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LATIN AMERICA

It was in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Chile and Peru that the ICRC was most heavily involved in protection and assistance activities in Latin America in 1985. Visits to security detainees in Colombia, Grenada, Haiti, Paraguay and Uruguay were also continued. In addition to these activities, the ICRC maintained contacts with the governments and National Societies of Latin America so as to promote the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and, in particular, to further the ratification of the Additional Protocols of 1977. A number of seminars on international humanitarian law were organized at the national level (see below the sections on "Dissemination" in each country) and at the regional level in Argentina, Jamaica and Mexico (see section of this report on "International Humanitarian Law").

The ICRC maintained an average of 65 delegates in Latin America, including administrative personnel, assigned to four national delegations (Chile, Nicaragua, Peru, El Salvador) and three regional delegations (Argentina, Colombia and Costa Rica). The staffs of the El Salvador and Nicaragua delegations continued to be the largest: on average, more than 30 delegates assisted by over 80 local employees in El Salvador and close to 20 delegates assisted by some 30 local employees in Nicaragua. In 1985 the regional delegates covered the following countries:

- the regional delegation of Buenos Aires: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay;
- the regional delegation of Bogotá: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela, the Lesser Antilles and Jamaica;
- the regional delegation of San José: Costa Rica, Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

A global appeal was made for funds to finance ICRC activities in Central America. Taking into account the balance available and contributions in kind, the appeal for 1985 amounted to 35 million Swiss francs, although the overall budget had been estimated at 45 million francs. ICRC activities in the other Latin American countries were financed by the Committee's regular budget.



Concerned about the general situation in Central America, the ICRC became interested in the work of the Contadora Group. It suggested to the member countries that in the course of revision of the Contadora agreement a reference to the instruments of international humanitarian law be included in the document and that mention also be made of the respect to which Red Cross action is entitled, stressing that the search for solutions to the humanitarian problems caused by the armed conflicts could, by fostering the spirit of peace, contribute to the resolution of the conflicts themselves.

The ICRC had the opportunity to approach representatives of numerous American countries by following as an observer the work of the 15th regular session and the 14th special session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) held at Cartagena (Colombia) in December.

Central America and the Caribbean

EL SALVADOR

For the sixth consecutive year, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and with Additional Protocol II, the ICRC continued its activities for the victims of the internal conflict in El Salvador.

The protection of persons detained on account of events and assistance to the civilian population in the regions affected by the conflict continued to be the ICRC's main activities. Assistance programmes remained the same as those of the preceding year. Nevertheless, anxious to improve its coverage of the needs of the civilian population, the ICRC attached considerable importance both to making an overall survey of the situation of the communities assisted and to studying their specific nutritional and health needs in each of the 88 areas in which it was working (distributing relief, giving medical consultations, implementing health programmes). In June, the ICRC's chief medical officer and the deputy delegate-general carried out a mission to reassess the assistance activities.

With a few exceptions (north-east Chalatenango and northern Morazan) the ICRC was able to maintain a regular presence in the conflict regions. The general ban on freedom of movement imposed by the opposition did not affect ICRC activities. Despite this, the ICRC nevertheless had to intervene several times to remind the opposition of the respect due to the emblem and action of the Red Cross (ICRC and National Society); indeed Salvadorean Red Cross ambulances were sometimes fired upon or arrested by armed groups, while on 8 March a Red Cross boat was shot at in the region of Suchitoto.

The ICRC also concentrated on promoting the idea of "humanizing the conflict" in discussions with the highest authorities in El Salvador—including the President—and with representatives of the "Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). This idea had been put forward by the parties themselves during their meetings at La Palma and Ayagualo in 1984. The ICRC strove to make it understood that the application of the principles of international humanitarian law could but advance the cause of peace, and stressed the respect due to prisoners, whether combatants or civilians (especially the right in all circumstances to humanitarian treatment, and measures to facilitate ICRC protection work). It also drew attention to the fact that every wounded or sick person is entitled to receive adequate medical care (entailing respect for the medical personnel and transport protected by the Red Cross emblem and measures to facilitate the evacuation of wounded combatants if they could not be treated adequately on the spot). Lastly, the ICRC pointed out that the civilian population must not be the object of attack, threats or reprisals, nor must objects or goods essential for their needs. The ICRC showed particular concern for the consequences that mine-laying could have for the civilian population.

The President of the ICRC, accompanied by the delegate-general for Latin America, visited El Salvador from 19 to 25 April. He discussed the ICRC's action there with authorities at the highest level: the President of the Republic, Mr. José Napoleón Duarte; General Vides Casanova, Minister of Defence; Dr. Jorge Eduardo Tenorio, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr. B. Valdez, Minister of Health; Mr. Ricardo J. López, Minister of Finance; General Blandón, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and the Deputy Minister of Public Security, Colonel López Nuila. President Hay also attended the inaugural session of the Salvadorean Red Cross centennial ceremonies.

The delegate-general for Latin America returned to El Salvador at the end of September, mainly to decide with the delegation on the following year's objectives. During his mission he met the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and the Deputy Minister of Public Security.

The ICRC delegation in El Salvador was in continuous contact with the Salvadorean authorities, also at the highest level (head of state, ministers, senior officers of the armed forces and the security corps).

The ICRC furthermore developed its relations with the representatives of the opposition, also at a high level.

Protection

PERSONS DETAINED BY THE SALVADOREAN AUTHORITIES. — As in the past, the ICRC continued to pay regular visits to persons detained on account of the conflict in El Salvador. In 1985, ICRC delegates made 1,883 visits to 228 places of detention and seven hospitals both in San Salvador and in the provinces, where they registered a total of 1,828 new detainees. Visits were made not only to the places under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice (penitentiaries, municipal prisons, juvenile detention centres), but also, and above all, to temporary places of detention, i.e. those under the authority of the Ministry of Defence and Public Security: the armed forces' military garrisons and "*commandancias locales*", as well as the premises of the Security Corps, (National Guard, National Police and "*Policía de Hacienda*"). Indeed, in centring its attention on temporary places of detention, the ICRC continued its efforts to gain access to security detainees as soon as possible after their arrest; in accordance with the procedures agreed upon with the Salvadorean authorities, the ICRC was usually informed of arrests and granted subsequent access to the detainees.

PERSONS DETAINED BY THE FMLN. — The ICRC also made efforts to protect military personnel and civilians captured by the FMLN, in view of the Front's undertaking to respect international humanitarian law and especially the provisions concerning the treatment to which captives are entitled. Despite many requests and negotiations, the ICRC was not able to obtain access to all the civilians detained by

the Front and did not always receive replies—for the purpose of reassuring their families—to its inquiries into the whereabouts of persons reported missing and assumed to be in the hands of the FMLN.

In 1985, in accordance with its customary procedure, the ICRC was able to visit two Salvadorean army officers on 15 January; three foreign nationals on 21 February (one of whom, released in November, was handed over to the ICRC delegates who conducted him to his country's diplomatic representative); and finally, on 4 July and 15 August, seven of the 23 Salvadorean mayors captured by the Front (members of the captives' families were authorized to accompany the ICRC delegates during the second visit).

The FMLN released several soldiers of the Salvadorean armed forces, usually soon after their capture. It handed over 41 to the ICRC (in January, June, July, August and November), which escorted them back to the military authorities. Several released civilians were also handed over to the ICRC.

Following the abduction, on 10 September, of Mrs. Inès G. Duarte Durán, daughter of the President of the Republic, and Mrs. Ana C. Villeda Sosa, the ICRC's intervention was requested by the Salvadorean Government and by the FMLN for implementation of the terms of the agreement reached on 22 October. The agreement specified a simultaneous operation—on the one hand, the release by the FMLN of the two above-mentioned persons and of 23 mayors and municipal officials, and on the other, the release by the Salvadorean Government of some 20 security detainees, members of the FMLN, as well as the evacuation to other countries, for adequate treatment, of about 100 seriously wounded FMLN fighters. The operation, which was carried out on 24 October, mobilized all the personnel and logistic resources of the ICRC, which was given active support, in the form of personnel and vehicles, by the Salvadorean Red Cross. It should be noted that the ICRC took no part in the actual negotiations.

Tracing Agency

The ICRC Tracing Agency in El Salvador, which consists of an office in San Salvador and two regional offices in Santa Ana (in the west of the country) and at San Miguel (in the east) recorded tracing requests made by families concerning 1,286 persons missing or presumed detained; 705 cases were settled.

The Agency registered all new detainees visited, as well as any information concerning their transfer between various places of detention, or their release. It kept their families informed and in particular made arrangements for the exchange of messages between the latter and persons detained by the government or the FMLN (in all, 233 messages were transmitted).

Relief

CIVILIAN POPULATION. — The ICRC and the Salvadorean Red Cross continued their joint food assistance programme for displaced persons, needy residents and, systematically, families with children suffering from malnutrition. This programme was carried out in the regions totally or partially affected by the fighting, where no other agency could penetrate. It required constant co-ordination with other governmental and non-governmental agencies acting on behalf of displaced persons.

In 1985, the joint programme was carried out in the departments of Cabañas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, La Libertad, La Unión, Morazán, San Miguel, San Salvador, San Vicente, Sonsonate and Usulután. More than 9,000 tonnes of food (maize, rice, beans, oil, sugar and salt), to the value of 7,366,000 Swiss francs, were distributed to the beneficiaries. Although the relief action was occasionally hampered by military operations (access to certain villages refused by the military authorities or the FMLN), the average monthly number of beneficiaries was of the order of 100,000 persons (about one-third in the north and centre of the country and about two-thirds in the east), in accordance with what had been planned.

The ICRC also assisted with housing, supplying building materials to families whose homes had been damaged or destroyed in the fighting and to recently displaced families to enable them to build temporary shelters.

DETAINEES. — Material assistance (cleaning products, toiletries and leisure items) was regularly given to all inmates of penitentiaries and juvenile detention centres). At Christmas, special parcels were distributed to the 17 penitentiary centres visited and to hospitalized detainees; this special action covered some 4,200 detainees. *Ad hoc* assistance was also given to particularly needy detainees in temporary places of detention.

Medical assistance

CIVILIAN POPULATION. — ICRC medical assistance was continued for the civilian population in the regions affected by the fighting where, as a result of the hostilities, local health services could not be regularly provided. Two medical teams, composed of an ICRC doctor and nurses, as well as locally recruited medical personnel, made regular visits in the provinces of Cabañas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, La Libertad, La Paz, La Unión, Morazán, San Miguel, San Vicente, Santa Ana and Usulután, where they gave consultations to more than 60,000 persons and distributed medicines. They also provided dental care for more than 7,400 persons. The wounded or seriously ill were transferred by the medical teams from the places of consultation to hospitals for them to receive adequate treatment.

As far as preventive medicine was concerned, the ICRC medical teams regularly evaluated the nutritional condition of

children between one and five years old, as well as studying systematically the factors influencing malnutrition. From July, a supplementary ration of calorie and protein-rich foods was included, for children suffering from malnutrition, in the general relief distributions. In addition, during the medical consultations in the villages, the medical teams gave talks for the civilian population, especially mothers, to provide them with basic information concerning nutrition.

The ICRC continued its efforts to improve the standards of hygiene of the civilian population, concentrating on the areas where the Ministry of Health could not provide regular services. Talks to increase the assisted population's awareness of hygiene requirements were given during the relief distributions or medical consultations, to schools, or during home visits. By providing the necessary materials, the ICRC made it possible to install 3,400 latrines, as well as septic tanks and drainage pipes. It also worked to improve the supply of drinking water.

In addition, with respect to preventive medicine, the ICRC participated in the inoculation campaign (measles, poliomyelitis, and combined diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough), organized by the Salvadorean Government, UNICEF and the Pan American Health Organization for all young children throughout the country. The ICRC's assistance was requested to implement this programme in the conflict areas. Thus, the ICRC inoculated 2,574 children. Women between 14 and 45 years were also inoculated in the campaign against neonatal tetanus.

Finally, the ICRC continued to supply medicines and medical materials to hospitals, government health posts, and schools in conflict areas.

DETAINEES. — Medicines were supplied as needed to places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. The ICRC medical delegates kept the cases of sick detainees under observation.

The cost of the medicines and medical supplies distributed in El Salvador in 1985 (to displaced persons, detainees and hospital establishments) totalled about 298,000 Swiss francs.

Dissemination and Information

With the assistance of the Salvadorean Red Cross, the ICRC continued its efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among the Salvadorean armed forces and Security Corps, giving lectures followed by discussions on the essential rules of international humanitarian law (especially the provisions concerning the protection of persons not participating, or no longer participating, in the fighting) and on the action of the Red Cross and its guiding principles. In 1985, 80 lectures were attended by more than 16,500 persons—officers, other ranks and recruits.

The ICRC participated in two seminars on the basic principles of the Red Cross Movement, organized by the Salvadorean Red Cross and intended for instructors of its branches.

The National Society and the ICRC jointly exhibited at the fair ("*Feria del Hogar*") held in San Salvador from 5 to 24 November, attracting some 290,000 visitors. In order to become better known to the public, the ICRC also continued to publish articles in the local press.

Finally, international humanitarian law, ICRC action and the legal bases for its intervention were presented to professors and students of the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University José Simeón Canas, as well as to those of the German school in San Salvador.

Support for the National Society

In April, the Salvadorean Red Cross commemorated its 100th anniversary. The President of the ICRC participated in the inaugural session of the centennial ceremonies on 24 April. On this occasion, the ICRC presented the Salvadorean Red Cross with twelve ambulances for the purpose of strengthening the National Society's ability to intervene in the conflict areas.

As in the past, the ICRC financed the blood collection centre run by the National Society. It also continued to give financial support to the Salvadorean Red Cross for its ambulance service, dispensaries and the training of first-aid workers.

NICARAGUA

The ICRC's main activities in Nicaragua continued to be the protection of detainees, assistance to them and their families, and to the civilian population in the region affected by armed clashes between government forces and counter-revolutionary organizations.

On two occasions, at the end of April and the end of September, the delegate-general for Latin America travelled to Nicaragua to take stock of ICRC action with the delegation in Managua and the Nicaraguan authorities, particularly the Minister of Health and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Protection

PERSONS DETAINED BY THE NICARAGUAN AUTHORITIES. — Throughout the year the ICRC continued its protection activities for detainees—persons arrested on the fall of the Somoza regime (members of the former National Guard and civilians having collaborated with the previous government) and persons subsequently arrested for counter-revolutionary activities prejudicial to State security.

Thus, three visits lasting four weeks each were made by ICRC delegates to the two prisons in Managua where the majority of the detainees with whom the ICRC was concerned were being held; the "Zona Franca" in January, June and

October and "Tipitapa" in April, August and December. Six provincial prisons (Bluefields, Chinandega, Esteli, Granada, Juigalpa and Matagalpa) were visited twice, as were five prison-farms ("*granjas*") where the detainees benefited from a more liberal detention system. In 1985, ICRC delegates made a total of 27 visits to 13 places of detention under the authority of the National Penitentiary System (SPN) and to the Lenin Fonseca Hospital; detainees were seen individually during interviews without witnesses or consultations given by ICRC medical delegates. In 1985, the ICRC protection activities covered a total of 3,748 detainees.

As in previous years, the ICRC was not granted access to interrogation centres and temporary places of detention under the authority of the State security services. Consequently, in 1985 its attention was centred on obtaining authorization to visit convicted detainees who remained imprisoned in these places, so that they might be protected—and assisted if necessary—on the same basis as the other security detainees transferred to SPN prisons after trial. After receiving the consent in principle of the Deputy Minister of the Interior, the ICRC sent him a memorandum in November to fix the terms of such action, proposing specifically that regular visits be made by its delegates, the setting up of a notification system and the establishment of a procedure for the exchange of family messages. At the end of 1985 the ICRC had not yet received a reply to this memorandum.

PERSONS DETAINED BY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS. — In accordance with its humanitarian mission and principles of neutrality and impartiality, as well as with a view to reassuring families, the ICRC also gave attention to the plight of Nicaraguan citizens, whether civilian or military, captured by counter-revolutionary organizations. It took steps to obtain confirmation of capture and to promote the exchange of family messages. Captors were reminded by the ICRC of their responsibilities *vis-à-vis* such persons and of the humane treatment to which they were entitled.

The ICRC obtained confirmation of the capture of seven persons, of whom two were members of the Nicaraguan armed forces, and was able to transmit messages between a number of captives and their families.

In another instance, at the request of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the family, the ICRC also intervened on behalf of a German citizen captured by a counter-revolutionary organization, in June. This person was released on 5 July.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency office in Managua registered all new detainees visited, processed all the data on detained persons and organized the exchange of news between detainees and their families (3,875 messages distributed).

Another important activity concerned the exchange of family messages between Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras—

mainly Miskito Indian refugees—and their relatives in Nicaragua: thus, in 1985, 1,434 messages were distributed.

In addition, 158 tracing requests from families were registered by the Managua office; these requests concerned persons missing or presumed detained, in particular by the counter-revolutionary organizations. In 1985, 56 cases were resolved.

Relief

DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES. — As in the past, the ICRC continued to distribute monthly parcels of food and articles of personal hygiene to all detainees in the prisons: educational materials and articles for leisure activities were also delivered in the places of detention.

Needy families of detainees received food aid; the ICRC also paid the travel expenses of persons desiring to visit family members detained in Managua.

This assistance to detainees and their families amounted to 1,864,000 Swiss francs.

CIVILIAN POPULATION. — The ICRC and the Nicaraguan Red Cross continued their joint emergency aid programme set up in September 1983 for the civilian population affected by the conflict: persons temporarily displaced, persons displaced and resettled (assistance during the first phase of resettlement), residents whose possessions had been destroyed and those living in isolated regions as a consequence of events.

This programme was twofold. On one hand, the population of the centre and north of Nicaragua (regions of Boaco, Chinandega, Chontales, Esteli, Jinotega, Madriz, Matagalpa, Nueva Segovia and Rio Blanco) were assisted by the branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross. The ICRC supplied the latter with foodstuffs so that their stocks were always sufficient to enable them to respond to the needs. On the other hand, the ICRC and the Nicaraguan Red Cross continued their assistance programme for about 10,000 persons per month on the Atlantic coast. Regular distributions of food, soap, household articles and cooking utensils were made in the regions of Puerto Cabezas (Zelaya Norte) and Bluefields (Zelaya Sur). On average, 6,100 persons monthly benefited from this programme.

This joint assistance programme involved a total of 925 tonnes of relief at a cost of 1,663,000 Swiss francs.

Medical Assistance

DETAINEES. — ICRC medical assistance to Nicaragua was chiefly concerned with detained persons. One doctor and three nurses gave consultations to sick detainees in the prisons visited. In addition, prison dispensaries and "*granjas*" were provided with basic medicines and medical supplies. The ophthalmological programme, consisting of paying for spectacles for detainees, was continued. In 1985, medical relief distributed to detainees amounted to 80,000 Swiss francs.

CIVILIAN POPULATION. — Throughout the year, ICRC delegates visited civilian hospitals as well as dispensaries of the Minister of Health and branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, providing regular assistance with medicines and medical supplies to support the activities of hospital institutions situated in regions affected by armed clashes or which had to deal with an influx of wounded or displaced persons. The cost of the medical supplies distributed amounted to about 250,000 Swiss francs.

During the food distributions made on the Atlantic coast in the course of the joint assistance programme, an ICRC nurse visited the area several times to give consultations in collaboration with Ministry of Health personnel, mainly in the regions where government health services were unable to maintain regular services owing to the situation of armed conflict. In this context medical kits containing simple medicines and dressing materials were distributed in February to the village authorities in the Puerto Cabezas region. On several occasions during the year the ICRC also evacuated sick or seriously wounded civilians and military personnel.

The nutritional and health situation of the civilian population assisted was monitored by the ICRC medical team.

WAR DISABLED. — On 12 October 1984, the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health and the ICRC had signed an agreement concerning the development of an orthopaedic programme (manufacture of prostheses) for the war disabled (civilian and military amputees), at the "Aldo Chavarria" hospital rehabilitation centre in Managua; the ICRC had agreed to finance the purchase of machinery and to provide the centre with specialist staff to train local personnel. The year 1985 was devoted to the construction of a new workshop and installation of the machinery. At the same time, and pending the operational launching of this workshop, the four ICRC technicians helped to increase local production of the prostheses at the "Aldo Chavarria" centre, using imported materials. In 1985, 118 persons were fitted with prostheses. Finally, a programme of instruction for trainees was set up jointly with the Ministry of Health.

Dissemination and Information

The programme of lectures on international humanitarian law, and the Red Cross Movement and its mission, launched in December 1984 for National Society branches in conflict areas, was continued. It was thus possible to address about 1,500 people in the course of 15 lectures. Mention should be made of the fact that the lectures were sometimes also attended by local civilian and military authorities.

A seminar was held from 22 to 26 July on the principles of the Red Cross and on international humanitarian law, organized by the Nicaraguan Red Cross and the ICRC and directed by a specialist from ICRC headquarters. The first part of the seminar was for members of the Nicaraguan Red Cross,

including members of the National Council and senior officials from a score of National Society branches. The second part assembled an audience comprising officials of the Ministries of the Interior and of Justice and Defence, and representatives of university circles.

To make known the work of the Red Cross and the respect due to it, several talks were given in Managua and the provinces for governmental organizations and representatives of ministries, the armed forces and the police. Moreover, contacts were maintained with the Ministry of Defence in order to promote dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law there.

Special dissemination programmes for SPN prison personnel began in December: three lectures were given to a total of 51 participants at Grenada and Chinandega.

Support for the National Society

The ICRC presented the Nicaraguan Red Cross with some vehicles, mainly ambulances and supplies for their maintenance, as part of the ICRC's contribution to the development of the operational capacity of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, in co-operation with which the ICRC is providing considerable assistance for the civilian population.

GRENADA

The regional delegate resident in Colombia carried out a mission to Grenada from 15 to 22 February. The purpose was to introduce the ICRC to the new authorities following the elections of December 1984, and in particular to obtain renewal of the agreement which had already enabled the ICRC to pay three visits to persons arrested as a result of the occurrences of 1983.

Having obtained authorization to continue its protection work the ICRC made a visit, in accordance with its customary procedure, to Richmond Hill prison, where there were 22 indicted security detainees; eight persons had been released since the previous visit in July 1984. Twenty-one detainees were seen again in December during a new mission; one detainee had been released in the meantime. The ICRC gave all the detainees individual parcels containing toiletries.

The missions of February and December enabled discussions to be held both at the governmental level, especially with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ben J. Jones, and with the National Red Cross. They provided an opportunity to take up with the Minister of Foreign Affairs the question of the Additional Protocols and the possible accession of Grenada to these international law instruments.

HAITI

Protection

In March, the ICRC again visited, in accordance with its traditional procedure, the three principal places of detention in the capital: the national penitentiary at Port-au-Prince, the Dessalines barracks and the Fort-Dimanche prison. These had last been seen in June 1984. The first held 37 persons detained for activities prejudicial to State security, of whom 22 were new arrivals; one detainee was recorded at the second. The visits were subsequently discussed with the Minister of the Interior.

In the course of these protection activities, the ICRC delegates passed on family messages to the detainees and also visited the families to give them news. A consignment of medicines was donated to the infirmary of the national penitentiary, as well as various forms of relief to the detainees. Certain impoverished families of detainees were given financial assistance.

The persons visited in March were subsequently released under the presidential amnesty of 29 April.

Support for the National Society

The ICRC gave 225 tonnes of food (maize, rice, beans and vegetable oil), a donation from the Swiss Government, to the Haiti Red Cross for a special food aid programme for needy families in Gonaïves and Cap-Haïtien, victims of socio-economic unsettlement. A total of 5,000 persons benefited. This programme, limited to six months, was planned by the National Society in close collaboration with the ICRC, which visited the area in January to assess the situation and again in December to take stock of the work accomplished.

HONDURAS

ICRC activities in Honduras were conducted from the regional delegation in Costa Rica. The missions undertaken from San José made it possible to maintain close relations with the authorities and the Honduran Red Cross. Furthermore, the ICRC's activities in Central America, and more particularly in Honduras, were the subject of an exchange of views on 11 January with representatives of the Honduran National Commission for Refugees—including its President, Mr. A. Pineda López, Minister of the Interior and Justice—who were received in Geneva by the Vice-President of the ICRC.

Tracing Agency

With the support of the Honduran Red Cross, the ICRC continued to undertake the exchange of messages between Nicaraguan refugees settled in Honduras and their families in

Nicaragua. The distribution and collection of messages was carried out regularly in the refugee camps (*for statistics, see "Nicaragua" section of this report.*)

Support for the National Society

Taking into account the considerable assistance programme whereby the operational capacity of the Honduran Red Cross was strengthened in 1983 and 1984, ICRC aid to the National Society was more limited in 1985 and consisted mainly of maintenance material for the vehicles and radio-communications system previously donated. In addition, small-scale assistance was provided jointly by the ICRC and the Honduran Red Cross at Las Trojes, in May, for some 800 Honduran citizens who had temporarily left their villages located near the Nicaragua border, on account of the clashes.

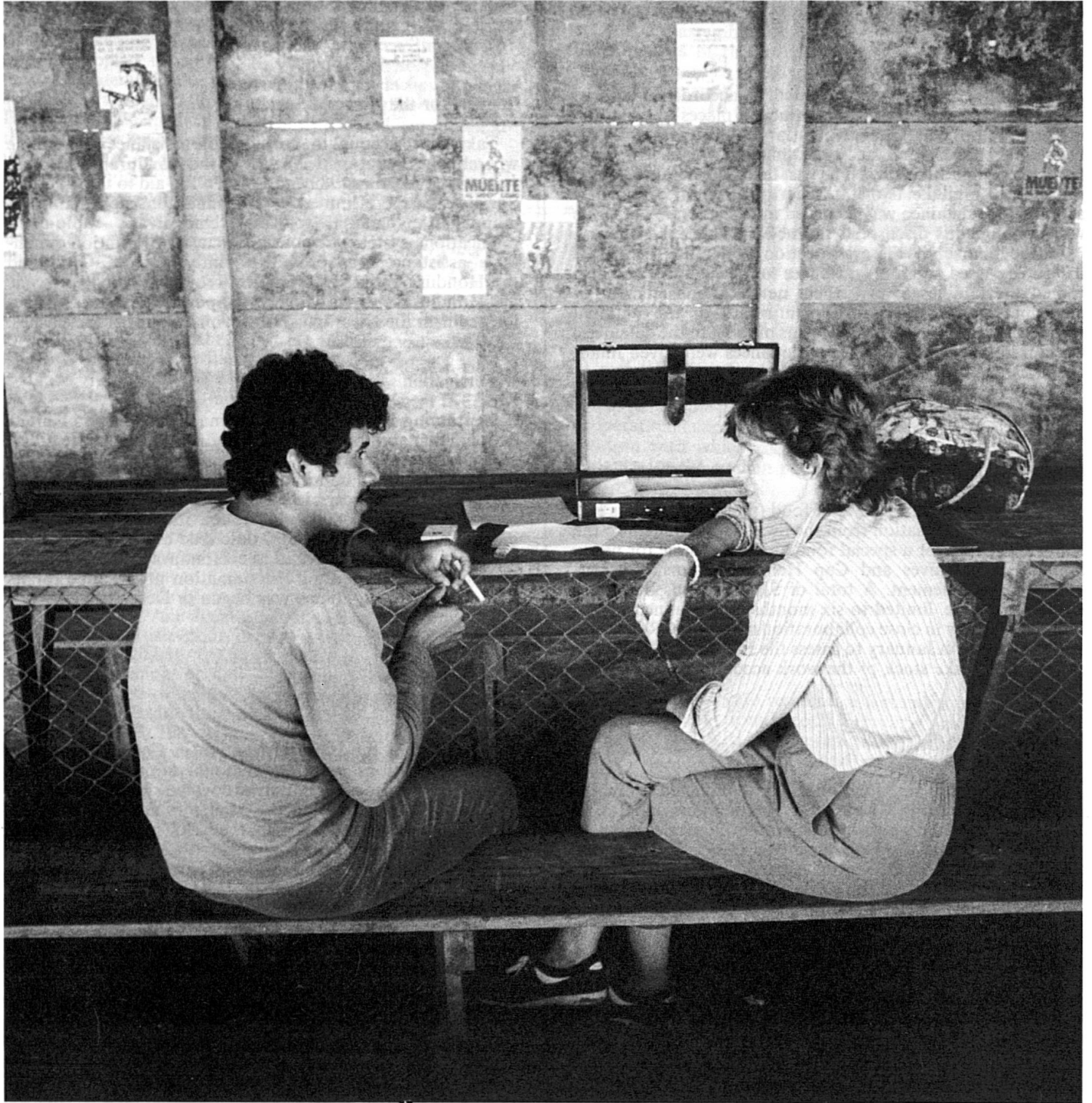
Dissemination

Continuing its efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces, the ICRC sent a specialist who, on 19 November, gave a lecture on international humanitarian law for some forty senior Honduran army officers, in the presence of five representatives of the Joint High Command. The activities of the ICRC and the National Society were also described on this occasion. In addition, the ICRC advised the Honduran Red Cross on planning and setting up a dissemination programme for its branches; this programme was begun in December.

OTHER COUNTRIES

— The task of the ICRC delegation in **Costa Rica** was to maintain relations with the national authorities and the National Societies of the countries covered from San José, and to give logistic support to the Managua and San Salvador delegations. In Costa Rica itself, the ICRC made the National Society a gift of four fully equipped mobile first-aid units and four ambulances: this donation was part of the programme, started in 1984, to strengthen this Society's operational capacity (mainly for its activities in the regions bordering on Nicaragua). Also in the course of this programme the ICRC helped the National Society to organize lectures for its branches on international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. Finally, Dr. Athos Gallino, ICRC member, with the delegate-general for Latin America, visited Costa Rica to attend the celebrations for the centenary of the country's National Red Cross Society on 5 May.

The Costa Rican Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Carlos José Gutiérrez Gutiérrez, was received in Geneva on 14 November by the Vice-President of the ICRC and the



Interview without witnesses with a detainee in a Nicaraguan prison. (Photo: Roland Bigler)

Director for Operational Activities. This visit provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on the ICRC's activities in Central America.

— In **Cuba**, the ICRC and the National Society organized a joint seminar on international humanitarian law, which was held from 9 to 11 July. During previous missions, in 1984, the ICRC and the Cuban Red Cross had discussed the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and decided on a method of collaboration, resulting in this first event in 1985. The seminar brought together twenty-one participants (seven members of the National Society, eight members of the armed forces, two representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and three from the Ministry of Health, plus one representative of university circles) to whom international humanitarian law and its development, the legal bases for ICRC intervention and the role of the Red Cross in time of conflict, were presented.

— In **Guatemala**, anxious to protect and assist victims of the internal disturbances there, the ICRC attempted to establish collaboration with the authorities, but without success. In 1985, the position of the Guatemalan Government concerning a possible intervention by the ICRC remained unchanged.

— In March, a mission was carried out in the **Dominican Republic** to continue discussions with the authorities and the National Society, chiefly concerning international humanitarian law (procedure for accession to the Additional Protocols, and dissemination programmes); talks were had with the President of the Republic, Mr. S. Jorge Blanco and with the Minister of Defence. Following this mission, the ICRC and the National Red Cross organized a seminar, held from 22 to 29 July, to increase knowledge of international humanitarian law, the Red Cross Movement and its basic principles, among various audiences: members of the National Society, representatives of university, diplomatic and medical circles and of the Ministry of Education, and journalists. Subsequently, from 29 July to 3 August, the ICRC lectured on international humanitarian law during a training course given for senior army and police officers by the Armed Forces Staff College. Specialists were sent to Santo Domingo from Geneva for these seminars.

— In connection with the ICRC's efforts to promote the Additional Protocols and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law, missions were also carried out in **Jamaica** (on the occasion of the first training seminar on the dissemination of knowledge of international law for Caribbean English-language National Societies in July) and to **Panama** (in March and December).

— Relations were maintained with the National Red Cross Society of **Mexico**: in February, the Vice-President of the ICRC participated in the ceremony celebrating the 75th anniversary of the National Society. In July, the ICRC also joined in the organization in Mexico City of the second

training course for officials responsible for dissemination, held for Spanish-speaking National Societies in Central America and the Caribbean.

South America

CHILE

In the light of the internal situation in Chile (especially after the resumption of the state of siege at the end of 1984 and its continuance until June 1985), the ICRC reactivated its presence in that country by stationing two delegates there, although during preceding years activities in Chile had been conducted from the regional delegation in Buenos Aires. On 5 March the Chilean Government and the ICRC signed an agreement, subsequently ratified by the legislative power, on the opening of a delegation. At the end of the year the Santiago delegation had a permanent staff of four persons, including a doctor.

The main activity of the Red Cross in Chile continued to be the protection of detainees, internees or persons relegated for security reasons: this was completed by an assistance programme which also included the families of protected persons. In its discussions with the Chilean authorities the ICRC also brought up the question of ratification of the Additional Protocols, to which Chile is not yet a party, and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law, especially among the armed forces.

The delegate-general for Latin America, accompanied by the chief medical officer of the ICRC, carried out a mission to Chile from 17 to 23 November, in order to assess this action with the delegation and to participate in some visits to places of detention. On this occasion, he had talks with the country's highest authorities: Mr. Hugo Rosende Subiare, Minister of Justice, Mr. Del Valle Allende, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ricardo García Rodríguez, Minister of the Interior, Vice-Admiral Carvajal Prado, Minister of Defence, and General Gordon, Director-General of the "*Central Nacional de Informaciones*" (CNI). He also had a discussion with the President of the Chilean Red Cross.

Protection

The ICRC continued its visits, in accordance with its customary procedure, to persons arrested for offences against the law on the internal security of the State (No. 12927), the arms control law (No. 17798) or the anti-terrorist law (No. 18314) and detained in prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Justice in Santiago and the provinces. After several single visits at the beginning of the year, a complete series of visits covering the whole country was made to 32 penitentiary institutions between 22 April and 27 May, in which a medical delegate participated. During the second half of the year, visits to places of detention went on almost without interruption,

also with an ICRC doctor present. In 1985, the ICRC regularly visited 45 places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice: such protection work covered 406 detainees, of whom 200 were new arrivals.

In its talks with the Chilean authorities, the ICRC not only reported on the protection activities carried out in such places, but also raised the question of expanding them. Indeed, concerned to extend its protection to all persons arrested, the ICRC sought to define a procedure which would give it systematic access to temporary places of detention under the control of the police and the security forces. This topic was discussed several times in the course of interviews with the Minister of Defence, who controls the "*Policia de Investigaciones*" and the "*Carabinero*" corps, as well as with the director general of the CNI: this was also one of the main points raised by the delegate-general during his mission in November. At the end of 1985, the negotiations were still without result. It should be pointed out, however, that the ICRC was able to make five visits to the headquarters of the "*Policia de Investigaciones*" in Santiago, where there were 63 persons who had been arrested during anti-government demonstrations.

ICRC delegates also visited persons who, owing to the state of siege, had been interned under an administrative decree and were being held at the disposal of the Ministry of the Interior. Thus the Pisagua camp in the north of the country, in which there were a considerable number of internees, was visited in April and again in May (it was first visited at the end of 1984): 269 persons, and subsequently 176, were held there, releases having taken place in the meantime. Nine persons interned at Conchi were also visited. After the state of siege had been lifted, the internees at Pisagua were released and those at Conchi were relegated to different places in Chile. During the second half of the year, 37 relegated persons were visited by ICRC delegates in 16 different locations in the north and south of the country.

As part of their protection activities, the ICRC delegates provided the families of detained, interned or relegated persons with news of those whom they had visited.

Assistance

The ICRC continued to give medical assistance to detainees by financing the purchase of the special medicines they needed. A supplementary food aid programme for the persons visited was begun in 1985, and milk and vegetable oil were delivered monthly to some 300 detainees. Toiletries, cleaning products, leisure articles, mattresses and clothing were also distributed. Particularly needy detainees and relegated persons received a small allowance.

The food aid programme for the families of detainees or relegated persons was continued: 300 impoverished families benefited in 1985. The ICRC also financed travel expenses to permit families to visit close relatives detained, interned or relegated, or to enable such persons to return home upon release.

The cost of the various assistance programmes amounted to more than 200,000 Swiss francs.

COLOMBIA

Protection

The ICRC continued to visit places of detention controlled by the Ministry of Justice, concentrating its action on the places with the most security detainees. Between June and October, 12 such places were visited, namely two in Bogotá (the La Picota national prison and the "*Carcel Modelo*") and the others in the provinces (in the Bucaramanga, Tunja, Ibagué, Cali and Cauca regions): during these 12 visits 169 security detainees were seen, of whom 56 were new arrivals.

The delegate-general for Latin America, who carried out a mission to Colombia from 30 November to 3 December, accompanied by the chief medical officer of the ICRC, reviewed these protection activities with the Minister of Justice, Dr. Enrique Parejo González.

Dissemination

With the support of the Colombian Red Cross, the ICRC continued its negotiations with the authorities with a view to obtaining the accession of Colombia to the Additional Protocols. The subject was taken up particularly with President Betancur, General Vega Uribe, Minister of Defence, and high-level representatives of the Ministries of the Interior and of Foreign Affairs, during the mission by an ICRC legal specialist at the end of January.

The ICRC supported the Colombian Red Cross in preparing and setting up a programme to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among members of the National Society, as well as other audiences, including the armed forces. As a follow-up to the training course for members in charge of dissemination in National Societies of Latin America, organized by the ICRC, the League and the Bolivian Red Cross at La Paz in 1984 (*cf. Annual Report 1984, page 89*), the Colombian Red Cross organized four regional seminars for the training of "disseminators", with ICRC support (participation of the regional delegate, provision of documentation and financial aid). The regional delegate also took part in two courses organized by the Colombian Red Cross for members of the national police (first-aid courses and teaching of the essential rules of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross). Finally, during a meeting of Red Cross volunteers at Cali at the end of February, the ICRC representative took up the subject of the activities of National Societies in time of armed conflict.

Mention should be made of the fact that from 23 to 28 March, the offices of the regional delegation in Bogotá, located at the headquarters of the Colombian Red Cross, were

peacefully occupied by a group sympathizing with the 19 April (M-19) opposition movement, who presented political demands. The Colombian Red Cross and the ICRC delegation issued joint press releases clarifying the situation, recalling the fundamental principles (including neutrality and impartiality) on which Red Cross action is based, stressing its essentially humanitarian role and the fact that to carry out its work, it must remain apart from all political disputes. This occupation came to a peaceful end, with the occupiers voluntarily leaving the premises.

PARAGUAY

Protection

Three series of visits to security detainees in this country were made by the regional delegate at Buenos Aires (12 to 19 April, 27 August to 5 September and 27 November to 2 December) to three places of detention at Asunción: the "*penitenciaría de Tacumbú*" under the control of the Ministry of Justice, the "*Guardia de Seguridad de Tacumbú*" and the "*Departamento de Asuntos Técnicos*" administered by the Ministry of the Interior. Furthermore, for the first time, a place of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior was visited in the provinces, in Alta Parana: the "*Delegación de Gobierno*" in Ciudad Presidente Stroessner. In the course of these three series of visits, the ICRC delegate, in accordance with ICRC procedure, had access respectively to 25, 18 and 14 detainees, several having been released during the year.

During each mission, the ICRC delegate obtained several interviews with the Paraguayan authorities, especially with Dr. S. A. Montanaro, Minister of the Interior, and with Dr. L. M. Argana, President of the Supreme Court of Justice. In addition, he had an interview on 3 September with the President of the Republic, General Alfredo Stroessner.

The ICRC once again proposed to the authorities that they show a certain degree of clemency on health grounds to one of the detainees imprisoned for more than 20 years. This request has still not been acted upon.

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During these missions, discussions were held with the President of the Paraguayan Red Cross. Moreover, for the first time, an explanatory talk on international humanitarian law was given for the members of the Executive Board of the National Society, and subsequently for its volunteers.

PERU

In this country, where the ICRC has maintained a continuous presence since 1984, the chief action continued to

be the protection of persons detained for security reasons. Various assistance programmes were also set up for the detainees.

In addition, a food aid programme for 600 children was begun in Ayacucho.

Accompanied by the chief medical officer of the ICRC, the delegate-general for Latin America went on mission to Peru in November. He had top-level discussions there with the Peruvian authorities and with senior members of the National Society. This mission was mainly centred on protection work (*see below*).

Protection

On the basis of the authorization granted by the Peruvian Government at the end of 1982, the ICRC sought, through regular visits all over the country, to protect persons detained under decree 048 (anti-terrorist law). But in 1985, two restrictions considerably limited ICRC action. Firstly, the ICRC has still not been given access to the civilian and military places of detention situated in the regions where a state of emergency had been declared (a restriction that has hampered its action since the end of 1983); and secondly, authorization to visit temporary detention centres under the control of the "*Policía de Investigaciones del Perú*" (PIP) or of the Ministry of the Interior, was withdrawn at the end of April.

These were therefore the two points on which the ICRC concentrated in its approaches to the Peruvian authorities. During the first six months its request (letters from the President of the ICRC to the highest authorities in Peru, on 19 February and 18 April; and discussions by the head of the ICRC delegation in Lima with the Prime Minister and the Minister of War, in June) for access to regions placed under the state of emergency made no headway. Apart from this, the refusal to authorize ICRC visits to places of detention under police control was confirmed in July by the Minister of the Interior.

The ICRC made known to the new government which took office at the end of July its concern regarding these major restrictions on its action, and delivered a memorandum to the new authorities on 6 August. On mission to Peru from 25 to 29 November, the delegate-general for Latin America discussed the subject with Dr. Alan García Pérez, President of the Republic, Dr. Abel Salinas Izaguirre, Minister of the Interior, Dr. Luis Gonzales Posada, Minister of Justice, and General Luis Abram Cavallerino, Chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command.

President García gave his consent in principle, enabling the ICRC to extend its protection activities to the regions in which the state of emergency had been declared. Furthermore, the Minister of the Interior confirmed that the ICRC was authorized to resume its visits to PIP detention centres.

Throughout 1985, the ICRC regularly visited security detainees in the prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Justice in Lima and the provinces, outside the regions in a state of emergency. A medical delegate participated in the visits. As the majority of the detainees were imprisoned in Lima, the

prisons in the capital (Lurigancho, El Fronton, Gallao, Chorillos, San Jorge and the premises in the Law Courts), were visited the most often, as well as two juvenile detention centres. ICRC delegates also visited the prisons in some fifteen localities in the regions of Arequipa, Cajamarca, Cuzco, Ica, Junin, Lambayeque, Libertad, Pasco and Puno.

PIP detention centres were visited between January and the end of April, also outside the regions under a state of emergency. Although protection work was mainly concentrated on the premises of the "*Dirección contra el Terrorismo*" in Lima, to which the delegates went about ten times, PIP centres in six other localities were also visited. The definitive authorization having arrived in mid-December, the resumption of protection activities at the PIP detention centres was envisaged for the beginning of 1986.

In all, the ICRC visited 28 places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, three hospitals, and seven PIP centres: its protection work covered 1,095 detainees.

Assistance

DETAINEES. — The ICRC continued to provide various types of relief supplies for the security detainees visited, according to their needs (specific medicines, toiletries, household articles, clothing, food). From the second half of 1985, it also launched a supplementary food aid programme for all inmates of the Lima gaols, amounting to 110 tonnes of powdered milk and 10 tonnes of cheese. At the end of the year, this programme was already in operation in four prisons (Lurigancho, Chorillos, Callao and El Fronton).

In the medical field, the ICRC, in close collaboration with the Peruvian authorities, set up an anti-tuberculosis programme in Lurigancho prison. The ICRC gave technical and financial assistance (purchase of medicines and medical material, participation in the recruitment of local medical personnel, supplementary food aid for sick detainees and the improvement of accommodation in the isolation ward). Begun at the end of May, this programme was monitored regularly by the ICRC medical delegate and by the end of the year covered some two hundred detainees of various categories.

To promote conversion of the dispensary of the Lurigancho prison (where the majority of the detainees are held), into a hospital centre, the ICRC offered to contribute financially towards the purchase of building materials and medical equipment. The first purchases were begun in December.

Lastly, the ICRC assisted certain detainees' families living outside Lima, by paying the travel expenses to enable them to visit their relatives in prison.

In 1985, the medicines and medical material distributed (including the anti-tuberculosis programme) amounted to some 56,000 Swiss francs. The material assistance distributed came to almost 370,000 Swiss francs.

CIVILIAN POPULATION. — The ICRC and the Peruvian Red Cross jointly set up a supplementary food aid programme for disadvantaged children in the town of Ayacucho situated

in a region particularly affected by the violence. They opened a canteen in the poor quarter of Villa Cristobal on 2 June, in which about 300 children have their breakfast daily. For this purpose, the ICRC supplied powdered milk, oatmeal, sugar, bread, cheese and cooking utensils. On 23 December, a second canteen was opened in another district, Yura-Yurac, also for 300 children. This programme in aid of families who had suffered from the disturbed situation in Peru is part of the ICRC's effort to assist the civilian population affected by the events and not to limit its action to detainees.

Support for the National Society

The ICRC helped the local branch of the Peruvian Red Cross at Ayacucho to strengthen its operational capacity. To this end, the ICRC enlisted its services to help with the food aid programme for children (see above), and assisted it in holding a first-aid course, during which the ICRC medical delegate explained the principles governing the Red Cross Movement. Finally, the basic medicines, medical materials and household articles were supplied to re-equip the Ayacucho Red Cross first-aid post.

URUGUAY

Protection

From 11 to 27 February, the last of the three series of visits to security detainees was carried out, in accordance with the agreement between the ICRC and the Uruguayan military authorities of 7 June 1984 (the two previous series had taken place in July and November 1984). In February, five delegates, including a doctor, visited four places of detention in Montevideo: the prisons of Libertad (EMR 1), Punta de Rieles (EMR 2), Punta Carretas and the "*Cárcel Central de Policía*", where 364 detainees were being held, including several of the detainees whom the ICRC had visited for the first time in July 1984 (cf. Annual Report 1984, p. 43). Visits were also made to two hospitals. At the end of this third series of visits, the ICRC requested the early release on health grounds of seven detainees.

Following the promulgation in March by the new authorities of a general amnesty for security detainees, the ICRC received the list of names of all persons having benefited from this measure. This amnesty, which resulted in the release of all security detainees, brought ICRC protection work in Uruguay to an end.

The regional delegate based in Buenos Aires went to Montevideo at the beginning of May to deliver to the new authorities the report on visits made in February. He had discussions especially with the President of the Republic of Uruguay, Dr. Julio Maria Sanguinetti. During this mission he also raised the question of the Additional Protocols, to which Uruguay formally acceded on 13 December.

OTHER COUNTRIES

— In **Argentina**, the ICRC regional delegation maintained contact with the authorities, chiefly on the subject of the Additional Protocols, inviting them to accede to these international humanitarian law instruments. Intensive discussions on the subject took place during the November mission by the ICRC Director for General Affairs, the delegate-general for Latin America and the ICRC legal adviser on questions concerning the Protocols, who had gone there to take part in the seminar organized by the ICRC and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, for political figures and law professors of the American continent (Inter-American Seminar on Humanitarian Problems and Human Rights in Situations of Internal Disturbances and Tensions).

— The ICRC continued to observe the development of the situation in **Bolivia** and maintained close contact with the Red Cross of that country, in particular during the three missions carried out in February, September (after the proclamation of a state of siege on 19 September) and in November 1985 by the regional delegate based in Bogotá.

Medical material was delivered to the National Society in February, the ICRC thus helping to strengthen its operational capacity in disturbed situations. The ICRC delegate also had an exchange of views with the Executive Committee of the

Bolivian Red Cross, with a view to specifying the role of National Societies in such situations. After the events of September, the ICRC and the Bolivian Red Cross set up a small food aid programme for the families—particularly destitute—of trade union leaders who had been relegated to the provinces of Pando and Beni (in the north of the country).

During these missions the ICRC delegate also had discussions with the Bolivian authorities, including Mr. Fernando Barthelemy Martínez, Minister of the Interior, Mr. Reynaldo Peters Arzabe, Minister of Information, Mr. Gaston Araoz Levy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and General S. Sejas Tordoya, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. With the latter, the question of a programme of dissemination of international humanitarian law for the armed forces was raised and received a favourable response.

— In order to maintain relations with both National Societies and governments, the ICRC carried out brief missions in **Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname** and **Venezuela**, from the regional delegation in Bogotá; the ICRC Director for General Affairs visited Venezuela in June. In particular, these missions enabled the ICRC to bring up the question of the Additional Protocols with a view to encouraging accession to these instruments (with the exception of Ecuador, which is already a party to the Protocols). In Suriname, discussions also concerned the procedure for ICRC recognition of the National Red Cross Society.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1985

LATIN AMERICA

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Beneficiaries	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnage	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
Argentina	Detainees and their families	—	379	3,017	3,396
Chile	Detainees and their families, National Society	148	627,457	16,217	643,674
Colombia	Detainees	—	—	1,401	1,401
Costa Rica	National Society	11	171,981	3,100	175,081
El Salvador	Displaced civilians, de- tainees, National Society	10,080	8,063,999	326,452	8,390,451
Haiti	Civilians, via National So- ciety, and detainees	216	355,733	1,831	357,564
Honduras	National Society	17	78,178	9,861	88,039
Nicaragua	Displaced civilians, de- tainees and National Society	1,758	4,617,641	632,106	5,249,747
Paraguay	National Society	40	400,400	—	400,400
Peru	Detainees and families, and National Society	72	471,906	73,469	545,375
Uruguay	National Society	180	784,880	—	784,880
TOTAL		12,522	15,572,554	1,067,454	16,640,008