

# Latin America

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# LATIN AMERICA

As in the previous year, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Chile and Peru were again the scene of the ICRC's most extensive protection and assistance activities in Latin America in 1986. ICRC delegates were also active elsewhere, in particular visiting security detainees in Colombia, Paraguay and Suriname. In addition, the ICRC remained in regular contact with the governments and National Societies of the Latin American continent so as to promote the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and to encourage 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 Ecuador).

To strengthen the ties between the ICRC and National Societies, from 1 to 26 February a member of the Committee, Mr. Rudolf Jäckli, visited five Latin American countries, namely El Salvador, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile and Brazil. In each country he had long talks with National Red Cross officials, in particular on the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC maintained an average of 75 delegates in Latin America, including administrative personnel, assisted by over 200 local employees and 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 about 30 delegates assisted by over 110 local employees in El Salvador and some 25 delegates assisted by 60 or so local employees in Nicaragua. In 1986, the regional delegations covered the following countries:

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

Taking into account the balance available and contributions in kind, a special global appeal for funds was launched to raise 26,107,000 Swiss francs for the ICRC's activities in Central America in 1986. Its activities in the other Latin American countries were financed from the ICRC's regular budget.



## Central America and the Caribbean

### EL SALVADOR

In accordance with the provisions of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and with Additional Protocol II, the ICRC continued its protection and assistance work in connection with the internal conflict in El Salvador. Protection and assistance for persons detained on account of the events and for the civilian population in the regions affected by the conflict continued to be the ICRC's main activities. At the same time it gave particular attention to a change in approach in its relief work with a view to making certain civilian populations self-sufficient and less dependent on food distributions.

The ICRC kept in constant contact with the Salvadorean authorities to inform them of its work and discuss the problems encountered. On two occasions, in April and November, the head of the delegation had the opportunity to review the ICRC's work with the President of the Republic, Mr. J. Napoléon Duarte, and likewise spoke in the course of the year with the highest civil and military authorities, including Mr. R. A. Castillo Claramount, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. J. A. Samayoa, Minister of Justice, Mr. E. Belloso Funes, Minister of the Interior, General Vides Casanova, Minister of Defence and Public Security, Mr. Lopez Nuila, Deputy Minister of Public Security and General Blandon Mejia, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. The acting delegate-general for Latin America visited El Salvador in March and August. To ensure the smooth progress of its humanitarian activities, the ICRC, in view of the pledge given by the "Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front" (FMLN) to respect international humanitarian law, also maintained regular contact with the opposition, in particular when

conducting activities in the field. In March, for instance, it met the Commander-in-Chief of the ERP (*Ejército Revolucionario Popular*), a member of the *Commandancia General* of the FMLN. In its discussions with the government authorities and representatives of the FMLN, the ICRC continued to uphold the idea of "humanizing the conflict", encouraging application of the principles of international humanitarian law to promote peace. It stressed in particular that every wounded or sick person is entitled to receive adequate medical care (which means that medical personnel and transports protected by the Red Cross emblem must be respected and measures taken to facilitate the evacuation of wounded combatants if they cannot be treated adequately on the spot). Lastly, the ICRC emphasized that neither the civilian population nor objects indispensable to their survival may be attacked, threatened or subjected to reprisals, and expressed particular concern about the effects that mine-laying could have for the civilian population.



## Protection

**PERSONS DETAINED BY THE SALVADOREAN AUTHORITIES.**—As in the past, protection of persons detained on account of the conflict was a major part of the ICRC's work in El Salvador. In 1986, with the agreement of the Salvadorean authorities, delegates regularly visited, in accordance with customary ICRC criteria, 227 places of detention and 7 hospitals in the capital and in the provinces, where they registered a total of 1,949 new detainees. These visits were made not only to the places under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice (penitentiaries—including the prisons of Mariona and Ilopango—municipal prisons, juvenile detention centres), but also and above all to temporary places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Defence and Public Security, i.e. the armed forces' military garrisons and *commandancias locales*, as well as the premises of the Security Corps (National Guard, police and *Policía de Hacienda*).

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.**—In view of the Front's undertaking to respect international humanitarian law and especially the provisions concerning the treatment to which captives are entitled, the ICRC endeavoured to protect military personnel and civilians captured by the FMLN. In particular, it continued making representations to FMLN officials to ensure that it is informed of any prisoners taken, that persons detained are allowed to receive visits and exchange messages with their families and, finally, that replies are provided to tracing enquiries.

In 1986, the ICRC was granted access to several civilians detained by the Front and received a number of replies to its enquiries concerning the whereabouts of persons reported missing and assumed to be in the hands of the FMLN. Only after repeated requests were delegates finally allowed, on two occasions in October and December, to visit a Salvadorean army officer captured one year previously, in October 1985. Lastly, several members of the armed forces released by the FMLN, usually soon after their capture, were escorted by the ICRC back to the military authorities. Several released civilians were also handed over to the ICRC.

## Tracing Agency

Over 700 persons per month on average came to enquire about their relatives through the ICRC Tracing Agency in El Salvador, which consists of a main office in the capital and regional offices in Santa Ana, San Miguel, Chalatenango, Usulután and San

Francisco Gotera. The Agency registered tracing requests submitted by families concerning 702 missing persons. Of the requests submitted up to December 1986, 1,078 cases were settled and 908 Red Cross messages were exchanged between separated members of families.

The Agency registered all new detainees visited (1,949), as well as any information concerning their transfer between various places of detention or their release. It kept their families informed and in particular handled the exchange of messages between families and persons detained by the government or the FMLN (in all 631 messages were transmitted to detainees and their families, three times more than in 1985).

The ICRC also registered and arranged transport for about a thousand persons displaced by the government from the troubled areas, who were housed in Church hospices. The ICRC ensured that families were not split up in the process.

## Relief

The ICRC and the Salvadorean Red Cross continued their co-ordinated food assistance programme for displaced persons and residents in need on account of the prevailing conflict. This operation was carried out in the regions totally or partially affected by the fighting, where no other humanitarian body could penetrate (the departments of Cabañas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, La Libertad, La Unión, Morazán, San Miguel, San Salvador, San Vicente, Usulután). More than 5,063 tonnes of food (maize, rice, oil, beans, sugar and salt) were distributed, along with material assistance (blankets, mattresses). Although the relief work was hampered several times by military operations (access to certain areas refused by the military authorities), in particular in the central part of the country, there were on average 100,000 beneficiaries a month (one-quarter in the northern and central provinces and three-quarters in the east of the country).

Maize seed together with the necessary fertilizer and insecticides were distributed to 500 families in north Morazán (Perquin and Corinto) under a pilot project prior to a large-scale seed distribution campaign scheduled for 1987. This programme should help the civilian population to recover a certain degree of self-sufficiency as quickly as possible.

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.

During the first few hours after the earthquake which devastated part of San Salvador on 10 October 1986, the ICRC delegation placed its staff, equipment and logistic resources at the disposal of the joint operation undertaken by the League and Salvadorean Red Cross. It helped to evacuate the wounded and assessed the situation in hospitals. Its stock of medicines (for a value of 800,000 Swiss francs) was distributed within the 72 hours which followed the disaster. During the seven days after the earthquake, the ICRC supplied 320 tonnes of food and other



essentials to around 123,000 victims. The ICRC also handled the receipt and transport to the capital of the first relief consignments arriving by air.

The ICRC participated in an experiment to repopulate the town of Tenancingo, which had been destroyed and abandoned by its 8,000 inhabitants in 1983, by agreeing to supply modest medical assistance until a governmental health structure is established and by providing relief to enable the population to achieve a certain level of self-sufficiency.

At the request of the Inter-Governmental Committee for Migration (ICM), the ICRC undertook a small-scale project in favour of Salvadorean refugees who had returned to their country (medical aid and a free meal on arrival, food for the first few days), until the governmental infrastructure was able to take over.

Lastly, food and material assistance (cleaning products, clothing, toiletries and leisure items) was regularly given to all inmates of the penitentiaries visited.

The total cost of ICRC relief work in El Salvador amounted to 6,329,000 Swiss francs.

### Medical assistance

The ICRC continued to provide medical assistance, chiefly in the regions where the government services were unable to operate on account of the hostilities. Two medical teams, comprising a doctor and three nurses from the ICRC as well as locally recruited medical personnel, made as regular visits as possible in the provinces of Cabañas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, La Libertad, La Paz, La Unión, Morazán, San Miguel, San Salvador, San Vicente, Santa Ana and Usulután, giving medical and dental consultations to over 43,000 people. The wounded or seriously ill (109 civilians and 39 combatants) were also transferred by the medical teams from the places of consultation to the nearest hospitals where they could receive adequate treatment.

On 26 April, the government allowed 13 wounded members of the Salvadorean opposition to be evacuated under ICRC auspices to host countries.

As a preventive measure, the ICRC medical teams regularly evaluated the nutritional status of young children between 1 and 5 years old and systematically studied the factors influencing malnutrition. In addition, during the medical consultations in the villages the ICRC nutritionist gathered together groups of mothers to teach them the rudiments of nutrition and hygiene.

In order to improve the standards of hygiene of the civilian population, the ICRC continued its programmes to sink wells, lay pipes and install latrines. Regular talks were given to improve knowledge of the elementary principles of hygiene.

Also for prophylactic purposes, the ICRC assisted with the inoculation campaign (measles, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis) organized by the Ministry of Health of El Salvador and UNICEF. The ICRC's assistance was requested in order to implement this programme in the conflict areas. A total of 6,352 persons—children and women of child-bearing age—

were vaccinated as part of the campaign against neo-natal tetanus.

The ICRC continued to supply medicines and medical material as and when needed to hospitals, health posts, schools and penal centres visited. Medicines were also supplied to the places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, and ICRC doctors kept the cases of sick detainees under observation.

Lastly, in order to cover the basic needs of the population between visits by delegates and in view of the problems of access to north Morazán (floods of the Rio Torola, military operations), the ICRC set up a small stock of medicines in Perquin managed by officials selected and trained by the delegates.

### Dissemination

In collaboration with the Salvadorean Red Cross, the ICRC continued its efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law, chiefly among the Salvadorean armed forces and Security Corps, by way of lectures followed by discussions on the essential rules of IHL and on the work of the Red Cross and its guiding principles. In 1986, 92 lectures were attended by nearly 24,000 members of the armed forces (officers, soldiers, recruits), i.e. half of the Salvadorean army.

During the year, five courses on international humanitarian law were organized and given to 447 law students and lawyers from the universities of San Salvador and San Miguel. Other information meetings on the same subject were held for members of the National Society and the Church, students, detainees visited and prison guards, as well as various organizations.

The ICRC also made itself known to the general public by means of a dissemination campaign broadcast by one television channel and seven radio stations.

## NICARAGUA

The ICRC's main concerns in Nicaragua continued to be the protection and assistance of detainees and of the civilian population living in the areas affected by armed clashes between government forces and counter-revolutionary organizations. In 1986 there was a significant expansion in food and medical assistance activities for the civilian populations, which prompted the ICRC to increase its staff in Nicaragua and open two sub-delegations, in Puerto Cabezas and Bluefields on the country's Atlantic coast.

On two occasions, in March/April and in August, the acting delegate-general for Latin America travelled to Nicaragua to take stock of ICRC action with the delegation and the Nicaraguan authorities.

To obtain the necessary security guarantees for continuation of its work in the regions affected by the conflict, the ICRC maintained contact with the representatives of the counter-revol-



utionary organizations, reminding them of their humanitarian responsibilities towards the civilian populations and the persons detained by them.

### Protection

As in 1985, the ICRC continued its protection activities for persons detained by the Nicaraguan authorities—members of the former National Guard imprisoned on the fall of the previous regime, civilians who had collaborated with the previous government and persons subsequently arrested for counter-revolutionary activities or for acts prejudicial to State security. In 1986, ICRC delegates conducted regular visits to 14 places of detention under the authority of the National Penitentiary System (SPN) and two hospitals. In Managua, they visited in particular the two prisons where most of the detainees within the purview of the ICRC are held, namely “Tipitapa” in April and August and “Zona Franca” in February, June and October, each visit lasting three weeks.

In addition, several visits were made to six provincial prisons (Bluefields, Chinandega, Esteli, Granada, Juigalpa and Matagalpa) and six prison-farms run by the SPN (*‘granjas’*) where the detainees benefit from a more liberal detention system. In all, the ICRC protection activities covered over 4,000 detainees.

As in previous years and despite its requests, the ICRC was not granted access to persons imprisoned in places of detention under the responsibility of the State security services, most of them detainees held for questioning. At the end of 1986, the ICRC had not received a definitive reply to its proposals concerning convicted detainees still imprisoned in such places, which had been addressed to the authorities in November 1985 (regular visits by delegates, establishment of a notification system and a procedure for the exchange of family messages).

### Tracing Agency

As part of the ongoing protection activities, the Tracing Agency in Managua continued to register new detainees and process data on detainees visited. It also took care of the exchange of news between detainees and their families; in this way 9,002 messages were exchanged in 1986.

Another important facet of this activity was the exchange of family messages between Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras—mainly Miskito Indian refugees—and their relatives still in Nicaragua (2,393 messages exchanged) and between families separated within Nicaragua itself (2,978 messages exchanged).

Finally, the Tracing Agency services in Nicaragua and Honduras handled 435 new tracing requests from families concerning persons missing or presumed detained; 107 cases were resolved.

### Relief

**DETAINEES.**—In addition to its protection activities, the ICRC distributed monthly parcels of food and personal hygiene and leisure articles to all detainees visited. Needy families of detainees likewise received food aid. Furthermore, the ICRC paid the travel expenses of particularly poor families wishing to visit relatives detained in the capital. On average, 8,425 detainees (including penal law detainees) and 1,600 families were assisted every month. The cost of this assistance amounted to approximately 2,517,000 Swiss francs.

**CIVILIAN POPULATION.**—The ICRC, in close collaboration with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, pursued and stepped up its emergency aid programme launched in September 1973 for the civilian population affected by the events, i.e. persons temporarily displaced, persons displaced and resettled (assistance during the first phase of resettlement), residents whose possessions had been destroyed or those living in regions isolated as a result of the events.

The programme was carried out in three main areas—the north of the country (Esteli, Jinotega, Madriz, Matagalpa, Nueva Segovia and Rio Blanco provinces); the centre (Boaco and Chontales provinces); and the Atlantic coast (north and south Zelaya province, in particular along the Rio Coco, the Laguna de Perlas, Bluefields and Rio Kukra).

In the Atlantic coast region, specific assistance was provided to groups of people in need, according to how the situation developed. About 4,450 people per month received distributions of food, soap, household articles and kitchen utensils. In view of the growing needs observed in the region and consequent expansion of assistance activities, the ICRC established a permanent presence in Puerto Cabezas in May and in Bluefields in November.

In February, noting the considerable and urgent needs of the numerous Miskito Indians who had recently returned from Honduras to their home villages along the banks of the Rio Coco, the ICRC undertook a relief operation (food rations, kitchen utensils, clothing, basic tools), bringing assistance to some 19 communities in 1986.

The assistance programme for the civilian population involved a total of 968 tonnes of food and other relief supplies valuing 1,819,000 Swiss francs. About 10,100 persons displaced or affected by the conflict benefited from this assistance every month.

The ICRC also provided assistance to the Nicaraguan Red Cross in the form of vehicles, radio and other equipment for a cost of 455,000 Swiss francs.

### Medical assistance

**DETAINEES.**—ICRC medical assistance to Nicaragua focused first and foremost on detained persons. One doctor and three nurses gave consultations to sick detainees in the prisons visited. Prison and *granja* dispensaries were supplied with basic medical equipment and medicines. In addition, the ICRC pursued its optometrical programme and paid for spectacles for detainees requiring them. This work cost a total of around 24,000 Swiss francs.

**CIVILIAN POPULATION.**—In 1986, the ICRC medical team stepped up its presence in the regions affected by the conflict (in particular on the Atlantic coast and in the mountains of the centre and north-west) and monitored the nutritional and medical condition of the assisted population. As from the end of October, two nurses were permanently assigned to Puerto Cabezas and Bluefields.

During the distributions made in the course of assistance operations, a nurse also visited the area to give consultations and inoculate persons whom the government health services had difficulty reaching on account of the events. 1,817 persons were thus vaccinated against various diseases (measles, diphtheria, tetanus, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis).

In this context, the ICRC gave lessons in medical treatment and supplied village health officials with medical kits containing simple medicines and dressing materials.

Throughout the year, the ICRC visited civilian hospitals and dispensaries of the Ministry of Health and branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross situated in regions affected by the events or having to deal with an influx of wounded or displaced persons.

Regular assistance in the form of medicines and medical material was provided for a total cost of around 200,000 Swiss francs.

**WAR DISABLED.**—Five ICRC technicians continued to work at the "Aldo Chavarria" hospital's rehabilitation centre in Managua, under an agreement concluded in 1984 between the ICRC and the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health for the development of an orthopaedic programme for war disabled (increasing the manufacture of prostheses and training of staff). From May to November 18 trainees attended the first part of a training course organized by the ICRC. The new workshop built and equipped by the ICRC has become operational and manufactured 74 prostheses and 264 orthoses; 338 patients were fitted in 1986.

### Dissemination

The programme of lectures launched in December 1985 for SPN prison staff on international humanitarian law, the International Red Cross and the activities of the ICRC was continued in 1986, reaching an audience of some 240. At the same time, the dissemination campaign for branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross in conflict areas addressed around 880 volunteers during the year.

With the agreement of the Ministry of the Interior, a new country-wide dissemination project was begun in October to familiarize the Ministry's officials with international humanitarian law and the Red Cross: 415 persons, mostly officers, attended the lectures.

Finally, the ICRC maintained contacts with the Ministry of Defence to promote the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law within the armed forces.

## GUATEMALA

The acting delegate-general for Latin America went to Guatemala from 19 to 24 March to submit a twofold ICRC offer of services to the country's new authorities, relating to the protection of persons detained for reasons of security and to the dissemination of international humanitarian law, chiefly within the armed forces. The ICRC representative had talks with the head of state, President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mario Quinonez Amezcuita, and the President of the Guatemalan Red Cross, Mr. Toriello. The mission also provided an opportunity to raise the question of ratification by Guatemala of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

At the end of 1986, despite the receptiveness shown by President Cerezo to the ICRC's proposed collaboration, the Committee had still not received a formal reply to its offer of services. The ICRC was thus unable to carry out any activities in Guatemala.

## HONDURAS

ICRC activities in Honduras continued to be conducted from the regional delegation in Costa Rica. The numerous missions undertaken from San José made it possible to maintain close relations with the authorities and the Honduran Red Cross.

Following the capture of seven Nicaraguan soldiers by the Honduran army in March 1986, the ICRC offered its services to the Honduran authorities and requested access to the prisoners. They were released on 11 April and handed over to the Ambassador of Nicaragua in Honduras, in the presence of the ICRC regional delegate.

### Tracing Agency

With the support of the Honduran Red Cross, the ICRC continued to handle the exchange of messages between Nicaraguan refugees settled in Honduras and their families in Nicaragua. Messages were distributed and collected regularly in the refugee camps (for statistics, see the "Nicaragua" section of this Report). Salvadorean refugees in Honduras also benefited from the Agency's services, although to a lesser extent.

### Support for the National Society

The ICRC donated radio equipment and a bus to the Honduran Red Cross to increase the operational capacity of the National Society's branches near the border with Nicaragua. In addition, 50 tonnes of powdered milk were contributed to an assistance programme for children suffering from malnutrition, as well as 40 tents. In total, ICRC aid to the Honduran Red Cross represented a value of 237,600 Swiss francs.

### Dissemination

Continuing its efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces, in 1986 the ICRC organized the second part of the course on international humanitarian law and the law of war which had begun in 1985. The seminar, attended by 26 Honduran senior officers, was given by the ICRC delegate to the armed forces and the regional delegate. Considering the interest it aroused, the High Command School confirmed its agreement to include courses on international humanitarian law and the law of war in its curriculum as from 1987.

In addition, the ICRC held a training course on the dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross for some 60 members of the Honduran Red Cross, with a view to setting up a dissemination programme for the National Society's branches.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

— The ICRC regional delegation in **Costa Rica** maintained relations with the authorities and National Societies of the countries covered from San José, as well as giving logistic support to the Managua and San Salvador delegations.

In Costa Rica itself, the ICRC continued to support the National Society, mainly for its activities (tracing, dissemination) in the regions bordering on Nicaragua. Under this programme, the ICRC helped to organize lectures on international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross for the branches of the National Society.

— At the invitation of the Cuban Red Cross, an ICRC expert in the dissemination of international humanitarian law travelled to **Cuba** at the end of April for talks with the National Society concerning the launching of a dissemination programme for various sectors with specific responsibilities (armed forces; Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, Health).

Also at the request of the Cuban Red Cross, the regional delegate based in San José went to Cuba on 30 September to visit Haitian nationals who had run aground near the Cuban coast and had been transferred to the camp at Punta Maisi (in the east of the island), and to discuss their possible repatriation with the authorities and the Cuban Red Cross. The operation involving repatriation of 488 Haitian nationals was carried out on 14 October, under the auspices of the ICRC and in close co-operation with the Cuban and Haitian Red Cross Societies.

— The regional delegates based in San José conducted several missions to **Haiti** during 1986. The first, which took place on 28 January, aimed to obtain the authorities' consent for visits to the persons arrested during the disturbances which had occurred in the country since late 1985. The delegates visited several places in the north and south of the country to collect information in this respect, as well as the national penitentiary in Port-au-Prince. (According to the new authorities, all the persons detained in connection with the events were released after the change of government at the beginning of February.) During their mission, the ICRC delegates kept in constant contact with the Haitian Red Cross in Port-au-Prince and in the provinces and drew attention once again to the respect due to persons, means of transport and buildings bearing the Red Cross emblem.

A second and a third mission took place in April and August respectively, primarily to maintain contacts with the National Society and the new authorities. During talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the question *inter alia* of Haiti's possible accession to the Additional Protocols and the implementation of a programme for the dissemination of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross were discussed.

— Two missions were conducted to **Mexico** in July-August and November to continue discussions with the authorities and the Mexican Red Cross, mainly with regard to international



humanitarian law (procedure for accession to Additional Protocol II, and dissemination programmes). During the second mission the ICRC took part in the Annual Convention of the Mexican Red Cross in Guadalajara.

— In order to promote dissemination in the **Dominican Republic**, the regional delegate went on mission there in April and established contacts with the Deputy Minister of Defence, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the army and the police, and leading National Society officials. He also gave various talks on international humanitarian law and the work of the Red Cross to some thirty advisers in the Ministry of Education and about forty senior officers of the armed forces, and to Red Cross relief workers in the provinces. In August, two delegates participated in a three-day seminar on international humanitarian law for about fifty students and lecturers at the Faculty of Law and the Diplomatic School of the Catholic University of Santo Domingo.

The question of accession by the Dominican Republic to the Additional Protocols was raised with the authorities of the new government during the two missions.

— Missions to promote and disseminate international humanitarian law were also conducted to **Belize** (in February) and **Panama** (in June).

## **South America**

### **CHILE**

In 1986, the ICRC maintained its delegation in Santiago, which comprised five delegates, including a doctor, and concentrated on the protection of persons detained for security reasons. An assistance programme for detainees and their families was also pursued. 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 encouraged the dissemination of international humanitarian law, especially among the armed forces. These matters were raised in particular during talks on 12 May between the head of the delegation and Admiral José Toribio Merino Castro, member of the Junta.

#### **Protection**

The ICRC continued its visits, in accordance with its customary procedure, to persons arrested and detained for security reasons. A complete country-wide series of visits was conducted from 10 January to 25 March to places of detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice: 296 persons were visited by three delegates, including a doctor, in 34 places of detention between

Antofagasta and Coyhaique. Subsequent visits were made as needed, without interruption up to the end of the year.

An account of the work accomplished from 10 January to 31 August was given in a summary report submitted to the relevant authorities at the end of the year. On that occasion, the head of the ICRC delegation had talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. del Valle Allende, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Rosende Subiabre and the Minister of Defence, Vice-Admiral Carvajal Prado (8 January 1987), and with security and police officials.

In its talks with the Chilean authorities during the year, the ICRC continued negotiations to extend its protection activities and obtain systematic access to the places of detention under the authority of the security corps. This question, originally raised in 1985, was discussed on several occasions in 1986 and procedures for visits were finally agreed. On 17 October, the ICRC was thus granted authorization to visit the persons detained by the *Central Nacional de Informaciones* (CNI), five days after their arrest, but in any case before they are brought before the judge. Under the agreement, delegates visited 40 persons arrested and detained by the CNI between the above date and the end of the year. In addition, as of 8 October ICRC delegates also obtained authorization to visit the persons detained in *Carabinero* corps police stations for offences against the law on the security of State. Between that date and the end of the year, delegates visited 12 administrative internees held in four such police stations. Finally, the *Policía de Investigaciones*, which also detains persons on a provisional basis for security reasons after their arrest, informed the ICRC that a similar authorization was being issued on 7 November. From that date until the end of the year, delegates visited 3 persons interned at one of its police stations in Valparaíso.

At the end of the year, the ICRC also mentioned to the Chilean authorities that a last category of detainees had not yet been allowed to receive ICRC protection, namely detainees who, after questioning, were held in solitary confinement at the decision of the examining magistrate while their case was being investigated. The ICRC therefore requested that this restriction on its protection action also be lifted.

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

#### **Assistance**

The ICRC continued its medical assistance programmes for detainees by financing the purchase of the specific medicines they needed. In addition, two new programmes were launched, one for ophthalmic consultations and the provision of spectacles, the other for dental treatment. Supplementary food aid continued to be given to the detainees visited, involving monthly supplies of milk, cheese and vegetable oil. Toiletries, cleaning products, leisure items, mattresses and clothing were also occasionally distributed and particularly needy detainees received a small allowance.



The food aid programme for detainees' families continued: in 1986, an average of 360 families benefited each month. The ICRC also financed some travel expenses to enable families to visit detained relatives or for detainees to return home upon release.

The cost of these various assistance programmes came to 838,950 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. The delegate based in Bogotá thus visited three places of detention, two in Bogotá itself and one in Medellín; he met 56 persons detained for security reasons, 45 of them seen for the first time, in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures.

In March, the delegate was received by the Minister of Defence, General Miguel Vega Uribe, for submission of the reports on visits carried out in 1985. In addition, the Director General of Prisons was regularly contacted throughout the year to discuss the ICRC's protection activities in Colombia.

### Dissemination

The ICRC continued to support the Colombian Red Cross in its efforts to set up a dissemination programme on international humanitarian law for members of the National Society (in order to train voluntary "disseminators" in most branches) and for other target groups, including the armed forces. To this end, both the delegate based in Bogotá and experts in law and dissemination from Geneva visited several local branches of the National Society, including those in Cali, Medellín, Ibagué, Bucaramanga and Pereira. During these visits, lectures on international humanitarian law were given for various audiences—National Society officials and volunteers, law teachers and students, officers and NCOs of the armed forces and journalists. The ICRC delegates also participated in seminars organized in Bogotá by the National Red Cross, one in March bringing together some 60 journalists and the other in May for deans, professors and students of the University's Faculty of Law.

## PARAGUAY

The regional delegate based in Buenos Aires conducted three series of visits to security detainees in Paraguay. During the first visit, she was accompanied by a medical delegate who had

travelled from Geneva for the purpose. From 13 to 25 April, the delegates visited three places of detention in Asunción (the *Penitenciaría de Tacumbú* under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, the *Guardia de Seguridad de Tacumbú* and the *Departamento de Asuntos Técnicos*, administered by the Ministry of the Interior) where they saw a total of 6 detainees. The delegates also travelled to Ciudad Presidente Stroessner in Alta Paraná to visit the *Delegación de Gobierno*, visited for the first time in 1985. However, no detainees in the categories which concern the ICRC were being held there.

At the end of May the regional delegate stopped off in Asunción to attend the fourth meeting of presidents of the National Societies of Sub-Region II (see the section on "Co-operation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement"), and carried out a further visit to the "Guardia de Seguridad de Tacumbú", seeing five detainees, three of them new.

Finally, during a mission from 2 to 6 December, the regional delegate visited the three places of detention seen in April in Asunción as well as the *Buen Pastor* women's prison run by the Ministry of Justice, where she saw a total of 10 security detainees. All the visits were conducted in accordance with the ICRC's usual procedure.

As in previous years, the ICRC once again urged the authorities to show clemency, on health grounds, to one detainee who had been in prison for more than 20 years. This request had still not received a favourable response by the end of the year.

During her missions, the ICRC delegate was able to have several conversations with representatives of the Paraguayan authorities, in particular the Minister of the Interior, Dr. S. Montanaro and the Minister of Justice and Labour, Dr. J. Jacquet. These talks provided an opportunity not only to discuss problems relating to the detention of persons arrested for security reasons, but also to tackle more general matters such as ratification of the Additional Protocols and dissemination of international humanitarian law. In August, a lecture on international humanitarian law was given to members of the Paraguayan armed forces, attended by the military legal adviser to President Stroessner.

In addition, the foundations were laid for a programme for dissemination of international humanitarian law as a result of contacts with the President of the Paraguayan Red Cross and senior officials from the National Society. A number of lectures on the subject were given to National Society volunteers.

## PERU

In this country, where the ICRC has maintained a continuous presence since 1984, activities were again centred on the protection of persons detained for security reasons and were considerably expanded in 1986. After a meeting on 12 March 1986 with the entire Joint Command of the Armed Forces, the ICRC received permission to extend its visits to the places of detention under the responsibility of the Ministries of Justice and the

Interior in the regions where the state of emergency had been declared (the ICRC had made repeated requests to this effect since 1983 and President García Pérez had agreed in principle in November 1985).

As from 1 April, ICRC delegates were thus granted access to prisons and police stations in Ayacucho and the surrounding areas, and were able to conduct a preliminary evaluation of the needs of the civilian population affected by the events. With effect from July, an ICRC sub-delegation was set up in Ayacucho to facilitate travel arrangements and provide permanent ICRC representation in the region.

As of the end of January, the ICRC was able to resume its regular visits to police stations under the authority of the *Policía de Investigaciones del Perú* (PIP), which continued throughout the year.

In addition, the ICRC carried on with its assistance operations for detainees and the food aid programme for some 600 children in Ayacucho whose families have been affected by the events.

To spread knowledge of international humanitarian law, a dissemination campaign for various target groups, including the armed forces, was suggested during several talks with the Joint Command of the Armed Forces and the President of the *comando político militar* of the Ayacucho region. As part of its collaboration with the Peruvian Red Cross, the ICRC joined in a seminar on staff training for disaster relief activities, held by the Ayacucho local branch for its members from 13 to 16 November. One day was devoted to the dissemination of international humanitarian law, with a talk by the ICRC delegate on the ICRC's activities and legal bases.

## Protection

In accordance with the authorization granted by the Peruvian Government at the end of 1982, the ICRC continued its efforts to protect persons detained under Decree 046 (anti-terrorist law) by making regular visits in all parts of the country.

Throughout the year ICRC delegates, including a doctor, regularly visited security detainees in Lima and in the provinces at 53 prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and at one hospital, and from 1 April also visited those in regions where a state of emergency had been declared.

In June, serious and tragic events occurred in three prisons in Lima (Lurigancho, El Frontón and Callao). Hostages were taken and during the subsequent intervention to restore order a considerable number of detainees were killed, namely 124 detainees in the Lurigancho prison, two detainees in the Callao women's prison and more than 100 detainees in the Frontón prison. The ICRC made immediate representations at the highest level, requesting access to the places of detention concerned so as to assess the situation and evaluate detainees' needs after the events, and to be able to inform families. About twelve days later, visits were made to Canto Grande and Lurigancho in the capital and to Ica prison where the detainees had been transferred

from Callao. The ICRC addressed a special report to the authorities on the tragic events.

At the end of January the ICRC was authorized to resume its visits to security detainees in PIP temporary detention centres under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior. These activities were concentrated mainly on the premises of the *Dirección contra el terrorismo* (DIRCOTE) in Lima, to which the ICRC had not had access since the end of April 1985. Visits were made there in February and then, after a two-month break, very regularly, on a weekly basis, from the beginning of May to the end of the year. ICRC delegates also visited PIP temporary detention centres in the provinces, in particular as from 1 April in the regions in a state of emergency.

In all, 29 PIP centres were visited. In addition, during their rounds of visits in the regions in a state of emergency, ICRC delegates visited security detainees in 19 places of detention under the authority of the *Guardia civil* (Ministry of the Interior).

Protection activities in favour of persons detained for security reasons were the subject of summary reports submitted by the ICRC to the authorities concerned. In all, the ICRC visited 101 places of detention and one hospital. To get an overall view and round off its protection activities for detained persons, at the end of the year the ICRC took steps to request access to persons provisionally held in military barracks, above all in the regions affected by the state of emergency.

## Assistance

**DETAINEES.**—The ICRC continued to distribute relief supplies twice a year to the security detainees visited, according to their needs (specific medicines, toiletries, clothing, food). It also pursued its supplementary food aid programme begun in 1985 for the whole of the prison population in the capital. In 1986, 65 tonnes of powdered milk and 26 tonnes of cheese were thus distributed in six prisons (Lurigancho, Chorillos, Callao, El Frontón, San Jorge and Canto Grande).

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

In the medical field, the anti-tuberculosis programme set up in Lurigancho prison in 1985 in collaboration with the Peruvian authorities was continued. The medical delegate regularly monitored various categories of detainees, who were treated in the isolation ward set up for the purpose, and the ICRC continued to provide technical and financial support. Some 200 detainees received such treatment in 1986.

In view of the success of the project at Lurigancho, it was decided that other detainees should receive the same type of medical assistance and a similar operation (supply of medicines and material necessary to treat tuberculosis patients, supplementary food for the sick) was launched at Ayacucho prison in November, starting with a screening of the prison population.

The ICRC also contributed financially towards the purchase of building materials and medical equipment to refit the Lurigan-

cho prison dispensary. Furthermore Ayacucho prison was provided with the necessary equipment to put the dispensary back into service, and to install a pipe network.

In 1986, the value of the medicines and medical material supplied (including the anti-tuberculosis programme) amounted to some 100,000 Swiss francs. The material relief distributed to detainees and their families came to almost 800,000 Swiss francs.

**CIVILIAN POPULATION.**—The ICRC continued to collaborate with the local branch of the Peruvian Red Cross in the town of Ayacucho, underpinning the supplementary food aid programme for some 600 children from families particularly affected by the disturbances in the region. The children thus received a daily breakfast in two canteens run by the Peruvian Red Cross in two poor districts of Ayacucho. The ICRC supplied the provisions and kitchen utensils, as well as clothing.

To extend its help to the civilian population affected by the events, and not confine it only to detainees, the ICRC conducted a preliminary evaluation in the areas under the state of emergency. No large-scale operation could be planned, owing to the mountainous terrain and the resultant logistic difficulties. At the end of the year, the ICRC nevertheless formulated several medical assistance programmes for the people there.

## SURINAME

The internal situation deteriorated somewhat during the second half of 1986 and the regional delegate based in Bogotá carried out three missions to Suriname. During his first stay in Paramaribo, from 29 September to 12 October, he contacted the authorities; in particular he met the Prime Minister, Dr. Radhakishun, and the Minister of Public Health, Dr. Jessurun, and discussed the possibility with them of ICRC visits to persons detained in connection with the events. The delegate also had working meetings with officials of the newly recognized National Society (see the section on "*Co-operation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*").

During his second mission to Suriname from 11 to 23 November the regional delegate had talks with President Desi Bouterse's Cabinet leader, Ambassador Hendrik Heidweiler, and was authorized to visit the persons detained on account of the events. He thereupon visited, in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedure, 98 persons detained by the military police in the Fort-Zelandia prison in Paramaribo.

At the beginning of December ICRC headquarters subsequently sent two staff members, including a doctor, on mission to Suriname. These delegates and the regional delegate met the authorities, in particular the Minister of Health, the Minister of the Interior and Justice and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as the chief of the military police. They obtained permission to carry out a second visit from 11 to 17 December, in accordance

with customary ICRC criteria, to the meanwhile 109 persons detained at Fort-Zelandia by the military police. Sixty of the detainees there were then released on 24 December and received a small sum of money from the ICRC to enable them to return home. Two further places of detention were also visited, but no detainees of the categories concerning the ICRC were being held there.

The ICRC conveyed to the detainees' families 21 Red Cross messages which the detainees had filled in during the visit.

The Suriname authorities also agreed to allow delegates to evaluate the condition of the civilian population in the country. The medical delegate accordingly visited several hospitals and dispensaries in the capital and surrounding areas, and the two delegates subsequently travelled to the east of the country. After concentrating more specifically on the Moengo region, they travelled up the Maroni river to Stoelmanseiland. It emerged from this preliminary evaluation that no ICRC emergency relief operation was required for the time being. Delegates also had several talks with Mr. R. Brunswijk, the rebel leader, on humanitarian matters related to the events.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

— In **Argentina**, the ICRC regional delegate kept in regular contact with the authorities, mainly concerning ratification of the Additional Protocols; this was approved by the Argentine Congress on 28 September. In October ICRC Vice-President Mr. Aubert, who was in Buenos Aires to attend the 76th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, met the Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Sabato, and visited the Argentine Red Cross.

— In order to maintain contact with the authorities and the National Society, the regional delegate based in Buenos Aires travelled to **Bolivia** from 4 to 8 November, where she talked to a number of officials, in particular the Minister of Defence, Dr. Valle Queredo, and the President of the Senate, Dr. Humbolt. She also took part in a programme of lectures on international humanitarian law organized by the Bolivian Red Cross for staff officers at the naval academy and at the national police headquarters.

— From 15 to 17 December the President of the ICRC, Mr. Hay, visited **Brazil**. He attended a concert given in Rio de Janeiro by the World Philharmonic Orchestra for the benefit of the Brazilian Red Cross and the ICRC, and had talks with the country's authorities in Brasilia, where he was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Sarney. The subjects discussed included the ICRC's activities throughout the world, in particular in Latin America, ratification of the Additional Protocols, and the financing of the ICRC.

— The regional delegate based in Bogotá conducted a mission to **Ecuador** to maintain contact with the authorities and the National Society.

— The Vice-President of the ICRC, Mr. Aubert, travelled to **Uruguay** in October after attending the 76th Conference of the

Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Buenos Aires (*see the section entitled “The law and juridical considerations—co-operation with other international and non-international organizations on legal and humanitarian issues”*). In Uruguay Mr. Aubert was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Sanguinetti, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Rodriguez-Nin, and visited the National Society.

# RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1986

## LATIN AMERICA

Country	Recipient	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnes	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
Argentina . . . . .	Detainees and their families	—	—	1,309	1,309
Chile . . . . .	Detainees and their families, National Society	278	808,857	30,092	838,949
Costa Rica . . . . .	National Society	1	8,492	—	8,492
El Salvador . . . . .	Displaced civilians, detainees, National Society	6,862	6,045,982	283,073	6,329,055
Haiti . . . . .	Civilians, via National Society	—	—	2,228	2,228
Honduras . . . . .	National Society	53	237,617	—	237,617
Nicaragua . . . . .	Displaced civilians, detainees and National Society	2,556	4,839,979	314,758	5,154,737
Paraguay . . . . .	National Society	40	412,625	—	412,625
Peru . . . . .	Detainees and their families, National Society	115	848,366	79,484	927,850
Uruguay . . . . .	National Society	90	425,641	—	425,641
TOTAL . . . . .		9,995	13,627,559	710,944	14,338,503