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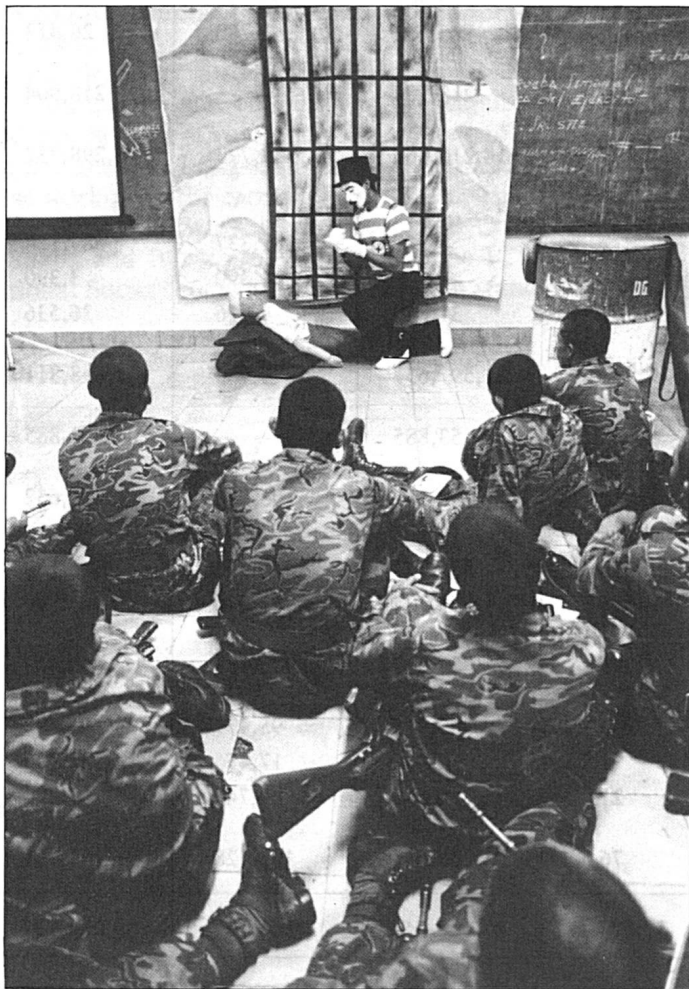
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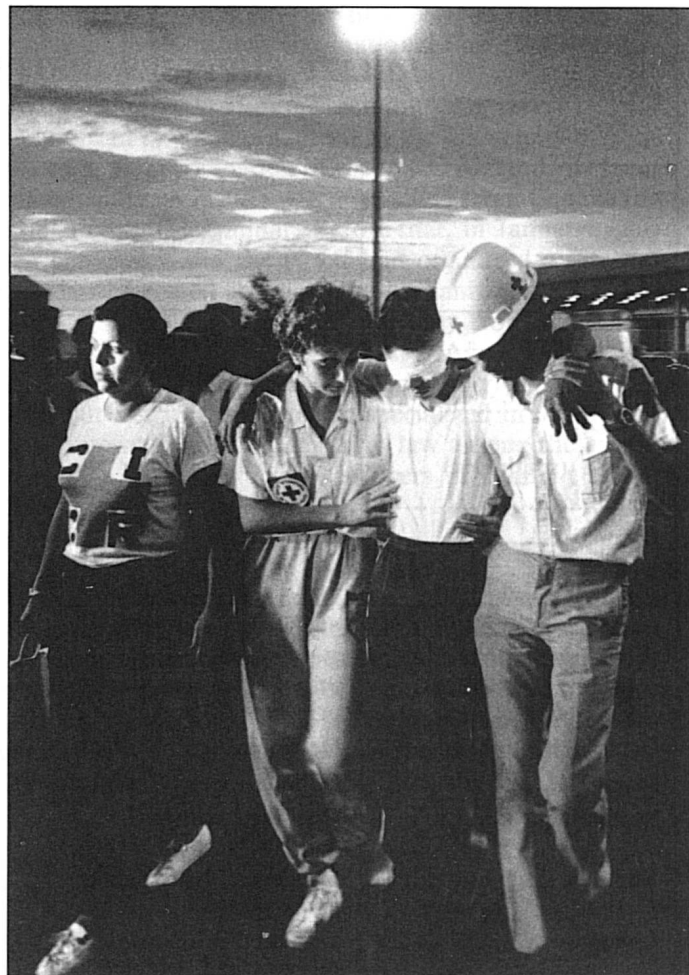
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Disseminating the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law in El Salvador.



El Salvador: evacuating the wounded.

LATIN AMERICA

As in the previous year it was in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Chile and Peru that the ICRC conducted the bulk of its protection and assistance activities in Latin America in 1988. ICRC delegates were also active elsewhere, in particular visiting security detainees in Colombia, Cuba and Paraguay. In addition, the ICRC maintained contact with governments and National Societies in Latin America to encourage ratification of the 1977 Additional Protocols and promote the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC maintained an average of 95 delegates in Latin America (including administrative and medical staff provided by National Societies), assisted by over 300 local employees. They were assigned to five delegations (Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru) and three regional delegations (Argentina, Colombia and Costa Rica). At the end of the period under review, the regional delegations covered the following countries:

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

In addition, the ICRC kept one or more delegates on a permanent basis in several countries — in Haiti until mid-year, in Honduras, where there has been a constant presence since 1987, and in Suriname from October 1987 to the end of 1988.

Taking into account the balance available and contributions in kind, a special appeal was launched to raise 27,102,100 Swiss francs for the ICRC's overall activities in Central America in 1988. Its activities in the other Latin American countries were financed from the ICRC's regular budget.

Central America and the Caribbean

EL SALVADOR

In accordance with the provisions of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and with Additional Protocol II, the ICRC pursued its protection and assistance work in connection with the internal conflict in El Salvador, while closely following the efforts being made by the government and the opposition to develop a peace process. Protection and assistance for persons detained in connection with the events and for the civilian population in regions affected by the conflict continued to be its main concern. Over the year, the ICRC further stepped up its activities to assist the civilian victims of the conflict. It repeatedly reminded the government authorities and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), both orally and in writing, that neither the civilian population nor objects indispensable to their survival must be the object of attack, threats or reprisals. It expressed concern about the consequences that mine-laying could have for civilians and proposed measures that would make it easier to take wounded and sick people to hospital, pointing out that for such measures to be successful, the Red Cross emblem displayed by medical personnel and transports would have to be respected.

Activities for persons detained in connection with the conflict

Despite the lifting in 1987 of the state of emergency, there were still persons detained in connection with the conflict and delegates again had regular access in accordance with the ICRC's criteria to places of detention and hospitals in the capital and outlying districts. There they visited over 800 detainees. Visits were made not only to the places under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice (penitentiaries, including Mariona and Ilopango prisons, municipal prisons and juvenile detention centres) but also, and above all, to temporary places of detention run by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Public Security, i.e., the armed forces' military garrisons and *Comandancias locales* and

premises of the Security Corps (National Guard, National Police and the *Policía de Hacienda*).

Centring its attention on temporary places of detention, the ICRC endeavoured to gain access to security detainees as soon as possible after their arrest; it was usually informed of arrests and granted subsequent access to the detainees in accordance with the procedures agreed upon with the Salvadorean authorities.

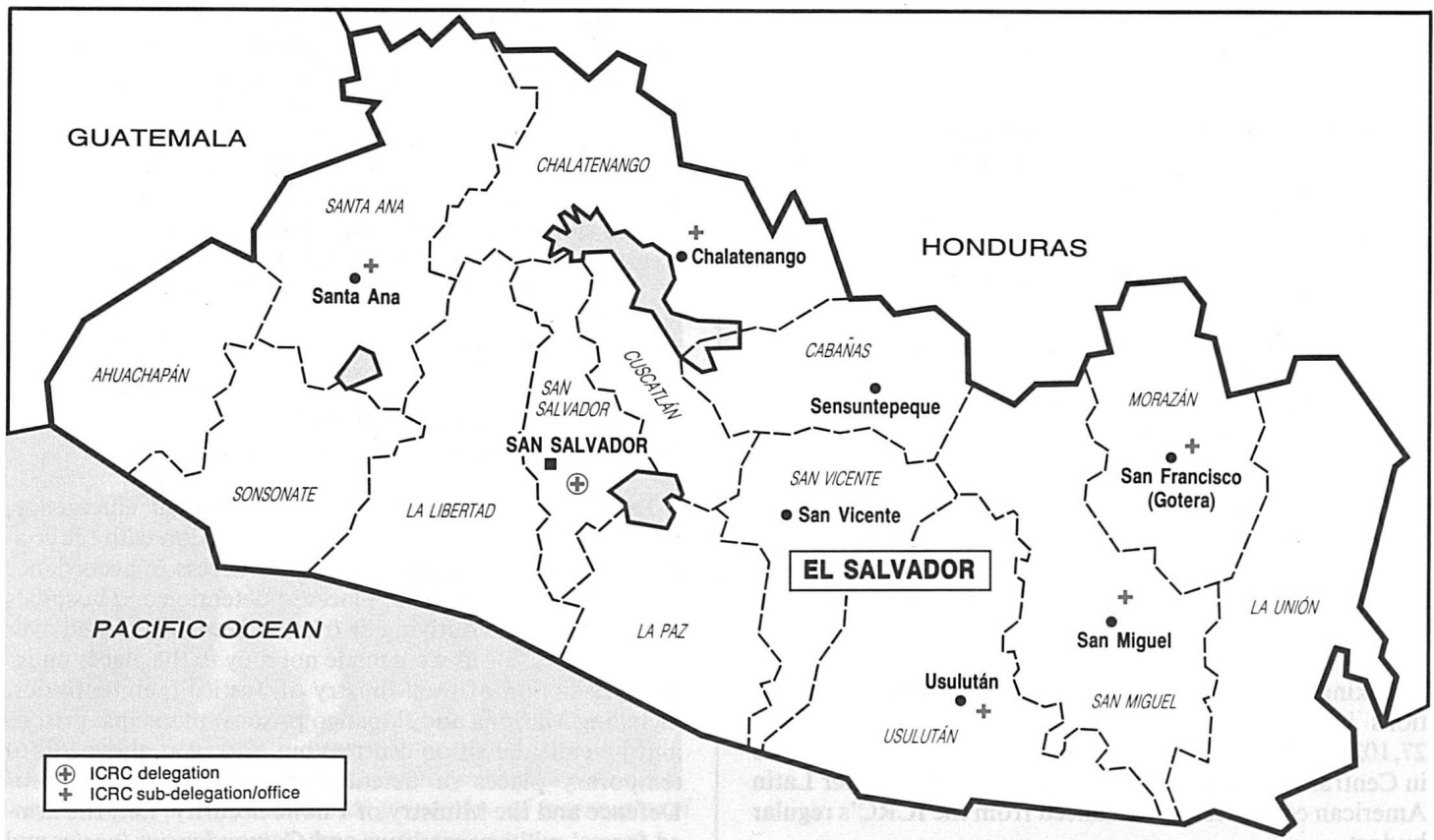
In October, the delegation submitted to the authorities a confidential summary report on conditions of detention. The report covered the visits made between December 1987 and June 1988 to 20 places of detention run by the Ministry of Justice, 145 run by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Public Security and nine run by the municipal police.

The head of delegation discussed the content of the report with Mr. J. Napoleón Duarte, President of El Salvador, the Ministers of Defence and Justice and senior officers of the armed forces and Security Corps. A similar report

covering the second half of 1987 had been submitted to the authorities in early 1988 and its findings discussed with the Head of State on 16 February.

Throughout the year, the ICRC monitored the detainees' state of health. Limited material assistance (toilet articles, spectacles, mattresses, clothing) was provided as needed. At Christmas, special parcels were distributed to all the detainees in the country. Finally, the travel expenses of 169 particularly needy families were paid by the ICRC to enable them to visit relatives in detention.

The ICRC also endeavoured to afford protection to military personnel and civilians captured by the FMLN. Approaches to FMLN leaders were stepped up with a view to having the ICRC regularly notified of the capture of civilians or armed forces personnel and ensuring that the persons detained are treated in accordance with the rules of international humanitarian law and are visited by delegates.



Release of detainees and evacuation of the seriously wounded

Further to an agreement between the government and the opposition concluded under the auspices of the Salvadorean Church in Panama in January 1987, the ICRC organized an operation in which 29 wounded and disabled members of the opposition were flown from San Salvador to a country of asylum on the night of 4-5 May, on board a plane chartered by the ICRC. This was done by the institution at the request of the parties involved and as a strictly neutral intermediary. The 29 were accompanied by a team of ICRC delegates, including a doctor, who had previously ascertained that they wished to leave.

Throughout the year, the ICRC transferred out of the conflict areas wounded and sick civilians and combatants who were in urgent need of hospital care. With the authorities' agreement, 19 FMLN combatants and two members of the armed forces who had been seriously wounded were handed over to the ICRC, which transported them to civilian hospitals in San Salvador and San Miguel.

Tracing Agency

The ICRC Tracing Agency in El Salvador has a main office in the capital and regional offices in Santa Ana, San Miguel, Chalatenango, Usulután and San Francisco Gotera. It received tracing requests from about 600 people every month, most of whom came to enquire about relatives detained by the government authorities, the FMLN or unidentified groups. In most cases, delegates were able to reply rapidly, thanks to lists kept by the Agency.

The Agency registered all new detainees visited and recorded any information concerning their transfer between different places of detention or their release.

In addition to organizing the reunification of separated families, the Agency enabled people held by the government and by the FMLN to communicate with their relatives. Families separated by the conflict itself (for example, one family member living in a camp for displaced persons while the rest remained in a conflict zone) were also able to exchange Red Cross messages through the Agency. A total of 1,680 such messages were exchanged.

Activities for civilians

The ICRC was very concerned about the protection of civilians who were all too often victims of the conflict. It repeatedly reminded both the Salvadorean authorities

and the FMLN that the civilian population must be spared and treated in accordance with international humanitarian law. In August, confidential reports were submitted and discussed in detail at several high-level meetings.

Return of refugees

The ICRC twice took part in the repatriation to El Salvador of refugees living in Honduras (1,200 in August; 800 in November). These operations were organized under the auspices of the UNHCR with logistic support (vehicles, radio link) from the ICRC. Delegates subsequently went to the resettlement areas where they closely monitored the returnees' situation, assessed their needs and, in conjunction with the other organizations involved in the resettlement operation, set up a programme to provide medical consultations, adequate sanitation and safe water supplies.

Relief distributions and agricultural assistance programme

Regular food distributions to civilians who had been displaced or cut off by the fighting were gradually phased out during 1988 because the agricultural assistance programme launched in 1986 had enabled a great many people to become relatively self-sufficient. Supplementary food assistance was nevertheless continued in places particularly severely affected by the conflict or natural disaster (Usulután and San Miguel). In all, 493.8 tonnes of food and other basic essentials were distributed to the population, some of it through the National Society.

The ICRC agricultural assistance programme concentrated on distributing seed and fertilizer to families living in the conflict zone and whose crops had been destroyed by drought or flooding. Seed distributions were organized in the east of the country in April/May and July/August. Salvadorean agronomists were employed by the ICRC to monitor the programme and give advice to the beneficiaries through to the harvest. In all, over 232 tonnes of seed and fertilizer were distributed to 1,251 families.

Medical and sanitation activities

Two medical teams, each comprising an ICRC nurse, two doctors, a dentist and various assistants — all Salvadorean except the nurse — visited the provinces of Cabañas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, La Libertad, La Paz, La Unión, Morazán, San Miguel, San Salvador, San Vicente, Santa Ana and Usulután. Their movements were

often hampered by military operations, in particular in Chalatenango, southern San Vicente province and northern Morazán. Over the year, the teams gave 19,243 medical consultations and 7,165 dental consultations and transferred 110 seriously ill or wounded civilians from the places of consultation to the nearest hospitals. The ICRC medical staff also provided training in basic health care and hygiene to some 30 health auxiliaries working in five dispensaries in the conflict zones.

Basic medicines and medical supplies worth 150,000 Swiss francs were distributed as needed to health centres and to the five ICRC dispensaries in areas affected by the conflict.

While out in the field, the medical teams also endeavoured to organize adequate supplies of drinking water for some communities, by installing standpipes in safely accessible places within a reasonable distance.

Thirty-two water projects and a large number of sanitation programmes (sinking of wells, pipe-laying and building of latrines) were implemented in 1988. The work was done by the communities themselves on the basis of technical advice from ICRC experts and using the materials provided.

Still in the preventive sphere, at the request of the Ministry of Health and UNICEF the ICRC took part in an immunization campaign against measles, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. Almost 10,000 children and women of child-bearing age were vaccinated in 26 localities in the conflict zone.

Dissemination

With the assistance of the Salvadorean Red Cross, the ICRC continued its efforts to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross among the Salvadorean armed forces, the Security Corps, FMLN combatants, members of the National Society and the general public. A one-week course was given to 309 armed forces officers. Some 720 members of the Security Corps and the national police force also attended dissemination courses, and lectures were organized for almost 15,000 soldiers and recruits. Whenever the military situation allowed, delegates organized information meetings for opposition combatants.

In addition, a series of courses on international humanitarian law was given to law students at the country's main universities. Lectures were delivered to various groups and films were shown in local branches of the Salvadorean Red Cross.

Co-operation with the National Society

The ICRC continued to provide financial support to enable the Salvadorean Red Cross to expand its activities, in particular in the medical sphere (ambulance service, dispensaries and training of first-aid workers) and dissemination. As in the past, the ICRC also defrayed the operating costs of the blood transfusion centre run by the National Society.

The total value of this support in 1988 was 1,015,900 Swiss francs.

NICARAGUA

The ICRC has had a delegation in Nicaragua since 1978. During the period under review, as in previous years, the ICRC's activities in Nicaragua centred on persons detained for security reasons and the civilian population living in the areas affected by the armed clashes between government forces and counter-revolutionary organizations.

Regular contact was maintained with the Nicaraguan authorities to keep them informed about the ICRC's activities. In particular, Mr. Daniel Ortega, President of Nicaragua, received the head of delegation on 1 August.

In order to obtain the security guarantees necessary to the continuation of its work in the regions affected by the conflict, the ICRC also maintained contact with representatives of the counter-revolutionary organizations, reminding them of their humanitarian responsibilities towards the civilian population and towards persons detained by them.

Activities for detainees and their families

The ICRC continued its activities for the protection and assistance of persons detained by the Nicaraguan authorities — members of the former National Guard imprisoned after the fall of the Somoza regime, civilians convicted of collaboration with that regime, and people arrested subsequently for counter-revolutionary activities or for acts prejudicial to State security. As in the past, aid was given to needy families of prisoners visited.

In keeping with its humanitarian mission, the ICRC also gave attention to the plight of Nicaraguan citizens, whether civilian or military, captured by counter-revolutionary organizations. It took steps to obtain confirmation of capture and to arrange for the exchange of Red Cross messages between these detainees and their families. It reminded the captors of their responsibilities towards those they held and

caused by Hurricane Joan and to make the most urgent repairs. Needy families of detainees received food aid and, in certain cases, the ICRC paid the travel expenses of particularly poor families wishing to visit relatives detained in the capital.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency office in Managua continued to register new detainees and process data on detainees visited, as well as arranging for the exchange of Red Cross messages between detainees and their families (12,023 such messages were sent in 1988).

Another important facet of this activity was the exchange of family messages between refugees in Honduras and Costa Rica — mainly Miskito Indians — and their relatives still in Nicaragua, and between separated families within Nicaragua itself.

Finally, in conjunction with the ICRC's tracing offices in Costa Rica and Honduras, the Agency office in Nicaragua processed 1,105 tracing requests concerning persons reported by their families to be missing or presumed detained. Of these, 341 were successfully concluded.

Activities for the civilian population

Delegates in the sub-delegations of Puerto Cabezas and Bluefields and the new offices in La Rosita (Las Minas), Juigalpa and Matagalpa endeavoured to gain a better picture of the conditions in which the civilian population in the conflict zone was living. Confidential reports, based on first-hand accounts by civilians and including comments by the ICRC, were submitted to the authorities.

In conjunction with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the ICRC continued throughout the year to provide material and medical assistance to civilians cut off in the conflict zones.

Following Hurricane Joan, which devastated the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua on 22 and 23 October, the ICRC delegation immediately placed its reserves of relief supplies at the disposal of the National Society and the League. By the end of the month, some 76 tonnes of food, blankets, medicines, tents and basic necessities had been distributed in the stricken regions.

The programme to help temporarily displaced persons, persons displaced and then resettled, and people cut off by the conflict and in need continued in three main regions:

- Out of the Puerto Cabezas sub-delegation, which covers the Rio Coco region and the autonomous North Atlantic region;

- Out of the Bluefields sub-delegation, which covers Laguna de Perlas, Rio Escondido, Rio Wawasang and Rio Grande de Matagalpa;
- Out of the Managua delegation, which takes in the north-western and western provinces adjoining Honduras.

Food and material assistance

Despite certain problems of access to the conflict zones caused by the military situation and, to a lesser extent, to climatic and logistic difficulties, the ICRC continued its relief work for the civilian population in the above-mentioned regions.

As part of its programme to assist families returning to their villages of origin, the Puerto Cabezas sub-delegation distributed food rations for an average of three months and basic necessities (blankets, cooking utensils, mosquito nets, fishing tackle, agricultural implements, etc.).

The sub-delegation also aided families who were victims of the flooding in the Laguna de Wounta area and along the Rio Coco and Rio Prinzapolka.

The Bluefields sub-delegation helped families living in isolated villages who had come under attack or had just returned home.

Finally, the ICRC was active throughout the year in support of the programme launched by the Nicaraguan Red Cross to assist victims of the drought in Ocotal and people affected by the hurricane and subsequent flooding.

Medical assistance

The ICRC medical team, comprising a doctor and three or four nurses, monitored the food and medical situation of the people assisted. Many places cut off by the conflict were visited for the first time, in particular along the Rio Wawasang, the Rio Kurinwas and the Rio Punta Gorda and in the Matagalpa/Jinotega and Juigalpa areas.

There was also intense activity along the Rio Coco to help increasing numbers of refugees returning from Honduras.

While distributing relief supplies, ICRC medical staff gave consultations and vaccinations against measles, tetanus, poliomyelitis and diphtheria to some 2,000 people whom it was difficult for the government health services to reach.

On their travels, the ICRC nurses gave talks on public health and medical care to health workers in the villages and supplied them with pharmaceutical kits containing medicines and dressings. The institution's medical staff also

used the ICRC boat on several occasions to take seriously ill or wounded civilians and military personnel to government hospitals.

Lastly, throughout the year, the ICRC visited civilian hospitals and dispensaries run by the Ministry of Health as well as branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross situated in regions affected by the events or having to deal with an influx of displaced persons. Regular aid in the form of medicines and medical supplies was provided.

Orthopaedic programme

In accordance with the 1984 agreement between the ICRC and the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health, the institution continued to help run the Erasmo Paredes Herrera orthopaedic centre in Managua. During the year, the number of ICRC technicians assigned to this centre was gradually reduced to three, i.e., two orthopaedic technicians and one physiotherapist, who supervised staff in their final year of training. Eleven Nicaraguan participants in the three-year training programme successfully passed their final examination in December.

During the year, a total of 379 prostheses and 949 orthoses were manufactured under ICRC supervision. Over 1,000 patients were fitted and many orthopaedic appliances were repaired. In addition to the ICRC staff and the 11 trainees, the centre, to which President Ortega awarded the national medal for the country's most successful enterprise on 19 July, employed 65 Nicaraguan staff whose salaries were paid by the Ministry of Health.

Dissemination

The ICRC continued to support the programme of lectures on international humanitarian law and the Movement given in conjunction with the Nicaraguan Red Cross. The institution endeavoured to give these talks to a wider range of audiences in more areas of the country. Several seminars were organized, in particular for journalists, leading National Society officials, first-aid workers and volunteers.

With the agreement of the Ministries of Justice and the Interior, the delegation continued its nation-wide dissemination programme. Talks were given to representatives of various ministries, the National Constituent Assembly, police forces and the National Penitentiary System. Contact was also maintained with the Ministry of Defence to promote dissemination activities aimed at the armed forces. Finally, occasional talks were given to various audiences, including students, teachers and journalists.

Weekly radio programmes, including one in the Miskito language, were also produced and comics adapted to the Nicaraguan context were published and distributed to schoolchildren and members of the National Society youth section.

Co-operation with the National Society

In addition to its co-operation with the Nicaraguan Red Cross in the area of dissemination, the ICRC continued to provide the Society with logistic support to help it maintain its ambulance service, fleet of vehicles and communications network and thus increase its operational capacity.

The ICRC provided the National Society with ambulances and other vehicles, spare parts, various other equipment and teaching and dissemination material worth an estimated total of 936,000 Swiss francs. In Bluefields, the ICRC helped the Society to set up a system for the evacuation of the sick and wounded. This project was supported by the British Red Cross, which provided a marine engineer and boats. The port facilities constructed for the scheme were destroyed by Hurricane Joan and were to be rebuilt in 1989.

HONDURAS

ICRC activities in Honduras continued to be conducted from the regional delegation in San José, Costa Rica. Through numerous missions undertaken by the regional delegate, close relations were maintained with the Honduran authorities and Red Cross, and the situation in the country was followed closely, in particular in the border areas where citizens of neighbouring countries were living as refugees.

The headquarters agreement concluded in August 1987 between the Honduran government and the ICRC was ratified by the country's Congress on 8 March 1988.

Activities for displaced civilians

The ICRC continued to expand tracing activities, mainly comprising the exchange of family messages between refugees in Honduras and their families in Nicaragua and El Salvador. In all, 6,882 such messages were sent during the year. An ICRC tracing delegate was stationed in Honduras to strengthen the distribution and collection network. A tracing office had been set up in Tegucigalpa in 1987 and a second was opened in Mocorón in 1988. Thanks to this full-time presence in Mocorón and the delegates' frequent missions into the Mosquitia area, where Miskito In-

dians displaced from Nicaragua are living, ICRC contacts were improved with the local population, Honduran military authorities and the Nicaraguan armed opposition in the region. The ICRC thus became more familiar with the conditions in which people were living while at the same time ensuring better security and co-ordination for the ICRC teams working on the Nicaraguan side of the border, especially along the Rio Coco.

On 15 July, the ICRC's regional delegate visited nine people detained by a Nicaraguan opposition movement. In co-operation with the tracing office in Managua, information was collected and contacts established systematically with a view to gaining access to all persons presumed to be held by the Nicaraguan opposition movements.

Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

Work continued to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among the Honduran armed forces, in particular at their Senior Staff College. The ICRC also continued to advise the National Society in its activities to disseminate knowledge of humanitarian law and Red Cross principles. In addition, the institution gave material support for the Society's work for displaced persons and victims of natural disaster living in the border area, in particular on the Atlantic seaboard ravaged by the hurricane in October 1988.

Finally, in December, the Tracing Agency delegate took part in a seminar organized by the National Society for its dissemination officials.

GUATEMALA

Having come to an agreement with the Guatemalan authorities in late 1987, the ICRC opened a delegation in Guatemala City on 20 January 1988. In addition to building up a protection and assistance programme for civilians displaced by the conflict situation, the ICRC hoped to make visits to any security detainees. This hope was not fulfilled.

Activities for civilians

During the first six months of the year, delegates, one of them a doctor, made detailed assessments both in the zones affected by the conflict and nearby areas (Departments of Quiché, Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Alta Verapaz, Soblá and Petén). They made several trips to Quiché (Santa Cruz de Quiché, Nebaj, Salquil and Ixcán) where they visited villages and camps for displaced persons. Distributions of blankets and mats were organized in Nebaj and Salquil.

Dissemination

In November, the ICRC delegate to the armed forces travelled from Geneva to Guatemala to give two one-week courses on the law of war to 34 future senior staff officers and 18 army and air force instructors holding the rank of captain or major. Delegates had previously had the opportunity to give an introductory course on international humanitarian law to some 40 junior officers.

Relations with the National Society

In 1987, the ICRC confirmed to the Guatemalan Red Cross its intention to provide assistance and draw up a plan to increase the Society's operational capacity with emphasis on local branches in conflict zones. These projects could not be implemented in 1988 due to internal difficulties affecting the Society.

HAITI

In November 1987, the climate of tension in Haiti led the ICRC to post a delegate to Port-au-Prince. He remained there until June 1988, closely monitoring the situation and helping the Haitian National Red Cross Society to build up its operational capacity in order to deal with any further outbreaks of violence. During a visit in January, the ICRC Deputy Delegate General for Latin America met with General Dorce, the army Chief of Staff, and repeated the ICRC's request to be allowed access, in accordance with its customary procedure, to any persons detained in connection with the events. This offer of services was renewed in February to President Manigat and in March to his Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gérard Latortue.

Several days before the *coup d'état* of 20 June, delegates met General Namphy (at that time Commander in Chief of the armed forces), who responded favourably to the proposal that dissemination activities be increased in the armed forces. In reply to the offer of services repeated by the ICRC following the *coup*, the authorities stated that there were for the moment no detainees.

In the second half of the year, after the departure of the full-time delegate from Port-au-Prince, the regional delegate based in Costa Rica continued to visit Haiti regularly.

Co-operation with the National Society

In close conjunction with the Haitian National Red Cross Society and after consulting the League, the ICRC drew

up a plan in late 1987 to reorganize five of the Society's local branches, improve ambulance and first-aid services, build up a stock of emergency medical supplies in the capital and set up a dissemination programme. In February 1988, a team of Haitian Red Cross instructors began extensive travel in outlying areas to reactivate the Society's local branches and train first-aid workers. They also organized dissemination meetings in schools and for first-aid workers and instructors. By the time the ICRC delegate left in late June, the reorganization plan, which also included the delivery of nine ambulances and the setting up of a radiocommunications system, was well on its way to being implemented. As agreed, responsibility for co-ordinating the development programme was transferred to the League delegate stationed in Port-au-Prince.

Repatriation of shipwreck victims

Working closely with the Cuban and Haitian National Societies, the ICRC organized the repatriation of two groups of shipwrecked Haitians whose boat had run aground on the coast of Cuba. Sixty-seven people were repatriated on 23 March and 116 on 7 October in aircraft chartered by the ICRC.

OTHER COUNTRIES

COSTA RICA— The ICRC's regional delegation in Costa Rica maintained relations with the authorities and National Societies of the countries covered from San José. It also provided logistic support for the Managua and San Salvador delegations and developed its contacts with Nicaraguan counter-revolutionary movements.

Within Costa Rica itself, as in previous years, the ICRC continued to support the National Society (in particular its tracing service) in its work along the Nicaraguan border. The ICRC also supported the dissemination work of the Costa Rica Red Cross, for example in organizing talks for National Society members.

Numerous missions were carried out by the two ICRC regional delegates. In most of the countries visited, their activities focused on co-operation with the National Societies to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Movement, either by organizing courses and seminars or by providing support for Red Cross programmes in this sphere. The regional delegates also raised the matter of accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions with the relevant government authorities in countries not yet party to those instruments.

Finally, the regional delegation remained in close touch with the Managua and San Salvador delegations in order to arrange for the exchange of family messages and to trace missing persons, possibly the victims of forced disappearance. In October, a seminar was organized for tracing staff from Central American Red Cross Societies.

CUBA— The President of the ICRC, accompanied by the Delegate General for Latin America, made an official visit to Cuba from 10 to 13 April at the invitation of the Cuban government. He had talks with leading officials, including President Fidel Castro, Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, Minister of Foreign Affairs Isidoro Malmierca and Minister of Health Julio Teja Pérez, who is also President of the Cuban Red Cross.

At the end of his visit, the ICRC President announced at a press conference in Havana that the institution had been authorized to visit, in accordance with its customary procedure, persons held in Cuban prisons for reasons connected with State security.

An initial series of visits was made to 13 places of detention where the ICRC team (five delegates, including a doctor) visited 406 security detainees. A confidential report on those visits was submitted to the highest Cuban government authorities, who confirmed that the ICRC could undertake a second series of visits in 1989.

In addition, ICRC delegates made three visits (June, August and November) to a South African soldier captured in May 1988 in southern Angola and subsequently transferred to Cuba for medical care.

Finally, there was regular contact between the ICRC and the Cuban authorities and National Society to encourage Cuba to ratify Additional Protocol II, to envisage dissemination programmes for the armed forces and the National Society and to settle various matters connected with the repatriation of shipwrecked Haitians (see *Haiti*).

GRENADA— In February, the regional delegate based in Costa Rica went to Grenada where he reminded the authorities that the ICRC wished to resume its visits to security detainees there (the previous visit having been in December 1985). He received a favourable reply and was able to begin visits on 15 February. These had to be cancelled immediately, however, because the authorities rejected the principle of interviews without witnesses. On his next mission, in August, the regional delegate was received by the Prime Minister. It was nevertheless not possible to remove all the obstacles to ICRC visits.

The regional delegate took part from 26 to 28 October

in a dissemination seminar organized by the Red Cross Society of Grenada for some 30 people, most of them representing the government and the armed forces.

MEXICO— The regional delegate travelled to Mexico in April, July, August and October in order to continue discussions with the authorities and the Mexican Red Cross. These talks dealt mainly with the question of Mexico's accession to Additional Protocol II, dissemination programmes and the opening of a regional ICRC delegation in Mexico City.

In August, he took part in a seminar on international humanitarian law organized in Mexico City by the National Society to mark the Movement's 125th anniversary and in October he attended the Society's national convention in Acapulco.

PANAMA— In view of the tense situation prevailing in Panama since June 1987, the ICRC offered its services to the Panamanian government to act in behalf of people detained in connection with the events and to set up a programme to enable the Red Cross Society of Panama to cope with any deterioration of the situation. The ICRC financed the purchase of various medicines and two ambulances and paid the salaries of ambulance attendants for a period of three months.

The ICRC's offer of services, accompanied by a memorandum on its criteria for visits to places of detention, was submitted in May by the regional delegate based in Costa Rica on one of his regular visits to Panama. He again raised the matter on subsequent visits to Panama City in early July and in November, when he had a meeting with Mr. Solís Palma, Minister of the Presidency.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC— In the course of his four missions to the Dominican Republic, the regional delegate based in Costa Rica continued discussions with government authorities on the procedure for accession to the Additional Protocols. He also worked with the Dominican Red Cross to draw up a dissemination programme and gave a number of talks on international humanitarian law, in particular in March during a seminar attended by some 30 lawyers, and in December at the Catholic University.

South America

CHILE

In Santiago, where the ICRC set up a permanent delegation in 1973, visits to persons detained for security reasons

continued to be the institution's main activity. Regular contact concerning these visits was maintained with the Chilean authorities, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and the Interior.

The ICRC also continued to discuss with the military authorities the question of ratifying the Additional Protocols, to which Chile is not yet party, and encouraged the dissemination of international humanitarian law, especially among the armed forces.

Visits to detainees

Throughout the year, the five delegates (including a doctor) based in Santiago went regularly to the prisons there and in other parts of the country where 453 security detainees were being held, under security laws 12.927, 17.798 and 18.314. Confidential summary reports on the conditions in Chilean prisons and the treatment of security detainees were regularly submitted to and discussed with the relevant authorities.

The ICRC was in general able to visit persons held for interrogation by the security corps, i.e., the *Policía de Investigaciones* and the *Carabineros*, in the days immediately following their arrest. Since June 1987, the *Central Nacional de Informaciones* (CNI) has been transferring people it has arrested to the *Policía de Investigaciones*, and has regularly informed the ICRC of such arrests and transfers. Using the information on arrests received almost daily from the CNI and lists of detainees provided to the ICRC by the headquarters of the *Policía de Investigaciones*, delegates were able quickly to locate and see persons arrested in the capital and elsewhere in the country. Lawyers, detainees' families and the media also provided information.

The delegation continued talks with the competent authorities with a view to obtaining a daily list of the arrests made by the *Carabineros* as well.

Military prosecutors were making increasing use of Article 11 of law 18.314, under which a person under interrogation may be kept incommunicado in a place used for interrogation for up to 10 days, and even longer after being transferred to a prison under Article 299 *et seq.* of the Chilean penal code. The ICRC continued talks with the authorities aimed at gaining access to this category of detainee but in several cases was not allowed to see the prisoners concerned.

Medical and food assistance for detainees and their families

The ICRC continued its medical assistance programmes for security detainees. According to the needs assessed by

the ICRC doctor, the institution financed the purchase of medicines and provided dental care and spectacles.

Food aid was given to supplement the diet of the detainees visited; they received monthly supplies of powdered milk, cheese and vegetable oil.

Hygiene articles, clothing, mattresses, blankets and leisure items were also distributed from time to time in the prisons.

The ICRC also maintained its assistance programme for needy families of detainees. Some 300 homes in Santiago and other regions of the country regularly received food parcels. A special programme enabled the children of some of these families to continue going to school. Finally, travel expenses were defrayed to enable families to visit detained relatives or enable detainees to return home upon release.

The cost of these various assistance programmes came to 368,000 Swiss francs.

Co-operation with the National Society

The ICRC supported the work of the Chilean Red Cross, in particular that of its youth section, by financing a seminar to train officials responsible for local branches and provide basic information on international humanitarian law, the Red Cross emblem and the ICRC's work in Chile.

In addition, it handed over 133 tonnes of food, worth 537,000 Swiss francs, to the National Society under a programme to assist poor families.

COLOMBIA

The ICRC maintained its regional delegation in Bogotá covering the Andean countries. In Colombia itself, delegates continued their regular visits to persons detained for public order violations and, in conjunction with the Colombian Red Cross Society, to develop programmes to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law. The ICRC Delegate General for Latin America travelled in early February and again in early November to Colombia where he met, among other officials, General Samudio Molina, former Minister of National Defence, General Guerrero Paz, his successor, Colonel Julio Londoño Paredes, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and leading officials of the National Society. During their talks, both dissemination and the matter of Colombia's ratification of the Additional Protocols were raised, just as they were regularly throughout the year by the regional delegate in Bogotá. In November, the Delegate General presented to the authorities a confidential report based on accounts by detainees who had been placed under interrogation before their transfer to prison. These accounts had been gathered by delegates dur-

ing their visits to detention centres administered by the Ministry of Justice.

Finally, the question of ICRC access to detainees under interrogation in military barracks and in police stations was raised with the Colombian authorities on several occasions.

Visits to detainees

The ICRC continued its visits to places of detention administered by the Ministry of Justice. Delegates visited persons detained under the "anti-terrorism law" (DL 180) of 27 January 1988 and being held in Bogotá and other regions of the country. In addition to those visits, which were carried out at regular intervals and in accordance with ICRC criteria, delegates made special visits to register newly arrested people as quickly as possible following their transfer from places of interrogation. In all, 146 security detainees were visited, 118 of them for the first time, in 26 places of detention.

Material aid such as clothing, books and personal hygiene items were given to the detainees visited. Medicines worth a total of 12,760 Swiss francs were provided to the detainees and authorities in 12 places of detention, three of them in Bogotá.

Finally, the ICRC financed a disinfection campaign at the Popayán prison and the fumigation of the Florencia prison.

Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

With violence growing in many parts of the country, promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law became a priority on which the ICRC worked a great deal in 1988, in close co-operation with the Colombian Red Cross. Many new contacts were made with armed forces and police officers, civil authorities, parliamentarians and representatives of academic circles and the press in order to make the basic principles of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law better known.

In June and July, two seminars were organized in Cali for municipal council members and journalists.

At the request of the Ministry of Defence, a lecture was given on 13 September to senior officers at the *Escuela Superior de Guerra*.

On 14 October, 50 officers from the 4th Brigade attended a session organized in Medellín.

On 19 October, a presentation was made on various aspects of international humanitarian law, in particular the Additional Protocols and Article 3 common to the four

Geneva Conventions, to a plenary meeting of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee.

Finally, a number of seminars were organized and pamphlets published by the National Society with help from the ICRC, which reached an agreement with the Society in November on increasing co-operation in dissemination over the coming years.

In December, the ICRC decided to lend its support to one of the Society's dissemination programmes.

PERU

The ICRC has had a delegation in Peru continuously since 1984. In 1987, however, the institution began to face increasing difficulties in its work and, although it was able in 1988 to continue visiting persons detained for security reasons in places administered by the Ministry of Justice, it was refused access in accordance with its customary procedure to security detainees held in centres administered by the *Policía de Investigaciones del Perú* (PIP). The PIP's central prison in Lima, the *Dirección contra el Terrorismo* (DIRCOTE), is administered by the Ministry of the Interior. In addition, renewed access to the Ayacucho region, an area in a state of emergency and one of the most severely affected by violence, was finally granted to the ICRC in March 1988, after 14 months of suspension and long negotiations, only to be withdrawn yet again on 20 June.

Over the year, the ICRC made an increasing number of oral and written representations to redress the situation, but without success. The Delegate General for Latin America went to Peru in February and again in November. There he met many government representatives, including the Ministers of the Interior, Justice and Defence and the country's Chief Public Prosecutor. Neither these meetings nor messages sent from 1987 onwards to Mr. Alan García Pérez, the Peruvian President, led to the removal of the obstacles hampering the ICRC's work.

The ICRC was, however, able to continue its programmes to assist detainees and their families, come to the aid of people who had recently fled conflict zones and step up its presence and develop its activities for civilian victims of the conflict situation in areas under a state of emergency, in the departments of Apurímac, San Martín, Huánuco, Pasco and, for a very brief period, Ayacucho and Huanacavelica. It was decided to launch campaigns in those areas to promote knowledge of Red Cross principles and to support the health posts whose work had been affected by the conflict situation.

By the end of 1988, apart from the premises of the Lima delegation, the ICRC had two operational bases, staffed

by full-time local employees, in Abancay (Apurímac) and Ayacucho, where a sub-delegation had been opened in mid-1986.

Visits to security detainees

The ICRC has since November 1982 had regular access, in accordance with its customary criteria for visits, to persons held under the anti-terrorism laws in places of detention administered by the Ministry of Justice.

In 1988, the four prisons in Lima and the penitentiaries in other parts of the country were regularly visited by ICRC delegates, often accompanied by a doctor. In all, 1,072 security detainees were visited — 377 of them for the first time — in 54 prisons.

In October, the ICRC submitted to the relevant authorities a confidential summary report on the visits it had made between July 1987 and August 1988.

Regarding the places of detention administered by the Ministry of the Interior, beginning in 1986 the ICRC had been refused access ever more frequently to DIRCOTE premises until visits were stopped completely in April 1987. Moreover, visits to all places of detention run by the PIP had been suspended in December 1987.

Over the year, the head of delegation made an increasing number of representations about this problem. It was also discussed with government representatives by the Delegate General during his visits to the country.

In December, a confidential report was submitted to the authorities. It was based on accounts gathered by delegates from security detainees following their transfer to prison and described the conditions of detention in the PIP and DIRCOTE centres.

In some of the areas under a state of emergency, visits were carried out on the basis of agreements reached with the local military authorities. Between March and June, such visits were made in Ayacucho (at the Ayacucho, San Miguel, Huanta and Cangallo prisons). In other areas under a state of emergency (the departments of San Martín, Huánuco, Pasco and Apurímac), visits continued over the rest of the year.

Material and medical assistance for detainees and their families

The ICRC continued to distribute, as needed, medicines, personal hygiene items, leisure articles, food, clothing and blankets to security detainees. The economic crisis in Peru resulted in a loss of purchasing power which posed serious budget-deficit problems for the prison administrations. This

in turn had repercussions on the detainees' diet. The ICRC therefore set up special programmes to deliver powdered milk and cheese to four prisons in Lima. It also assisted the administration of the Saposoa, Abancay, Tarapoto and Arequipa prisons in carrying out repairs on piping, roofs, etc.

Help was provided to some detainees' families living far from their relatives' place of detention and unable to afford travelling expenses for trips to the prison. Some of these families and recently released detainees also received material assistance in the form of food and other basic necessities.

Finally, although the tuberculosis control programme set up in Lurigancho prison in 1985 was taken over by the authorities in 1987, the ICRC decided to maintain its supplementary food programme for people suffering from the disease.

In 1988, 380,000 Swiss francs' worth of material assistance was provided to detainees and their families. Medicines and other medical supplies represented 32,700 Swiss francs.

Activities for the civilian population

Delegates often travelled to the areas under a state of emergency in the departments of San Martín, Huánuco and Apurímac to assess the medical and nutritional needs of the civilian population affected by the conflict there and to promote knowledge of the principles of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross among members of the armed forces, staff of health posts and the general population. It was often very difficult to gain access to the civilians affected by the conflict. This was due not only to the security situation and logistical problems (sometimes impassable roads, especially during the rainy season) but also to restrictions imposed on the ICRC by the authorities in Ayacucho where, for example, the malaria control programme which had been planned for June was not carried out because it was not possible to travel freely to the villages concerned.

As part of a programme run in close conjunction with the Peruvian Red Cross, the ICRC opened six school canteens (*comedores*) for about 900 children, most of them orphans, in Abancay and Chahuanca (Apurímac). In all, eight *comedores* (six in Apurímac and two in Ayacucho) were operated in 1988 by National Society staff.

At the end of the year, the ICRC asked the military authorities in Apurímac for permission to set up a mobile medical team to give consultations and vaccinations and teach basic preventive medicine to civilians in the villages.

In the department of Huánuco, 2,764 civilians living in areas where medical services had broken down because of the conflict situation were vaccinated against yellow fever.

Mattresses, blankets, food and cooking utensils were distributed to displaced persons who had recently arrived in urban areas. These relief supplies provided by the ICRC (sometimes through the Peruvian Red Cross) to the civilian population in 1988 were worth an estimated total of 182,000 Swiss francs.

Dissemination

The delegation presented ICRC activities and the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law to:

- 645 officers, commanders and employees of the air force academy, the CAEM military school, the Abancay and Chuquibambilla military bases, the naval unit in Tingo María and the 31st infantry division in Huánuco;
- 960 members of three police corps in Ayacucho, Lima, Huánuco, San Martín and Apurímac;
- some 250 lawyers, students from the diplomatic school and the faculty of law at the University of San Marcos during a four-day seminar on human rights;
- some 5,000 local civilian and military officials, health workers, Red Cross staff, law students and lawyers during 52 talks given in the departments of Lima, Apurímac, Ayacucho, Huánuco, San Martín and Arequipa.

OTHER COUNTRIES

ARGENTINA— The ICRC regional delegation in Argentina maintained contact with both the authorities and the National Society in the country. Delegates took an active part in a number of courses and seminars, most of them for the armed forces, teachers and law students.

Delegates also took part in two days of presentations on international humanitarian law organized by the Bahía Blanca (Buenos Aires province) branch of the Argentine Red Cross.

Finally, while attending the twelfth ordinary session of the Latin American Parliament in Buenos Aires from 23 to 26 August, Mr. Athos Gallino, a member of the Committee, met Mr. Raúl Alfonsín, President of the Argentine Republic, Mr. Dante Caputo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Supreme Council of the Argentine Red Cross.

BOLIVIA— Delegates based in Buenos Aires made three trips to Bolivia to maintain contact with the government

and the National Society. Their talks with the authorities, in particular the President of the Senate and the President of the Chamber of Deputies, dealt mainly with the need to expedite the incorporation into domestic law of the Additional Protocols, to which Bolivia has been party since December 1983.

Several lectures on international humanitarian law were given to officers and officer cadets, colonels from the general staff, senior civil servants and lawyers. Many dissemination meetings were also held at regional branches of the Bolivian Red Cross.

BRAZIL— The Brazilian Red Cross and the ICRC organized an initial seminar in Rio de Janeiro from 6 to 10 June to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law. The regional delegate based in Buenos Aires also took part in the third Brazilian congress on the philosophy of law, which brought together some 450 lawyers from Latin America and Europe in João Pessoa in July.

A symposium on the implementation of international humanitarian law and the question of Brazil's accession to the Additional Protocols was held in Brasilia from 17 to 19 October. At the invitation of the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations, the ICRC Delegate General for Latin America took part in the symposium, which was organized for senior civilian and military officials of the Federal Government.

Finally, ICRC representatives had talks on various occasions with the Brazilian authorities, in particular about the country's accession to the Additional Protocols.

ECUADOR— The regional delegate based in Bogotá went to Quito in early July and again in late August for talks with the government and the Ecuadorean Red Cross on promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law. He also reminded them that the ICRC was prepared to visit security detainees in Ecuador.

In September, the ICRC decided to take part in the National Society's nation-wide dissemination programme for 1989 and, in November, the regional delegate attended the first meeting of the interministerial committee on dissemination of international humanitarian law, which is responsible for co-ordinating the dissemination activities of the National Society and the various ministries.

GUYANA— The delegate based in Suriname went in early December to the Republic of Guyana to discuss the ICRC's support for the dissemination activities of the Guyana Red Cross Society. He also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and two armed forces representatives to discuss the implementation of the Geneva Conventions and their

Additional Protocols, which Guyana ratified on 18 January 1988.

PARAGUAY— Delegates based in Buenos Aires made frequent trips to Asunción, where an ICRC office staffed by a full-time local employee was opened on 14 July.

Delegates continued to go twice a year to the country's places of detention to visit, in accordance with ICRC criteria, any security detainees held there. Thus they visited:

- from 18 to 22 April, five places of detention, two of which were administered by the Ministry of the Interior, two by the Ministry of Justice and Labour and one by the police. Two security detainees were seen and interviewed without witnesses;
- from 2 to 11 November, eight places of detention, two of which were administered by the Ministry of Justice and Labour, four by the Ministry of the Interior and two by the police. They saw one security detainee and interviewed him without witnesses. This prisoner, who was of Chilean origin, was seen informally by the delegate about once every six weeks. The ICRC also paid for a member of his family to visit him.

Other subjects frequently raised with the authorities were dissemination and ratification of the Additional Protocols, which the ICRC is encouraging Paraguay to do.

The ICRC lent its support to the dissemination activities of the Paraguayan Red Cross.

SURINAME— In view of the internal situation, the ICRC increased its presence in Suriname by basing a delegate there continuously from November 1987 to the end of 1988.

The Delegate General went to Paramaribo in January and again in November. He was received there by the country's authorities, including President Shankar, and by leading officials of the Red Cross Society of Suriname. During the discussions explanations were given with regard to the ICRC's role *vis-à-vis* the civilian population and its responsibilities should the refugees in French Guyana return to the country. They also discussed promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces and increasing the operational capacity of the National Society.

The ICRC delegate went regularly to the conflict zones in central and eastern Suriname to assess the situation of the civilian population. In August and again in October, he travelled up the Maroni River; most of the area's inhabitants had left because of the fighting. He also went to Moenga and Albina; they were almost completely deserted and only a few small groups of refugees returned in the second half of the year.

The security detainees whom the ICRC had visited regularly in Paramaribo in 1987 had all been released at the end of that year. In January and again in October 1988 the delegate had access, in accordance with the ICRC's customary criteria, to six persons captured by the rebel forces. Red Cross messages were exchanged between the prisoners and their families.

Finally, the ICRC helped the National Society set up a dissemination programme. Publications were issued in Dutch and the purchase of dissemination material was financed by the ICRC.

URUGUAY— Delegates based in Buenos Aires went on several occasions to Uruguay to strengthen contacts with the authorities and the National Society and to encourage the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

On 25 and 26 August, Mr. Athos Gallino, a member of the Committee, went to Montevideo where he took part in the closing session of the third course for dissemination

staff from Latin American Red Cross Societies (see *The Law and Juridical Considerations*). He was received by the Uruguayan authorities, with whom he discussed mainly dissemination and Uruguay's financial contribution to the ICRC.

On 16 March, both Mr. Julio María Sanguinetti, President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, and the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs were received at ICRC headquarters by President Sommaruga and several members of the Committee and staff.

VENEZUELA— The regional delegate based in Bogotá went to Caracas in October and December to discuss Venezuela's accession to the Additional Protocols and examine the possibility of promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law among members of the armed forces. In October, he had the opportunity of presenting the Additional Protocols in detail to the members of the foreign relations committee of the Congress.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1988

LATIN AMERICA

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Recipients	Relief		Medical assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnes	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
Chile	Detainees, their families and National Society	299	905,954	9,382	915,336
Colombia	Detainees	—	2,907	3,761	6,668
El Salvador	Displaced civilians, detainees and National Society	710	672,490	353,177	1,025,667
Guatemala	Displaced civilians	2	5,160	—	5,160
Honduras	National Society	50	175,205	—	175,205
Nicaragua	Displaced civilians, the disabled, detainees and National Society	1,938	3,334,462	284,599	3,619,061
Paraguay	National Society	40	451,624	—	451,624
Peru	Detainees, their families and National Society	121	562,864	37,548	600,412
TOTAL		3,160	6,110,666	688,467	6,799,133