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# AFRICA

In 1985, Africa continued to be the scene of numerous armed conflicts, internal disturbances and tensions. As a result, the bulk of the ICRC's work once again took place on that continent; it was called upon to deploy almost half its field staff there, i.e. more than 200 delegates, in nine delegations (Addis Ababa, Kampala, Khartoum, Luanda, N'Djamena, Maputo, Mogadishu, Pretoria and Windhoek), four regional delegations (Harare, Kinshasa, Lomé and Nairobi) and eleven sub-delegations.

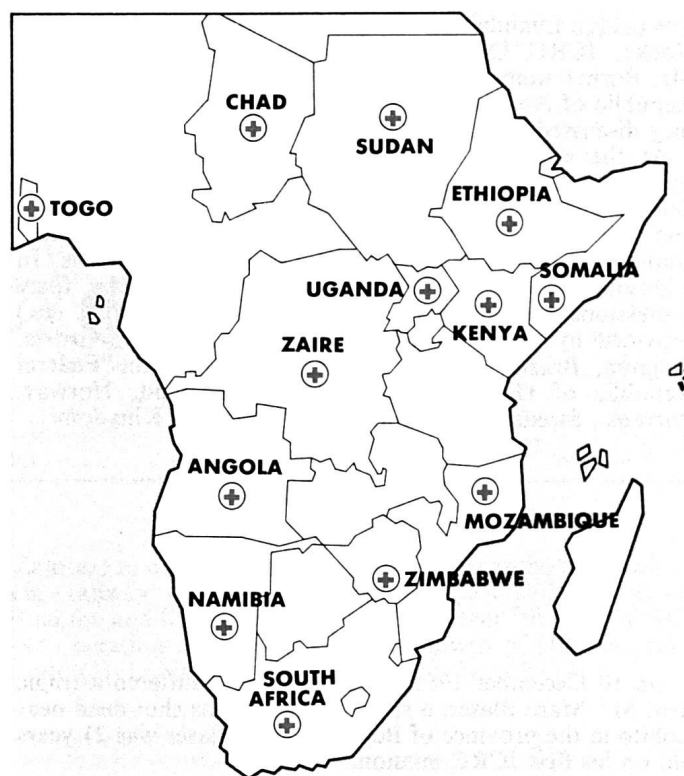
The ICRC was thus in a position to carry out, on a regular basis, its protection and assistance activities on behalf of around 1.5 million victims of conflict on the African continent, in particular in Angola, Ethiopia and Uganda. Special attention was given to civilians displaced within their own country as a result of conflict or because of the combined effects of internal disturbances and drought. These civilians, forced to flee their villages because of the fighting, constitute a particularly vulnerable category in Africa.

The enormous requirement for additional food and medical assistance, revealed in early 1985 by surveys carried out in the most affected regions of Ethiopia, compelled the ICRC to revise its programmes. Their cost for 1985, initially estimated at 234,600,000 Swiss francs, rose to 402,790,000 Swiss francs in order to assist one million persons instead of the original estimate of 500,000 persons. Bearing in mind the balance left over from the previous (1984) period (17,252,000 Swiss francs) and the amount of food aid anticipated (163,979,000 Swiss francs), the ICRC launched an appeal for a total sum of 221,559,000 Swiss francs. In response to this appeal, by 31 December 1985 the ICRC had received 208,856,000 Swiss francs in cash and 132,059,000 Swiss francs in kind and services from twenty-one governments, the European Economic Community (EEC), the World Food Programme (WFP), various other organizations and twenty-six National Societies.

## Southern Africa

### **ANGOLA**

Basing its activities on the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC continued its work in Angola to meet the requirements created by the conflict situation prevailing in the central highlands (Planalto) and the south-east of the country, where government forces were operating against UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) armed opposition forces. The programme, which began in 1984 and provided assistance to some 160,000 persons in December of that year, continued



with seasonal fluctuations and brief, partial interruptions mainly due to poor security conditions.

In connection with the sporadic clashes in southern Angola, on the border with Namibia, between South African forces and combatants of the FAPLA (Angolan army) and SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization), the ICRC endeavoured to carry out the protection tasks assigned to it by the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC delegation in Angola maintained a continuous dialogue with the country's authorities concerning its activities and the problems encountered.

Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, delegate-general for Africa, went to Angola in June and September and his deputy went there in February-March. The purpose of the first mission was to take stock of the situation, plan further action and hold discussions with ICRC delegates in the provinces of Bié and Huambo concerning difficulties encountered there. In June, Mr. Bornet had talks with Colonel Juliad Mateus Paulo, Minister of State

Security, Mr. Tonha "Pedale", Minister of Defence, Mr. Van Dunen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations and Mr. Lucio Lara, Secretary of the Central Committee of the MPLA-PT. The principal aim was to prepare ICRC assistance activities for the difficult season beginning in September. At a ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Countries, which was held in Luanda at the beginning of September, Mr. J.-P. Hocké, ICRC Director for Operational Activities, and Mr. Bornet were received by the President of the People's Republic of Angola, Mr. Dos Santos. During this meeting, they discussed ICRC activities in Angola.

At the end of 1985, the ICRC delegation in Angola comprised seventy persons, attached to the Luanda delegation and the sub-delegations in Huambo, Kuito, Lobito, Lubango and Namibe. In December, there were 798 locally recruited employees, 456 of whom were hired on a daily basis. In addition, the ICRC was assisted during 1985 by forty professionals (doctors, nurses, pilots, administrators, etc.) provided by the National Red Cross Societies of Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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On 10 December 1985, the ICRC again suffered a tragic loss. Mr. Marc Blaser, a radio operator, was shot dead near Lobito in the province of Benguela. Mr. Blaser was 21 years old on his first ICRC mission.

## Protection

Following previous approaches (among others, a mission by President Hay in April 1983 and, shortly afterwards, a memorandum to the Angolan authorities defining the way in which the ICRC's protection activities are carried out) the ICRC repeated its offer to visit persons detained under the state security law. The question was discussed at a meeting between the ICRC delegate-general for Africa and the Minister for State Security on 12 June, after which the ICRC sent a renewed offer of services to the Minister for State Security on 25 June requesting access to all persons arrested in connection with internal events and the military situation in the country. By the end of the year, no reply to this offer had been received from the Angolan government.

In connection with the international conflict affecting southern Angola and at the request of President Dos Santos and the South African authorities, the ICRC organized the repatriation of three civilian seamen of South African

nationality, protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, who had been held in Namibe since 10 March 1985 and wished to return home to South Africa. The operation was carried out via Kinshasa on 22 and 23 August.

The ICRC also made numerous approaches in order to obtain access to a South African officer captured by Angolan forces in the Cabinda region on 21 May. Permission for a visit in accordance with ICRC criteria was not granted in 1985.

Finally, on 24 October and 4 December, the ICRC delegation forwarded to the Angolan Minister for Foreign Relations official requests from the Republic of South Africa asking the ICRC to intervene, as a neutral intermediary, and arrange for repatriation of the mortal remains of two members of the South African military killed in May and a South African officer killed in eastern Angola in September.

## Tracing Agency

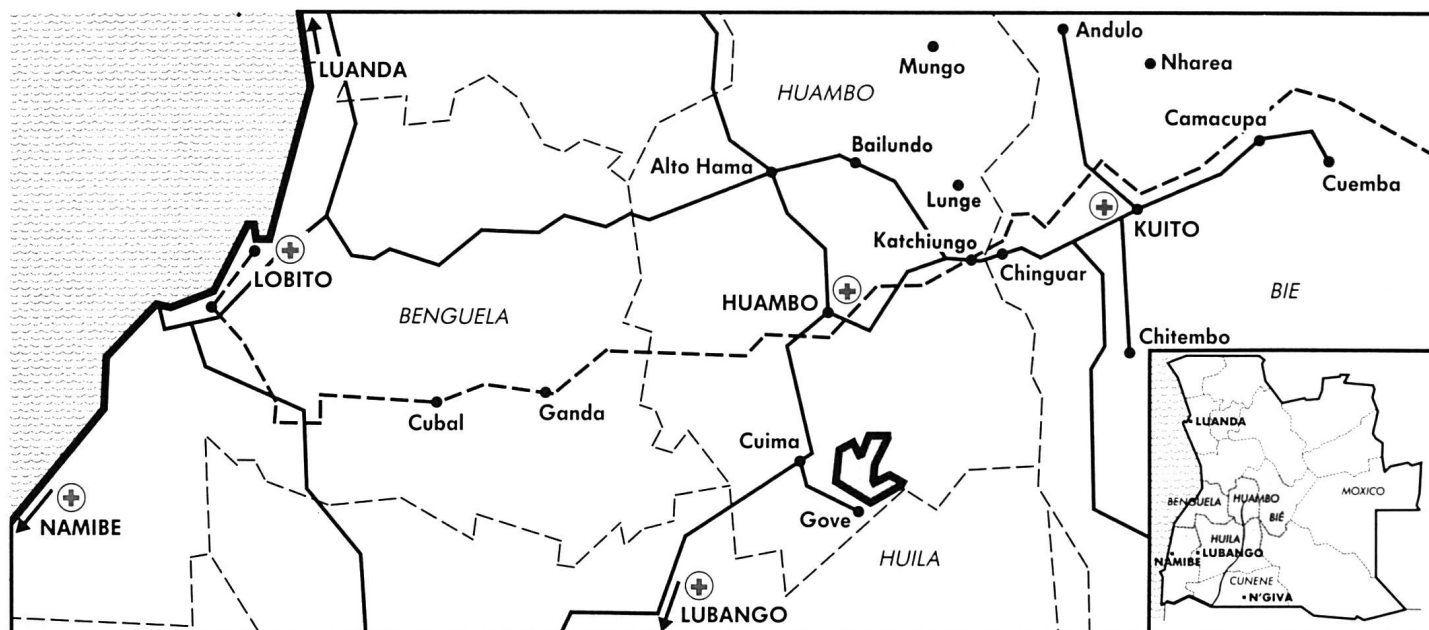
The Tracing Agency was operating, in conjunction with the Angola Red Cross, in Luanda, Huambo, Kuito, Lobito/Benguela and Lubango. In 1985, the ICRC Tracing Agency office in Angola received 412 requests (300 tracing requests, 104 to reunite families and eight for repatriations); 228 of these were successfully concluded. The delegates distributed 171 family messages. In addition, the ICRC organized two family visits to a South African officer held by the Angolan government. These took place in August in the presence of a delegate.

## Assistance programme and logistics—fluctuations

As in previous years, ICRC activities in 1985 were marked by seasonal fluctuations; the intense work at the beginning of the year eased off between June and September. This was largely due to a significant improvement in the food situation on the Planalto brought about both by ICRC aid and by local harvests. From September onward, with the return of the "bad season", the ICRC assistance programme was stepped up again and, in December, 1,601 tonnes of relief supplies were distributed to some 170,000 persons in the provinces of Huambo, Bié and Benguela.

Besides the seasonal variations, ICRC activities were also slowed down on several occasions by security problems, following incidents which led to the temporary suspension of assistance activities, mainly in the province of Bié:

- at the request of the Angolan authorities, the ICRC suspended its activities in the province of Bié from 25 January to 6 February for security reasons;
- again in the province of Bié, the ICRC interrupted most of its activities, this time on its own initiative, from 12 February to 15 March, following an attack on the feeding centre in Kuito;



- on 18 September, ICRC flights to the province of Bié were stopped after an ICRC aircraft struck a mine on the runway while landing in Chitembo. No injuries resulted but a second mine exploded a short time later, killing one locally recruited employee. Flights to towns in the province of Bié were resumed in November;
- during the night of 21-22 November, an armed group attacked the feeding centre and the Angola Red Cross camp in Kuito. The warehouses at the centre were destroyed and those at the camp looted. This incident resulted in distributions in Kuito being stopped;
- in the course of an attack on 23 December in Mungo, in the province of Huambo, two of the three ICRC warehouses were destroyed;
- finally, on 30 December (Huambo province), the house of a local ICRC employee was attacked, leading to the death of two of his children; at the request of the Angolan authorities, activities in the town were suspended.

In a country where most of the roads and railways are often impassable because of hazardous conditions, where airport runways are sometimes damaged and the ports congested, the ICRC found itself faced with enormous difficulties in regularly sending relief supplies to the provinces affected and the chosen distribution points. Between one and three cargo aircraft were used to transport supplies arriving in the ports of Lobito and Namibe (around 16,600 tonnes in all) to the main centres on the Planalto: Huambo, Kuito and Benguela. From there, three to six light aircraft flew in the supplies to the different towns. On two occasions, an airlift was organized from Lusaka

(Zambia) to carry 400 tonnes of seed to Huambo and Kuito. The railway could be used only occasionally, between Huambo and Kuito. At the end of December 1985, the ICRC was operating 18 warehouses in the towns of Huambo (6), Kuito (3), Lobito (3), Benguela (2) and Namibe (4).

#### Food and material assistance

Distributions of foodstuffs were organized every four to six weeks, especially during the critical period from October to April, for people on the Planalto displaced by the conflict. The average basic ration consisted of 12 kilos of food per person per month (8 parts maize flour, 2 parts beans and 1 part oil).

From June to September, when assistance work slackened, the ICRC was busy preparing for the critical period to follow (October to April), by building up stocks and carrying out a survey to reassess the food needs of the population in the towns and villages of the provinces receiving assistance. A seed distribution programme was undertaken to encourage people who had been resettled, as well as the original residents, to cultivate their land and thus meet their own needs as from the next harvest, in April 1986. In September and October (beginning of the rainy season), delegates thus distributed 1,200 tonnes of seed to 80,000 families in the provinces of Huambo, Bié and Benguela (rations of 10 kg of maize and 5 kg of beans per family).

In 1985, a total of around 13,500 tonnes of relief supplies (foodstuffs and seed) were distributed to an average of



105,000 persons per month in the provinces of Huambo (Mungo, Bailundo, Lunge, Alto Hama, Gove, Cuima and the town of Huambo), Bié (Andulo, Nharea, Camacupa, Cuemba, Chitembo, Chinguar and Kuito) and Benguela (Ganda and Cubal), representing 14,250,000 Swiss francs.

In addition to food aid, material assistance (clothing, blankets, soap) was given to particularly impoverished groups, such as persons leaving hospital to return to their homes, and families with children being cared for in the feeding centres. Displaced persons from Cunene, living in camps in the province of Huila (in the south of the country), received clothing in November. In addition, aid was provided to certain institutions assisting needy groups (hospital kitchens, orphanages, etc.). The non-food assistance provided during 1985 amounted to 1.9 million Swiss francs.

#### Medical assistance

##### *TO DISPLACED PEOPLE ON THE PLANALTO.—*

Throughout 1985, ICRC medical teams continued to make regular visits to towns in the affected provinces of Bié, Benguela and Huambo (especially in May, June, August and September) in order to monitor the food situation and to reassess assistance programmes underway and the needs of the dispensaries and hospitals. In order to strengthen existing facilities, the ICRC provided medicaments and medical equipment worth 434,100 Swiss francs and trained local hospital and dispensary staff in the provinces receiving assistance.

At the beginning of 1985, the ICRC opened three new therapeutic feeding centres in the province of Huambo (Gove, Sao Pedro, the town of Huambo and Cuima), bringing to 22 the number of such centres operating on the Planalto. During the first half of the year, an average of 10,000 undernourished children, generally accompanied by their mothers, were being treated at these ICRC centres. They received meals four times a day, prepared under the supervision of ICRC medical staff and consisting of a type of gruel together with enriched milk. In some centres, therapeutic sections for children suffering from acute malnutrition were created. With the general improvement in the health of the population, most of these feeding centres were temporarily closed at the end of June. From June to September, only three, then four centres remained in operation, in Huambo and Kuito. Others were reopened from October on.

In close co-operation with local medical personnel trained by the ICRC, the medical teams regularly organized sessions during which more than 150,000 medical consultations were given from January to December. In April, a vaccination campaign was successfully conducted in all the feeding centres to counter an epidemic of measles.

Also in the area of preventive medicine, ICRC sanitary engineers supervised the sinking of wells, installation of toilets and protection of water sources; each feeding centre thus had its own water-supply system. Construction work was also carried out to improve living conditions in the feeding centres.

*TO THE WAR WOUNDED.—*The ICRC endeavoured to bring assistance to the war wounded in all the zones where it was working, by evacuating them from towns lacking medical facilities to provincial civilian or military hospitals. In the period under review, 1,123 war wounded and seriously sick persons were transferred in this way; 1,125 persons were accompanied back to their towns when their treatment was completed.

##### *THE BOMBA ALTA ORTHOPAEDIC CENTRE (HUAMBO).—*

In conjunction with the Ministry of Health, which took over from the Angola Red Cross in August 1983, the ICRC has been running the prostheses centre in Bomba Alta (a suburb of Huambo) since 1978. Two prosthetists and one physiotherapist from the ICRC are responsible for this centre, which they run with the assistance of about fifty locally recruited employees trained by them. The prostheses are manufactured in Bomba Alta and patients are fitted with them on the spot. In 1985, the centre almost doubled its activities in aid of war wounded, manufacturing 1,897 pairs of crutches and 572 prostheses; 514 patients were fitted.

In addition, an admission centre ("Abrigo"), run jointly by the Ministry of Health, the Angola Red Cross and the ICRC, provided constant shelter and care for patients waiting to be fitted with prostheses and injured persons received out-patient treatment at the hospital in Huambo.

#### Dissemination and information

In order to increase awareness among the authorities and the population of Red Cross activities and of the due respect which must be shown for them (respect for the emblem) an ICRC dissemination delegate organized, in conjunction with local officials of the Angola Red Cross, information and dissemination meetings in the various towns in the provinces of Bié, Huambo and Benguela. He endeavoured to explain to as wide an audience as possible (with the help of brochures, posters, slides and films) the ICRC's role, principles and criteria for action.

The role of the Red Cross and its activities in general, and those of the ICRC in particular, were also presented during a nutrition course given by an ICRC doctor to students and staff of the university and secondary school in Huambo.

#### Relations with UNITA

Security problems encountered by delegates in the field were regularly discussed with UNITA representatives in Europe and Africa in order to obtain the guarantees indispensable for

the continuation of ICRC activities in the conflict regions.

On three occasions (January, March and August) during the period under review, ICRC delegates went to southern Angola, where they met senior officials to discuss security problems. These missions also resulted in the release, by UNITA, on 16 March and 6 August, of 31 persons detained by the movement (17 Filipinos, 8 Portuguese, 4 British and 2 Americans). They were handed over to the ICRC which arranged transport for them to Johannesburg, where the consular authorities of their respective countries took charge of them.

The ICRC also provided emergency medical assistance in the form of equipment and medicaments for victims of the conflict. This assistance was worth approximately 100,000 Swiss francs.

## SOUTH AFRICA

Greatly concerned by the internal disturbances which prevailed in South Africa during 1985, particularly since the proclamation of the state of emergency in a number of magisterial districts on 21 July, the ICRC, making use of its statutory right of initiative, offered its services to the South African government in order to help alleviate the suffering of the persons affected. In a letter from President Hay to Mr. P. W. Botha, President of the Republic of South Africa, on 17 January, and in a verbal note addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 26 July, the ICRC requested permission to visit all the persons arrested for security reasons. Approaches were also made to obtain access to zones closed by the security forces. At the end of 1985, no definite reply had been made to these requests.

In connection both with the continuing armed clashes in northern Namibia between South African forces and SWAPO and the accession by the United Nations Council for Namibia on 18 October 1983 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, the ICRC made approaches to the South African government to seek an understanding that would enable it to discharge its mandate of protection (visits to all persons imprisoned and interned for reasons relating to the conflict, tracing of missing persons, exchange of family messages) and of assistance to the victims of that conflict. At the end of the year, these discussions had not borne fruit.

In May, the delegate-general for Africa went to Pretoria to carry out reassessment, with the delegation, of ICRC activities in South Africa in the light of recent internal developments in the country.

### Protection and assistance activities

**FOR DETAINEES.**—The ICRC delegation based in Pretoria continued visiting sentenced security prisoners and people

held in preventive detention under Section 28 of the 1982 Internal Security Act (ISA), the only two categories of detainees to whom the authorities of the Republic of South Africa have so far granted the ICRC access. As it has done every year since 1969, the ICRC carried out an annual series of visits: between 2 and 24 September, four delegates and a doctor from Geneva went to eight places of detention, where they met 309 security prisoners and seven held in preventive detention. Following this series of visits, material assistance worth 1,400 Swiss francs was provided to the security prisoners.

In addition to its protection work, the ICRC continued its assistance programme on behalf of former security detainees and their families in need. The number of beneficiaries was approximately 400 persons per month. Relief supplies worth 140,000 Swiss francs were provided in the form of food parcels and blankets. The ICRC also paid for medical treatment and spent 230,000 Swiss francs to cover travelling expenses for people visiting close relatives in detention.

— In addition to the approach made by President Hay in January and in spite of the negative reply received in June, the ICRC made an offer of services to the authorities on 26 July, after a state of emergency had been proclaimed in several regions of the country, and requested regular access to all persons detained under the state of emergency. During a meeting with the head of the ICRC delegation in Pretoria on 20 November, Mr. Le Grange, Minister for Law and Order, delivered the South African government's negative reply.

— As it has done in previous years, the ICRC repeated its approaches to the highest authorities in order to obtain authorization for visits, in accordance with the institution's customary criteria, to security detainees belonging to other categories, in particular persons detained under section 29 of the 1982 Internal Security Act, detainees awaiting trial, security prisoners condemned to death and persons convicted of public violence. Thus, on 13 June, the delegation sent a verbal note to Mr. H.-J. Coetzee, Minister of Justice, requesting ICRC access, during the annual series of visits in September, to detainees awaiting trial and security prisoners condemned to death. A negative reply to this request was received from the South African authorities on 16 September. In addition, the Pretoria delegation tried, without success, to negotiate permission to visit persons convicted of public violence in connection with the internal disturbances.

— Finally, citing the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC requested access to 54 members of SWAPO presumed captured by South African forces during armed incursions into southern Angola in June and September. This request was refused by the South African authorities in December. The delegation also pointed out the parties' obligations, under the Conventions, with regard to burial and the forwarding of information on the dead.

— The Pretoria delegation also concerned itself with the security detainees in Venda, Ciskei and Transkei. In **Venda**, three sentenced security prisoners were visited in November at

the central prison in Thohoyandou. In Ciskei, 13 sentenced security prisoners at the prison in Middledrift were visited on 8 August, in accordance with customary ICRC procedure, as a result of the negotiations for access to security prisoners which had been conducted since December 1983. Similar steps were taken in Transkei: the ICRC's offer of services, made in May 1982 and requesting access to security prisoners, was repeated. It was not possible to visit them in 1985.

*ON BEHALF OF THE POPULATION IN ZONES AFFECTED BY THE DISTURBANCES.*—In view of the intensifying internal disturbances and in order to provide the best possible protection to the victims of these situations, from the beginning of 1985, ICRC delegates carried out a general survey in the provinces and “homelands” most affected. Following this survey, the ICRC delegation was increased (eleven delegates at the end of the year), which enabled its members to be present on a regular basis in most of the affected zones, maintaining contact with the population, the local authorities and sections of the Red Cross Society.

From June 1985 onward, the Pretoria delegation contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs each time it received reliable, corroborated reports on acts committed by the security forces. The police conducted inquiries on the basis of allegations forwarded by the ICRC.

*ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES FROM MOZAMBIQUE.*—In the absence of other international organizations, the ICRC delegation in Pretoria had to deal with the problem of refugees who had fled from certain regions of Mozambique because of the conflict in that country.

Following an initial survey in February in the Mozambique-South Africa border region, between Venda to the north and Swaziland to the south, a temporary assistance programme was organized for almost 15,000 persons who had taken refuge in the Mhala district (Gazankulu), where there was the greatest influx of refugees. This assistance consisted of blankets, medicaments, medical equipment, soap and cooking utensils worth 204,000 Swiss francs. It provided additional assistance for newly arrived refugees who were taken charge of by non-governmental organizations or their relatives in the area. A delegate based in Gazankulu, working in conjunction with the authorities and local organizations, supervised the distributions which took place via the hospitals. Until the end of 1985, delegates continued to monitor the situation of Mozambican refugees arriving in Gazankulu and KaNgwane.

#### Tracing Agency

In co-operation with the South African Red Cross Society, the Pretoria delegation dealt with about one hundred tracing requests and requests for repatriation, transfers and the reuniting of families. Some thirty family messages were exchanged during the year.

#### Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

At the end of 1985, in order to make the Red Cross better known and, in so doing, organize activities in the densely populated black urban areas, the South African Red Cross Society, with support from the ICRC, set up an action programme to recruit and train about fifty community organizers who would be based in the different “townships” and be in charge of developing Red Cross activities and disseminating knowledge of the Movement's principles throughout the country. New sections of the National Society would thus be created, in particular in the black populated areas, in order to develop first-aid services, facilitate the evacuation of injured persons and train first-aid and social workers.

Throughout the year, during their missions to the “townships” and in Venda, Ciskei and Transkei, the delegates explained the role, principles and activities of the ICRC and of the Red Cross. Various publications were widely distributed. In addition, on 9 October the head of the delegation gave a lecture in Potchefstroom, presenting international humanitarian law and the role and activities of the ICRC to 350 members of the medical and health corps of the South African armed forces.

#### NAMIBIA/SOUTH WEST AFRICA

The military operations which continued in 1985 between the South African forces and SWAPO made it necessary for the ICRC to maintain its protection and assistance activities on behalf of security prisoners held in Namibia and civilians affected by the conflict.

In this context, the delegates based in Windhoek stepped up their presence in the conflict zone in the north of the country, particularly in Ovamboland, in order to monitor the situation, carry out Tracing Agency work (following up tracing requests, collecting and distributing family messages and organizing family visits) and disseminate knowledge of the basic rules of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross.

In 1985, the ICRC made new approaches to the South African authorities to seek an understanding enabling it to carry out its protection and assistance activities on behalf of the victims of conflict, in particular detainees, in accordance with its mandate.

#### Protection

As in previous years, the delegates carried out three-monthly visits, in March, July and September, to the prison in Windhoek, where they had access to nine detainees who had

been arrested under Decree No. 26 by the Administrator General (AG 26) and who had been seen for the first time in December 1984. They also had access to sentenced security prisoners (eight in March, then, following releases, seven in July and six in September) and certain others who were awaiting trial. On 10 April, a wounded member of SWAPO, arrested in June 1984, was visited in hospital in Katutura; he was then released in May. On 26 September, at the prison in Windhoek, the delegates visited 21 sentenced Namibian security prisoners who had recently been transferred from Robben Island (South Africa) following repeated requests by the ICRC: these prisoners were released shortly afterward, on 14 November.

Following a wave of arrests in the conflict zone at the beginning of 1985, the ICRC repeated its request for regular access to persons arrested under Decree No. 9 by the Administrator General (AG 9). This request was again refused by the South African authorities.

At the same time, the delegates continued their attempts to obtain access to all security prisoners, including detainees under interrogation, but without success.

### Tracing Agency

In 1985, the Tracing Agency in the Windhoek delegation received 364 requests concerning tracing, repatriation and family reunification. Of these, 189 were in connection with the conflict with Angola; 129 cases were successfully concluded. In addition, 238 family messages were exchanged through the delegation, 228 of them with Angola.

### Assistance

The ICRC continued its aid programme for the families of detainees and recently released detainees as it did in South Africa.

Despite the difficulties encountered in establishing contact with families, some of whom were living in inaccessible regions, the programme expanded in 1985.

A sum of 60,000 Swiss francs was spent in assisting detainees' families and for the relief supplies given to detainees during visits. Families were issued with travel vouchers which enabled them to visit their relatives in prison on Robben Island, in South Africa, or in Namibia/South West Africa.

At the end of 1984 and during 1985, several surveys were conducted in the north of the country (Ovambo, Kavango, Kaokoland) and in Damaraland and Namaland. These revealed that the food situation in the conflict zone and areas affected by the drought was unsatisfactory. An assistance programme was therefore launched to aid certain particularly vulnerable groups. Food (maize, sugar, powdered milk, fats) was distributed to children suffering from malnutrition in two

primary schools in Damaraland (from January to December) and in Rehoboth (from January to April). In addition, cereals rich in protein were provided throughout the year to infants and undernourished children via hospitals in Kavango. Finally, in co-operation with the Department of Health, foodstuffs were distributed in Namaland and to war wounded and civilians who had suffered the direct consequences of the conflict in Ovamboland. These assistance activities cost a total of about 18,000 Swiss francs.

### Dissemination

To improve awareness of international humanitarian law and ICRC activities, delegates gave many lectures accompanied by films, notably in the secondary schools and hospitals in Windhoek, Ovambo and Kavango. In May, a series of eight courses on international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross was given to forty recruits at the police academy in Windhoek; in December, an initial talk was given to forty members of the South African armed forces. Finally, in November, the delegation received permission from the Police Commissioner to launch a dissemination programme in twenty-two police stations throughout the country.

## MOZAMBIQUE

In view of the worsening conflict in certain parts of Mozambique and thanks to the favourable outcome of negotiations with the Mozambican government, the ICRC strengthened its presence and activities in the country at the beginning of 1985; this involved, in particular, the development of a medical assistance programme in the province of Zambezia. However, following an incident on 31 July in which a pilot and nurse from the ICRC were seriously injured, the ICRC had to temporarily suspend its activities in the field. At the end of 1985, these had not been resumed for lack of sufficient safety guarantees.

In May, the ICRC delegate-general for Africa went to Maputo where he was received by President Samora Machel and Dr. Fernando Vaz, Deputy Minister of Health. During their talks, they reviewed the start of ICRC assistance work in the conflict zone and raised the question of protection for persons detained in connection with the hostilities. The delegate-general reminded his interlocutors of the ICRC's offer of services, made in January 1984 following statements by the President of the People's Republic of Mozambique



inviting the institution to visit persons captured during the conflict. In spite of declarations by the Mozambican authorities, permission had not been granted by the government at the end of 1985.

At ICRC headquarters in Geneva, President Hay received Mr. Manuel Aranda da Silva, Minister for Foreign Trade, on 15 March, as well as Mr. Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi, Minister of Health.

The ICRC also maintained contact with RENAMO ("Mozambique National Resistance Movement") to discuss humanitarian questions and security problems.

### Medical assistance

At the end of January, an ICRC team carried out a survey in the province of Zambezia where they found substantial medical needs caused by the conflict situation. A twofold medical assistance programme was therefore set up at the beginning of April: to provide medicaments and medical supplies to the hospitals in Quelimane and Mocuba and district dispensaries according to need, and to evacuate the war wounded and seriously ill by air to the district hospitals and later, following their recovery, return them to their homes.

In order to implement this project, medicaments, medical supplies and the essential logistic support (vehicles and fuel) were forwarded to Beira and Quelimane; because of the hazardous conditions on the roads, a light aircraft was assigned to the programme from March onward. Beginning in April, an ICRC nurse based in Quelimane and assisted by three local employees carried out regular visits to thirteen health centres and the district's two surgical hospitals and distributed relief supplies according to need. She also organized the evacuation of 106 sick and injured persons and the return home of 145 sick and injured persons after their recovery.

The total cost of this programme was 180,000 Swiss francs.

The surveys scheduled to start in July in the provinces where there was fighting (Niassa, Tete, Manica) were shortened or postponed for safety reasons. On 31 July, an ICRC light aircraft marked with the Red Cross emblem was fired upon while preparing to land in Luabo, where the delegates were going to evacuate an injured person to the hospital in Quelimane. The aircraft's two occupants received several gunshot wounds. Following this incident, the ICRC suspended its flights in the provinces and took up negotiations to obtain new safety guarantees. At the end of the year, ICRC activities in the interior of the country had still not been resumed.

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The ICRC's activity to assist Mozambican war disabled, which began on 1 April 1981 with the opening of the orthopaedic centre at the main hospital in Maputo, expanded

in 1985. The technical co-operation agreement concluded between the Ministry of Health and the ICRC was renewed for one year. In 1985, the centre was able to considerably increase its production of artificial limbs: two ICRC technicians, assisted by 18 experienced local employees, manufactured 269 prostheses, 861 pairs of crutches and 49 wheelchairs; 275 patients were fitted with appliances. In August, a workshop to maintain and repair prostheses, was opened by the ICRC at the main hospital in the city of Beira. A Mozambican orthopaedic technician and three assistants were assigned to the workshop.

At the end of January, the prostheses centre in Maputo was visited by Dr. Gallino, member of the Committee, and Dr. Russbach, the institution's chief medical officer. The ICRC orthopaedic specialist also carried out two missions to Mozambique, in February and October.

### Tracing Agency

The delegation in Maputo handled 139 tracing requests and requests for transfers and family reunification, 26 of which were successfully concluded.

### Dissemination

A dissemination delegate joined the delegation in August and concentrated on preparing a project to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles to members of the National Society and the armed forces.

At the November meeting of all the secretaries general and presidents of the provincial sections of the Mozambique Red Cross, the delegates presented a review of ICRC activities in Mozambique.

## ZIMBABWE

The regional delegation in Harare which, in addition to Zimbabwe itself, covers Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zambia, played an important role as a logistic base for ICRC emergency action in Angola and Mozambique.

In Zimbabwe, the ICRC repeated its willingness to undertake protection and assistance work on behalf of the victims of the events. While in Harare from 20 to 24 May, the delegate-general for Africa was received in particular by Mr. Simbi Mubako, Minister of Home Affairs, with whom he discussed the country's internal situation, particularly following the prolongation of the state of emergency until 26 January 1986. He reminded him of the ICRC's offer of services in 1983 regarding visits to the security prisoners (this offer had received no reply at the end of 1985). These talks were also an

opportunity to recall the importance of the Additional Protocols with a view to Zimbabwe's possible accession to these instruments of international law. A memorandum on this subject was sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in September. In Tracing Agency activities, the delegation supported the work done by the National Society. It continued to deal with requests (about 100), from Zimbabwe and other countries covered by the delegation, for the tracing of missing persons; it transmitted family messages, most of which were to persons in Matabeleland.

### Medical assistance

In response to a request by the Ministry of Health and following a mission to Zimbabwe by the ICRC orthopaedic specialist, a tripartite agreement had been signed on 20 December 1984 between the ICRC, the Ministry of Health and the National Society to set up an orthopaedic centre in Bulawayo, the capital of Matabeleland, in aid of civilian war disabled. In January 1985, Dr. Gallino, member of the Committee, and Dr. Russbach, the institution's chief medical officer, went to Zimbabwe to inspect the initial work on the project. The centre was officially inaugurated on 24 October, but had already begun working in June, run by four ICRC orthopaedic technicians. At the end of December, 72 patients had been fitted with prostheses and 735 pairs of crutches had been manufactured.

### Dissemination

At in the past, the regional delegation concentrated on setting up programmes to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles and activities, particularly among members of the National Societies in the countries covered by the delegation. Two seminars on these subjects were organized in Malawi and Lesotho (see the sections on those countries). In addition, an ICRC handbook on the rules to be observed by combatants was translated into the languages used in those regions.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

— The regional delegate based in Harare went to **Botswana** twice, in February and July, in order to maintain contact with the authorities and the National Society. During these missions, he visited Dukwe camp which houses refugees from Zimbabwe. At the request of the government, financial assistance of some 22,000 Swiss francs was granted by the ICRC to enlarge the camp's clinic. Work began in autumn.

In addition, a co-operation programme between the ICRC and the Botswana Red Cross Society, particularly for Tracing Agency activities and staff training, began in 1985.

— In order to maintain contact with the National Society and take up pending questions with the authorities, in particular the protection of security prisoners, the ICRC regional delegate based in Harare visited **Lesotho** in February and again in July. These missions also dealt with the preparation, in conjunction with the Lesotho Red Cross Society, of a dissemination seminar which took place in Maseru on 13 August. During the seminar, international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles and activities were presented to a large number of participants, among them representatives of the nine ministries, the army, the police and the prison services. The head of the ICRC's Legal Division also participated in the seminar.

— From 26 to 28 February, the regional delegate based in Harare went to **Malawi** to have talks with the country's authorities and discuss with the National Society possibilities for co-operation in Tracing Agency activities, dissemination and preparations for emergency assistance in case of disaster.

During his visit, approval was given for a seminar to be held for senior government officials on the mission and activities of the Red Cross Movement and international humanitarian law. The seminar, organized by the ICRC and the Malawi Red Cross Society and attended by more than twenty representatives of fourteen ministries and senior National Society officials, took place from 31 July to 2 August. The head of the ICRC's Legal Division was also present.

In addition, the delegation provided, through the Malawi Red Cross Society, material and financial assistance in the order of 6,600 Swiss francs per month in order to meet the immediate needs of new refugees arriving on Malawian soil from Mozambique.

— In June 1985, ICRC activities in **Swaziland**, which had hitherto been covered by the delegation in Maputo, came under the supervision of the regional delegate based in Harare. The ICRC provided assistance in the order of 25,000 Swiss francs to the National Society as part of its programme to prepare for emergency situations.

— During a mission to Lusaka from 11 to 13 March, the regional delegate based in Harare had talks with representatives from the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Labour and Social Services. They discussed, among other things, protection for security detainees and **Zambia's** accession to the 1977 Additional Protocols.

On 24 and 25 April, the regional delegate took part in a dissemination seminar for the **Zambian** army. The seminar was attended by aides to the President of Zambia, some 200 senior officers including the chiefs of staff, the commanders of various services in the armed forces, the Minister of Defence and his deputies. A lecture was given with films on international humanitarian law and the activities of the ICRC; the rest of the day was spent in discussions.

Finally, following a survey carried out in October by an ICRC nurse, in conjunction with the **Zambia** Red Cross Society, in the districts of Ruangwa, Katete, Petauke and



Chadiza, the ICRC provided emergency assistance (foodstuffs, tents, blankets and medical supplies worth 52,000 Swiss francs) for about 4,000 refugees who had fled the fighting in Mozambique. This assistance programme was taken over by the League on 24 November.

## East Africa

### ETHIOPIA

While continuing its traditional activities against the background of the conflict in the Ogaden and its consequences, the ICRC concentrated mainly on assisting the victims of the internal conflicts taking place in the north of the country, victims whose plight had considerably worsened as a result of the drought.

As in past years, the ICRC carried out its activities wherever possible in close co-operation with the Ethiopian Red Cross. While working in conformity with its own principles of neutrality and independence, the ICRC delegation also maintained regular contact with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), the government body which co-ordinates foreign aid. The purpose of these contacts was to keep the RRC informed of ICRC activities in order to optimize co-ordination between agencies and the government.

Mr. J.-P. Hocké, Director for Operational Activities, went twice to Addis Ababa. On 21 February, he met Mr. Berhanu Bayeh, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, and Mr. Goshu Wolde, Minister of Foreign Affairs; on 27 April, he was received by President Mengistu Haile Mariam, along with Mr. Fikré Selassié Wogderess, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Dr. Dawit, President of the Ethiopian Red Cross. In the course of their talks, all subjects concerning the ICRC were discussed, notably problems relating to ICRC assistance activities and protection questions.

Several other missions were carried out from Geneva. In January, Dr. Gallino, member of the Committee, and Dr. Russbach, ICRC chief medical officer, visited the orthopaedic centre in Debré Zeit, the prosthesis workshop in Asmara and the ICRC feeding centre in Mekele as well as the refugee camps in the surrounding area. Early in July, Mr. Jäckli, member of the Committee, attended the opening in Addis Ababa of celebrations to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. At the end of April, the deputy delegate-general for Africa went to Ethiopia in order to review ICRC activities in that country with the delegation there.

At the end of the year, the ICRC delegation in Ethiopia comprised 64 expatriate staff, 256 locally recruited employees and 1,407 persons hired on a daily basis. The ICRC operation was assisted in 1985 by a total of 48 specialized personnel



(doctors, sanitary engineers, nurses, administrators, mechanics etc.) provided by the National Societies of Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

#### Protection

In 1985, the ICRC was authorized by the Ethiopian government to continue its visits under the Conventions to Somali prisoners of war held in connection with the Ogaden conflict. In May, 202 prisoners of war were visited at the Harar regional prison and 10 at the Awasa prison (Sidamo). In October, thirteen Somali prisoners of war captured in September were registered and visited for the first time. In addition, ICRC delegates maintained regular contact with the detainees, bringing them relief supplies of medicaments and foodstuffs every month.

Just as in 1983 and 1984, the ICRC reiterated its request to the Ethiopian authorities that 26 Somali prisoners of war eligible for repatriation under the terms of Articles 109 and 110 of the Third Convention be released and repatriated on medical grounds. In late April, the ICRC proposed to the Ethiopian and Somali authorities the simultaneous repatriation on medical grounds of 26 Somali prisoners of war and 23 Ethiopian prisoners of war. This operation was not car-

ried out, however, after the Somali authorities notified the ICRC of its postponement.

Finally, the ICRC continued taking steps, in particular during missions to Addis Ababa in February and April by the Director for Operational Activities, aimed at obtaining access to all the persons detained in connection with the events, especially the conflicts in the north of the country. At the end of 1985, these steps had not been successful.

### Tracing Agency

In 1985, the Tracing Agency handled 325 family messages in connection with the conflict in the Ogaden (messages sent by Somali prisoners of war held in Ethiopia, messages received from Ethiopian prisoners of war held in Mogadishu and intended for their families in Ethiopia); 30 messages from Mogadishu were distributed.

In order to gather the maximum amount of information on families separated in the course of the government programme for resettlement in the south-west of the country, and thus to facilitate the reuniting of these families, the ICRC, in co-operation with the Ethiopian Red Cross, set up an *ad hoc* tracing service within the National Society. An ICRC delegate was assigned to this task from the beginning of May onward. In an initial period from June to September, combined teams of ICRC/Ethiopian Red Cross staff carried out an assessment of the situation and made the personnel of local National Society branches aware of the problem of families separated in the Tigre and Wollo regions from which people were being resettled. Later, a similar mission was to have been conducted in the resettlement areas themselves in the south-west of the country.

However, in spite of repeated requests at the highest level, neither the ICRC nor the Ethiopian Red Cross had been able to enter these regions by the end of 1985.

In connection with these resettlements, the Tracing Agency received 151 requests for tracing and reuniting families; of these, 102 were successfully concluded; 241 family messages were filled in, 60 of which were able to be delivered.

### Assistance

The distress of the population in the north of Ethiopia, who are victims both of prolonged conflicts and of a serious drought, has posed a major challenge for the ICRC in recent years. Medical-nutritional surveys carried out by delegates in the field revealed enormous additional needs. ICRC assistance activities aimed at bringing aid to the victims were therefore considerably expanded to reach almost one million persons in regions where the ICRC was often the only institution able to mount large-scale programmes. A total of 106,300 tonnes of relief supplies worth 105,500,000 Swiss francs (including supplies worth 228,400 Swiss francs for prisoners of war) was distributed by the ICRC, consisting almost entirely (100,000,000 Swiss francs) of food aid. Medical assistance worth about 1,000,000 Swiss francs was provided.

For logistic purposes, the regions assisted by the ICRC from Addis Ababa were divided into two zones. The first covered the north of Tigre and Eritrea and was supplied from the port of Massawa; the second, to the south, included northern Wollo, Gondar and the Maychew region (southern Tigre) and was supplied mainly from the port of Assab. From the ports, the relief supplies were transported to the main warehouses (Asmara, Addis Ababa and Dese) by vehicles rented from local companies and then, from there, into the field (45 small warehouses at the end of December) by ICRC vehicles (85 lorries, 63 trailers and 71 other vehicles at the end of 1985). Because of serious difficulties encountered in transporting goods by road (caused by the security situation or road conditions during the rainy season) the ICRC also made use of air transport. Almost throughout the year, three to four cargo aircraft were used to supply Tigre (Mekele and Axum) and Wollo (Lalibela) from Asmara and Addis Ababa. In addition, a fleet of up to five light aircraft served regions with landing strips.

**RELIEF ACTIVITIES.**—The Joint Relief Operation launched by the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross in 1980 grew considerably in 1985 to meet the requirements revealed by the surveys carried out at the beginning of the year. Distributions of 5,276 tonnes of relief supplies to about 370,000 persons in January had risen in June to 10,877 tonnes for 720,000 persons; these figures remained stable for the rest of the year. General distributions, adapted to each type of situation, were carried out on a monthly basis according to the "landbridge" system (in more than 90% of cases): the beneficiaries went to a certain place on a prearranged date and there received an average food ration of 15 kilos (flour, beans, vegetable oil) per person per month, equivalent to about 2,200 calories per day, and then returned to their villages until the next distribution. In order to encourage the population's resettlement in their home villages, the ICRC also distributed seed and basic tools from the beginning of the rainy season on. From May to October, hoes and 4,818 tonnes of seed (wheat, teff, maize), in quantities of 25 kilos per family, were provided.

The distributions generally took place calmly and according to plan. However, on several occasions security-related incidents or difficulties connected with the government resettlement programme forced the ICRC to interrupt its activities from time to time. Approaches concerning these matters were made both to the local authorities and to Addis Ababa.

In addition, an ICRC aircraft dropped relief supplies in southern Tigre (Mehoni) and northern Wollo (Sekota) in regions completely cut off by bad weather.

In all, in the course of the relief operation organized by the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross, some 106,000 tonnes of relief supplies (foodstuffs, tents, blankets, seed) were distributed to civilian victims in 1985: in Eritrea (30,000 tonnes at 17 distribution points), in Tigre (50,000 tonnes at 12 points), in Wollo (19,000 tonnes at five points), in Gondar (6,000 tonnes at seven points) and in Hararge (1,000 tonnes).

**MEDICAL ACTIVITIES.**—In order to assess and monitor the food situation among the population receiving assistance and adapt the operations to their requirements, ICRC medical teams regularly visited the villages containing displaced persons in the northern provinces of the country. These surveys were more intensive at the beginning of the year and from September onward.

The *therapeutic feeding programmes* for children suffering from serious malnutrition remained the ICRC's top priority. During the year, nine therapeutic feeding centres operated in Tigre (Axum, Adwa, Maychew, Mehoni, Idaga Hamus, Wukro, Mekele) and in Eritrea (Akordat, Ingerne). They admitted a total of 30,000 infants and their mothers. During their stay (an average of three to six weeks) they received four to six meals per day and treatment under the supervision of ICRC medical personnel. Following an assessment of drinking-water resources carried out by an ICRC hydrologist in May, emergency reservoirs and distribution points for drinking water were installed in most feeding centres. Toward the end of the year, the health of the population in western and southern Tigre and in Wollo and Gondar had improved, but other regions of Eritrea (Akele, Guzaï, the coastal plain and the north of the provinces of Akordat, Keren and Sahil) and of Tigre (central region, to the east and west of the main road crossing the Mekele region) continued to be severely affected. Consequently, six feeding centres were able to be closed in November and December, although three centres remained in operation in Tigre where some 1,300 undernourished children were being cared for. The ICRC nevertheless maintained the structures necessary to set up an assistance programme again quickly, if required.

In the area of *orthopaedic rehabilitation*, the running of two re-education centres (for physiotherapy and fitting prostheses) in Asmara and Harar was, as planned, gradually handed over by the ICRC to the Rehabilitation Agency for the Disabled, a national organization. From the end of June onward, the two centres were run by local specialists. However, an ICRC technician returned there as an advisor in early December to help run the workshops in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ethiopian Fund for the Disabled.

During the first six months of the year, four ICRC orthopaedic specialists, assisted by 21 locally recruited employees undergoing training, manufactured 91 prostheses and 37 orthoses.

### Dissemination and information

The influx of correspondents from the international media required the virtually constant presence in Addis Ababa of two *information* delegates. They welcomed to the capital the numerous journalists, distinguished visitors and envoys from National Societies who had come to see for themselves the magnitude of the needs and the way in which relief activities were being conducted, and guided them out in the field. A film

on the Red Cross assistance operation in Ethiopia called "Strategy for Salvation" was made and is intended for the public at large and National Societies.

To facilitate the expansion of its activities and increase protection for Red Cross staff, the ICRC and the National Society conducted a *dissemination* campaign in the form of lectures on the basic rules of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross in Addis Ababa, Eritrea and Tigre. These presentations, which included films, were given to audiences totalling between 10,000 and 45,000 persons per month. Delegates also took part in leadership training for the youth section of the Ethiopian Red Cross. In addition, a seminar organized by the ICRC in conjunction with the Ethiopian Red Cross and entitled "Ethiopian journalists and international humanitarian law" took place in Addis Ababa from 19 to 21 December. It was attended by about 50 persons from all over the country working for the press, radio and television, as well as representatives of ministries, the police and the Party.

## SUDAN

To meet the urgent needs of civilians displaced in Tigre and Eritrea by the conflicts and the drought, and to stem their influx into Sudan, the delegation in Khartoum stepped up its programme of assistance for them both at the frontier and on Ethiopian soil. The Sudanese authorities, both before and after the *coup d'état* on 6 April, were kept informed of the situation. In May, the head of the delegation in Khartoum took up contact with the new government, notably Mr. Ibrahim Taha Ayoub, Minister of Foreign Affairs, General Osman Abdellah, Minister of Defence and General El Sirr, Director of State Security. On 3 August, Mr. Bornet, the ICRC delegate-general for Africa, was received in Khartoum by the new head of state, General Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, accompanied by Mr. Samuel Aru Bol, his Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Irrigation and Hydroelectric Power. In addition to ICRC activities in the Horn of Africa, they discussed the question of possible ICRC aid to the victims of the conflict in southern Sudan, in the provinces of Upper Nile, Bahr el Gazal and Equatoria. The Sudanese authorities agreed in principle to the ICRC working in the conflict zone after an assessment of needs. However, in spite of intensifying military activity, it was not possible to carry out an assessment in 1985 as negotiations with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) had not reached a successful conclusion.

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On 5 January 1985, the ICRC was profoundly saddened by the death of Mr. Michel Zufferey, a delegate, in a car accident which happened near Wad Medani. Mr. Zufferey, who had joined the ICRC in 1972, had carried out missions in Bangladesh, Angola, Lebanon, Pakistan, Chad, Sudan and elsewhere.

### Assistance

Given the precarious condition of the relief infrastructure in Sudan, the ICRC provided emergency assistance to the large numbers of Ethiopian refugees arriving at the Sudanese frontier. From January to May and later in September, relief supplies worth 390,000 Swiss francs were distributed either directly to the reception camps on the border or handed over to the Swiss Red Cross for distribution to new arrivals in the camps at Wad Sheriffe and El Fao. In addition, assistance was given from time to time to various religious organizations.

In 1984, with the consent of the Sudanese authorities, the ICRC opened an orthopaedic centre in Kassala for both victims of the conflicts in Ethiopia and Sudanese amputees. In 1985, this centre was run by two ICRC orthopaedic specialists and one physiotherapist; they also trained local personnel. The orthopaedic workshop in Kassala manufactured 236 prostheses and orthoses; 137 patients were fitted with appliances. Beginning in May, the ICRC orthopaedic specialists also gave regular consultations to patients requiring specialized care in the refugee camp at Wad Sheriffe run by the Swiss Red Cross and, beginning in October, in camp "KM 26", run by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. At the beginning of February, the Kassala centre was visited by Dr. Gallino, member of the International Committee, accompanied by Dr. Russbach, the institution's chief medical officer.

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At the same time, the ICRC developed its assistance activities in Eritrea and Tigre.

In **Eritrea**, assistance to victims of the conflict and the drought began in July. From July to December, about 2,300 tonnes of relief supplies (foodstuffs, blankets, clothing, cooking utensils) were brought from Sudan for some 30,000 displaced persons. ICRC delegates and medical staff regularly monitored the distributions carried out by the Eritrean Relief Association (ERA). Medical assistance was also provided to the victims of the conflict and the drought in Eritrea.

In **Tigre**, relief activities were stepped up in March when the delegation received logistic reinforcement with the arrival of 30 new lorries. A total of about 8,400 tonnes of relief supplies was transported to Tigre in 1985, with an interruption between July and October because of the rains, and distributed to some 50,000 persons. During May and June, 400 tonnes of seed were

also provided together with farming implements. In the medical sphere, the ICRC helped to set up feeding centres, wells and sanitary installations and to teach personnel from the Relief Society of Tigre (REST) the basic principles of their operation. Treatment was provided for the many displaced persons affected by a serious epidemic of diarrhoea in western Tigre. In addition, medicaments and medical equipment worth a total of 604,000 Swiss francs were provided.

### Protection

At the end of January, two delegates and an ICRC doctor visited 141 former Sudanese prisoners of war. They had been held in N'Djamena before being released in October and December 1984, then transferred directly to El Fasher, their place of origin, where they were being interrogated by the Sudanese state security service. In March, they were released and went back to their families. They received material assistance from the ICRC worth about 4,700 Swiss francs.

### Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency office in Khartoum was involved mainly with refugees from Uganda and Ethiopia, with the help of its offices, which had been set up in Gedaref, Kassala, Port Sudan, Juba and Yei, as well as that of missions abroad. In 1985, the Agency received a total of 1,035 requests for the tracing of missing persons and the reuniting of families. These concerned, among others, 580 Ugandans and 415 Ethiopian citizens. A successful conclusion was reached in 563 cases. In addition, 513 family messages were transmitted.

## SOMALIA

Since August 1982, the ICRC has had a permanent delegation in Mogadishu and, against the background of the conflict in Ogaden, it has been endeavouring to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it in the Conventions.

### Protection

In 1985, as in 1984, in spite of several requests, notably during a meeting on 21 July with General Mohamad Ali Samatar, Minister of Defence, the ICRC was not authorized to visit, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Geneva Conventions, the Ethiopian prisoners of war and the Cuban prisoner of war held in Somalia. In point of fact, the authorities did not agree to allow interviews without witnesses as prescribed in Article 126 of the Third Convention. This considerably restricted ICRC protection activities.



An ICRC doctor was nevertheless able to examine 213 Ethiopian prisoners of war and the Cuban prisoner of war held at the main prison in Mogadishu and in Afgoi and Gezira, during a medical visit in February.

In 1985, the ICRC continued to negotiate with the Somali authorities for the repatriation of 23 wounded and sick Ethiopian prisoners of war in accordance with Articles 109 and 110 of the Third Convention. At the end of April, the ICRC recommended to the Somali and Ethiopian authorities that they carry out the simultaneous repatriation of 23 Ethiopian prisoners of war and 26 Somali prisoners of war on medical grounds. Unfortunately, this was not possible in 1985 for lack of consent from the Somali authorities.

The ICRC expressly requested the repatriation, also for health reasons, of the Cuban prisoner of war held since 1979 in Afgoi. In doing so, it recalled the request concerning the repatriation of wounded and sick prisoners made by President Hay to President Siad Barre in February 1984. No reply from the Somali authorities had been received at the end of 1985.

### Material and medical assistance

In 1985, the ICRC continued to provide material assistance to prisoners of war held in Gezira, Afgoi and at the main prison in Mogadishu, thus enabling its delegates to maintain contact with the detainees. In all, 55 tonnes of foodstuffs (mainly fresh fruit and vegetables) and leisure and toilet articles worth about 127,000 Swiss francs were distributed on a bimonthly basis.

During the medical visit carried out in February, medicaments and medical equipment worth 5,000 Swiss francs were handed over to the dispensaries in the places of detention. In addition, the ICRC took over the treatment of certain prisoners of war suffering, in particular, from tuberculosis.

Following a survey carried out in February, the two hospitals which treat war wounded, Belet Huen and the military hospital in Mogadishu, received medical assistance (medicaments, bandages, surgical equipment) worth 17,000 Swiss francs.

### Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency office in Mogadishu concerned itself mainly with the numerous requests to trace Ethiopians and Somalis who had disappeared in the course of the conflict in the Ogaden and with distributing, in Somalia, family messages from Somali prisoners of war held in Ethiopia. As regards the first activity 44 tracing requests were dealt with by the Tracing Agency office in Mogadishu, only four of which led to results. As for the exchange of Red Cross messages, 345 messages were received and 193 distributed.

### Dissemination

In conjunction with the Somali Red Crescent Society, the delegates organized information meetings and seminars on the principles and activities of the Red Cross; these were held for young people in schools and youth camps as well as for prison-service and government employees.

## UGANDA

In the course of 1985, the ICRC several times had to reorganize its protection and assistance activities on behalf of persons detained for security reasons, and civilian victims of the internal disturbances resulting from clashes between the Ugandan armed forces and the National Resistance Army (NRA). During the first six months of the year, the ICRC continued its efforts to visit persons detained in military barracks, and displaced civilians in the districts of Luwero, Mpigi and Mubende. Visits to the prisons and police stations continued on a regular basis.

In order to carry out its work, the ICRC maintained relations with the successive governments and with representatives of the armed opposition (NRA). In January, the deputy delegate-general for Africa went to Kampala where he met Mr. Allimadi, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Muwanga, Vice-President and Minister of Defence. In August, following the *coup d'état* of 27 July which overthrew President Obote, the head of the ICRC delegation in Kampala was received by the new authorities, notably General Tito Okello, the new head of state, Mr. Wilson Toko, Vice-Chairman of the Military Council and Minister of Defence, Prime Minister Muwanga and Mr. Semogerere, Minister of Internal Affairs; they agreed in principle to the ICRC continuing all its protection, assistance and dissemination activities. On 23 October, following the resumption of fighting between government troops and the NRA, an ICRC office was opened in Kasese, in the south-west of the country, which was under NRA control.

In spite of the events which sporadically shook the capital, the ICRC delegation worked without interruption, thanks to an emergency plan prepared several months in advance. Material losses suffered by the ICRC in 1985 due to looting totalled some 600,000 Swiss francs.

### Protection

Throughout 1985, the ICRC was authorized to continue its visits to security detainees in civilian places of detention administered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in Kampala and throughout the country. The delegates thus had access,

once, twice or three times, to some 1,300 security prisoners in 25 prisons and, on a monthly, and then from May onward, a bimonthly basis, to about 400 detainees in seven police stations in Kampala and one at Mpigi.

Following the series of visits which was completed in May, the delegates concentrated their protection activities on seven prisons (including the two large prisons in Kampala: Luzira Upper and Kampala Women's prison) and eight police stations, where virtually all the security detainees were being held.

After the *coup d'état* on 27 July, many prisoners were released, among them more than 1,200 security detainees from the Luzira Upper prison and the Kampala Women's prison. The ICRC provided 1,052 of them with soap, blankets and a sum of money to enable them to return to their home villages. At the end of August, delegates carried out a fresh visit to 248 security detainees still imprisoned at Luzira Upper and 117 new prisoners incarcerated following the events. Eleven new women prisoners arrested after the *coup d'état* were also registered and visited at Kampala Women's prison on 30 August. All the former women detainees had been released by 10 August. Conversely, there were no longer any security detainees in the police stations, which were visited in September. On 20 September, a further group of 196 persons was released from the Luzira prison.

In addition to its visits, which took place in accordance with its customary procedure, the ICRC repeated, to the successive authorities, its request for access to military barracks in order to visit civilians detained there for security reasons and to ensure that the legal period of detention in these interrogation centres was not being exceeded. In January 1985, a memorandum was sent to the President of the Republic of Uganda but brought no result. Following the change of government, fresh approaches were made to the competent authorities. However, it was not possible in 1985 to visit civilians detained by the army.

Beginning in October, during fighting between government forces and the NRA which divided the country in two, the ICRC endeavoured to protect and alleviate the distress of the victims in the combat zones. The delegates based in Kasese were able to visit 341 prisoners held by the NRA in three places of detention. Weekly visits by ICRC delegates in the Luwero region also helped to improve the protection of displaced persons. In October, a verbal note was sent to the Minister of Defence requesting that the necessary steps be taken to put a stop to the coercive acts committed by the army against civilians.

The ICRC was also concerned with the situation of civilians and government troops besieged in the Masaka and M'Barara barracks. It made approaches both to the government in Kampala and the NRA to be allowed to carry out an assessment at the barracks and provide assistance according to need. On 11 December, the persons besieged at Masaka (1,329 members of the military, 374 women and 362 children) surrendered to the NRA. A delegate and an ICRC nurse were able to visit these people and also provide them with assistance in the form of medical supplies and powdered milk.

On 10 November, a Ugandan airliner was hijacked and forced to land in Kasese. While direct negotiations went on between the parties, ICRC delegates were immediately able to visit the aircraft's 42 passengers and five crew members and organize the exchange of Red Cross messages between them and their families. At the request of the Ugandan Minister of Foreign Affairs, and following discussions with the NRA, the ICRC then organized the transfer to Kampala of 41 passengers on 17 December.

### Tracing Agency

In Kampala, ICRC tracing delegates regularly organized the transfer, to their home villages, of the displaced persons at the "Yellow House" transit centre. In addition, in connection with the visits made to detainees, delegates registered 976 new prisoners, received 87 tracing requests (34 of which led to results) and distributed 1,403 family messages.

The ICRC also helped the Uganda Red Cross Society to reorganize its tracing service, which was divided into two sections: the "refugee" section dealing with activities on behalf of the Ugandan refugee population living in southern Sudan and Haut-Zaïre (690 family messages distributed and 473 tracing requests which led to results) and the "displaced persons" section responsible for cases relating to displaced persons in the Luwero, M'Pigi and Mubende districts. As regards this category, the ICRC delegates and their colleagues from the National Society went to considerable efforts to reunite displaced persons and their families in safer areas or transfer them to their home districts with a view to their resettlement. A total of 910 persons were thus transferred from transit camps to safer areas. Of the 118 tracing requests received, 48 led to results; 798 family messages were distributed.

In view of the growing conflict between government forces and the NRA, and the division of the country into two parts, the ICRC delegate in Kasese, in co-operation with the Uganda Red Cross Society, set up a tracing service (about 20 contact persons throughout the south-west of the country) intended for persons who were living in the zone controlled by the opposition and therefore not able to communicate with their relatives in the regions which remained in government hands. More than 2,000 family messages were thus written in November and December.

### Relief work

From January to April, it was impossible to carry out direct distributions outside Kampala as the delegates were unable, for safety reasons, to travel in the field. The ICRC nevertheless provided basic food assistance (maize, beans, oil, powdered milk, sugar) to some 3,000 displaced persons in three transit centres to the north and west of Kampala, in Nakasi, Kibizi



and Busunju, as well as at the hospital in Mityana (Mubende district). Repeated requests for authorization to assess the situation in these camps achieved partial success: on 8 March, delegates went to Nakasi and Kibizi, where they found the situation to be satisfactory. Following this and until 27 July, the distributions in the camps took place each week in the presence of the delegates; there were some 1,300 beneficiaries.

The delegates based in Kampala also provided regular assistance to about 800 displaced persons accommodated at "Yellow House" (ICRC reception and treatment centre in Kampala) and waiting to be transferred to their families. In addition, relief supplies (clothing, blankets) were handed over to the UNHCR for displaced persons in the Kyaka I and Kyaka II camps.

Following the *coup d'état*, ICRC activities in the field were halted for a time before resuming in October on a slightly different basis. After several surveys to the north of Kampala, the weekly distributions of relief supplies resumed on behalf of about 1,000 newly displaced persons to the east of the Bombo road and others in the Nakazi and Kibizi camps (720 persons in all) and at Luwero (about 500 persons). In the regions controlled by the opposition, surveys carried out by the delegates as from October revealed no notable requirement for emergency relief. Assistance was provided on two occasions: for some 5,000 displaced persons in M'Barara, to a value of 56,000 Swiss francs, and for 2,000 persons besieged in Masaka who received emergency aid after surrendering in December.

In all, ICRC foods and material assistance in Uganda valued about 1,100,000 Swiss francs in 1985.

#### Medical assistance

From January to October, the ICRC restricted itself to monitoring the food situation in the Nakazi and Kibizi camps when relief supplies were distributed there. In Kampala, the ICRC medical team concentrated its efforts on the treatment of some 800 displaced persons living at "Yellow House". A doctor also accompanied delegates when they visited detained persons. Finally, in the public health sphere, work aimed at improving conditions for the detainees was continued, i.e. disinfecting the places of detention in police stations, ensuring the water supply and inspecting toilet facilities.

As from October, medical activities grew considerably. During weekly visits to Luwero, medical consultations were given to displaced persons, and medicaments and basic medical equipment was provided to the dispensaries in the district. In addition, about 300 sick and injured persons were transferred by the ICRC to hospital in Kampala.

Following a survey carried out in November to determine needs in the zone controlled by the NRA, medicaments and medical equipment worth 60,000 Swiss francs were provided to nine hospitals in five affected districts.

#### Dissemination

From April to July, the dissemination delegate visited sections of the Uganda Red Cross Society in the northern,

eastern and western districts of the country, organizing lectures accompanied by film, for local authorities and members of local sections of the National Society, on the Red Cross and the activities of the ICRC. On 22 May, an information meeting was held for the first time at a military barracks in Gulu (north-west) for some 140 officers and men of the government forces. In Kampala and region, talks on the ICRC and the Uganda Red Cross Society were also given, in conjunction with the National Society, to secondary school teachers and pupils, to local staff and to displaced persons at "Yellow House". Finally, a series of seven courses was given in December to 230 recruits at the Prison Training School in Kampala to introduce them to international humanitarian law, the principles and organization of the Red Cross Movement and ICRC activities.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

— The ICRC regional delegation in **Kenya** served as a logistic base for assistance activities in Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. In addition, the delegates maintained relations with the authorities and National Societies in the countries covered by the Nairobi delegation (the Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion, Seychelles and Tanzania) in order to further knowledge of international humanitarian law and develop co-operation with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in these countries.

The Central Tracing Agency in Nairobi dealt with 250 tracing requests (65 successfully) and exchanged about 100 family messages. These activities stemmed for the most part from the situation in Uganda. At the end of July, a delegate carried out a mission in the Busia region on the Ugandan border to assess the situation of the Ugandan refugees there following the *coup d'état*. He concluded that no emergency action was necessary.

In dissemination, ICRC delegates gave talks on international humanitarian law and Red Cross activities to senior police officers, instructors for the Kenyan armed forces, university lecturers, and staff of the Kenya Red Cross Society.

— In order to maintain the ICRC's relations both with National Societies and with governments, and to make international humanitarian law and the Red Cross Movement and its fundamental principles more widely known among diverse groups (armed forces, police, academic and diplomatic circles, National Society staff, journalists), the ICRC delegates based in Nairobi carried out several missions to the **Comoros** (March and November), **Djibouti** (January), **Madagascar** (May and October/November), **Mauritius** (April/May and

July/August), **Seychelles** (February, April and August) and **Tanzania** (July and September). The missions to the Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya and Madagascar also made it possible to discuss the question of the Additional Protocols with the authorities concerned in order to promote accession to those instruments; the Comoros acceded to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols on 21 November 1985. In the Comoros, Djibouti and Seychelles, the ICRC procedure for recognition of emerging National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was also discussed.

## **Central and West Africa**

### **CHAD**

In the context of the conflict in Chad, the ICRC has been active there since 1978, endeavouring to discharge its protection and assistance mandate as set out in the Conventions. To this end, regular contact was maintained with the authorities in N'Djamena; an agreement to open a delegation was signed between the ICRC and the government on 16 February.

Despite its efforts and the urgent humanitarian needs, the ICRC was not able to resume its activities in the north of the country which had been suspended since May 1984. The approaches which it made to Libya and the GUNT (*Gouvernement d'Union Nationale de Transition*) to obtain access to all the prisoners of war held in Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti (B.E.T.) were without avail.

Finally, the ICRC delegates based in N'Djamena closely followed the situation in southern Chad; on two occasions (July and September) they went to Sahr and Koumra, in the Moyen-Chari region. In view of the presence of other humanitarian organizations in those regions, however, emergency ICRC action was not required.

#### **Protection**

From June 1984 to August 1985, in spite of many requests and an agreement in principle received on 14 June 1985, the ICRC was not authorized to continue its visits to prisoners of war held by the government, in N'Djamena or the rest of the country, because the authorities did not accept the principle of interviews without witness. The negotiations eventually succeeded and a first visit took place from 5 to 13 August at the prison in N'Djamena where 543 prisoners were seen, 15 of

whom were Sudanese nationals wishing to return to their country. A second visit was carried out at the prison from 2 to 5 December.

From September to November, delegates carried out several missions to locate possible prisoners of war in the provinces of Biltine, Ouaddaï, Batha, Kanem and southern B.E.T. They found prisoners of war only in the N'Djamena prison and the territorial military police buildings in Abéché where a total of 105 prisoners were visited (60 of whom had not been there in 1984). In December, the delegates once again had access to 32 prisoners (28 of them new) held at the military base in Adj Koussei (near N'Djamena).

Following these visits, the ICRC, in accordance with its mandate, requested from the authorities additional information concerning the situation (transfer, release, escape or death) of a number of prisoners visited in 1984 who had not been seen again in 1985. In addition, requests were made for access to Libyan prisoners of war held by the Republic of Chad.

Finally, in view of the worrying state of health of certain prisoners, the ICRC again urged the Chad authorities on several occasions to transfer them to hospital, in accordance with Article 30 of the Third Convention which provides for the possibility of hospitalization and surgical treatment for prisoners of war suffering from serious disease or whose condition necessitates special treatment. None of these prisoners was hospitalized in 1985, in spite of the agreement in principle reached with the government in November 1984. The ICRC therefore renewed its request in December to the highest authorities.

#### **Tracing Agency**

The Tracing Agency office in N'Djamena registered the prisoners of war who had been visited, and handled official information concerning their transfer or release. The Agency forwarded 324 Red Cross messages between prisoners and their families, either directly or through religious missions or humanitarian organizations.

#### **Assistance**

During visits to prisoners held by the government, food-stuffs and various articles, worth 463,900 Swiss francs, were distributed to the detainees. Those held in the N'Djamena prison, in particular, continued to receive, throughout 1985, significant food and material assistance on a weekly basis.

An ICRC doctor and nurse regularly visited the places of detention, mainly the prison in N'Djamena (an average of once a week) in order to monitor the prisoners' health, giving particular attention to their nutritional state and to cases of malaria. In April, a vaccination campaign against tetanus and

yellow fever was carried out at the prison in N'Djamena. Medicaments and medical equipment worth 37,000 Swiss francs were provided according to need to the dispensaries at the places of detention.

Following a mission by an ICRC orthopaedic specialist in May, it was decided once again to contribute to expanding the capacity of the Kabalaye orthopaedic centre for war amputees, run by *Secours catholique et développement* (SECADEV), by giving it material support and sending an ICRC technician.

### Dissemination

In co-operation with the Red Cross of Chad, the ICRC delegates undertook a dissemination programme for school-children and members of the National Society. In August, they participated in a training seminar for National Society first-aid workers, during which they gave talks, accompanied by film, on ICRC activities and the basic rules of international humanitarian law. During their visits to various parts of the country in July, August and October, the delegates organized a major dissemination campaign (21 talks) for the army and civilian authorities in Ouaddai, Biltine, south-west B.E.T., Kanem and Batha; seven sessions were organized for the general public.

## ZAIRE

In addition to Zaire, the regional delegation in Kinshasa covers Burundi, the Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon and Rwanda.

As in the past, the main work of the ICRC in Zaire was to protect detained persons. In addition, the ICRC increased its co-operation with the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zaire, particularly as regards disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law.

### Protection

The ICRC delegates visited a total of 202 persons detained, for acts prejudicial to State security, in Kinshasa, Kasai Oriental (Mbuji Mayi) and Shaba region (Kalemie, Lubumbashi, Moba); they had access to 25 places of detention administered by the "National Documentation Agency" (AND) the National Police Force (B2; S2), Military Security (SRMA), the Zairian Armed Forces (military prison in N'Dolo) and the Department of Justice (Makala prison, main

prisons in Kalemie, Lubumbashi and Mbuji Mayi). In most cases, these visits were carried out on a regular basis (monthly, bimonthly or three-monthly) and generally took place in accordance with ICRC criteria.

In February and later in May, approaches were made to obtain information about the fate of 34 persons who had disappeared in the Moba region and who had reportedly been arrested following the events of November 1984. No reply concerning them had been received from the authorities at the end of the year.

On several occasions in 1984 and 1985, notably on 23 May, when a summary report on visits carried out by the ICRC from 1 July 1984 to 1 March 1985 was delivered to the highest authorities in the country, the ICRC requested access to certain other places of detention, in particular the places of solitary confinement at the second OUA facility (OUA 2) and the guardroom of the "National Documentation Agency" (AND) external documentation service (AND/SDE). Following these requests, the civilian detainees incarcerated at OUA 2 were transferred in November to the AND prison in Kinshasa where they were visited by delegates.

### Tracing Agency

In 1985, the Tracing Agency in Kinshasa registered the new security detainees who had been visited. It informed families when their relatives were being held in detention and forwarded Red Cross messages between the detainees and their families. When dealing with official notifications that detainees had been transferred or released, the delegates checked the information with former detainees or with their relatives. The Tracing Agency office in Kinshasa received 634 tracing requests from Zaire and the other countries covered by the regional delegation; 525 of these led to results thanks to co-operation from the delegations in Khartoum, Kampala and Nairobi. An office opened in Aru (Haut-Zaire) in 1981 continued to aid the numerous Ugandan refugees arriving in that region.

### Assistance

The ICRC accompanied its protection activities with the distribution of relief supplies (foodstuffs, medical articles), worth 29,500 Swiss francs, to the detainees and their families.

The emergency assistance programme (food, blankets and medical supplies), which was launched on behalf of the population of the Moba region following fighting in November 1984, was ended on 9 January 1985. It benefited 8,600 persons and cost 67,500 Swiss francs.

### Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

The delegation in Kinshasa maintained very close contact with the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zaire, particularly in carrying out a joint dissemination programme

in the capital and surrounding area. Throughout the year, lectures were given weekly by a group from the National Society who had received dissemination training from the ICRC (in 1985, courses were organized in August, November and December). The purpose of these lectures was to present the Red Cross Movement, the principles guiding its activities, and international humanitarian law to very diverse audiences (medical and paramedical personnel, university students, teachers, members of the National Society). During the month of July, an exhibition entitled "The Red Cross, an idea in action", organized in co-operation with the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zaire, took place at the cultural centre in Lubumbashi. This event, in which two ICRC delegates took part, was accompanied by an extensive publicity campaign, both through the exhibition itself and through the media. In November, the delegates presented the Red Cross and international humanitarian law at a seminar for Zairian journalists which took place in Matadi (Bas-Zaïre).

## RWANDA

The ICRC maintained contact with the Rwandese authorities during 1985 with a view to resuming its visits to security detainees, suspended in November 1984 because the ICRC's criteria for such visits—in particular the principle of interviewing the detainees without witnesses—were contrary to Rwandese legislation which excludes the possibility of such interviews for accused persons. Mr. Ngarukiyili, Rwandese Minister of Foreign Affairs, was received at ICRC headquarters on 7 January by President Hay. On 18 February, a letter from the ICRC President seeking a re-examination of the ICRC's request and explaining the reasons for interviews without witness was sent to General Juvenal Habyarimana, President of the Rwandese Republic. Finally, the missions carried out to Kigali from Kinshasa and Geneva (in April, September and October) provided an opportunity to raise again the question of ICRC visits to security detainees with the authorities, notably the Minister for Justice. These approaches had not succeeded at the end of 1985.

The ICRC nevertheless continued its sanitation programme (construction of septic tanks, improving water distribution) in places of detention in Kigali, Ruhengeri and Gisenyi.

While on their various missions (in April, September, October and November), delegates discussed dissemination of international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles with the Rwanda Red Cross Society, and worked out a co-operation programme for 1986. In December, a dissemination session was organized at the military academy in Kigali for the cadets and some 150 officers from the Kigali military district.

## CONFLICT BETWEEN BURKINA FASO AND MALI

Following the border conflict which broke out on 25 December between Burkina Faso and Mali, the ICRC sent two delegates, on 28 and 29 December, to Ouagadougou and Bamako respectively.

With co-operation from League medical staff who were based in Burkina Faso because of the drought, the delegate there, accompanied by the President of the Burkina Be Red Cross Society, purchased medical supplies locally and transported them to the front, in the provinces of Yatenga and Soum.

The delegates also had access, in accordance with ICRC criteria, to the prisoners captured during the hostilities; 16 Burkina Be soldiers were visited in Bamako; two prisoners of war and one civilian were seen in Ouagadougou.

## GAMBIA

In 1985, the ICRC finally obtained the authorities' permission to visit the persons arrested following the attempted *coup d'état* on 29 July 1981. In July and again in December, the regional delegate based in Lomé and an ICRC doctor visited, in accordance with customary ICRC criteria, 99 persons who had been convicted following the events of 1981 and were being held at the main prison in Banjul (Mile 2) and at the prison in Jeshwang. Assistance to improve hygienic conditions in the prisons, medical relief supplies and blankets were provided during these visits, for a total value of 9,600 Swiss francs.

In all, four missions were made to Gambia from Lomé; they also provided an opportunity to discuss with the Gambian authorities the dissemination of international humanitarian law and the question of Gambia's accession to the Additional Protocols. In May, the regional delegate took part in a training course for 52 national and regional officials of the Gambian Red Cross Society. In addition, the ICRC contributed financially to the National Society's information programme.

## LIBERIA

In response to an appeal by the Liberian Red Cross Society following the attempted *coup d'état* on 12 November, the ICRC sent two delegates and a male nurse to Monrovia, where they immediately distributed 920 kilos of emergency medical supplies to six hospitals. With the agreement of the competent authorities, they carried out surveys in Monrovia and Nimba in the north-east, following which medicaments and emergency medical supplies worth 22,000 Swiss francs were sent to Monrovia and distributed to various hospitals.



In the Nimba region, limited and immediate assistance (cooking utensils, blankets, soap, clothing) was provided to some 250 families seriously affected by the events. On 12 December, the ICRC offered its services to visit all the persons arrested in connection with the events. It had received no reply from the authorities at the end of 1985.

In addition, the ICRC delegate based in Lomé carried out two missions, in March and November, during which he helped to prepare a general development plan for the National Society's activities and a programme for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles and activities of the Red Cross.

The Liberian authorities were also approached to encourage the country's accession to the Additional Protocols of 1977.

## TOGO

In November 1982, the ICRC reactivated its regional delegation in Lomé; in addition to Togo, this delegation covers Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal and Sierra Leone. The ICRC delegates based in Lomé concentrated on co-operation with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, particularly in disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross.

In Togo itself, the ICRC continued to give technical advice and financial support to the Togolese Red Cross in drawing up and implementing a three-year dissemination programme. About 30 dissemination organizers were trained, as well as 92 youth-group leaders from local committees who had come from all over the country to take part in a training course on 9 and 10 May in Kara, in the north of the country. In continued co-operation with the National Society, the ICRC dissemination delegate gave talks accompanied by films to numerous and diverse audiences; he also strengthened contacts in order to pursue dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law in the armed forces, the police, the university and among senior officials of the ministries.

## BENIN

Throughout the year, ICRC delegates based in Lomé went regularly to Porto Novo and to Cotonou to lend their support to the National Society's dissemination activities, as part of a three-year programme which was begun in 1984 and receives financial, material and technical support from the ICRC; the delegates took part in the ongoing training of teams of organizers and courses for information officials of local committees. Co-operation with the Red Cross of Benin continued with a tour of military barracks in July and August during which international humanitarian law was presented to a large number of officers and NCOs in the People's Armed

Forces. Following this campaign, a training seminar for army instructors was organized jointly with the Ministry of Defence so that the content of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols could be taught to all the country's soldiers. Finally, contacts were strengthened with the media and the university, where a regular course in international humanitarian law has been given at the law faculty since the 1984 academic year.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

— In 1985, the ICRC delegates based in Kinshasa carried out regular missions to the **Congo** mainly in order to promote dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and of the principles of the Red Cross to the country's National Society and among the authorities, the military, journalistic and academic circles. Workshops were held to organize and develop the dissemination activities of the Congolese Red Cross. In particular, ICRC delegates helped prepare a training course for future dissemination workers in the National Society. This course took place in Pointe Noire from 23 to 28 September.

— The ICRC delegates based in Lomé carried out five brief visits to **Ghana** in order to maintain contact with the country's authorities and discuss with the leaders of the Ghana Red Cross Society the contribution of the ICRC to the Society's development. The ICRC thus financed a dissemination programme drawn up by the National Society for one year and a seminar on international humanitarian law which took place from 26 April to 3 May and was attended by 76 officers of the armed forces and representatives of the police, the prison service and the Ministries of Education and Information; two ICRC delegates took part in the seminar.

— In **Guinea**, following the change of government in April 1984 and the attempted *coup d'état* on 4 July 1985, the regional delegate based in Lomé maintained contact with the authorities with a view to visiting the persons arrested in connection with those events. This had not been achieved at the end of 1985. In addition, two missions were carried out, in June and November, to help the National Society's own development efforts.

— On 12 March, the ICRC President received General Seyni Kountché the **Niger** head of state, at the institution's headquarters, where he informed him about ICRC activities in Africa. In addition, the ICRC regional delegate based in Lomé went to Niamey in April where he met officials of the Red Cross Society of Niger and representatives of the armed forces, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the university to encourage dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

— In March and later in August, the regional delegate based in Kinshasa went to the **Central African Republic** where he had talks with the authorities and leading officials of the National Society on possibilities for co-operation in disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law. A programme was drawn up, scheduled to begin in 1986.

— In order to maintain and strengthen the ICRC's relations with governments and National Societies, to encourage them to organize dissemination activities and help with their practical implementation, the ICRC delegates based in Lomé carried out several missions to **Burkina Faso** (February, April/May, June), **Côte d'Ivoire** (April), **Guinea-Bissau** (August), **Senegal** (August) and **Sierra Leone** (December). The meetings with the authorities in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau

and Sierra Leone provided an opportunity above all to discuss the question of the Additional Protocols of 1977 in order to further the process of accession to these instruments (Senegal ratified the Additional Protocols on 7 May 1985). From 9 to 13 December, two ICRC delegates took part in an initial seminar on the law of war for senior officers in the Sierra Leonean armed forces, which was organized jointly by the National Society and the ICRC.



*Ethiopia: Displaced persons returning to their villages after the distribution of food supplies. (Photo: Dany Gignoux)*



# RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1985

## AFRICA

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Beneficiaries	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnage	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
South Africa . . . .	Detainees, families of detainees, refugees	177	343,855	18,567	362,422
Angola . . . . .	Displaced civilians and the disabled	13,554	14,248,257	733,367	14,981,624
Ethiopia . . . . .	Displaced civilians and prisoners of war	106,340	105,503,987	1,057,096	106,561,083
Gambia . . . . .	Detainees . . . . .	1	9,613	—	9,613
Liberia . . . . .	Civilians . . . . .	2	17,569	28,489	46,058
Mozambique. . . .	Displaced civilians and the disabled	—	—	490,239	490,239
Namibia . . . . .	Detainees, families of detainees, civilians	67	78,064	229	78,293
Uganda. . . . .	Displaced civilians, detainees, National Society	875	1,105,865	123,474	1,229,339
Somalia . . . . .	Prisoners of war and hospitals	56	127,471	20,811	148,282
Sudan (conflict in Tigre and Eritrea) . . . . .	Displaced civilians and prisoners of war	11,001	11,305,301	880,213	12,185,514
Sudan . . . . .	Repatriated prisoners of war	1	4,681	—	4,681
Chad . . . . .	Detainees	286	463,840	101,800	565,640
Zaire . . . . .	Detainees and families	9	29,452	8,053	37,505
Zambia . . . . .	Refugees	28	51,932	—	51,932
Zimbabwe . . . . .	Civilians and the disabled	—	—	228,783	228,783
TOTAL . . . . .		132,397	133,289,887	3,691,121	136,981,008