in a memorandum in September 1983 and reiterated during approaches in 1984, concerning activities inland on the main island. Delegates were therefore able to visit and assess the resettlement conditions of people in the villages of Ainaro and Dare (600 persons) in April, and in Manatuto (85 persons) and Cailaco/Maliana (688 persons) in October, who had been brought back to the main island after having been displaced to Atauro. Having observed at that time that a number of persons were separated from the rest of their families, either because some family members had remained on Atauro, or because these persons had not been resettled in their place of origin, the ICRC delegates approached the authorities in order to resolve this problem. Moreover, when food or medical

problems were observed, the ICRC immediately informed the authorities, who promptly took the necessary action. Apart from this, the ICRC provided the persons transferred from Atauro to the main island with a stock of food sufficient for two months, so as to facilitate their resettlement.

The ICRC was also able to carry out a very thorough medical mission to assess the nutritional situation on the main island: 25 villages, with a total population of about 41,000 people distributed over nine sub-districts, were visited by two delegates, an ICRC doctor and nurse between 28 May and 15 June. The situation did not require ICRC assistance, but the ICRC called the authorities attention to five places whose condition was more precarious and needed to be followed carefully. The delegates returned to the five places in December and observed that the situation in four of them had improved.

In addition to these new developments, the ICRC, in cooperation with the Indonesian Red Cross Society, continued its assistance activities for displaced persons on the island of Atauro. They received monthly food distributions (270 tonnes in 1985) together with various relief materials (clothes, soap, etc.); medicaments were also supplied to the dispensary in charge of the health of the displaced persons. A feeding centre for children, pregnant women or nursing mothers, and old people provided about 200 people on average with daily additional rations, i.e. a total of 21 tonnes of food in 1985. The resident population of Atauro also benefited from supplementary food assistance (7 tonnes in 1985). This activity was regularly supervised by an ICRC nurse who spent two or three weeks a month on the main island of East Timor and at Atauro. The programme was implemented by some fifty Indonesian Red Cross workers.

## PHILIPPINES

In 1985 the ICRC regional delegation based in Manila continued its activities in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

The delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific carried out a one-week mission to Manila in December for discussions with the authorities on various aspects of ICRC activities in the Philippines. On this occasion he also met the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pacifico Castro, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Mendoza, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr. Crisol, and the Acting Chief of Staff, General Ramos. During his mission, the delegate-general also attended the Sixteenth National Biennial Convention of the Philippine Red Cross.

The ICRC delegates had frequent meetings with representatives of the authorities to discuss activities. The head of delegation met Mr. Enrile, Minister of Defence, on 28 January. The Minister of Labour and Employment,

Mr. Blas Ople, was received at ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 14 June; the talks concerned not only ICRC activities in the Philippines, but also the Additional Protocols, which the ICRC is encouraging the Philippines to ratify. Protection activities and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law were discussed in depth in the course of two meetings, on 8 and 20 February, with 12 and 25 senior officers respectively of the Philippine armed forces.

During the year, the ICRC followed up the plan to open a sub-delegation at Davao, on the island of Mindanao, so as to be able, by its permanent presence in that particularly unsettled area, to carry out a steady, comprehensive programme of protection, assistance and tracing activities there, together with the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

An agreement between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the regional delegation, formalizing the ICRC's presence in the Philippines, was signed on 30 April.

### Protection

During the first six months of 1985, the ICRC delegates continued and completed the series of systematic visits begun in July 1984, the purpose of which was to visit persons arrested in connection with public order violations and held in all the places of detention in the country, whether administered by the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice or the provincial civilian authorities; the Minister of Defence, Mr. Enrile, had agreed to this on 28 January. Two teams, each composed of two delegates, a doctor and a translator, visited six of the country's 13 regions, namely regions 5, 6, 7, 8, 12 and Metro Manila (National Capital Region), which had not been visited in 1984. In this way they saw 239 persons detained for public order violations, in 44 places of detention and one hospital.

Following this long series of visits, straddling 1984 and 1985, the delegation obtained the authorities' permission to continue its visits by region during the second half of 1985. The delegates then visited places of detention in regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 10 and 11, and one place in Metro Manila. In the course of these visits, 517 detainees were seen, in 66 places of detention.

The delegates also paid interim visits to certain places of detention, usually when they went to a region already visited to deliver reports on their visits to the local authorities concerned.

All the visits were carried out in accordance with the usual ICRC procedures, in particular that of interviews without witnesses. During these visits, the delegates distributed certain relief supplies and medicines to the most needy detainees. They also financed the transport of members of detainees' families from their homes to the place of detention.

The ICRC also offered its services as neutral intermediary when an officer of the Philippines armed forces was captured by the armed opposition. He was finally released without ICRC intervention.

Furthermore, a case concerning a missing person, brought to the ICRC's attention by the family, was transmitted to the Chief of Staff, General Ramos, in August.

## Assistance

In 1985, the ICRC confirmed the readjustment (undertaken in 1984) of its assistance programme for persons displaced as a result of the disturbances affecting the island of Mindanao. This programme was carried out with the co-operation of the National Red Cross Society. In order to define more clearly the criteria for assistance and improve the monitoring of activities, a doctor based in Manila and a nutritionist from Geneva carried out a two-month mission, from mid-January to mid-March, in two pilot provinces, Maguindanao and Davao del Norte on Mindanao, applying the new procedure of joint assistance by the ICRC and the National Society begun in 1984. It is a twofold system of aid for persons newly displaced on account of the internal disturbances, consisting of the distribution of rations for three weeks to all displaced persons, and the provision of supplementary food for three months, in feeding centres, for the most vulnerable groups (children under six years of age, pregnant women and nursing mothers, the sick and the elderly). During distributions and reception in the feeding centres, the mobile teams of nutritionist-nurses from the National Society give advice on hygiene and primary health care, and treat current medical cases among the displaced persons.

Subsequently, the new procedure was extended to other provinces on the island of Mindanao. In May the doctor and an assistance delegate visited all the National Society's local chapters on Mindanao in order to maintain contact and support the members of the Philippine Red Cross in carrying out the assistance programme, as well as to check on the application of the assistance criteria explained above. Throughout the second half of the year, the assistance co-ordinator and the medical co-ordinator continued to visit the various places where aid is provided to displaced persons. The ICRC delegates also regularly organized co-ordination meetings with National Society members in charge of the programme.

In conjunction with this, the delegates carried out various missions to assess needs, both on the island of Mindanao (Davao oriental, Zamboanga del Sur, Bukidnon, Misamis oriental, etc.), and in other places in the country (Negros, Samar, and North Luzon). The survey made in Samar in October showed that assistance activities were no longer justified according to the criteria established and that the feeding centres should be closed.

In the course of this assistance programme, more than 2,433 tonnes of food, worth 4,181,000 Swiss francs, were distributed in the Philippines to displaced persons in 1985, either through the general distributions (534,000 three-week

rations, 502,000 of which went to Mindanao) or through the feeding centres on Mindanao and Samar. On average more than 14,000 persons monthly benefited from supplementary food in these centres.

The basic treatment of ailing displaced persons necessitated the use of medicines, laboratory equipment and other medical material, worth a total of 26,500 Swiss francs.

To update the written basis for this joint programme, a new agreement was drawn up during the year and signed by the ICRC and the National Society on 21 November.

The effectiveness of the assistance operation was enhanced by the opening of four large ICRC warehouses on Mindanao, in which relief materials are stored before being forwarded to the local chapters of the National Society and to the beneficiaries.

Apart from this joint programme, the National Society developed its own assistance activities, including a programme for the victims of natural disasters. The ICRC gave support by making *ad hoc* gifts of food and equipment or by contributing to the training of personnel.

In 1985 the ICRC donated 12.5 tonnes of powdered milk (worth 39,500 Swiss francs) and 58.5 tonnes of rice (worth 79,509 Swiss francs) to the National Society for that purpose, as well as 30,000 sachets of blood, worth 92,500 Swiss francs.

In order to carry out these nutritional and medical assistance activities, the ICRC, as in previous years, launched a special appeal for 2,183,000 Swiss francs.

## Dissemination and information

The ICRC continued its programme for the dissemination of the basic humanitarian rules and of information on the role and activities of the various components of the Red Cross Movement, giving priority to the areas in which the assistance programme was being carried out, and to the armed forces.

In view of the success of the dissemination campaign launched in 1984 among school pupils in seven provinces on Mindanao and Samar (distribution of cartoon strips in English, together with a teacher's guide), the ICRC continued its work along these lines in 1985, publishing the same cartoon strips, but this time in Pilipino, again accompanied by a teacher's guide and an assortment of model lesson plans. Seventeen provinces, as well as towns having the status of provinces, on the island of Mindanao, the Visayas and Luzon, benefited from this activity. In each place concerned, an information meeting was organized for teachers, during which the ICRC delegate, assisted by a member of the National Society, showed films and explained the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross and its activities in the Philippines. This launching campaign lasted two months, from June to the beginning of August, during which 250,000 copies of the textbook and 6,500 teacher's guides were distributed in 6,000 schools. A third edition, half in English and half in Pilipino, was in preparation at the end of the year.

During 1985, the ICRC also began disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law among the Philippine armed forces. After two meetings for senior army officers in February, delegates were invited on several occasions to present the ICRC and its activities at armed forces internal regional seminars. In July, the ICRC was also invited to participate in the seminar organized in Manila by the Command for the Administration of Detainees, for officers in charge of detention, as well as, later on, in regional seminars organized by the same body on the island of Mindanao.

The dissemination delegate also gave talks on the principles of the Red Cross to various groups, including university students, journalists, National Society staff, etc. On the occasion of the Sixteenth Biennial Convention of the National Society in December, the delegation published a special issue of the *ICRC Bulletin*, devoted to activities in the Philippines.

To review dissemination and information activities with the delegation, the Head of the Information Department carried out a mission to Manila in February. During this visit he met some of the delegation's dissemination personnel as well as representatives of the media.

## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

During 1985, contacts increased between the ICRC and the People's Republic of China. A National Society delegation, headed by its President, visited ICRC headquarters in April. In his turn, the ICRC delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific carried out a mission to Beijing from 28 November to 2 December, at the invitation of the Red Cross Society of China. Apart from working sessions with National Society leaders, concerning questions relating to the Central Tracing Agency, the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and other subjects, the delegate-general was received by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Qian Qichen, and by the Ministry of Justice.

In 1985, the ICRC continued to be concerned with the possible plight of persons who may have been captured during incidents on the Sino-Vietnamese frontier: the ICRC reminded the Chinese authorities of its availability to visit them. Various approaches were made at the beginning of the year and during the mission of the delegate-general.

A delegate went to Beijing in October to arrange for the return to Taipei of the shipwrecked crew of a Taiwanese fishing boat who were taken ashore at Dalian (north-east China). He accompanied these persons from Beijing to Taipei.

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The year 1985 was highly significant for a twofold reason. For the first time since 1973, the two National Red Cross Societies resumed their official meetings, in May, August and

December 1985. These meetings, as well as other working sessions, centred mainly on the distressing question of Korean families separated in the North and South since the Korean war (1950-1953). Moreover, as a result of the two National Societies' efforts to establish a dialogue, for the first time reciprocal visits between members of Korean families separated for over 35 years took place in the two capitals between 20 and 23 September: in this way a total of 65 families were temporarily reunited with their relatives.

The ICRC was kept regularly informed and encouraged the two National Societies to keep up the talks and make further headway, so that a rapid and satisfactory solution could be found for the millions of family members separated from each other. The ICRC's humanitarian concern also extends to the situation of Korean families living on Sakhalin since the Second World War, separated from relatives who stayed on the mainland.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

In 1985, contacts with the authorities and the National Society of **Bangladesh** resulted in training seminars on the work of Tracing Agency and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law. Delegates based in New Delhi or Geneva carried out preparatory missions in July. At the end of September, a tracing seminar was organized for the National Society and covered the traditional tasks and respective functions of the Central Tracing Agency and the National Societies, as well as the methods of work, the establishment and operation of a tracing network in each country. In mid-December, a national seminar on international humanitarian law—the first of its kind—was organized jointly with the National Society and the Faculty of Law of the University of Dhaka, for high level government officials, the armed forces, the Ministry of Education and legal experts. The regional delegate based in New Delhi and a legal expert from Geneva ran the seminar. On the same occasion, the delegates had discussions with a high level Ministry of Defence official, who assented to international humanitarian law being taught in the armed forces. The delegates provided the army with 20,000 copies of the booklet *Rules for Behaviour in Combat*.

— The Manila-based delegate in charge of information and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law carried out a mission to **Hong Kong** in June, at the invitation of the National Society, to take part in the official launching of a dissemination programme in schools. The ICRC had participated in preparing this material. The ICRC delegate also raised certain questions concerning tracing activities with the representatives of the National Society and of the Red Cross in **Macao**. At the end of November, the delegate who accompanied the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific to the People's Republic of China went to Hong Kong and Macao to discuss various tracing inquiries.

— The regional delegate based at Hanoi visited **Laos** at the beginning of April. He met the Vice President of the National Society, with whom he discussed various aspects of tracing work and of the dissemination of knowledge of international law, and a high-level official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

— The ICRC regional delegate based in New Delhi visited **Nepal** on two occasions, in August and December. These missions enabled him to develop contacts with the National Society, especially in connection with the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law, and to encourage the authorities to ratify the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions.

— Mr. Jäckli, a Committee member, accompanied by a delegate, carried out a mission to **New Zealand** from 10 to 15 February. He had talks with the leaders of the National Society and was received by the Prime Minister, Mr. Lange, with whom he mainly discussed the ratification of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions, and by the

Minister of Education and senior officials. The efforts accomplished by this country to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law were reviewed during this mission, especially with the National Society.

— The regional delegate based in Jakarta carried out a mission to **Papua-New Guinea** from 18 to 23 February, where he met National Society leaders and high-level UNHCR officials, with whom he discussed the question of displaced persons from Irian Jaya. He visited the border area and the displaced person's camp at Vanimo. The regional delegate also had talks with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the ratification of the Additional Protocols by Papua-New Guinea.

— In May, representatives of the Ministry of Defence of the **Republic of Singapore** attended a three-day course at ICRC headquarters to perfect their knowledge of international humanitarian law before helping to set up an international humanitarian law section in the Ministry of Defence.

**RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1985**

*ASIA*

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Beneficiaries	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnage	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
Burma . . . . .	The disabled	—	—	26,299	26,299
Indonesia. . . . .	Displaced civilians and detainees	356	823,263	10,000	833,263
Kampuchea . . . . .	Orphanages, hospitals and National Society	27	76,245	868,868	945,113
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan) .	Refugees and hospitals	250	461,114	2,427,767	2,888,881
Philippines . . . . .	Displaced civilians, detainees and their families	2,433	4,181,039	118,195	4,299,234
Thailand (conflict in Kampuchea) .	Displaced civilians, refugees and detainees	554	388,282	1,301,530	1,689,812
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>		<b>3,620</b>	<b>5,929,943</b>	<b>4,752,659</b>	<b>10,682,602</b>