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# EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Apart from visits to places of detention in Spain, the activities of the ICRC in Europe and North America in 1985 were chiefly concerned with co-operation with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, seeking funds from governments and National Societies, the development of relations with the media or the promotion and dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law. In particular, the ICRC spared no effort to encourage States to ratify the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

## SPAIN

Following the agreement in principle of the Spanish authorities authorizing the ICRC to visit persons arrested under the anti-terrorist legislation, a team of delegates (one of whom was a doctor) made a series of visits, as in the previous year, to six prison centres administered by the Minister of Justice, and to two hospitals. Thus, from 29 April to 25 May, the delegates saw in accordance with customary ICRC criteria 419 persons either awaiting trial or condemned for "terrorist offences".

At the beginning of December, in response to an invitation from the President of the Senate and the President of the Congress of Deputies, a member of the Committee, Mr. Gallino, accompanied by two delegates, went to Spain to participate in two information meetings on the ICRC, its activities and how it is financed. This visit also enabled the ICRC representatives to meet the leaders of the Spanish Red Cross, and in particular its new President, Mr. Leocadio Marín. The latter subsequently met the President of the ICRC and his principal colleagues at Geneva headquarters in December.

## UNITED STATES

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Hay, accompanied by the Director for Operational Activities, the Director for General Affairs, the head of the International Organizations Division, and a legal expert, went to New York and Washington from 17 to 21 June.

Mr. Hay was received by President Reagan, Mr. Shultz, Secretary of State, Mr. Taft, Deputy Secretary of Defense, Mr. Sofaer, Legal Adviser to the Department of State, members of Congress and Senators Kennedy, Lugar and Pell. This mission, which happened to coincide with the TWA hostages affair (see chapter on the "Middle East"), enabled the ICRC representatives to meet all the people they had planned to see and discuss not only this highly topical question with

them, but also all the subjects originally intended (in particular, ratification of the Additional Protocols, and ICRC activities and their financing).

During this mission to the United States, an interview with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, was arranged in New York. In addition, working discussions were held with the American Red Cross. Finally, the ICRC representatives participated in a seminar for diplomats on international humanitarian law, organized at the American University in Washington.

Throughout the year, close contact was maintained between the ICRC and the American authorities, either through the ICRC delegation to the international organizations in New York, or during the various missions carried out from Geneva. The head of the International Organizations Division and his colleagues based in the United States were likewise in regular contact with delegates of States represented at the United Nations in New York, to discuss operational or legal questions.

As it does every year, the ICRC also followed various meetings organized at the United Nations headquarters in New York. These meetings provided opportunities for numerous contacts with delegations of member countries and representatives of the United Nations secretariats. The discussions concerned questions of common interest, in particular the ICRC's operational activities, human rights problems and various aspects of international humanitarian law.

## FRANCE

The President of the ICRC went to Paris on 2 and 3 July, accompanied by the Director and Deputy Director for Operational Activities, to meet the Minister of External Relations, Mr. Roland Dumas, and the Secretary General of External Relations, Mr. Ross. This contact enabled the ICRC representatives to explain ICRC activities and to express its serious concern about the violations of international humanitarian law committed in various parts of the world.

The President of the ICRC also had talks with the leaders of the French Red Cross, including Mr. Dauge, its President.

Throughout the year, close contact was maintained with this National Society in various fields. The head of the ICRC Medical Division, for example, participated in seminars organized by the National Society in Modane and Paris, in May and November respectively, dedicated to the training of volunteers for international missions. The head of the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva also took part, on 26 and 27 April, in the second national seminar on tracing, organized in Paris by the French Red Cross.

## HUNGARY

At the invitation of the Hungarian Red Cross, the Vice-President of the ICRC, Mr. Aubert, and the delegate-general for Europe and North America visited Budapest from 2 to 6 November. Questions concerning the Red Cross Movement and its future, and Hungary's accession to the Additional Protocols, were brought up in the course of discussions with the President of the Executive Committee of the Hungarian Red Cross, Dr. Janos Hantos, also Vice-Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, and with the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gyula Horn.

Groups of Hungarian journalists were received on two occasions at ICRC headquarters in 1985.

## ITALY

In the context of the ICRC's relations with Italy, the Vice-President of the ICRC received the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Andreotti, on 18 June. On 5 and 6 December, the President of the ICRC, accompanied by the delegate-general for Europe and North America and the head of the Finance Division, visited Rome, where he was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Cossiga, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Andreotti, the parliament and various Italian Red Cross officials. On this occasion, the ICRC representatives were informed that the law concerning the ratification of the Additional Protocols by Italy had just been adopted, that same day, by the Chamber of Deputies.

## LIECHTENSTEIN

The President of the Liechtenstein Red Cross, Princess Gina of Liechtenstein, accompanied by Princess Marie-Aglæ and two members of the National Society, visited ICRC headquarters on 21 March. After 40 years at the head of this Red Cross Society, founded in 1945, Princess Gina handed over the presidency to Princess Marie-Aglæ during the General Assembly of the National Society, on 8 June. The President of the ICRC, accompanied by the delegate-general for Europe and North America, went to Vaduz to participate in this ceremony.

## POLAND

Although the ICRC has not been present on a continuous basis in Poland since December 1984, regular contacts between Geneva and Warsaw were maintained, with both the Polish authorities and the National Society.

The ICRC delegate-general for Europe and North America went to Warsaw at the beginning of January to review with the authorities, especially the Deputy Chairman, Mr. M. Rakowski, the ICRC's three-year presence (1981-84) in Poland. He also participated with the Polish Red Cross in drawing up programmes for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

On 20 and 21 August, the Vice-President of the ICRC, Mr. Aubert, visited Warsaw, where he took part in the summer seminar on international humanitarian law (see chapter on "*The Law and Juridical Considerations*"). He also met the leaders of the Polish Red Cross.

## GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

From 11 to 17 August, the delegate-general for Europe and North America went to the GDR in response to an invitation from the National Society. He participated in the opening of the Youth Camp at Weimar and had talks with Dr. Akkermann, President of the German Red Cross of the GDR, on ICRC activities, their financing, dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the ratification of the Additional Protocols.

## FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The President of the ICRC visited Bonn from 10 to 14 June, accompanied by the Director for Operational Activities and the delegate-general for Europe and North America. In conjunction with the National Society, this mission enabled the ICRC representatives to have discussions with several of the country's leaders, in particular Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker, Federal Chancellor Dr. Kohl, Dr. Vogel, Chairman of the SPD parliamentary group at the Bundestag, and several ministers and members of parliament. The mission also provided an opportunity to examine with the leaders of the National Red Cross Society various questions of mutual interest, in particular the concerns of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the National Society's contributions to ICRC operations.

On 31 January, some fifteen German MPs, accompanied by the First Counsellor of the Permanent Mission in Geneva, were received at ICRC headquarters.

## UNITED KINGDOM

Various contacts in both London and Geneva enabled the ICRC to develop its relations with the United Kingdom in 1985. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss such subjects as the financing of the ICRC, the ratification of the Additional Protocols, and various questions concerning the law of war, particularly at sea. The President of the ICRC

raised these points especially on 16 October, with Mr. Eggar, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Office.

For his part, the delegate-general for Europe and North America went to London in September, where he had talks with senior officials of the British Red Cross Society, in particular its new President, the Countess of Limerick. In December, the delegate-general returned to London, where he was received by British members of parliament.

During the latter mission, the delegate-general took up with the Northern Ireland Office the question of a new series of visits to the prisons of Northern Ireland in the course of 1986, and an agreement in principle was reached. The last ICRC visit to detainees in Northern Ireland was in April 1983.

## IRELAND

In December, the delegate-general went to Dublin where he had talks with members of parliament, the Minister of Defence, representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and with the new Chairman of the National Society, Brigadier General P. D. Hogan and its General Secretary.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The delegate-general for Europe and North America visited Czechoslovakia from 9 to 13 September. During various talks, particularly with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Svoboda, the ICRC's activities worldwide were discussed. Diverse possibilities for co-operation, especially in the field of dissemination, were brought up with the leaders of the National Society.

Subsequently, accompanied by the Vice-President of the National Society, the delegate-general visited Bohemia, where he met representatives of local sections of this Red Cross Society.

## TURKEY

In the context of the Iraq-Iran conflict, the Turkish authorities facilitated eleven operations to repatriate prisoners of war by putting Ankara airport at the disposal of the ICRC. These operations were accomplished in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent Society. It should be noted that the repatriation of prisoners to Iraq took place without ICRC participation (*see chapter on the "Middle East" in the present report*).

In addition, the ICRC maintained contact with the Turkish authorities, reminding them of its interest in possible protection and assistance activities in connection with the internal situation in Turkey.

## USSR

The ICRC maintained close relations with the Alliance of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR. From 11 to 18 August, the Director for General Affairs visited the Soviet Union, where he had talks with the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Alliance, Mr. Baltiyski, concerning the next International Conference, as well as various questions related to ICRC activities.

The head of the ICRC Information Department also visited Moscow, from 1 to 5 October, at the invitation of the Alliance, where he participated as a member of the jury in the 2nd Red Cross International Poster Competition, which assembled works selected by the National Societies of some ten socialist countries.

This mission also enabled the ICRC representative and various senior Alliance officials to take stock of the implementation of the programme, adopted in 1984 by the two institutions, for co-operation in the fields of information and dissemination.

## THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE IN AROLSEN

Established in London in 1943 by the Allied High Command, the International Tracing Service (ITS) has been based in Arolsen, Federal Republic of Germany, since 1946. In 1955, under an international agreement, the ICRC was entrusted with the responsibility for the management and administration of the ITS. The International Commission for the International Tracing Service (CISIR) is the supervisory body of the ITS, and is made up of representatives of ten governments (Federal Republic of Germany, United States, France, United Kingdom, Belgium, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is represented at the CISIR by a permanent observer designated by him to look after the interests of persons who, by virtue of the UNHCR Statute, come within his competence.

The function of the ITS is to make available to the persons directly concerned, for humanitarian purposes, the personal information contained in its archives and documents. Its terms of reference are fourfold:

- to trace missing persons;
- to assemble personal documents relating to former victims of the National Socialist regime under the Third Reich;
- the archival classification of these documents and their preservation in an appropriate manner;
- to reply to inquiries from former victims or their rightful claimants.

This last category includes:

- Germans and persons of other nationalities who have been detained in concentration or labour camps;
- non-Germans deported for forced labour during the Second World War;
- non-German deportees who, after the war, were unable or did not wish to return to their home countries. The Allied Forces took charge of the latter as Displaced Persons (DPs). The ITS possesses a large amount of documentation concerning that period, which goes up to the early 1950s.

The ITS publishes its own annual report, from which the following figures are taken:

- in 1985, the ITS received 30,766 inquiries from 35 countries. These inquiries concerned 23,700 persons wishing to obtain some form of confirmation of their internment or forced labour. Such persons belonged to the three categories mentioned above;
- ITS personnel carried out 285,409 data checks in 20 different card indexes, concerning 36,200 individuals and more than 53,800 names (including maiden names and assumed names): in all, more than 52,900 replies were sent out;
- the number of tracing requests amounted to 2,356. A total of 229 cases were solved.



An ICRC "Twin Otter" in Ethiopia flying over a camp for displaced persons at Mekele. (Photo: Dany Gignoux)

**RELIEF SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC AND INVENTORIED  
IN THE FIELD IN 1985**

COUNTRY (in French alphabetical order)	CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND			ICRC PURCHASES			TOTAL (Sw.fr.)
	RELIEF (tonnage)	MED. ASSIST. (Sw.fr.)	RELIEF (tonnage)	MED. ASSIST. (Sw.fr.)			
<b>AFRICA . . . . .</b>	<b>141,189</b>	<b>148,596,930</b>	<b>179,306</b>	<b>38,511</b>	<b>40,517,203</b>	<b>3,435,711</b>	<b>192,729,150</b>
South Africa . . . . .	—	—	181	352,170	18,567	370,737	
Angola . . . . .	5,534	8,937,492	41,639	11,444	10,591,036	796,705	20,366,872
Ethiopia . . . . .	112,538	115,241,778	77,128	23,965	23,660,389	846,581	139,825,876
Gambia . . . . .	—	—	—	1	9,613	—	9,613
Liberia . . . . .	—	—	—	2	17,569	28,489	46,058
Mozambique . . . . .	109	410,434	31,393	37	121,579	554,764	1,108,170
Namibia . . . . .	—	—	—	68	79,433	229	79,662
Uganda . . . . .	383	442,733	327	125	237,897	141,197	822,154
Somalia . . . . .	—	850	—	55	118,542	23,277	142,669
Sudan (conflict in Tigre and Eritrea) . . . . .	22,615	23,546,356	28,819	2,321	4,805,434	747,819	29,128,428
Sudan . . . . .	—	—	—	1	4,681	—	4,681
Chad . . . . .	10	17,287	—	275	441,849	23,753	482,889
Zaire . . . . .	—	—	—	8	25,079	9,932	35,011
Zambia . . . . .	—	—	—	28	51,932	—	51,932
Zimbabwe . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	254,398	254,398
<b>LATIN AMERICA . . . . .</b>	<b>5,716</b>	<b>10,375,360</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7,724</b>	<b>7,489,548</b>	<b>1,133,030</b>	<b>18,997,938</b>
Argentina . . . . .	—	—	—	—	379	3,017	3,396
Chile . . . . .	124	621,133	—	38	107,966	16,217	745,316
Colombia . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	1,462	1,462
Costa Rica . . . . .	—	—	—	11	171,981	3,100	175,081
El Salvador . . . . .	3,517	3,999,607	—	6,740	3,969,583	439,206	8,408,396
Haiti . . . . .	179	225,681	—	45	134,729	1,831	362,241
Honduras . . . . .	11	50,942	—	6	27,236	9,861	88,039
Nicaragua . . . . .	1,580	3,375,056	—	834	2,912,697	584,146	6,871,899
Paraguay . . . . .	40	400,400	—	—	—	—	400,400
Peru . . . . .	110	1,033,911	—	25	48,727	74,190	1,156,828
Uruguay . . . . .	155	668,630	—	25	116,250	—	784,880
<b>ASIA . . . . .</b>	<b>2,843</b>	<b>4,047,860</b>	<b>1,121,692</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>813,082</b>	<b>4,241,075</b>	<b>10,223,709</b>
Burma . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	26,299	26,299
Indonesia . . . . .	260	140,234	—	58	123,138	10,000	273,372
Kampuchea . . . . .	—	—	—	20	50,452	868,868	919,320
Pakistan (Afghan conflict) . . . . .	—	—	643,272	250	461,114	2,351,054	3,455,440
Philippines . . . . .	2,160	3,659,083	—	42	45,579	119,640	3,824,302
Thailand (conflict in Kampuchea) . . . . .	423	248,543	478,420	128	132,799	865,214	1,724,976
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b>	<b>1,432</b>	<b>3,983,546</b>	<b>886,707</b>	<b>1,261</b>	<b>2,791,910</b>	<b>1,443,549</b>	<b>9,105,712</b>
Iraq . . . . .	—	270	—	12	283,224	31,384	314,878
Iran . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	1,401	1,401
Israel and the occupied territories . . . . .	800	514,545	—	454	670,331	29,987	1,214,863
Jordan . . . . .	—	—	—	—	27,300	—	27,300
Lebanon . . . . .	102	622,110	880,009	763	1,738,682	1,296,780	4,537,581
Western Sahara conflict . . . . .	510	2,646,421	—	30	54,560	4,157	2,705,138
Syria . . . . .	20	200,200	6,698	2	17,813	79,840	304,551
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>151,180</b>	<b>167,003,696</b>	<b>2,187,705</b>	<b>47,994</b>	<b>51,611,743</b>	<b>10,253,365</b>	<b>231,056,509</b>

**CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES**

DONORS (in French alphabetical order)	Cereals (tonnes)	Peas & beans (tonnes)	Edible oil (tonnes)	Dairy products (tonnes)	Other foodstuffs (tonnes)	TOTAL FOOD- STUFFS (tonnes)
<b>TOTAL RED CROSS . . . . .</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>2,234</b>
<b>National Societies</b>						
Germany (Fed. Rep.) . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Australia . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Austria . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium . . . . .	100	—	—	8	15	123
Denmark . . . . .	—	—	—	100	—	100
USA . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finland . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
France . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Britain . . . . .	—	—	200	—	—	200
Japan . . . . .	—	—	—	—	800	800
Norway . . . . .	—	—	7	—	251	258
Netherlands . . . . .	500	—	—	50	—	550
Sweden . . . . .	—	—	100	20	—	120
Switzerland . . . . .	—	56	—	20	—	76
Other National Societies* . . . . .	—	—	2	5	—	7
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENTS . . . . .</b>	<b>94,351</b>	<b>8,596</b>	<b>10,277</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>114,345</b>
<b>Governments</b>						
Germany (Fed. Rep.) . . . . .	17,000	—	3,090	200	—	20,290
Belgium . . . . .	2,920	—	—	—	—	2,920
Canada . . . . .	14,928	—	—	—	—	14,928
USA . . . . .	55,824	8,596	6,121	225	—	70,766
Finland . . . . .	250	—	97	221	—	568
Indonesia . . . . .	250	—	—	—	—	250
Italy . . . . .	—	—	969	—	—	969
Norway . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Switzerland . . . . .	3,179	—	—	475	—	3,654
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL OTHER DONORS . . . . .</b>	<b>28,253</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2,996</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>32,204</b>
<b>Others</b>						
EEC . . . . .	20,159	—	2,682	766	—	23,607
WFP . . . . .	2,150	92	81	—	55	2,378
Other donors . . . . .	5,944	—	233	32	10	6,219
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS . . . . .</b>	<b>123,204</b>	<b>8,744</b>	<b>13,582</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>148,783</b>
<b>TOTAL ICRC PURCHASES** . . . . .</b>	<b>21,146</b>	<b>16,854</b>	<b>1,947</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3,742</b>	<b>43,699</b>
<b>TOTAL*** . . . . .</b>	<b>144,350</b>	<b>25,598</b>	<b>15,529</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>4,873</b>	<b>192,482</b>

\* Societies whose contribution amounted to less than Sw.fr. 25,000.

\*\* Including purchases made with earmarked cash donations, and Sw.fr. 3,780,788 for that part of the transport costs for donations by the American government which was paid by the ICRC and subsequently reimbursed by the donor.

\*\*\* To this total should be added 26,372 tonnes of foodstuffs and 3,760 tonnes of seed lent or reimbursed to the ICRC in 1985, mainly for the operation in Ethiopia.

MADE BY THE ICRC AND INVENTORIED IN THE FIELD IN 1985

Seeds (tonnes)	Blankets (number of)	Tents (number of)	Other relief supplies (tonnes)	TOTAL RELIEF SUPPLIES (Sw.fr.)	MEDICAL SUPPLIES (Sw.fr.)	TOTAL CONTRIBU- TIONS (Sw.fr.)
—	<b>339,575</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>13,205,828</b>	<b>1,420,334</b>	<b>14,626,162</b>
—	155,000	650	335	3,604,066	117,737	3,721,803
—	—	—	2	9,210	333,498	342,708
—	7,248	—	11	550,530	—	550,530
—	42,252	150	14	684,720	—	684,720
—	21,030	50	6	444,572	57,845	502,417
—	6,545	—	1	174,930	—	174,930
—	—	—	11	200,232	46,796	247,028
—	—	—	11	48,600	—	48,600
—	17,500	—	125	1,277,665	60,212	1,337,877
—	—	—	—	524,160	71,640	595,800
—	12,500	—	44	2,172,998	525,172	2,698,170
—	20,000	—	—	550,119	—	550,119
—	35,000	600	159	2,226,487	106,919	2,333,406
—	22,500	50	88	713,710	78,474	792,184
—	—	—	2	23,829	22,041	45,870
—	<b>94,440</b>	—	<b>33</b>	<b>113,797,209</b>	<b>767,371</b>	<b>114,564,580</b>
—	60,020	—	25	18,939,424	—	18,939,424
—	—	—	—	1,850,654	—	1,850,654
—	28,420	—	6	10,228,625	207,371	10,435,996
—	—	—	—	72,889,868	—	72,889,868
—	4,700	—	2	1,754,212	—	1,754,212
—	—	—	—	100,500	—	100,500
—	—	—	—	1,709,700	—	1,709,700
—	—	—	—	—	560,000	560,000
—	1,300	—	—	6,312,526	—	6,312,526
—	—	—	—	11,700	—	11,700
<b>921</b>	—	—	<b>2</b>	<b>40,000,659</b>	—	<b>40,000,659</b>
—	—	—	—	33,220,015	—	33,220,015
—	—	—	—	1,256,444	—	1,256,444
<b>921</b>	—	—	<b>2</b>	<b>5,524,200</b>	—	<b>5,524,200</b>
<b>921</b>	<b>434,015</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>167,003,696</b>	<b>2,187,705</b>	<b>169,191,401</b>
<b>2,201</b>	<b>112,741</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1,731</b>	<b>51,611,743</b>	<b>10,253,365</b>	<b>61,865,108</b>
<b>3,122</b>	<b>546,756</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>2,575</b>	<b>218,615,439</b>	<b>12,441,070</b>	<b>231,056,509</b>

## ICRC TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

(Situation as at 31 December 1985)

