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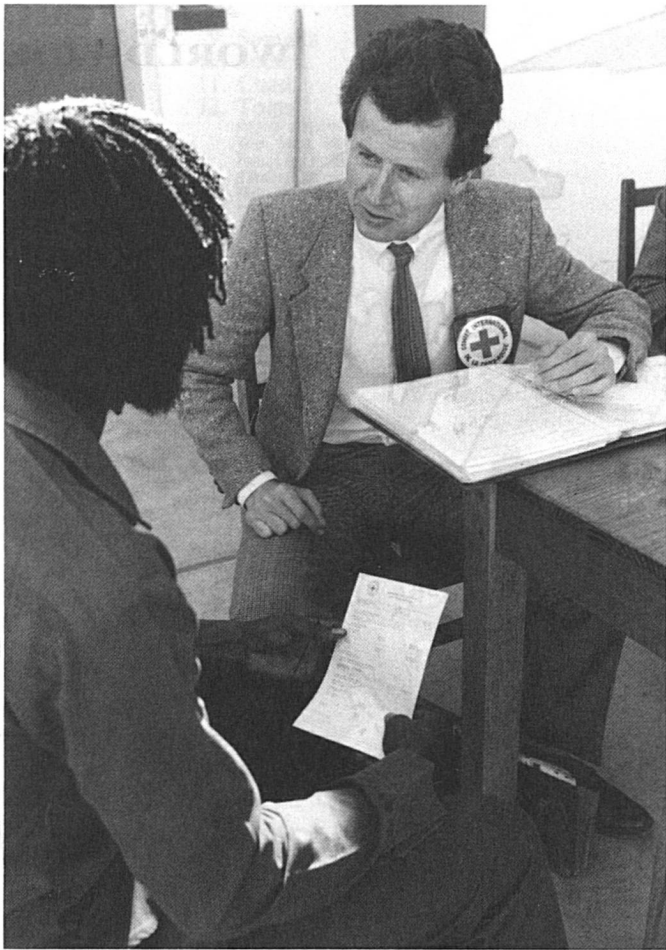
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(Photo: ICRC/T. Gassman NAMI 87 2-10)



(a)

*(a) Interviewing a detainee without witnesses in Windhoek Prison (Namibia/South-West Africa).*

*(b, c) Mozambique 1987: distributing clothes and providing medical aid ("Quac-stick").*



(b)

(c)



(Photos: ICRC/T. Gassmann MOZA 87 15/21 and 26/35)

# AFRICA

In 1987, Africa was again the continent where the ICRC was most widely represented, with nine delegations (Addis Ababa, Kampala, Khartoum, Luanda, Maputo, Mogadishu, N'Djamena, Pretoria and Windhoek) and five regional delegations (Harare, Kinshasa, Lagos, Lomé and Nairobi). Almost half of ICRC staff continued to be deployed on the continent, i.e., over 200 delegates and more than a thousand local employees.

Through its 14 delegations, the ICRC was able to carry out regular activities for hundreds of thousands of victims of armed conflicts and internal disturbances and tensions. The overall cost of these activities for 1987 was estimated at 142,337,000 Swiss francs.

Taking into account the balance available from the previous period (17,624,200 Swiss francs) and the value of donations in kind and services, the ICRC launched an appeal to raise 108,560,000 Swiss francs. In response to this appeal, by 31 December 1987 the ICRC had received 66,845,800 Swiss francs in cash and 16,092,600 Swiss francs in kind and services from governments, the European Economic Community (EEC), the World Food Programme (WFP), various other organizations and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Finally, three of the five ICRC regional delegations in Africa (Lomé, Lagos and Kinshasa) were financed from the ICRC's regular budget.

As in 1986, the ICRC was invited in July to attend the 46th ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the 23rd Conference of Heads of State and Government, at which it was represented by a delegation led by a member of the Committee, Mr. Rudolf Jäckli. The current President of the OAU, H. E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the People's Republic of the Congo, accompanied by his wife and two of his ministers, was received at ICRC headquarters by President Sommaruga on 9 July. This meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue between the ICRC and the OAU and to discuss the ICRC's concerns and difficulties in Africa, in particular in connection with the conflicts in Southern Africa and Chad.

## *Southern Africa*

### **SOUTH AFRICA**

Following the suspension on 29 October 1986 of the South African government delegation's participation in

the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross in Geneva, the South African authorities had initially requested the ICRC to withdraw its delegation from the country. The government in Pretoria revoked its decision on 26 November 1986, but imposed restrictions on the number of ICRC delegates authorized to operate in the Republic of South Africa (five delegates at the beginning of 1987 as against some 20 stationed there the previous year). Accordingly, the ICRC's activities, which had been cut back drastically during the first three months of the year, were able to resume to some extent as from April, when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs authorized the arrival of three additional delegates.

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\* \*

Greatly concerned by the internal unrest in South Africa, and in particular the number of arrests made under the state of emergency renewed on 11 June, the ICRC, invoking its statutory right of initiative, stepped up its attempts to secure access to all categories of detainees held in connection with the internal disturbances.

### **Representations and activities**

#### *For detainees*

Every year since 1969, the ICRC had conducted an annual series of visits to sentenced security prisoners. The visits were subsequently extended to people held in preventive detention under Section 28 of the 1982 Internal Security Act. These are the only two categories of detainees to whom the authorities of the Republic of South Africa have so far granted the ICRC access. Since 1986 in particular, the ICRC has made a series of approaches, which it stepped up still further in 1987, especially to the Minister of Justice, with a view to extending access to persons detained for reasons of security, primarily those arrested and sentenced under the state of emergency. Unfortunately, the discussions undertaken in this connection, in particular during a meeting with the Minister of Justice on 10 September also attended by the Commissioner for Prisons, had not yet borne fruit in 1987 and had to be continued at the beginning of 1988.

Considering that in the light of developments new guarantees had become essential in order to clarify and extend its delegates' activities for detainees in the Republic of South Africa, the ICRC, given the stringent restrictions

imposed, decided in 1987 not to carry out its annual series of visits confined to sentenced security detainees only, visits which had been conducted every year since 1969.

□ In connection with the continuing armed clashes in northern Namibia between South African forces and combatants belonging to SWAPO (the South West Africa People's Organization), the ICRC continued its negotiations with the South African government, seeking an agreement that would enable it to discharge its mandate of protection (visits to all persons imprisoned and interned for reasons relating to the conflict, tracing of missing persons, exchanges of family messages) and of assistance to the victims of that conflict.

□ As in previous years, the Pretoria delegation also took care of security detainees in **Venda**, the **Ciskei**, **Bophuthatswana** and the **Transkei**. On 30 April, delegates had talks with the Prime Minister of the Transkei concerning the ICRC's offer of services, submitted as far back as in 1982, for visits to all persons detained for reasons of security. These efforts remained unsuccessful.

□ In May, the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested the ICRC to intervene in favour of seven seamen, most of them from Sao Tome and Principe, who had been interned for a year at Walvis Bay, and to help them find a country of asylum. The ICRC approached the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR) and carried out two information and registration visits to the seamen, on humanitarian grounds, in June and October.

□ The ICRC continued its assistance programme on behalf of former security detainees and security detainees' families in need. Relief in the form of vouchers for food and essential items were handed out to an average of 250 families a month. As in the past, the ICRC also paid travel expenses for people visiting close relatives in detention, as well as financing certain forms of medical treatment.

#### *For the black communities in the townships and in rural areas*

Despite the unavoidable cutback in its activities, in particular at the beginning of the year, the Pretoria delegation endeavoured to keep abreast of developments in the townships, the homelands and other regions affected by the disturbances. Delegates sought to foster contacts with regional authorities, the police and the black communities, in order to explain the role and work of the ICRC and act in behalf of victims of abusive treatment by the security forces. Each time the Pretoria delegation received corroborated and reliable reports of such abuses, it

forwarded them to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the police, which conducted enquiries.

#### *For refugees from Mozambique*

In March, when they were able to return to Kangwane and subsequently Gazankulu, delegates saw that relief distributions had continued satisfactorily in their absence, thanks to the two regional committees for refugees. The ICRC therefore decided that, whilst continuing to act as co-ordinator of the various assistance programmes under way, it would henceforth cease participating directly in the assistance operations and would concentrate on protecting these persons, who do not enjoy refugee status and are therefore usually turned back to Mozambique, often to face perilous conditions.

Regular contacts were thus maintained with both the local authorities and representatives of voluntary organizations. In addition, two evaluation missions were conducted in October and December in the border region near N'komati and Ressano Garcia.

In 1987, some 13 tonnes of relief (blankets, soap and basic necessities) were supplied to 35,000 Mozambican refugees. Medical and food assistance was provided by the other organizations and local health services.

#### *Tracing Agency*

The Pretoria delegation handled tracing requests and arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between members of families separated by the events. In addition, in close collaboration with the South African Red Cross Society, the delegation dealt with around a hundred requests from foreign countries (repatriation requests, various certificates, etc.).

#### *Co-operation with the National Society*

##### *Expansion of activities in the townships*

Since the end of 1985, the South African Red Cross, with support from the ICRC, has undertaken a programme of action to step up its presence and expand its activities in the townships most severely affected by the disturbances. To this end, "community organizers" were recruited from within the black communities and trained by the ICRC, before being stationed in the townships with a mandate to organize first-aid courses, identify needs in areas within the scope of the Red Cross, take the necessary steps to meet those needs, disseminate knowledge of the principles of the Movement and promote the extension of humanitarian activities and the establishment of local Red

Cross sections. Two further training courses were organized in March and November. By the end of 1987, some 69 "community organizers" had taken up their duties in eight regions and in the Transkei; 23 of them were based in South Transvaal.

#### *Other support and relief programmes*

The ICRC delegation continued to support various sections of the South African Red Cross with the Society's disaster preparedness programmes and its specific relief activities in favour of victims of the internal situation. Several training courses were organized for staff in charge of the National Society's relief operations as well as a seminar on preparation for natural disasters, at which representatives of different Red Cross branches were given the opportunity to exchange views on their respective experiences.

Finally, as well as setting up a radiocommunications network and supplying vehicles, tents and first-aid equipment, the ICRC encouraged the South African Red Cross to build up emergency stocks. These reserves enabled the National Society to take immediate action to help the victims of the floods which hit Natal province at the end of September. Here too, the community organizers played an extremely active role.

#### **Dissemination**

To supplement the dissemination work carried out by community organizers, the National Society, with ICRC support, developed programmes designed to publicize its role and work. Dissemination aids were developed with the South African Red Cross; among other things, 100,000 copies of the brochure entitled "The Red Cross and my country", adapted to the South African context, were printed.

As for the joint ICRC/National Society programme for the dissemination of international humanitarian law within the armed forces, the agreement of the authorities was secured thanks to high-level contacts established by the delegation. It will thus be possible to launch these projects as of 1988.

From 27 to 29 October, a seminar to explain the principles of the Red Cross and of international humanitarian law was organized for the armed forces and the prison service in Bophuthatswana.

#### **NAMIBIA/SOUTH WEST AFRICA**

The military operations which continued to oppose South African forces and the South West Africa People's

Organization (SWAPO) made it necessary for the ICRC to continue its protection and assistance work for security prisoners held in Namibia and civilians affected by the conflict. Moreover, intensification of the conflict in Angola increased the number of Angolan civilians seeking refuge in the north of the country. Accordingly, the ICRC endeavoured to step up its presence in the border regions and expand its protection and assistance work on behalf of Namibian and Angolan civilians.

#### **Representations and activities**

##### *For detainees*

As in previous years, ICRC delegates were able to conduct regular visits to certain categories of security detainees, although they were not granted systematic access to all persons arrested in connection with the conflict (in particular SWAPO combatants captured bearing arms).

Three series of visits were made to Windhoek prison in 1987 in accordance with ICRC criteria: in January, 13 security prisoners sentenced under Decree No. 26 issued by the Administrator General (AG 26) and 11 persons awaiting trial were visited, followed by 25 in May and 23 in October.

Again without success, the ICRC made repeated representations, from both Windhoek and Pretoria, to obtain regular access to all security prisoners, including detainees under interrogation. The Windhoek authorities did however agree to discuss the question of persons arrested under Decree No. 9 issued by the Administrator General (AG 9). The Attorney General also gave his verbal agreement concerning access to persons being held as State witnesses. Negotiations were still under way at the end of the year.

As in previous years, the ICRC provided assistance (educational and leisure items) to detainees at Windhoek and Gobabis prisons.

In addition, it continued its aid programme for former detainees or needy families of detainees along the lines of similar operations undertaken in South Africa. Around 75 families received such assistance each month. Travel expenses for families visiting their relatives in detention were also defrayed in some cases.

##### *For the civilian population*

Thanks to the increased presence of ICRC delegates in the north of the country (Ovambo, Kavango, Caprivi), contacts were multiplied, not only with the population and with staff responsible for hospitals and missions but also with representatives of the army, the police and the administration.

To enhance medical assistance, in April an ICRC physiotherapist began working at Oshakati hospital (Ovambo) to organize a physiotherapy service and train local staff.

Support was also given to three clinics (Engela, Eenhana and Nkurenkuru), where the ICRC helped to fund the construction of buildings intended for the treatment of tuberculosis patients. Mission clinics and local hospitals treating undernourished children also received regular distributions of supplementary food assistance. Finally, first-aid courses were dispensed in various medical establishments.

As far as relief action is concerned, foodstuffs were distributed on a monthly basis, in co-operation with the Namibian Department of Health, to civilians affected by the conflict (e.g. persons injured by mines). Tents and blankets were also made available to homeless Angolan refugees.

### **Tracing Agency**

The Windhoek delegation Tracing Agency continued to perform its duties in favour of detainees visited by the ICRC. The Windhoek office's workload increased with the arrival of Angolan refugees in northern Namibia, and regular journeys had to be made, in particular to Kavango, in order to trace missing persons, train local staff in tracing techniques, etc.

### **Dissemination**

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

Under its co-operation programme with the local branch of the Red Cross, the ICRC participated in the establishment of a Red Cross centre which was opened on 15 May in the township of Katutura, near Windhoek. A first community organizer trained by the ICRC was stationed there to set in motion various Red Cross activities (dissemination, distribution of meals from a mobile kitchen), thereby giving the population a better insight into the National Society. In co-ordination with the National Society, ICRC delegates gave many lectures, frequently illustrated by films, in police stations, schools, missions and hospitals, as well as at two military bases in northern Namibia.

## **ANGOLA**

On 14 October, the ICRC delegation in Angola was badly shaken by a tragic air accident. The aircraft involv-

ed, a Hercules chartered by the ICRC in Switzerland and duly bearing the Red Cross emblem, crashed about 40 km from Kuito, shortly after take-off from the airstrip there. There were, alas, no survivors, neither among the four crew members nor among the passengers (the secretary of the ICRC sub-delegation in Kuito, of Swiss nationality, and an Angolan citizen). The crash also killed two Angolan civilians on the ground. An international commission of civil aviation experts, of which the ICRC is not a member, opened an enquiry, under Angolan responsibility; it had not reached any conclusions by the end of 1987 and was due to continue its investigations in 1988.

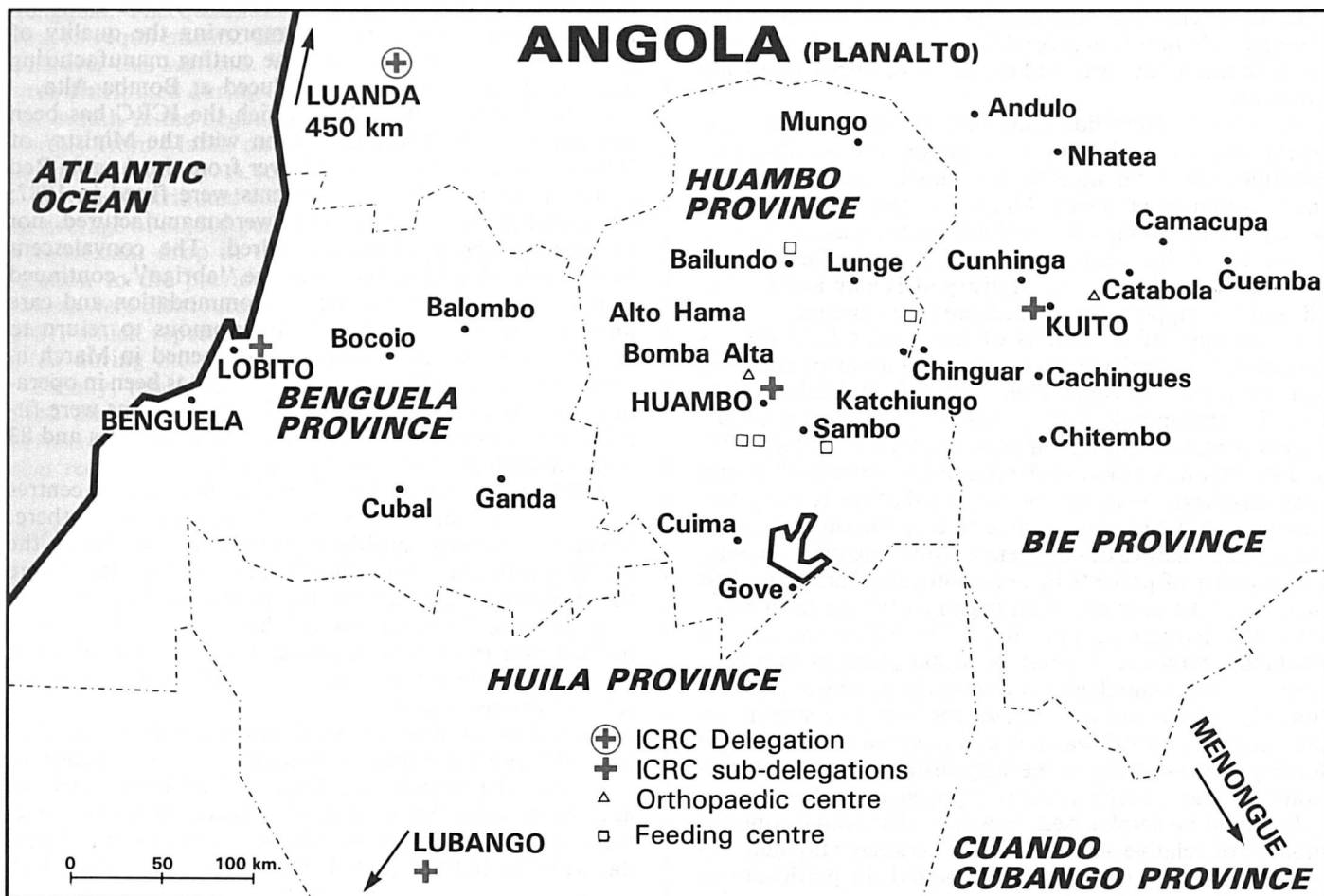
Before the accident, as a result of which the delegation's airborne operations had to be temporarily suspended, the ICRC had continued its programmes of assistance for the civilian population affected by the conflict in the central highland (Planalto) provinces of Huambo, Bié and Benguela, where government forces are operating against UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) armed forces. At the end of the year, for lack of adequate safety guarantees, the delegation had not yet been able to resume its activities in all the provinces receiving assistance.

### **Representations and activities for prisoners**

As in previous years, the ICRC endeavoured to carry out the protection tasks assigned to it under the Conventions in connection with the clashes in southern Angola, on the border with Namibia, between South African forces and combatants of the FAPLA (Angolan army), SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) and Cuban armed forces. Despite renewed representations in 1987, the ICRC was not granted access to any of the persons, of Angolan or foreign nationality, detained in connection with the internal conflict by virtue of the State security law.

In connection with the international conflict, despite numerous requests formulated by the Luanda delegation, in 1987 the ICRC was no longer able to visit a South African captain whom delegates had met twice in 1986. Nevertheless, five Red Cross messages were conveyed to him in April through the Angola Red Cross. This prisoner, who had been detained since May 1985, was released on 7 September as part of an operation involving the simultaneous release of 133 Angolans and two French and Dutch nationals, in which the ICRC was not called upon to participate.

Finally, at the request of South Africa, in November the ICRC transmitted, through its Luanda delegation, a note verbale seeking confirmation of the capture by the Angolan army of a soldier of the "Territorial forces of



South West Africa" and offering to visit him in accordance with the provisions laid down in the third Geneva Convention. Steps were also taken at the end of 1987 to obtain official notification of the death of a South African pilot who had been missing since 15 November.

### Tracing Agency

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Angola strengthened its co-operation with the provincial branches of the Angola Red Cross. The ICRC stepped up its efforts to co-ordinate and train National Society staff in tracing techniques in order to improve the distribution network handling the large volume of Red Cross messages and to process tracing requests relating to persons missing as a result of the internal and international conflicts. For instance, a further training seminar was organized in Luanda in July to im-

prove the technical skills of 17 Angola Red Cross workers responsible for tracing activities in 13 provinces. The ICRC delegate subsequently went into the field in order to provide follow-up to the courses.

Out of a total of 931 requests received, contact was restored between 634 Angolan refugees and their families still in Angola. When persons were successfully traced, family reunifications were sometimes organized: 114 persons were reunited through the Tracing Agency offices in Luanda, Harare and Windhoek, some of them repatriated from Namibia and Zaire.

### Medical assistance

#### *For displaced persons on the Planalto*

Up until October, ICRC medical teams made every effort to conduct regular visits to towns in the provinces of

Bié, Benguela and Huambo in order to monitor the population's nutritional condition and reassess assistance programmes under way and the needs of dispensaries and hospitals.

In order to consolidate existing medical facilities, the teams also did their utmost to pursue the training programmes for local medical personnel, focusing on the most common ailments. Medicines and basic material were given out to medical establishments on a case-by-case basis. The ICRC also participated in public health programmes organized by the Ministry of Health and provided logistic support for a vaccination campaign.

In the light of the results of the regular field surveys carried out in particular to monitor the needs of children, who are especially vulnerable, the ICRC decided to maintain five therapeutic feeding centres in operation on the Planalto between the end of 1986 and the end of May 1987 and to offer its support to the paediatric services of several local hospitals. As usual, the workload of the feeding centres was subject to considerable fluctuation on account of the seasonal nature of emergency requirements in Angola. The number of patients increased steadily during the first quarter of the year and then began to fall again in May, after the harvest season, following which the centres gradually emptied. A total of 1,500 children benefited from a protein-enriched diet during the operation. Unfortunately, at the end of 1987, as the next low season approached, the ICRC was not in a position to re-open the feeding centres owing to the suspension of its field operations for the security reasons referred to earlier.

It should be emphasized, however, that even during the months of relative self-sufficiency between May and October pockets of malnutrition persisted, in particular on the outskirts of Huambo.

In the period from January to the end of October, nearly a thousand wounded or sick persons were airlifted to the hospitals in Huambo, Kuito or Benguela. ICRC nurses also gave regular consultations in villages, in close collaboration with Angolan staff.

Around 15 sanitation projects were carried out by ICRC specialists (casing and sinking wells, upgrading water supplies and sewage systems, installing latrines) in 11 towns on the Planalto. A training course on the subject was organized for staff from the National Society, which was closely associated with all the ICRC's medical and nutritional activities on the Planalto.

#### *For war wounded and amputees*

As well as evacuating the war wounded and the sick to provincial civilian and military hospitals, the ICRC endeavoured to increase the capacity, in terms of output and treatment of patients, of the prosthesis centres in

Bomba Alta (on the outskirts of Huambo) and Kuito (in Bié province). New processes improving the quality of prostheses whilst at the same time cutting manufacturing costs were developed and introduced at Bomba Alta.

At the Bomba Alta centre, which the ICRC has been running since 1979 in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, the latter having taken over from the Angola Red Cross in August 1983, 908 patients were fitted in 1987; 900 crutches and 931 prostheses were manufactured, not to mention the appliances repaired. The convalescent home in Bomba Alta, known as the "abrigo", continued to admit patients, giving them accommodation and care until they become sufficiently autonomous to return to their villages. A new "abrigo" was opened in March in Kuito, where the orthopaedic workshop has been in operation since June 1986. Some 127 disabled persons were fitted at this new centre in 1987, and 142 prostheses and 83 pairs of crutches were manufactured.

ICRC technicians divided their time between the centres in Kuito and Bomba Alta, supervising operations there. However, security problems frequently prevented the ICRC prosthetists from travelling to Bomba Alta, where the Angolan employees ran the centre on their own for long periods. Management of the centre in Kuito was handed over to an Angolan specialist at the end of 1987, the ICRC's role being henceforth confined to the provision of technical advice.

A total of 21 Angolan staff received training in 1987 (manufacture and repair of appliances, fitting of patients).

Finally, the Angola and Swedish Red Cross Societies and the Angolan Ministry of Health concluded an agreement in 1987 for the construction of a new centre in Luanda, with the ICRC's participation as a technical adviser.

#### *South-east Angola*

The infrastructure of Luangundu hospital was upgraded and its capacity increased during the first six months of the year. However, for security reasons the ICRC had to leave the hospital at the end of June. In October, UNITA began building a new bush hospital in Chilembô Chuti to which part of the ICRC medical team was assigned in November to deal with final installation work. At the end of December, the full team was in place (five persons) and was able to begin work (surgery, general treatment, training of local staff).

#### **Food**

##### **and material assistance to the civilian population**

##### *Distributions of foodstuffs and basic necessities*

Regular general distributions of foodstuffs were organized in towns in the provinces of Huambo, Bié and

Benguela. The quantities of food involved varied according to requirements: full monthly rations or half rations wherever this sufficed. Very large amounts of foodstuffs were distributed during the first quarter (over 1,000 tonnes per month at the beginning of 1987), but this volume fell sharply from March onwards down to about 150 tonnes per month in May. A total of over 4,000 tonnes of relief were thus distributed on the Planalto in 1987, benefiting an average of 80,500 persons a month. These figures show a significant drop in the volume of emergency relief in relation to the previous year: in Huambo province 964 tonnes were distributed to 125,400 beneficiaries in January 1987, which represents only 45% of the total relief supplied during the same period in 1986.

Finally, relief teams organized ad hoc distributions of food and essential items for civilian victims of attacks perpetrated by armed groups. Recently displaced persons also received blankets, clothing and basic necessities.

### *Agricultural programme*

In 1985, the ICRC launched a seed and farming tool distribution programme. The excellent results obtained, together with other factors such as the systematic detection of food deficiencies, helped to reduce the volume of relief distributions as from the following year. In February, an ICRC agronomist evaluated the impact of the seed programme carried out during the previous season. In the light of the encouraging results of this experiment and the conclusions of further studies, it was decided to supplement the distributions of maize, bean and sorghum seed with soya, which is particularly rich in proteins and well suited to the climate on the Planalto. To take account of the different planting times of the various crops, implementation of the agricultural programmes was staggered between mid-September and the end of October. On 24 September, a Hercules aircraft began a shuttle service to transport seed from the Atlantic coast to the Planalto, where the first distribution took place five days later, in Huambo province. Regrettably, the distributions had to be curtailed in mid-October on account of the worsening security conditions. The maize and beans were planted in time, but the sorghum and soya seeds had to be stored for the following season.

A total of 364 tonnes of seed were distributed in 1987.

### **Logistics**

In view of the poor security conditions and the vast distances that had to be covered, a fleet of aircraft had to be maintained to transport relief and staff to most of the provinces assisted.

In 1987, 12 ships carrying ICRC relief supplies arrived at the ports of Luanda, Namibe and Lobito, where the ICRC took delivery of some 7,000 tonnes of foodstuffs and seed as well as fuel and other items. These goods were gradually transported inland on board a freight plane (Hercules), where they were again unloaded and stored until such time as they could be loaded onto smaller aircraft (two or three Twin Otters and a Cessna Caravan, depending on the period) for transport to the various towns. Stocks were then built up in these towns until delegates were able to distribute them. The fleet of aircraft was also used to transport over 16,000 passengers (ICRC staff, but also the sick and wounded requiring evacuation).

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

In order to make the military and civilian authorities and the population aware of the work of the Red Cross and of the respect due to its emblem, an ICRC dissemination delegate organized, in conjunction with the Angola Red Cross, information meetings with films, photographs and brochures at Luanda and Huambo and in a large number of towns on the Planalto. An exhibition of photographs from the "National Geographic" magazine organized in Luanda and later Huambo attracted large numbers of people.

As well as collaborating closely with the Angola Red Cross for dissemination activities, the ICRC continued to help with the training of members of the National Society, in particular for tracing work and medical and relief activities (e.g., training in the "Quac-stick" method of assessing rates of malnutrition or in environmental sanitation techniques).

### **Relations with UNITA**

The security problems encountered by delegates travelling in the field were regularly discussed with UNITA representatives in Europe and on the spot, in Jamba, in order to obtain the guarantees indispensable for resumption of activities in the conflict regions.

The ICRC also continued to take steps to secure authorization to discharge its protection and assistance mandate in favour of all persons, Angolan or foreign, captured by the movement. In particular, delegates informed UNITA that the ICRC was willing to visit ANC (African National Congress) prisoners held by UNITA and to act as a neutral intermediary with a view to their possible release.

In June, the ICRC was in a position to give the relevant authorities a list of 14 persons, including nine soldiers of the government army, detained by UNITA and registered by delegates during a previous visit. It also received three requests from UNITA in connection with the release of captives. Three persons (two Portuguese and one British citizen) were flown by the ICRC to South Africa, in January, February and April respectively. In Pretoria, delegates handed them over to the consular authorities of their respective countries.

The ICRC also concerned itself with the plight of three Swedish nationals captured by UNITA on 7 September. One of them died shortly after being captured, but the two survivors were finally released on 3 December, without any need for ICRC intervention.

An account of the ICRC's medical activities in south-east Angola is given above.

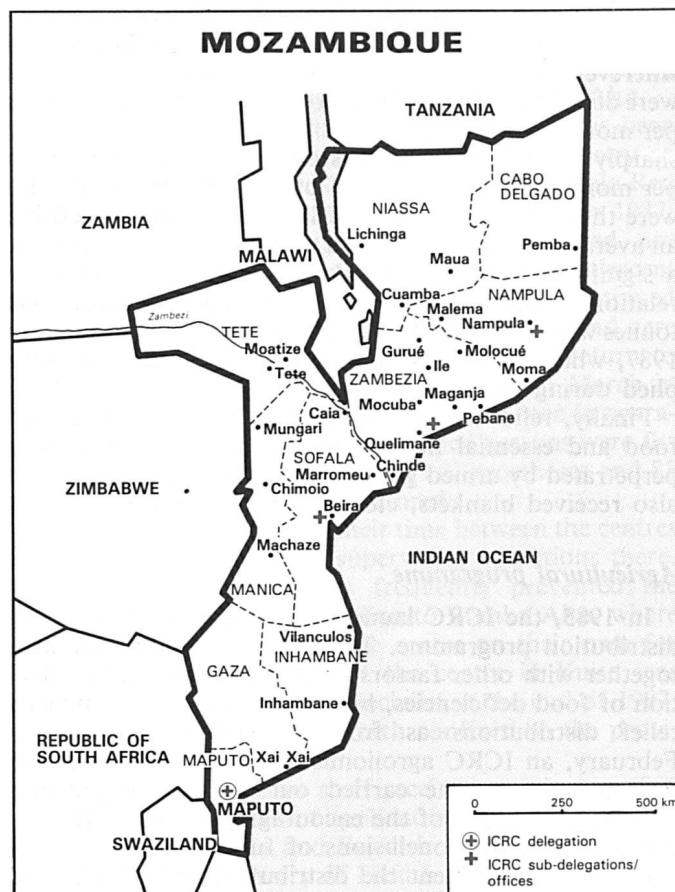
## MOZAMBIQUE

Confronted with the worsening conflict situation, exacerbated in certain regions by drought, the ICRC stepped up its efforts to obtain the authorizations and security guarantees necessary for resumption of its activities in behalf of the civilian population. This action had to be suspended on 31 July 1985 following a serious security incident in Luabo (Zambezia province), in the course of which an ICRC nurse and the pilot of an ICRC plane were badly wounded.

In addition to contacts established by the ICRC delegation in Maputo with representatives of the Mozambican government, the visit to ICRC headquarters on 1 April by the Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. da Graça Machungo, provided an opportunity for the President of the ICRC to present the Committee's plans to resume its assistance activities in the provincial and district capitals. Emphasis was laid on the need to secure the agreement of all the parties concerned, as well as sufficient security guarantees to enable the ICRC's scope of action to be gradually extended to cover all the regions affected by the conflict.

In close collaboration with the Mozambique Red Cross, the ICRC managed to implement its programme of action as planned in May. At the end of 1987, at which time the ICRC was active in seven of the country's ten provinces, security guarantees were not renewed and it was obliged provisionally to reduce the scope of its activities, which were henceforth confined to flights to the provincial capitals and work in certain extremely limited sectors accessible by road.

At the end of the year, the ICRC was still making representations with a view not only to resuming its work



as quickly as possible but also to extending it to populations in areas in which it had never so far been able to operate. To this end, ICRC representatives took care to remind the parties concerned of the guiding principles behind its humanitarian action and its determination to assist all civilian victims of the conflict situation, wherever they may be.

## Appeal in favour of the civilian population

Following the tragic massacres of civilians perpetrated in Homoine and Manjacaze on 18 July and 10 August, the ICRC appealed to all combatants involved in the Mozambican conflict to put a stop to such atrocities.

## Resumption of assistance operations for civilians

In April and May, ICRC teams, including a doctor, carried out evaluation missions to the provinces of Zambezia

and Sofala and to a number of regions in Nampula, Niassa and Tete provinces. For security reasons, the delegates were unable to penetrate further up-country. On the basis of the data collected, a programme of action was formulated to assist the civilian populations affected by the conflict situation in the five provinces concerned and a special appeal was launched to donors on 12 June.

The programme implemented was made up of the following components :

### *Medical activities*

The ICRC teams made regular visits to hospitals and dispensaries in the above-mentioned provinces, providing material support and advising local staff, as well as recruiting and training health workers. They also distributed basic medicines, medical kits, blankets and soap according to requirements, as well as evacuating to the nearest hospitals, generally by air, war casualties and the seriously ill. In connection with the children's vaccination programme undertaken by the Ministry of Health, the ICRC arranged transport for personnel and vaccination equipment.

Finally, in addition to systematic monitoring of the malnutrition rate among children under six ("Quac-stick" method), a sanitation programme was set up in Zambezia province under the supervision of an ICRC specialist. Launched in August, the programme was also intended to teach the population how to build wells, latrines, etc.

### *Material relief*

Since the beginning of the operation, in June, foodstuffs and basic necessities (clothing, blankets, soap) were given to families recently displaced from their villages to the district capitals. At the end of 1987, regular visits were being conducted to over 50 towns, in 41 districts of seven provinces (Zambezia, Niassa, Nampula, Tete, Sofala, Manica and Inhambane). Monthly individual rations (maize, beans, oil) were regularly distributed. Patients displaying nutritional deficiencies and being treated in medical establishments, as well as undernourished children, were also put on an enriched diet.

Finally, in November, an ICRC agronomist investigated the need for an agricultural rehabilitation programme for 1988-1989. At the end of 1987, the ICRC began transporting the seed at the disposal of the DPCCN (Mozambican Government Department for the Prevention and Control of Natural Disasters) to Sofala province, in line with the priorities set by its agronomist.

## **Logistics**

### *Transport*

In a country as vast as Mozambique, where communication routes are more often than not impassable for reasons of security, where relief and equipment have to be imported and where the ports are sometimes congested, the ICRC has been confronted with complex logistic problems. Generally speaking, everything has to be transported by air. During the first six months of the year, the delegation only had one aircraft (an Islander), and subsequently two (a Cessna Caravan and a Twin Otter). These aircraft, which were operational until the end of the year, made regular flights from the ICRC's logistic bases to the various districts in which it was active. In October, a third plane, a DC3, was made available to the delegation and a fourth (also a DC3) arrived at the end of 1987. The first DC3 was assigned to the operation being conducted in Sofala province and the second to the project in Manica. Finally, a Boeing 737 made round trips in order to transport goods from stores at the port of Beira (Sofala) to Nampula (Nampula) and Lichinga (Niassa).

Roads were also used, although to a lesser extent, for instance to transport relief over short distances (trucks made available by the Mozambique Red Cross). The railway was used to transport relief from Harare (Zimbabwe) to Beira, and a boat placed at the disposal of the ICRC by WFP made regular trips between Beira and Quelimane and along the coast.

### *Structures*

Up until August, the ICRC sub-delegation based in Quelimane (Zambezia) acted as an operational centre. It was subsequently decided to move the centre to Beira (Sofala) on account, on the one hand, of the extensive logistic facilities available there (it is the country's largest port, the terminus of the railway lines linking Mozambique with Malawi and Zimbabwe, fuel supplies are more abundant, etc.) and on the other of the geographical shift of activities towards the southern provinces (Inhambane and Manica). At the end of 1987, in addition to the delegation in Maputo and the operational centre in Beira, delegates were also permanently based in the sub-delegations at Quelimane and Nampula.

### **Assistance to war disabled**

The project to assist the Mozambican war disabled undertaken in 1981 by the ICRC in collaboration with the Ministry of Health continued to expand. The ICRC team,

comprising three specialists, co-ordinated the activities of the Mozambican technicians working in the so-called "emergency" prosthesis manufacturing centres in Maputo, Beira and Quelimane. The prosthesis maintenance and repair workshops in Beira, Quelimane and Nampula also continued to function with technical support and material backing from the ICRC. A further prosthesis manufacturing centre was under construction in Nampula at the end of 1987.

A total of 387 prostheses, 1,770 pairs of crutches and 15 wheelchairs were manufactured at the Maputo workshop, which again increased its output capacity in 1987. In the new centres at Quelimane and Beira, 88 and 49 prostheses were manufactured respectively. In all, over 300 patients were fitted in Mozambique in 1987.

### Representations and activities for detainees

The ICRC continued making representations with a view to visiting persons arrested in connection with the conflict situation. Its offer of services, submitted to the Mozambican government in 1984 and 1985, was renewed, in particular to the Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. da Graça Machungo, during his visit to ICRC headquarters on 1 April. Numerous contacts were also established by the ICRC delegation in Maputo in order to explain the terms and aims of such activities to representatives of the ministries concerned (Ministries of Justice, Security, Defence and the Interior) and to officials in charge of the services concerned (Penitentiary Service, Security Operations). At the end of the year, although an agreement of principle had been obtained from the Mozambican authorities and repeated on 31 December by the Ministry of Security, the ICRC had not yet been able to begin its visits to Mozambican prisons.

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An operation involving the release and repatriation of six persons detained by RENAMO ("Mozambique National Resistance Movement") took place at the beginning of April, under ICRC auspices, on the border between Malawi and Mozambique. On 16 December, a Portuguese nun detained by RENAMO was also released and handed over to an ICRC delegate, who accompanied her to Harare (Zimbabwe) where a representative of her country's authorities took charge of her.

### Tracing Agency

The ICRC Tracing Office in Maputo concentrated primarily on distributing family messages from and to

Mozambican refugees in neighbouring countries. In view of the growing number of civilian refugees, the ICRC stepped up its efforts to develop a distribution network, in collaboration with the Mozambican National Society. To this end, the ICRC Tracing Agency delegate in Mozambique also conducted a mission to Malawi. However, establishment of the network was hampered by various difficulties (problems affecting field travel, inadequate logistic resources available to branches of the Mozambique Red Cross).

### Dissemination

The ICRC delegation continued to provide active assistance for the preparation and implementation of programmes to disseminate the principles of the Movement and the elementary rules of international humanitarian law, in particular for members of the National Society. Thanks to a nationwide dissemination programme set up and conducted jointly with the Mozambique Red Cross, a very diverse audience, both in the capital and in the provinces, was given an insight into the respective activities of the ICRC and the National Society. It should be noted that the two exhibitions organized in Maputo and Beira (presentation of photos from the "National Geographic" magazine and showing of the film "Light the Darkness") were highly successful and attracted several thousand visitors.

Finally, the Ministry of Defence gave its agreement for a dissemination programme to be conducted at the beginning of 1988, in co-operation with the ICRC and the National Society, aimed at political commissioners (Ministry of Defence) and the country's military academies and training centres.

### ZIMBABWE

The regional delegation in Harare which, in addition to Zimbabwe itself, also covers Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zambia, continued to provide operational support for the ICRC's emergency operations in Angola and Mozambique.

In **Zimbabwe**, at the end of 1987 the ICRC received confirmation of a favourable reply in principle from the Ministry of the Interior authorizing it to visit detainees arrested under the Emergency Powers (maintenance of law and order) Regulations but not yet sentenced.

This agreement came in response to negotiations undertaken following the offers of services submitted by the ICRC in 1983 and 1985. The visits in question are schedul-

ed to be carried out at the beginning of 1988.

The Harare delegation also distributed relief to persons displaced within the country and to Mozambican and South African refugees who were not receiving assistance from any other organization. In addition, it provided material assistance to former detainees in need and their families, as well as medical assistance to Mozambican refugees in Malawi.

Finally, as in the past, the regional delegation helped to implement the dissemination programme on international humanitarian law and the principles and work of the Red Cross, in particular for the armed forces and National Societies of the countries of the region.

### Activities of the orthopaedic workshop in Bulawayo

The orthopaedic workshop in Bulawayo, set up in conjunction with the Ministry of Health under a co-operation agreement concluded at the end of 1984, equipped 253 patients with prostheses in 1987, as well as manufacturing 1,788 pairs of crutches. On 6 March, a residential centre built on the premises of the main hospital, near the orthopaedic workshop, was inaugurated in the presence of the Minister of Health. This accommodation will be used to house disabled persons from distant regions during their period of treatment.

A two-year training course was launched in 1987 as part of the plan gradually to hand over management of the orthopaedic workshop to the Ministry of Health. The course is designed to train locally recruited staff to become orthopaedic technicians. The candidates selected receive theoretical instruction from doctors and specialists and practical training at the ICRC workshop.

Four ICRC orthopaedic technicians, assisted by locally recruited technicians, continued to run the orthopaedic workshop in Bulawayo in 1987.

### Co-operation with the National Society

Under the co-operation agreement signed in June 1986 between the ICRC and the Zimbabwe Red Cross, the Harare delegation contributed to the development of the National Society, in particular as regards information and the dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Movement, tracing activities and the establishment of first-aid teams. Numerous lectures were given in various regions of the country to a wide range of audiences, including officials from district and provincial administrations. A series of talks for primary and secondary school teachers also resulted in some 5,000 persons being informed about the Movement's activities.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

□ In **Botswana**, the ICRC specialists based at the orthopaedic workshop in Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) continued to assist the Ministry of Health in developing its projects for the rehabilitation of war amputees. Future orthopaedic technicians began to receive training.

Two ICRC delegates to the armed forces travelled to Gaborone to dispense a first training course for senior army officers from 23 to 26 November. A one-day seminar was also organized during the course to inform officers of the police corps about the ICRC and the principal rules of international humanitarian law.

□ The two delegates gave a similar course in **Lesotho** from 30 November to 3 December for senior army and police officers.

□ The regional delegation in Harare continued to concern itself with the plight of Mozambican refugees in **Malawi**, supporting the National Society by providing assortments of medicines for dispensaries and helping to strengthen its tracing work and telecommunications facilities (installation of nine HF stations).

□ From 27 to 30 April, the regional delegate based in Harare and a delegate to the armed forces gave a course on the law of armed conflicts to senior army officers in **Swaziland**.

□ From 6 to 8 May, a similar course was organized in **Zambia**, for around 20 officers.

The regional delegate based in Harare also made representations to the Zambian authorities on behalf of South African nationals detained in Zambia. His proposals for visits were not accepted by the Ministry of the Interior.

## *East Africa*

### ETHIOPIA

The ICRC's objective at the beginning of 1987 was to continue providing the most destitute populations in northern Ethiopia with regular food assistance. It also intended to organize a further seed distribution programme in the hope of consolidating the results of the efforts deployed since December 1984. Barring any major change in the situation, the ICRC thus hoped to be able to

withdraw gradually during the last months of 1987, keeping an emergency stock in order to intervene on a case-by-case basis to cope with situations which would henceforth depend more on developments in the internal conflicts than on the drought in the conflict areas.

The ICRC's activities in the northern part of the country, which had been suspended since 10 December 1986, resumed only gradually as from May 1987. In accordance with the government guidelines laid down at the end of 1986, all ICRC work which was not related to the international conflict with Somalia was henceforth to be conducted by an Ethiopian organization, namely the National Red Cross Society. Since that decision called into question ICRC activities in behalf of the victims whom it is its duty to assist and protect, on 28 January the ICRC sent a note verbale informing the Ethiopian authorities that it was willing to place its collaboration with the Ethiopian Red Cross on a formal footing in an agreement consistent with the respective statutory mandates of the two institutions and the headquarters agreement signed at the end of 1981 between the Ethiopian government and the ICRC. In order to find a solution satisfying all the parties concerned, high-level meetings and talks were held on numerous occasions, both in Geneva and in Addis Ababa. In addition to missions carried out by the Director of Operations and the delegate-general for Africa and his deputy, a member of the Committee, Mr. Rudolf Jäckli, travelled to Addis Ababa at the end of July to participate in the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Conference and meet officials from the Ethiopian Red Cross and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC — a government body responsible for co-ordinating assistance work). All these negotiations finally resulted in an agreement with the National Society, concluded in November at a meeting between the Presidents of the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross held during the Movement's meetings at Rio de Janeiro. The terms of the agreement, signed on 24 November in Rio, helped strengthen cooperation arrangements between the ICRC and the Ethiopian National Society for the joint relief operation.

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In the field, as of July the lack of rain and consequent threat to the October harvests were becoming a matter of increasing concern. As it became more and more certain that under the combined effects of war and drought the populations in the provinces of Eritrea and Tigray and those in the northern parts of Wollo and Gondar would once again be dependent on international aid until the autumn of 1988, the ICRC endeavoured to prepare a plan of action. As far as possible, victims would be assisted



in their home region in order to avoid another mass exodus of rural dwellers to the distribution centres or towards the Sudanese border of the kind witnessed in 1984-1985.

### Appeal to the international community

On 12 November, the President of the ICRC launched a pressing appeal to mobilize the international community once again in favour of the population of Ethiopia. In his message, President Sommaruga explained the "open roads for survival" strategy put forward by the Committee to enable road convoys to bring regular and largescale relief to the regions under greatest threat from famine.

In its appeal, the ICRC called upon all the parties in conflict to undertake *de facto* not to hinder transport of the supplies which the affected populations needed in order to survive, irrespective of the means of transport used. The appeal concerned road convoys in particular.

On 9 November, before launching the appeal, the President of the ICRC had received at headquarters a delegation from the Ethiopian government, led by the Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Tesfaye Dinka, with whom he had discussed the ICRC's plans. The other parties concerned, who were informed through the head of delegation in Khartoum, agreed to the principle of the project. The representatives of donor countries and the National Societies, as well as government and non-governmental relief organizations, were also informed. ICRC representatives carried out numerous missions to various European and North American capitals to explain the new strategy to donor governments and humanitarian organizations.

On 3 December, an initial appeal for funds was issued to donors to raise 111 million Swiss francs.

From 9 to 12 December, the Director of Operations and the deputy delegate-general for Africa visited Addis Ababa where they were received by, inter alia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Berhanu Bayeh, officials from the National Society and the RRC Commissioner. With a view to securing their agreement, the government representatives were given a detailed account of the plan of action that the ICRC had prepared in connection with its "open roads" strategy.

### **Representations and activities relating to the consequences of the conflict in the Ogaden**

#### *Visits to Somali prisoners of war*

Only one series of visits to Somali prisoners of war detained at Hararge regional prison and the military camp of the first revolutionary army in Harar, and to Sidamo regional prison in Awasa, could be conducted in 1987 in accordance with the ICRC's customary criteria. This series of visits, carried out from 28 October to 4 November after a one-year break, provided ICRC delegates with an opportunity to talk freely and without witnesses to 238 Somali prisoners of war. During the first ten months of the year, the ICRC was able to pursue its medical and material assistance programme in favour of the prisoners of war, and delegates went several times to the prisons in Harar and Awasa.

#### *Proposals for repatriation*

As in previous years, the ICRC approached the Ethiopian and Somali governments, requesting them to consider repatriating all prisoners of war, giving priority to the seriously injured and sick pursuant to Articles 109, 110 and 118 of the Third Geneva Convention. Of the 238 prisoners of war visited in Ethiopia in October, the ICRC

doctor considered that 31 Somalis should be repatriated for medical reasons. Since the Somali proposal (forwarded by the ICRC on 30 November 1986) for the release and simultaneous repatriation of the sick and wounded had still not elicited any reply from the Ethiopian government, the ICRC sent a letter to the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 30 November 1987 reminding the authorities of the urgent need for such a move. On 12 December, the ICRC Director of Operations raised the subject once again with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Berhanu Bayeh, in Addis Ababa. It should be borne in mind that many of these prisoners of war have already spent ten years in captivity.

### **Tracing Agency**

The 238 Somali prisoners of war detained in Ethiopia and their families in Somalia continued to benefit from the services of the Tracing Agency. In 1987, some 85 Red Cross messages were collected from the Somali prisoners of war detained in Ethiopia, and 366 messages from their families and from Ethiopian prisoners of war in Somalia were distributed. Despite the ICRC's efforts, messages still took rather a long time to deliver, chiefly on account of the problems involved in locating families in Somalia.

In addition, the Tracing Agency continued its efforts to follow up requests concerning Ethiopians reported missing in the course of the Ogaden conflict. Such tracing activities are becoming increasingly problematical, however, owing to the duration of the conflict, and only three cases could be resolved.

On 21 October a detainee from Chad who had been imprisoned in Addis Ababa since 1983 was repatriated to N'Djamena by the ICRC, via Khartoum.

Finally, capture cards for 15 new Ethiopian prisoners of war registered in Somalia by the ICRC delegation in Mogadishu were forwarded to the Addis Ababa delegation and handed over to the Ethiopian authorities.

### **Strengthening of the delegation's infrastructure**

As of September, noting the warning signs pointing to the onset of a new drought which could only worsen the food situation, the ICRC decided to review its logistic infrastructure with a view to a new and more extensive assistance operation than in the past. Since the quantity of food which could be transported by air was inadequate, the Committee purchased a large fleet of trucks. At the end of 1987, it possessed some 60 vehicles, together with around 50 hired from an Ethiopian company, and was awaiting the delivery of a number of others on order. A

convoy of ten trucks is capable of transporting 220 tonnes of seed, at low cost, whereas a Hercules aircraft can carry only 18 tonnes per trip. Nevertheless, the airborne fleet, an essential complement needed to transport personnel, carry emergency relief supplies and gain access to remote areas, was also strengthened. As in previous years, the Belgian Air Force placed one of its Hercules at the ICRC's disposal. At the end of November, this aircraft began making round trips between the coast, Asmara and Mekele in order to fill the warehouses. In addition, at the end of 1987 the ICRC was able to use four other planes (three Pilatus Porters and one Twin Otter).

The number of staff employed at the delegation also varied considerably in 1987, falling from 32 delegates at the beginning of the year to 14 at the end of June, before reaching a peak of 38 delegates, 18 air transport specialists (pilots, technicians) and 447 local employees in December.

## **Activities carried out in the north of the country**

### ***Medical and nutritional surveillance***

From June onwards, the ICRC teams were able to resume their regular surveys in the northern provinces. Their first reaction was one of satisfaction, since the situation appeared fairly good: the rate of severe malnutrition among children, measured using the "Quac-stick" method, was below 5%. Some areas, however, were already giving rise to concern (northern part of Gondar province and the Hamasien region in Eritrea). Subsequently, an early warning system was established for rapid detection of any deterioration in the situation: various parameters such as the results of "Quac-stick" measurements, rainfall, the condition of the seed sown, local market prices and security problems serve as a yardstick for determining whether action is required before the situation becomes too serious and feeding centres have to be opened. In October, all the specialists came to the same conclusion: the food deficit for all the provinces affected by drought was estimated at over a million tonnes for 1988. Clearly, the situation was going to become extremely serious. Under the plan of action formulated for 1988, the ICRC, in conjunction with the Ethiopian Red Cross, made preparations to assist over a million victims, by distributing more than 100,000 tonnes of food, primarily in areas also affected by the conflict.

### ***Hygiene and water programmes***

When the ICRC sanitation team was able to resume work in the field in June, it was gratified to note that despite its absence the water projects launched in 1986 in

the Asmara area had made significant progress and that the beneficiaries of the scheme were now not only helping to build wells but also to maintain them. The ICRC sanitation team also continued to train National Society staff responsible for implementing and managing the various water projects.

In **Asmara**, the capital of Eritrea, a severe shortage of drinking water prompted the ICRC to take emergency measures, in co-operation with the local branch of the Ethiopian Red Cross and the town authorities. ICRC trucks were transformed into tankers and inflatable reservoirs were installed in the most needy districts of the town. During the most critical period of the shortage, in September, the trucks supplied these districts with 1,500,000 litres of water every week.

### ***Programmes for the disabled***

The orthopaedic centres in Harar and Asmara continued to operate with ICRC technical backing. However, on account of the difficulties experienced during the first three months of the year, and subsequently the delegation's involvement in a large-scale assistance operation, the plan to set up a new orthopaedic centre in Gondar in collaboration with the German (FRG) Red Cross could not be completed by the end of 1987.

### ***Locust control campaign***

As of June, the ICRC was involved in measures to counter the threat that swarms of migratory locusts constituted in northern Ethiopia for crops, already hard hit by the shortage of rainfall. In 1986, the ICRC had already provided the authorities with planes to transport insecticides. In 1987, however, this scourge took on alarming proportions and, in order to ward off an impending disaster, the ICRC offered its support to the Ministry of Agriculture and the DLCO ("Desert Locust Control Organization", based in Addis Ababa, which was set up by seven countries of East Africa to co-ordinate efforts to control locust damage).

In August, the ICRC established a system to co-ordinate locust control operations. A communications network was set up between Khartoum and Addis Ababa, via Geneva, for rapid transmission of any information on the whereabouts of breeding areas and swarms to the pilots spraying the insecticides.

On 11 August, a Piper plane equipped for locust control operations began spraying in the Asmara area, before moving on to Mekele from where it made flights throughout the region. Two Pilatus light aircraft also became operational at the end of August as well as two

helicopters, which the Canadian government had made available to the ICRC to help locate swarms.

At the end of September, an assessment of progress made confirmed the programme's effectiveness, particularly in Tigray, where combined ground and air operations had yielded satisfactory results. In agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, the ICRC decided to halt work temporarily.

#### *Food distributions:*

##### *joint action with the Ethiopian Red Cross*

All food aid distributions had to be suspended in the northern provinces from December 1986 to May 1987. Apart from the provision of food aid to Somali prisoners of war, the only assistance given up until June was to orphanages and civilians displaced outside the conflict areas.

ICRC specialists were able to treat the approximately 25,000 tonnes of relief supplies stored in various warehouses in the north of the country between the end of March and the end of May, thereby keeping losses due to infestation and decay to a minimum.

Up until October, the ICRC and Ethiopian Red Cross organized ad hoc distributions as and when evaluation missions were conducted to Eritrea, Tigray and Gondar. Subsequently, the warehouses were replenished and the amount of relief distributed began to increase.

Following the appeal of 12 November, the first large-scale distribution took place from 23 November to 8 December in Wukro, north of Mekele (Tigray), where more than 70,000 people received monthly rations (16.5 kg of flour, beans, vegetable oil).

At the end of December, the ICRC and the National Society had provided over 300,000 civilians with monthly food rations, primarily in Tigray, and planned to reach more than 900,000 beneficiaries by the end of February 1988.

#### *Seed distributions*

For lack of the necessary authorizations, the ICRC was unable to carry out the programme scheduled for the beginning of 1987. In June, around 100 tonnes of seed (barley, sorghum, millet) were distributed in Eritrea where most of the crops had been destroyed by the drought. A new programme of action was drawn up for the beginning of 1988.

#### **Dissemination**

Despite the suspension of activities at the beginning of 1987, the programme for dissemination of the basic prin-

ciples of the Red Cross and of international humanitarian law continued, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Red Cross, except in Eritrea and Tigray, where movements were subject to stringent restrictions and the programmes were consequently not resumed until July. Throughout the year, dissemination teams from the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross organized events for National Society workers and several target audiences, including government and party officials, members of the armed forces and the police, medical staff, teachers and students, as well as the public at large, i.e., a total audience of some 280,000 persons.

#### **SOMALIA**

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

#### **Representations and activities for prisoners of war**

Despite repeated requests, the ICRC delegates still failed to receive authorization to visit, in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Geneva Conventions, the prisoners of war held in Somalia. In particular, since 1984 they have not been given permission to interview each detainee freely and without witnesses as prescribed in Article 126 of the Third Convention. However, as in previous years, delegates were authorized to make regular visits to three places of detention (the camp in Gezira, the main prison in Mogadishu and Laanta Bur prison in Afgoi), where they met a total of 226 Ethiopian prisoners of war and one Cuban. Assistance visits were carried out twice a month (distribution of fresh fruit and vegetables and occasionally leisure and toilet articles). Regular medical visits were also conducted with the help of a local doctor and, on two occasions (April and November), an ICRC medical delegate sent specially from Geneva. The delegation also continued to provide the prison administrations with basic foodstuffs (maize, powdered milk, etc.), as well as supplying medicines and medical material to prison dispensaries as needed.

Following border clashes between Ethiopia and Somalia at the beginning of 1987 in the Ogaden, the ICRC intensified its efforts to obtain access to new prisoners captured by the Somali army. After a first visit on 15 March, delegates were able to register a group of 15 new prisoners of war at the main prison in Mogadishu. Their capture

cards were transmitted to the authorities in Addis Ababa, via the ICRC delegation in Ethiopia. Nevertheless, despite its repeated requests, the ICRC has never managed to obtain access to all the persons captured in connection with the conflict in the Ogaden.

It should finally be noted that at the end of 1987, at the ICRC's behest, the Somali authorities agreed to more frequent visits by ICRC delegates to the Cuban prisoner of war held for over ten years.

#### *Negotiations with a view to repatriation of prisoners of war*

A detailed account of the steps taken by the ICRC in 1987 and the proposal for release and simultaneous repatriation put forward by the Somali Government at the end of 1986 is given in the "Ethiopia" section of this report.

In 1987, the ICRC delegation in Mogadishu submitted more cases of Ethiopian prisoners of war entitled to repatriation in accordance with Article 109 of the Third Geneva Convention. Sixteen and subsequently six new cases were identified in 1987 by the ICRC medical delegate, in addition to the 23 cases listed by the ICRC in 1985 (i.e., a total of 45 prisoners of war).

#### **Tracing Agency**

As in previous years, the Tracing Agency in Mogadishu continued to transmit Red Cross messages to prisoners of war detained in connection with the conflict in the Ogaden and to process tracing requests concerning missing Ethiopian and Somali nationals. Tracing is becoming increasingly difficult owing to the duration of the conflict, however, and out of a total of 213 Somalis missing only 20 cases were resolved. Efforts were deployed with the Somali Red Crescent to organize more efficient distribution channels for messages between prisoners of war and their families in an attempt to locate a higher percentage of addressees more rapidly. In 1987, 816 family messages were sent by Ethiopian prisoners of war and Somali families of prisoners of war detained in Ethiopia, and 358 were delivered in the other direction.

Finally, messages and parcels were delivered to the Cuban prisoner of war, whose family received first-hand news during a visit to Cuba by the medical delegate who had recently participated in the series of ICRC visits in Somalia.

#### **Dissemination**

In conjunction with the Somali Red Crescent Society, ICRC delegates helped to arrange and hold talks and

seminars on the principles and work of the Movement, both in the capital and in the provinces.

#### **SUDAN**

The ICRC continued its efforts to perform its humanitarian duties in connection with the conflict in southern Sudan, operating from Khartoum and from its delegations in Addis Ababa and Nairobi. The offer of services submitted by the ICRC to the Sudanese Government in 1986 was renewed in 1987 by the head of the Khartoum delegation. The aim of this approach, which was based in particular on Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and the right of initiative it confers on the ICRC, was to expand the ICRC's activities on behalf of the civilian population affected by the conflict in southern Sudan and to obtain access to persons detained in connection with the internal situation. These matters were also discussed with representatives of the opposition movement in southern Sudan (SPLM/Sudan People's Liberation Movement). During his mission to Sudan in December the delegate-general for Africa again raised the question of possible ICRC intervention with the authorities in Khartoum, including the Minister of Health, Dr. Hussein Suleiman Abu Saleh.

At the end of 1987, these approaches had still not met with any success.

#### **Action conducted from Sudan**

##### *For Eritrean and Tigrayan civilians*

The medical and material assistance programmes launched in 1984 for Eritrean and Tigrayan civilian victims of the conflicts and drought were continued during the first six months of the year in collaboration with the Eritrean Relief Association (ERA) in Eritrea and the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) in Tigray. Having observed improvements in the situation in the field, the ICRC suspended its emergency food assistance operations at the end of May in Tigray and in June in Eritrea. Stocks were nevertheless kept in reserve in Port Sudan and Khartoum in case of any rapid deterioration. The ICRC warehouses in Kassala and Gedaref were closed down. The Committee's fleet of vehicles was also disbanded, and the ICRC had decided at the end of 1987 to retain only 18 of its 58 trucks.

ICRC medical work continued in the form of assistance to dispensaries and health posts, with the support of ERA and REST.

Finally, regular contacts were maintained with REST and ERA in connection with the locust control operations described in the "Ethiopia" section of this report.

#### *For prisoners*

Relief in the form of clothing, blankets, tools, leisure articles and medical supplies was also distributed to some 8,000 Ethiopian prisoners detained by the EPLF during missions by ICRC delegates to Eritrea in February, June and September.

#### *For displaced people in the south*

A joint ICRC and Sudanese Red Crescent Society assistance programme was undertaken at the end of September in Khartoum to cater for new arrivals from the conflict areas. This operation was designed to provide temporary assistance to these displaced civilians during the first few days following their arrival in the capital. Each beneficiary received food, clothing and basic necessities.

#### *For the disabled*

The orthopaedic centre in Kassala, which opened in 1984, continued to treat Eritrean, Tigryan and Sudanese war amputees. In 1987, some 132 patients were fitted with prostheses and 44 with orthoses. The centre's workshop manufactured 132 prostheses and 28 pairs of crutches. Finally, a training programme for local staff continued throughout the year.

#### **Tracing Agency**

The Tracing Agency office in Khartoum continued to deal with Ethiopian and Ugandan refugees, and to a lesser extent refugees from Zaire and Chad, with the help of its offices in Port Sudan, Kassala, Juba, Yei and Gedaref (the last-mentioned office closed down on 9 June). In 1987, the Agency received tracing requests relating to 655 persons (missing persons, family reunifications), including 316 Ugandans and 217 Ethiopian nationals; 460 cases were resolved. Finally, as part of the project to set up a tracing service within the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, the ICRC organized a training course for the National Society official who will be in charge of the service.

#### **Dissemination**

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

Throughout the year, talks, film shows, exhibitions, etc. were organized in collaboration with the Sudanese Red

Crescent, both in Khartoum and in the provinces. Television programmes and press articles describing the ICRC's work were produced regularly and, like the event organized to mark 8 May, reached a wide audience.

A seminar on international humanitarian law, the second of its type, was organized in Khartoum from 1 to 16 February for 26 participants (senior army officers, representatives of the police, the fire service, prisons, the Attorney-General's office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The speakers included a lawyer from ICRC headquarters, a professor from Khartoum University, representatives of the African Islamic Centre and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### **Action conducted from Kenya for the population in southern Sudan**

##### *Medical assistance to war wounded*

Ever since the spring of 1986, when it began its activities conducted from Kenya to assist the population hit by the conflict in southern Sudan, the ICRC has had to deal with the problem of wounded persons arriving in Narus (a relief distribution point on Sudanese territory a few kilometres from the Kenyan border). A system for transferring the wounded to Kenyan hospitals was instituted, and a sorting and treatment centre was set up in Narus. At the end of January 1987, the terms of the project for the construction of a hospital in collaboration with the Finnish Red Cross and the African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF) were finalized: construction of a building under ICRC supervision, on land supplied by AMREF, financing and medical personnel provided by the Finnish Red Cross and management of the hospital entrusted to the ICRC.

This 40-bed surgical hospital, situated in Lopiding, a village near the Sudanese border 4 km away from Lokichokio, was inaugurated on 10 June. Some 240 Sudanese wounded were treated there in 1987.

##### *Closure of the feeding centre*

The feeding centre in Narus, which was opened in April 1986, continued to admit undernourished children and their mothers during the first two months of the year. The medical team also treated sick persons and inoculated children against measles. Seeing that the number of children treated was falling steadily and that surveys conducted in the region confirmed that the food situation was improving, the ICRC was able to close the centre on 1 March.

### *Agricultural assistance programme*

At the end of 1986, the ICRC prepared a rehabilitation programme involving the distribution of seed and agricultural tools to encourage the civilians gathered in the Narus area to return to their places of origin before the next rainy season (March 1987). In addition to the usual relief distributions in January and February, between 23 February and 12 March the families covered by this programme received an assortment of seed (sorghum, beans, marrows, okra) as well as agricultural tools, blankets and food. This operation was conducted with the help of "Médecins sans Frontières" (MSF).

## **UGANDA**

The headquarters agreement defining the official status of the ICRC in Uganda was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 29 December. The Ugandan media published extensive extracts from the provisions of the agreement, which states among other things that the ICRC's role is to protect and assist victims of armed conflicts, including prisoners detained in military and civilian centres.

### **Representations and activities for detainees**

Immediately upon acceding to power in 1986, and again in 1987, in particular during a meeting with the head of delegation on 27 February, President Museveni signified his agreement for the ICRC to visit persons detained under the authority of the National Resistance Army (NRA), which had become the government army in 1986. Nevertheless, despite this agreement and a series of approaches, the ICRC was not granted access to all the places of transit directly under army responsibility ("military barracks") except those in Gulu, which were visited in April. On the other hand, visits were made, generally twice, to most of the places under the jurisdiction of the civilian authorities but holding persons arrested and detained under army responsibility.

Delegates thus registered a total of 4,277 detainees under NRA responsibility during their visits to 11 places of detention (five in the capital and surrounding areas, two in Mbale and one each in Jinja, Kotido, Moroto and Gulu).

As well as registration of every new prisoner, the ICRC delegates' complete visits included a roll-call of all previously registered detainees, and delegates had the opportunity to talk without witnesses to anyone who so wish-

ed. In addition, ICRC specialists (sanitary engineer, nurse, nutritionist) inspected all the premises of each prison. On the basis of their conclusions, measures were suggested to the penitentiary administration with a view to improving detention conditions, with ICRC support. Nutritional rehabilitation programmes, work to improve hygiene conditions (installation of showers, sewage disposal, disinfecting premises, etc.) and various medical programmes (including a campaign to control tuberculosis and diarrhoea) were undertaken in collaboration with the authorities. Finally, medical staff were trained and medicines or medical equipment supplied to prison dispensaries, and individual cases were settled (medical transfers, special diets, etc.).

### **Representations and activities for civilians**

Despite the sometimes extremely difficult security conditions, the ICRC teams managed to press on with their activities in the north and east of the country during the early months of the year. As of 1 May in Gulu, the beginning of June in Lira and the end of July in Soroti, however, restrictions on travel and security problems forced delegates to withdraw to Kampala.

During the period when travel to the north and east of the country was still possible, delegates performed the following tasks:

- ☐ distribution of basic necessities to some 55,000 displaced civilians;
- ☐ transfer of urgent medical cases to hospitals whenever roads were passable;
- ☐ supply of medicines and transport of medical stocks on behalf of the Ministry of Health;
- ☐ reminding the parties concerned of the obligation to spare hospitals, schools and camps for displaced civilians during military operations;
- ☐ representations and submission of reports to the authorities, to ensure measures were taken to protect civilians and prevent abuses.

Despite the many approaches made, in particular to the Prime Minister, Mr. Kisekka, and the Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Bata, delegates were unable to resume their activities in the Gulu, Lira and Soroti areas. Only the Mbale region and a few towns in Karamoja could be visited by ICRC representatives during the second half of the year.

## Tracing Agency

As part of the delegation's work in places of detention in Uganda, delegates registered new detainees, processed tracing requests and arranged for the exchange of family messages between prisoners and their relatives.

Close contacts were maintained between the Uganda Red Cross tracing service and the ICRC Tracing Agency office in Kampala, in particular for the distribution of family messages.

The Agency also helped to transfer civilians wishing to return to their home areas, organizing several convoys in co-operation with the Ministry of Rehabilitation. A programme launched in 1986 to trace the parents of children from the "Luwero triangle" who had been placed in orphanages was pursued in 1987, enabling a total of 11 children to return home.

Finally, on 30 November three Ugandan former prisoners of war whom the ICRC had previously visited in Tanzania were released and repatriated in the presence of the authorities and of ICRC delegates.

## Dissemination

### and co-operation with the National Society

Like its assistance and tracing work, the delegation's activities for the dissemination of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law continued to be carried out in close collaboration with the Uganda Red Cross, in particular through its ten regional field officers. Throughout the year two mobile dissemination units (vehicles equipped with projection equipment, documentation, etc.) were used to organize dissemination meetings in towns and rural areas for a varied audience (members of the Uganda Red Cross, the army, the police, administrative and medical staff, schoolchildren and the general public).

Finally, knowledge of the Red Cross was promoted among the public at large by way of various seminars, radio and television programmes and articles published in Ugandan newspapers.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

□ The ICRC regional delegation in **Kenya** maintained regular contacts with the government authorities and the Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies in the countries covered from Nairobi (the Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania) in order to promote international humanitarian law. Delegates

stepped up co-operation efforts with the National Societies of those countries. In addition, the delegation continued to serve as a logistic base for ICRC activities in Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Somalia.

In collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross Society, delegates gave talks to instructors from the armed forces, senior police officers, members of universities and journalists, as well as to National Society staff. Events for the general public (photo exhibition, films, radio programmes, etc.) were also organized.

The Tracing Agency in Nairobi continued to perform its usual activities, including the distribution of family messages and tracing.

□ The ICRC delegates based in Nairobi carried out several missions to the **Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Seychelles and Tanzania.**

In the **Comoros**, efforts to develop the emerging National Red Crescent Society were encouraged. In **Djibouti**, as well as supporting the development of the Red Crescent there, the Committee also raised with the authorities the question of accession to the Additional Protocols. In **Madagascar** also, ratification of the Additional Protocols was discussed with the government; furthermore, an ICRC delegate participated in a relief operation organized by the Malagasy Red Cross and the Lutheran Church in favour of 7,000 victims of the incidents in the south-eastern part of the country. Finally, the main purpose of missions to **Tanzania** was to participate in the operation for the release and repatriation of three former Ugandan prisoners of war, which took place on 30 November (see section on Uganda).

## *Central and West Africa*

ICRC involvement in Central and West Africa continued to be directed from the regional delegations responsible for covering the following countries:

- **regional delegation in Lomé:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo;
- **regional delegation in Lagos:** Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone;
- **regional delegation in Kinshasa:** Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Zaire.

The three regional delegations continued work, focusing

on co-operation with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in particular with regard to the dissemination of the principles of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law.

Finally, in **Chad**, where the ICRC has been active since 1978, the delegation in N'Djamena continued its activities in 1987.

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□ Frequent missions were carried out to **Benin** in 1987 from the regional delegation in Lomé in order to maintain close ties with the Red Cross of Benin within the framework of the co-operation programme launched in 1984, and to foster relations with the authorities.

From 7 to 10 April, the National University of Benin, the Red Cross of Benin and the ICRC jointly organized a regional seminar on international humanitarian law, entitled "SEDIH 87", more specifically devoted to the protection of civilian populations during armed conflicts. The first initiative of this type in West Africa, "SEDIH 87" attracted some 30 participants, including 10 Benin nationals and 20 people from eight other West African countries.

□ Regular missions were carried out to **Burkina Faso** from the regional delegation in Lomé in order to support the National Society's efforts, particularly in respect of dissemination, and to monitor the situation following the *coup d'état* of 15 October 1987.

□ In **Burundi**, the ICRC delegates pursued their work in places of detention. A further series of visits was organized to four places of detention in the second half of March, during which delegates were able to talk without witnesses to 155 detainees arrested for security reasons. Relief (hygiene products, blankets, leisure articles) was distributed to all detainees in the places visited.

The head of the regional delegation in Kinshasa made a further visit to Burundi just after the *coup d'état* of 3 September 1987. Although the country's political prisoners were soon released, the delegate and the Burundi authorities agreed that a further visit to the places of detention would be carried out before the end of the year. Thus, from 12 to 24 November, an ICRC team went to seven prisons in Burundi (where there were no longer any security detainees) to follow up its action, which, it will be remembered, had suffered a four-year interruption before resuming in July 1986. At the end of 1987, in close collaboration with the authorities, an ICRC sanitary engineer set up a water purification project for Mpimba prison.

□ H.E. Mr. Pedro Rodrigues Pires, Prime Minister of the **Republic of Cape Verde**, accompanied by his wife and members of his government, was received at ICRC headquarters by the President of the Committee, Mr. Sommaruga, on 4 September.

□ Several missions were conducted from the regional delegation in Kinshasa in June, August and November to establish contact with the National Society of the **Central African Republic**. For the first time, a training seminar on international humanitarian law was organized in November for around 20 dissemination workers from the Central African Red Cross Society, with ICRC participation.

□ The Congolese Head of State and current President of the OAU, H.E. Mr. Sassou Nguesso, was received at ICRC headquarters on 9 July by President Sommaruga (see also the introduction to the "Africa" section).

In addition, a first seminar to promote international humanitarian law and the role of the Red Cross and the ICRC in armed conflicts was organized for senior officers of the National People's Army of the **Congo**, from 2 to 5 September.

□ The regional delegate based in Lagos travelled to **Gambia** from 18 to 25 May in order to help prepare National Society dissemination and information programmes. He also held talks with the Gambian authorities concerning the status of persons detained following the attempted *coup d'état* of July 1981. The ICRC had been granted authorization to visit this category of detainees, but conducted only one visit in 1987, for purposes of registration. The regional delegate also raised with the authorities the question of dissemination projects for the armed forces.

□ A delegate for Africa based in Geneva and the regional delegate based in Lomé travelled to Conakry (**Guinea**) at the beginning of July. During the course of an interview with the Minister of Justice, Mr. Bassirou Barry, the ICRC delegates renewed the Committee's offer of services, submitted on 26 August 1986, to visit all places of detention in the country. At the end of 1987, the ICRC delegate based in Lomé made a further visit to Conakry to participate in a dissemination seminar with the National Society.

□ Whilst on mission to **Equatorial Guinea** from 26 September to 3 October, the regional delegate based in Lagos was received by the President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, and by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Health, Education and Information. During a previous mission in April, and again in

September, the ICRC representative also had contacts with leading officials from the emerging National Society concerning approval of its statutes.

□ In **Rwanda**, further to an agreement concluded between the Rwanda government and the ICRC, the regional delegate based in Kinshasa made several trips to Kigali to make arrangements for the resumption of visits to places of detention in Rwanda (the last series of visits took place in December 1984). A team of four delegates, including a doctor, began the series of visits at Kigali prison on 22 October. On account of the difficulties they experienced in performing their duties in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures, in particular the possibility of meeting detainees without witnesses, the delegates were obliged to suspend their activities on 23 October. After discussing the problems encountered at the prison with the Minister of Justice, Mr. J.M.V. Mugemana, the ICRC decided not to resume the series of visits in question in 1987.

□ In **Togo**, in July, the government signified its agreement for the ICRC to visit the prisons under the jurisdiction of the Minister of the Interior (civilian prisons). A team of delegates, including a doctor, began by visiting three prisons (including two in the provinces) from 12 to 21 August. Later, from 2 to 13 November, the delegates travelled to the north and south of the country, visiting nine other places of detention.

In 1987 the ICRC failed to secure authorization to repeat its visits to the persons who had been involved in the attempted *coup d'état* of 23 September 1986 (the last visit dates back to 11 October 1986).

From 17 to 22 February, a week devoted to presenting the ICRC's work and the history of the Movement to a wide audience was organized on the premises of the regional delegation. An exhibition (photos, explanatory texts) mounted to illustrate the subject attracted over 4,000 visitors.

□ ICRC activities in places of detention in **Zaire** had been suspended throughout the second half of 1986, by decision of the Office of the President (cf. Annual Report 1986). On 4 February 1987, after eight months of deadlock, the Office of the President advised the ICRC delegation that its representatives were authorized to resume visits to places of detention in the country. Nevertheless, despite this authorization, the ICRC was still refused access to the "National Documentation Agency" (AND) building in Kinshasa; after numerous representations, delegates were not able to make the first visit to this establishment until August.

The frequency of further visits to that place of detention

proposed by the ICRC (i.e., one visit per month) was not accepted by the authorities until November. Thus, only two visits in accordance with ICRC criteria were made to the AND in Kinshasa in 1987.

Nor could the ICRC's visits to the "Military Action and Information Service" (SARM) be conducted with satisfactory working conditions.

As from February, delegates were generally able to make regular bimonthly, monthly or quarterly visits, on the basis of a schedule established annually and submitted for prior approval by the authorities, to the other main places of detention in Kinshasa under the responsibility of the National Police Force (B2), the Kinshasa military division (BSRS, S2, mobile brigade), the Judiciary Council and the Military Office (Makala prison and N'Dolo military prison).

Up-country, on account of the difficulties described above, delegates carried out a series of visits in one region only. These visits were conducted in Shaba on the basis of an ad hoc programme agreed to by the authorities and covering places of detention under the authority of the AND, SARM, the armed forces, the National Police Force, the Judiciary Council and the Military Office. They were carried out in accordance with ICRC working procedures.

In all, delegates visited 104 detainees within the purview of the ICRC on one or more occasions during the year, 94 of whom were seen for the first time.

The ICRC Tracing Agency office in Kinshasa registered the new security detainees visited, informed families that their relatives had been imprisoned and arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between the detainees and their families. During the year the Kinshasa office received 79 new tracing requests from Zaire and other countries covered by the regional delegation; 96 cases were resolved.

The delegation in Kinshasa maintained close contact with the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zaire. Two training seminars for conference organizers were arranged by the National Society in collaboration with the ICRC, and numerous talks were given by National Society disseminators, both in the capital and in the provinces, in order to inform an extremely broad public. The National Red Cross Society and the ICRC also joined forces to set up a stand at the Kinshasa International Fair (FIKIN) which took place from 11 to 27 July.

A Red Cross training seminar was arranged in October 1987 for about a dozen Zairian journalists.

Finally, by way of a seminar organized by the University of Kinshasa with ICRC assistance, students in the law faculty received around 30 hours of instruction on international humanitarian law from February to June. In view

of the encouraging results of this experiment, it will be repeated in 1988.

□ In order to maintain and strengthen its relations with governments and National Societies and to encourage and help them to organize dissemination activities, the ICRC regional delegates based in Lomé, Kinshasa and Lagos also carried out several missions to Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

## CHAD/LIBYA CONFLICT

On account of the clashes which, before being halted by the cease-fire on 11 September 1987, had taken place between Chad and Libya since December 1986, the ICRC intensified its approaches to the governments concerned in an endeavour to perform its duties under the 1949 Geneva Conventions to which both countries are parties. Although it has been present in Chad since 1978, and despite regular contacts with the Libyan authorities, the ICRC has been unable to discharge the mandate of protection and assistance entrusted to it by the Conventions, in particular the Third Convention. At the end of 1987 it had still not been authorized, in either country, to visit all prisoners captured.

In northern Chad, the ICRC delegation in N'Djamena was able to travel to BET prefecture (Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti) to assess the needs of people displaced and/or otherwise affected by the conflict. Assistance work was carried out in the Fada and Faya-Largeau region (from an operational base at Abéché), and in part of the Tibesti. As from October, however, the delegates were no longer authorized to travel outside N'Djamena and were thus obliged to remain in the capital.

### Representations and activities for prisoners detained in Chad

#### *Chadian prisoners*

Some 550 Chadian prisoners (including about 100 released in March) who came under the provisions of Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions and had been detained in N'Djamena prison since the clashes in 1983 received daily food assistance and weekly medical visits. Less frequent assistance was given to prisoners detained in Abéché prison in the eastern part of the country. However, delegates were not able to interview prisoners without witnesses, since the authorization under which they had been operating since 1985 has not been renewed

since 20 June 1986. Finally, delegates have never obtained access to prisoners captured either during the clashes in February-March 1986 or in connection with those that took place in 1987.

### *Libyan prisoners of war and prisoners of war of other nationalities*

With the intensification of the conflict in northern Chad, many Libyans, as well as combatants of other nationalities (Mauritanian, Sudanese, Algerian, Malian, etc.) were taken prisoner by the Chad national armed forces. In accordance with, among other provisions, Articles 70 and 126 of the Third Geneva Convention, which give the ICRC a mandate to visit all persons captured during hostilities, the Committee made increasingly frequent representations to the Chad authorities. In January Mr. Alexandre Hay, then President of the ICRC, requested President Hissène Habré to authorize ICRC delegates to visit all prisoners of war detained in Chad. In April, an ICRC request to give medical examinations to Libyan prisoners was rejected. In May, the ICRC had talks on the matter at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in N'Djamena and in July the Director of Operations of the ICRC travelled to the Chadian capital to discuss the situation with President Hissène Habré. Further representations were made in N'Djamena in August and subsequently in Paris in September to the Ambassador of Chad in France. In addition, in view of the presence of a French intervention force in Chad, the ICRC, referring to Articles 1 and 2 common to the Geneva Conventions, also approached the French Government to urge it as a State party to the Conventions to take all necessary measures to fulfil its responsibilities and obligations under the Third Geneva Convention.

Despite all these efforts, at the end of December the ICRC had still not obtained authorization to fulfil its mandate under the Conventions in respect of the prisoners of war protected by the Third Convention.

### **Approaches to Libya**

On 9 January, the ICRC offered its services to the Libyan authorities, requesting permission to visit the Chadian combatants and civilians who had been captured and to assist all victims of the conflict. Many verbal and written representations were made both in Geneva and Tripoli, reiterating the offer of services made in January and expressing the ICRC's growing concern with regard to the plight of the prisoners involved. Subsequently, the delegate-general for Africa and his deputy went to Tripoli from 25 to 27 May. They were received by the Minister

of Health and a Foreign Affairs representative, to whom they gave around 50 messages from Libyan prisoners of war in Chad which had been handed to them by the Chad authorities. They urged that arrangements be made for family replies to the messages to be conveyed to N'Djamena as soon as possible. In response to the note verbale of 9 September which the ICRC addressed simultaneously to Libya and Chad, highlighting the Libyan Government's obligations under the Convention and reiterating its offer of services submitted in January, the Libyan Foreign Relations Office agreed to authorize an ICRC team (three delegates, including a doctor) to go to Libya to visit prisoners of war from Chad protected by the Third Geneva Convention. The team's departure was scheduled for the beginning of 1988.

## **Tracing Agency**

The workload of the Tracing Agency in N'Djamena eased somewhat due to the fact that complete visits in accordance with the Third Convention could not be resumed in 1987. A large number of prisoners of war previously visited by the ICRC and subsequently released requested the delegation to issue certificates of captivity for various reasons, such as obtaining government pensions. In all, 146 such certificates were issued.

As well as registering detainees in Abéché and N'Djamena prisons, the delegates who were based in the northern town of Fada at the beginning of 1987 were able to register on the spot, prior to their transfer to N'Djamena, about a hundred recently captured Libyan prisoners of war. Fifteen of them wrote family messages which were passed on to the Libyan Government by the delegate-general for Africa during his visit to Tripoli in May; the ICRC had already handed over 52 similar messages to the Secretary General of the Libyan Red Crescent in January.

## **ICRC presence in the north**

### *Medical activities for displaced civilians and prisoners of war*

During the early months of the year, ICRC teams comprising a delegate, a doctor and a nurse carried out surveys in the Ennedi sub-prefecture area. They supplied dispensaries near the demarcation line with basic equipment and medicines and evacuated a number of wounded persons. An ICRC outpost was opened in Fada in March and up until September a series of missions was carried out in the north (Ouadi Doum, Ounianga Kebir, Ounianga Serir). Meanwhile, a medical team was at work in Fada assisting

the population and in particular the wounded.

In February, a medical team dispatched from Geneva travelled to the western part of the country, north of Norkou, to help evacuate the wounded arriving from the Tibesti.

In April, an ICRC team, including a doctor, carried out an evaluation mission to Faya, where permanent presence was maintained between July and September. As well as its missions to the north of Faya, to towns such as Ounianga, Gouro, Kirdimi and Yebi Bou, during which sets of medicines and medical supplies were distributed to dispensaries, the ICRC team also organized first-aid courses in Faya from 21 July to 14 September. In August and September, the ICRC team also sorted the wounded and transported them to the civilian hospital in Faya or to the airport, for evacuation by air to N'Djamena. First aid was given to the wounded in close collaboration with "Médecins sans Frontières" (MSF).

### *Material relief for displaced civilians*

To meet the needs observed among civilians displaced by the clashes, reserves were built up in Fada. Relief distributions (food, basic necessities) were organized in this area at the beginning of April and again in June.

A total of 191 tonnes of various food and material relief were distributed to the affected populations near and north of the 16th parallel.

### *Assistance to war amputees*

The ICRC stepped up its support for the orthopaedic centre run by "Secours catholique et développement" (SECADEV) in Kabalaye (N'Djamena), where the team was enlarged on 25 April by the arrival of a second ICRC orthopaedic technician. Some 110 patients were fitted with prostheses and 54 with orthoses at the centre, which also manufactured 165 prostheses and orthoses and 250 pairs of crutches.

The ICRC prepared a project for extension of the existing orthopaedic centre in view of the increasing number of war amputees requiring treatment. The project, which also provides for the training of additional local technicians, was approved by the authorities.

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

In collaboration with the Red Cross of Chad, ICRC delegates continued their dissemination work in the university and for members of the National Society, the

armed forces and civilians. Dissemination programmes for schools and universities developed at the end of 1986 with the Minister of Education were implemented in 1987.

Finally, in addition to assisting with the training of first-aid workers, the ICRC supplied the Red Cross of Chad with audiovisual equipment.

## RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1987

### AFRICA

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Recipient	Relief		Medical assistance	TOTAL Sw. fr.
		Tonnes	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
South Africa .....	Detainees, families of detainees and refugees	198	425,256	—	425,256
Angola .....	Displaced civilians and the disabled	4,610	5,553,086	228,178	5,781,264
Angola (south-east) .....	Displaced civilians	1	4,129	282,963	287,092
Burundi .....	Detainees	5	32,299	—	32,299
Ethiopia .....	Displaced civilians and prisoners of war	12,472	10,094,162	136,475	10,230,637
Malawi .....	National Society and refugees	4	58,427	21,424	79,851
Mozambique .....	Displaced civilians and the disabled	597	736,183	279,800	1,015,983
Namibia .....	Detainees, families of detainees and civilians	53	66,884	—	66,884
Uganda .....	Displaced civilians, detainees and National Society	198	758,248	140,910	899,158
Somalia	Prisoners of war	72	124,753	10,024	134,777
Sudan .....	Displaced civilians (assisted via National Society)	30	232,349	—	232,349
Sudan (conflict in southern Sudan) .....	Displaced civilians and war-wounded	1,791	1,606,737	638,850	2,245,587
Sudan (conflict in Tigray and Eritrea) .....	Displaced civilians, the disabled and prisoners of war	11,733	9,363,500	462,024	9,825,524
Chad .....	Detainees, the disabled and civilians	409	623,552	138,592	762,144
Togo .....	Detainees	7	48,727	21,360	70,087
Zaire .....	Detainees and families	31	33,097	15,757	48,854
Zimbabwe .....	Civilians and the disabled	221	144,166	72,563	216,729
TOTAL .....		32,432	29,905,555	2,448,920	32,354,475