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*Afghanistan:  
transporting  
relief supplies  
to Pul-I-Charki prison  
(Kabul).*



(Slide: ICRC/P. Halonen — AFGH 4/13)



*Thai border:  
newly arrived  
Khmers  
are transferred  
to Site B camp.*

(Photo: ICRC/T. Gassmann — THAI 263/34)

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

There was a considerable expansion in ICRC activities in 1988. While the institution continued its work along the Khmer-Thai border, where more than 300,000 displaced persons are living in camps, stepped up its involvement in the Philippines and maintained a presence in East Timor, the most significant increase was seen in its activities to help the victims of the conflict situation in Afghanistan. During 1988, the ICRC visited people taken prisoner in connection with the Afghan conflict, as well as detainees in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam and China. In addition, its regional delegates carried out missions in some 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

For all its operations in Asia and the Pacific region, at the end of 1988 the ICRC had 206 delegates (including medical and administrative staff) and 1,459 locally recruited employees working in five delegations in the following countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kampuchea, Thailand and the Philippines. These delegations were supplemented by four regional delegations:

- **New Delhi**, covering India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives;
- **Hong Kong**, covering China, the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Macao;
- **Hanoi**, covering Viet Nam and Laos;
- **Jakarta**, covering Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the island States of the southern Pacific, Australia and New Zealand.

Special fund-raising appeals were made for the ICRC's work to help the victims of the Afghan conflict and the Kampuchean conflict as well as for the Philippines and East Timor. The activities of the regional delegations were funded under the ICRC's regular budget.

### AFGHAN CONFLICT

All aspects of the ICRC's work in connection with the Afghan conflict expanded considerably in 1988. Increased efforts were required to start up a wide range of activities both in Afghanistan and Pakistan; this called for an increase in staff at the delegations and extra funds to carry out the ICRC's humanitarian mandate.

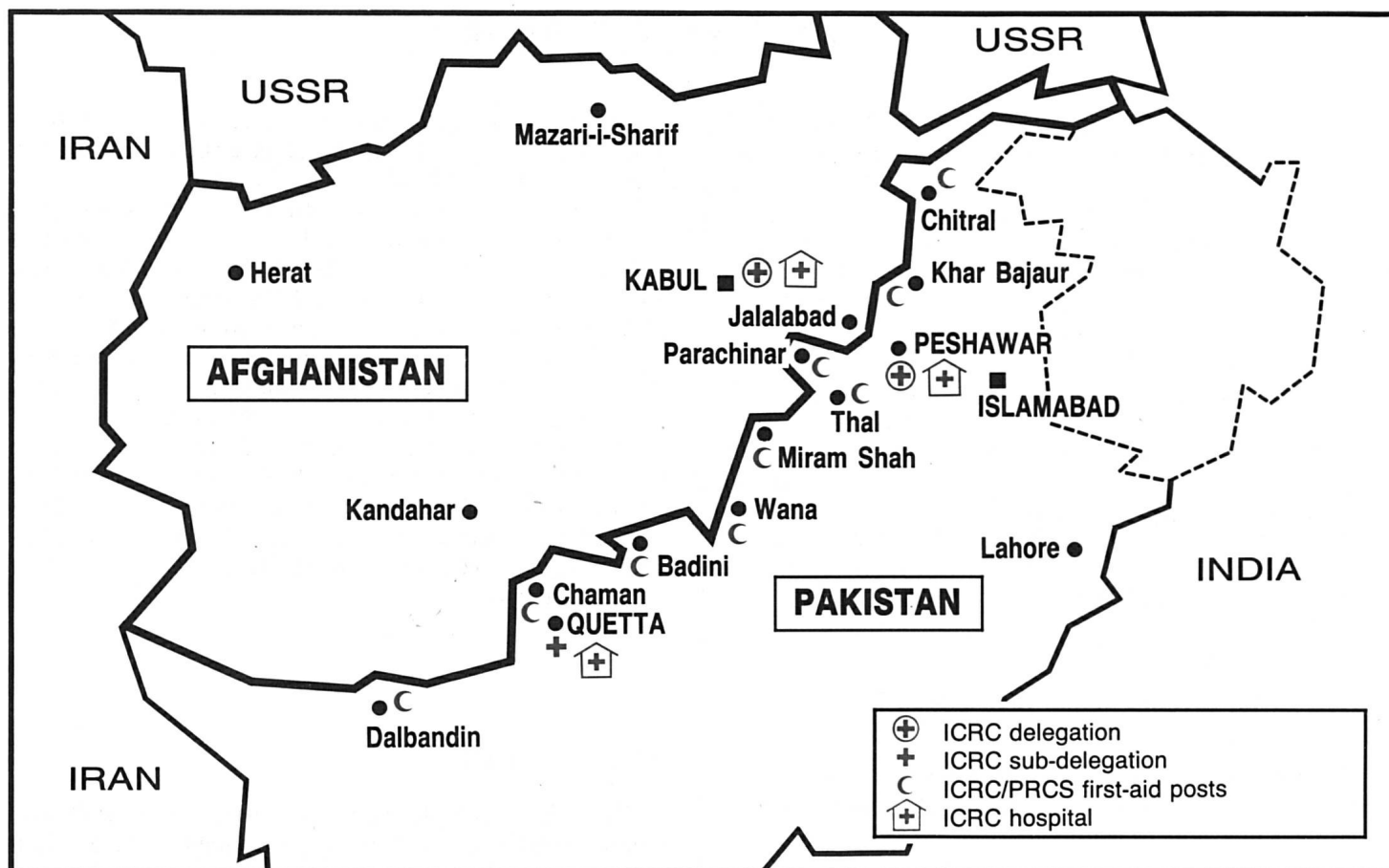
An emergency appeal was made to donors to cover operational expenses and the final budget estimates, revised in June, came to 57,821,400 Swiss francs.

The number of staff at both ICRC delegations was substantially increased during the year. In addition to its 286 local employees, the ICRC delegation in Kabul had a staff of 54 as at 31 December 1988. Approximately half of the medical personnel (18 people) were seconded to the ICRC by the National Societies of the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden. On the same date, 65 people were working in the Peshawar delegation (including the Quetta sub-delegation), among them 21 from National Societies (Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand and Sweden), plus 812 local employees.

### AFGHANISTAN

Discussions took place on several occasions in 1988 with senior officials of the Afghan government. The Minister for Foreign Affairs was received by President Sommaruga at ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 10 March. While on mission in Kabul in June, the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific had talks with the Prime Minister and with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Prime Minister again met the head of delegation on 27 December. The main subject of discussion on all these occasions was the development of ICRC activities in Afghanistan, particularly in the area of protection.

The delegates based in Kabul went on four missions outside the capital: in May, the head of delegation and the medical co-ordinator visited Herat, the capital of Herat province in the west of the country, to assess local medical facilities. A second mission in July to distribute medical supplies was followed up in December by a visit to Herat prison. Another mission was sent from Kabul to Mazari-i-Sharif, the capital of the northern province of Balkh. A medical survey similar to the one conducted in Herat was carried out there in August and this was followed in December by prison visits. Further details about these missions may be found under the relevant headings below.



### Medical activities

There was a marked increase in medical activities since several medical assistance programmes which had been negotiated with the authorities in 1987 were put into effect in 1988. Of prime importance was the opening in Kabul on 1 October of the ICRC **war surgery hospital**, which has an emergency capacity of up to 150 patients. By the end of the year it had already admitted 213 wounded (not including 1,508 outpatients) and 451 operations had been performed. The hospital, which is under the sole responsibility of the ICRC, had two surgical teams supplied by the Danish and Finnish National Societies and 88 local employees as at 31 December. The ICRC organized a programme of theoretical and practical training for 60 of these local employees.

Another medical project, the ICRC **orthopaedic centre** in Kabul, began to function in 1988. The centre was set up to provide orthopaedic appliances to people who have

had limbs amputated or been left otherwise disabled as a result of the fighting or the explosion of mines. In the first phase crutches were manufactured, then, from March onwards, prostheses and orthoses; in April, the first war amputees were fitted with appliances in the centre, which also carries out repairs. Courses of physiotherapy are also given at the orthopaedic centre and at the war surgery hospital, and the ICRC physiotherapist provides training to local personnel. Under the direction of the ICRC, production staff was recruited and trained locally. During this initial year, the orthopaedic centre produced 1,770 pairs of crutches and 90 prostheses or orthoses.

In addition, the ICRC continued to assist the seven **Afghan Red Crescent dispensaries** in Kabul by providing them with emergency medical supplies and medicines, as needed, for the displaced civilian population. Furthermore, three ICRC nurses toured four of these dispensaries every day to train staff from the National Society in medical care.



On the basis of regular assessments carried out by the medical co-ordinator in the capital's six **civilian hospitals**, the ICRC distributed emergency medical supplies and medicines for the war wounded. Surveys conducted by the delegation in two provincial towns, Herat and Mazari-i-Sharif, also led to *ad hoc* distributions of medical supplies to help the towns' hospitals cope with the influx of people wounded as a result of the conflict.

#### Activities for detainees

A mission by the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific to Kabul in December 1987 resulted in the agreement in principle of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior and State Security to ICRC visits to people detained in Afghan prisons because of the conflict situation. These visits took place in 1988.

Afghanistan's main prison, **Pul-i-Charkhi prison in Kabul**, was the first to be visited by ICRC delegates. The visit began on 12 March and continued until the end of August. The delegates saw, in accordance with the ICRC's customary criteria, all sentenced detainees under the jurisdiction of both the Ministry of the Interior (Blocks 3 and 4), and the Ministry of State Security (Blocks 1 and 2). Conversely, they were not allowed to visit, in accordance with ICRC criteria, detainees under the responsibility of the Ministry of State Security who were awaiting trial or under interrogation.

There was a follow-up visit in November and December to detainees under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior in Pul-i-Charkhi prison. In addition, the detainees were given a limited amount of material assistance during the first series of visits.

The ICRC also gained access to the **Dar-ul-Tadib detention centre in Kabul** where people under 20 years old were being held (penal law and security detainees, awaiting trial or sentenced). After this visit, which took place in October, all the young people held in the centre received parcels from the ICRC in November containing toilet articles, food and educational and recreational items. There was a follow-up visit to Dar-ul-Tadib at the end of December.

Two provincial prisons were also visited by the delegates while on mission outside the capital. In September, they went to **Mazari-i-Sharif prison** in the north of the country where they visited, in accordance with the ICRC's customary criteria, several categories of detainees all of whom were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior. After the visit, blankets and clothing were distributed. In December, the delegates visited detainees

held under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior in **Herat prison** in the west of the country. Limited assistance was provided to these detainees.

*Visits to persons detained by the Afghan opposition were conducted from Pakistan and are described under the corresponding heading below.*

#### Tracing Agency

The visits to prisoners led to a marked increase in the activities of the Tracing Agency in Afghanistan. Most of the Red Cross messages (1,600 in 1988) exchanged through the ICRC were written by detainees held by the government and by the opposition forces or sent to them by members of their families. Moreover, tracing requests were made in respect of a growing number of people reported missing and presumed detained, as well as inhabitants of Kabul whose relatives abroad had no news of them. The Agency also issued 29 travel documents to Afghans who had been granted refugee status in third countries.

#### Dissemination

With the arrival in Kabul in May of a delegate specialized in the subject, the delegation began to develop dissemination programmes. Particular emphasis was placed on the nature and activities of the ICRC and the Movement, as an indirect means of ensuring the safety of the delegates as they were going about their humanitarian work. In addition to dissemination carried out as part of other activities at the Afghan Red Crescent dispensaries, the orthopaedic centre, civilian hospitals and prisons, talks were given to students, secondary schoolchildren and Afghan doctors and nurses. Furthermore, material on the fundamental principles of the Movement and the ICRC's criteria for action were printed in Pashtu and Dari. Messages were also broadcast in these two languages on the BBC and Deutsche Welle shortwave networks, announcing the whereabouts of delegates travelling in the provinces.

#### PAKISTAN

The Pakistan Minister for Foreign Affairs was received by the ICRC Vice-President in April and this was followed in May by a visit from the Minister of Health. The meetings provided an opportunity to take stock of what the ICRC was doing and wished to do in Pakistan, in particular making visits to Afghans detained in Pakistan prisons in connection with the conflict situation. This issue was also

raised in letters from Mr. Sommaruga to Mr. Zia ul Haq, the President of Pakistan, and to his successor, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The matter was also discussed by the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific while on mission in Afghanistan from 11 to 15 July, in particular with President Zia ul Haq. On that occasion the Pakistan authorities assured the ICRC that they would fully support all its protection activities within the context of the Afghan conflict.

### Medical activities

The two ICRC surgical hospitals set up near the Afghan border in Peshawar and Quetta, in 1981 and 1983 respectively, were extremely busy in 1988. The renewed fighting in the border areas led to an unprecedented influx of wounded into both these establishments and the ICRC had to increase their capacity and send in extra surgical teams. As at 31 December, three surgical teams were at work in each. The Peshawar hospital was extended to reach a maximum capacity of 390 beds, as compared with 250 in Quetta. However, the normal occupancy rate of both hospitals was exceeded on more than one occasion during the year: several times, Quetta was running at 70 per cent above its usual capacity, with an average occupancy rate for the year of 130 per cent; Peshawar, with a 120% occupancy rate, was similarly overworked. In 1988, the Peshawar hospital admitted a total of 2,320 patients and Quetta 2,188. In Peshawar 4,691 operations were performed and 9,453 outpatient consultations given, while the figures for Quetta were 4,608 and 11,583 respectively.

Some 60% of the patients treated in the ICRC hospitals in Pakistan had been brought there from first-aid posts strung out along the border. These posts all had ambulances to pick up the wounded near the combat zones, provide first aid and then take them to the Peshawar and Quetta hospitals. At the end of 1988 there were nine such posts, including six in the North-West Frontier Province: Khar Bajaur, Parachinar, Thal, Miram Shah, Wana and the new post in Landi Kotal. The latter was opened in April on the road leading up to the vital Khyber Pass which links Peshawar to Kabul. Because of weather conditions (access blocked by snow), the Chitral post was open only from July to November. In Baluchistan, a new post was established in Dalbandin in October in addition to the existing ones in Badini and Chaman.

The first-aid posts are run in co-operation with the Pakistan Red Crescent; the teams working there are made up of a doctor or a nurse, a driver and a guard. The delegates based in Peshawar and Quetta regularly assess their requirements and monitor how they work. In all, the

nine first-aid posts treated 791 patients in 1988 and transferred 3,190 others to the two ICRC hospitals. The total number of wounded (3,981) dealt with by the first-aid posts was almost double that for 1987.

The ICRC continued to work for the long-term rehabilitation of the war wounded. The centre for paraplegics in Hyatabad, on the outskirts of Peshawar, opened in 1984 and is run by the North-West Frontier Province branch of the Pakistan Red Crescent. The ICRC funds the centre and one of its nurses was working there regularly until November, when she was replaced by a medical adviser, the remainder of the staff being provided by the National Society. The centre admits Pakistanis and Afghans in practically equal numbers; a total of 269 patients were treated in Hyatabad in 1988. Furthermore, equipment for the disabled is manufactured on the spot using locally available materials. Thus 385 wheelchairs (some for use at the orthopaedic centre in Kabul), 387 orthopaedic appliances and 135 pairs of crutches were produced in 1988.

Apart from the centre in Hyatabad, the orthopaedic workshop in Peshawar, which opened in 1981, also fits Afghan amputees with prostheses. Two ICRC prosthetists are working there full-time, helped by a locally recruited and trained Afghan team. In 1988 this workshop manufactured 653 prostheses, 134 orthoses and 618 rubber feet. The centre also fits amputees with appliances, repairs worn appliances and replaces those no longer suitable (mainly for child amputees). If necessary, patients may stay at the centre and later the ICRC helps them to acquire a certain degree of independence so that they can reintegrate more easily into society.

The blood transfusion centres continued to function in the ICRC hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta, making both establishments self-sufficient even during emergencies. Donors were recruited among the relatives of the wounded, members of the Afghan opposition movements, refugees and local and expatriate ICRC staff. A technician from the Danish National Society was in charge of running these blood banks, with the help in Quetta of a laboratory technician from the Swedish Red Cross. A total of 3,083 units of blood were collected in 1988 and 2,506 of them were used for transfusion.

First-aid courses continued for Afghan nationals preparing to return to their country. The ICRC organizes two types of course: one-month courses after which participants receive a first-aid certificate, and which includes an introduction to the principles of the Movement and international humanitarian law; and two-day courses during which the participants learn basic first-aid procedures and elementary notions about the Movement and international

humanitarian law. Everyone who follows these courses receives a first-aid kit from the ICRC.

### Activities for detainees

The ICRC delegation in Pakistan stepped up the number of its missions to the field and its contacts with the Afghan opposition parties and their regional commanders. Talks held on several occasions with the latter provided delegates with an opportunity to explain the role and mandate of the ICRC in the context of the Afghan conflict, with particular regard to the protection of detainees and the institution's criteria for taking action. The ICRC's aim was to gain access to all captured persons, whether Afghan or Soviet.

Thus delegates went on many missions to the border areas, in circumstances rendered difficult by the mountainous terrain, poor weather conditions and the uncertain security situations, to visit people detained by the various Afghan resistance movements. In 1988 ICRC delegates visited more than 1,000 prisoners during some 50 different missions. These visits took place in accordance with the ICRC's normal procedure (interviews without witnesses, medical examinations); in addition, prisoners were able to fill out family messages and most of them received *ad hoc* material assistance in the form of toilet articles and blankets.

### Activities for the Afghan civilian population

A more general objective of the sustained contacts with the various Afghan resistance movements was to afford protection for the civilian population affected by the conflict. A large-scale dissemination effort was launched to persuade local opposition commanders to provide guarantees for the safety of delegates while they were travelling in Afghanistan and ensure that ambulances and buildings displaying the emblem were respected, so as to enable the ICRC to discharge its mandate in favour of all victims of the conflict.

On three occasions, delegates based in Quetta visited a group of several thousand displaced persons who had been placed in a camp in the border area. An ICRC doctor investigated the medical and hygiene conditions under which these displaced civilians were living.

### Tracing Agency

In 1988 the Tracing Agency in Peshawar arranged for the exchange of some 1,600 Red Cross messages, between Afghan detainees visited in Pakistan and their families in

Kabul and between detainees visited in Afghanistan and their families in Pakistan. In addition, approximately 1,100 family messages were exchanged between Pakistan and other countries.

The ICRC continued to issue travel documents for people resettled in third countries through the offices of the UNHCR. In all, 485 people received travel documents in 1988.

### Dissemination in Pakistan

Apart from the major dissemination programme aimed at the Afghan opposition movements, during *ad hoc* missions and as part of medical activities at first-aid posts the ICRC made sustained efforts to reach Pakistan target groups more specifically, in particular the armed forces and customs officers, and members of the Pakistan Red Crescent with whom the ICRC was working in close co-operation.

## INDIA

Delegates based in New Delhi stepped up their contacts with the regional branches of the Indian Red Cross Society to help them disseminate international humanitarian law and support their Tracing Agency work. Thus missions were conducted to the north-eastern states: to Srinagar (state of Jammu and Kashmir), Chandigarh (the joint capital of the Punjab and Haryana) and, for the first time, Simla (Himachal Pradesh); delegates also went to Bombay (Maharashtra state), a focal point for Indian and international migrations, and, lastly, in the south-east of the country, to Madras (Tamil Nadu) and Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh). A delegate also took part in the book fair held in Calcutta from 20 December 1987 to 7 January 1988.

The first dissemination seminar on international humanitarian law for the Indian armed forces was held in New Delhi from 13 to 15 June. To highlight its importance, the event was attended by Mr. J. Moreillon, Director-General of the ICRC, a delegate specialized in dissemination among the armed forces, and members of the regional delegation. On the ICRC's initiative, the meeting was organized jointly by the regional delegation, the Indian Army and the National Society and enabled the participants — senior officers — to familiarize themselves with international humanitarian law. The occasion was also marked by the printing of a bilingual version (English/Hindi) of the "Rules for Behaviour in Combat", published jointly by the ICRC and the Indian Red Cross.

While in New Delhi to attend the seminar, the ICRC Director-General was received by Mr. R. Venkataraman, the President of India, who is also President of the National Society, on 15 June. The meeting provided an opportunity to review current and future ICRC activities in the Indian sub-continent.

The Tracing Agency in New Delhi issued 679 travel documents for 972 people, most of whom were Afghan nationals. It also forwarded some 50 Red Cross messages being exchanged between Iraq and Iran.

## SRI LANKA

As the serious disturbances in the east and north of the country (Jaffna peninsula) continued unabated, and in view of the increased tension in the south of the island, in 1988 the ICRC renewed the offer of services it had first made in 1983 to the Sri Lankan authorities. Unfortunately, this proposal to protect and assist the civilian victims of the conflict and people detained because of the events had had no effect by the end of the year.

Nevertheless, after an agreement had been signed between the ICRC and the League, the two institutions were authorized to send a joint assessment mission to Sri Lanka. The mission, which took place from 14 May to 5 June, included an ICRC doctor and a delegate.

## BURMA

In addition to the orthopaedic projects in which the ICRC has been involved since 1985, *ad hoc* missions were carried out in connection with the disturbances that affected the country during the second half of the year.

### Orthopaedic assistance

The orthopaedic programme run in conjunction with the Burmese Ministry of Health and the National Society at the centre for the disabled in Mingaladon near Rangoon drew to a close; the specialists whom the ICRC had seconded to the Ministry to train local staff completed their work and from June the centre functioned independently, both manufacturing prostheses and rubber feet and providing treatment for the disabled. The ICRC signed a new agreement in January to set up an orthopaedic workshop at the hospital in Maymyo, near Mandalay.

## Activities for the civilian population

Following the disturbances in Burma during the second half of 1988, the regional delegate based in New Delhi visited the country several times to have discussions with the government authorities and representatives of the National Society. He followed developments in the situation and proposed the ICRC's help. Since September, the ICRC has been making *ad hoc* distributions of medicines. At the beginning of October, five relief convoys were organized jointly by UNICEF, the Burma Red Cross Society and the ICRC, which contributed 20 tonnes of medicines. The relief supplies were handed over to hospitals throughout the country after a survey of their needs. Follow-up was provided by ICRC medical staff who visited the hospitals a few months after the distributions. The total value of ICRC medical assistance to Burma in 1988 was 117,000 Swiss francs.

During the regional delegate's various missions to Rangoon he also discussed with the government the question of Burma's ratification of the Geneva Conventions. In addition, in October a memorandum was sent to the authorities regarding the possibility of the ICRC having access to detainees, in particular those who had been arrested in connection with recent events.

## BANGLADESH

The regional delegation based in New Delhi went twice on mission to Bangladesh in 1988: from 10 to 14 April and from 15 to 17 November. Despite repeated representations by the ICRC and a discussion with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the planned joint ICRC/National Society mission to the Chittagong Hill Tracts to make an initial assessment of requirements did not materialize.

Co-operation between the ICRC and the National Society, which changed its name in 1988 to the Bangladesh Red Crescent, was particularly productive in the field of dissemination. A course on the law applicable in armed conflicts was organized for senior officers of the Bangladesh Army from 20 to 24 November.

## NEPAL

One of the delegates based in New Delhi also visited Nepal twice in 1988. These missions, which took place from 18 to 21 April and from 20 to 22 December, enabled the ICRC, in conjunction with the National Society, to continue its programme to disseminate international humanitarian law



among the Nepalese armed forces. On 19 April, the delegate officially handed over 10,000 copies of the Nepalese version of the "Rules for behaviour in combat" to the Nepalese Minister of Defence. Also discussed during both missions were the activities of the Nepal Red Cross Society (dissemination among various target groups and tracing missing persons) and the question of Nepal's accession to the Additional Protocols, which is still under study.

## CONFLICT IN KAMPUCHEA

The plight of the victims of the conflict in Kampuchea continued to be a major source of concern for the ICRC. The situation along the Khmer-Thai border still remained tense, while armed clashes near the camps for displaced persons and security incidents inside the camps persisted, despite representations by the ICRC. There were also incidents involving the compulsory movement of civilians and the international organizations were still refused access to several camps, where they were thus unable to provide any assistance. The ICRC nevertheless continued its work wherever it could, concentrating on the protection of displaced civilians, war surgery and emergency medical care. In Kampuchea itself, the ICRC made some progress. It was not, however, able to gain access to the population in the regions most severely affected by the conflict nor to visit any of the people arrested in connection with the events, either in Kampuchea or in Thailand.

### Staff

To perform its work, the ICRC maintained delegations in both capitals, Bangkok and Phnom Penh, and a large sub-delegation at Aranyaprathet on the Thai side of the border between the two countries. As at 31 December 1988, there were 33 ICRC delegates in Thailand, including 16 seconded by National Societies (Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Great Britain, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United States), as well as 207 locally recruited employees. The delegation in Kampuchea comprised eight people, including three members of the Polish Red Cross.

### Financing of activities

In January 1988 the ICRC appealed to donors for 12,845,100 Swiss francs to finance its activities in connection with the conflict in Kampuchea. To this end, it regularly

attended meetings of donor countries held in New York and Bangkok under the auspices of the United Nations.

## KAMPUCHEA

On two occasions the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific met Mr. Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, in Paris, once on 22 January and the second time on 8 November. During his second visit to France he also had discussions with Prince Sihanouk. These discussions afforded an opportunity to discuss the repatriation of the Khmer population displaced along the Thai border. During the meeting in January, the ICRC was given permission to expand its medical and Tracing Agency activities in Kampuchea.

Thus 1988 saw substantial development in several areas of ICRC activity in Kampuchea: medical activities, protection for people affected by the conflict and dissemination.

### Activities for people affected by the conflict

The ICRC continued its approaches to the authorities of the People's Republic of Kampuchea with a view to gaining access to certain categories of people deprived of their freedom because of the conflict, i.e., people captured carrying arms, civilians arrested in connection with the events and foreign nationals without diplomatic protection. Although the ICRC was unable to visit anyone detained in Kampuchea, some progress was made in that 11 Thai soldiers and 149 Thai civilians were released in 1988, as well as an American citizen, detained since May 1987, who was handed over to an ICRC representative. Before being released, the American citizen and three of the soldiers had exchanged Red Cross messages with their families through the ICRC.

In addition, the ICRC continued making representations to the authorities about the serious consequences that could arise from the direct or indirect involvement of civilians, against their will, in military operations in conflict zones.

### Medical and material assistance

Surgical teams seconded to the ICRC by the Polish Red Cross to treat the war wounded, mine victims in particular, have been taking turns to work at the **government hospital in Kampot** in the south of the country since May 1987; part of their work involves training Khmer medical staff. In 1988 they treated 366 war wounded and 532 other patients, gave 1,289 outpatient consultations and performed

898 operations. In addition, the ICRC supplied this hospital with material assistance worth 72,416 Swiss francs.

It will be recalled that the ICRC had informed the government on several occasions of its willingness to expand medical activities in the People's Republic of Kampuchea, in particular in the provinces most severely affected by security problems. In 1988 the ICRC was authorized for the first time to go to the region of Pursat, in the west of the country, to make an initial assessment of requirements. Three hospitals and two orphanages were visited between February and March; a limited amount of aid (beds, cooking utensils, clothing, school supplies) worth a total of 8,000 Swiss francs was distributed to the orphanages during subsequent missions and preliminary arrangements were made to send a medical team to Pursat in 1989. By the end of the year, the ICRC still had not received permission to go to other conflict regions in the country.

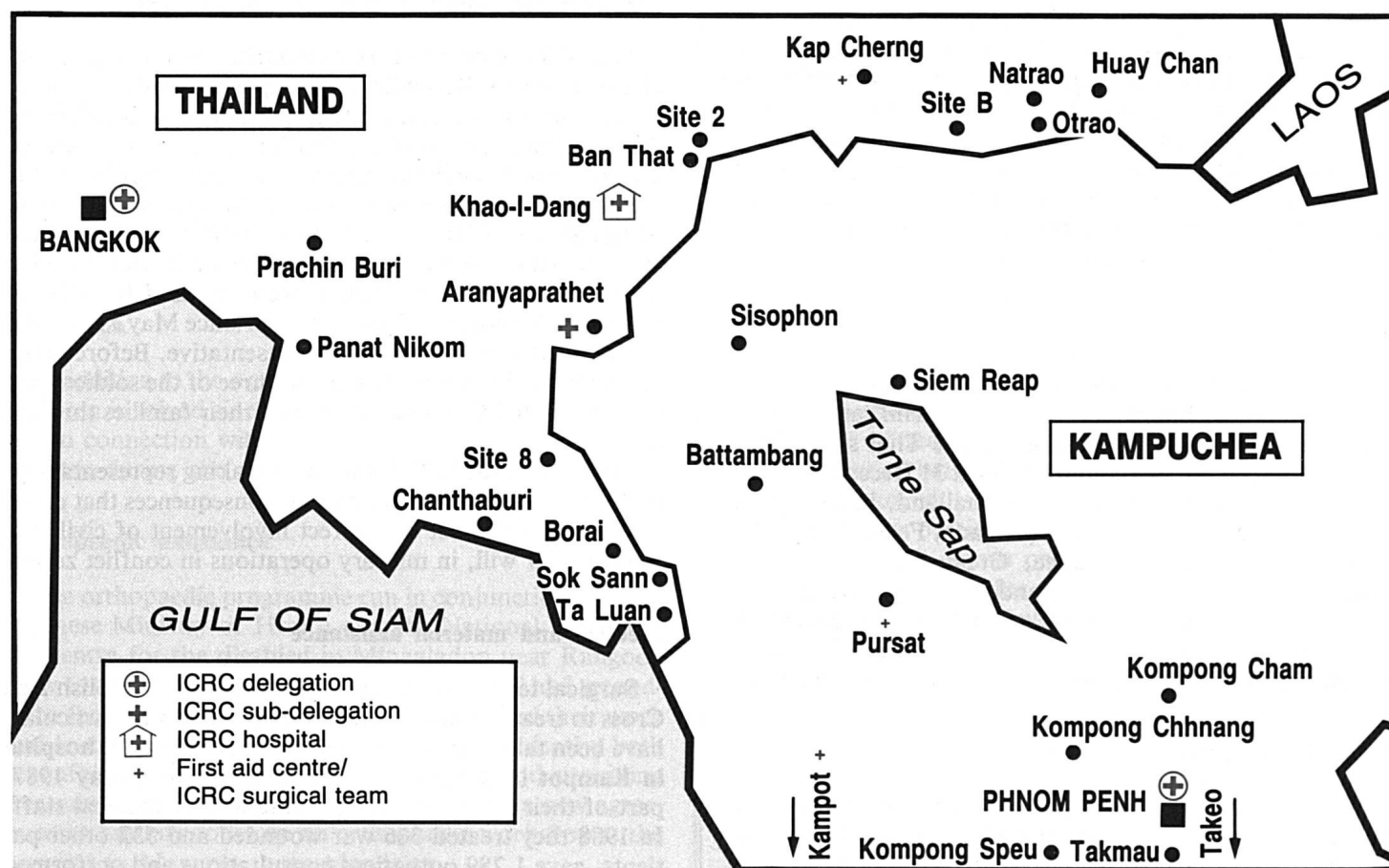
As in previous years, emergency medical relief supplies (medicines and medical equipment) were provided as need-

ed by the ICRC to the three main hospitals in Phnom Penh: the "17th of April" surgical hospital, the "7th of January" internal medicine and children's hospital and the "Revolution" general hospital; it also continued to support the blood transfusion centre at the "2nd of December" hospital. Surveys were also conducted in some provincial hospitals: Kompong Speu, Kompong Cham, Kampot, Pursat and Takmau. The assistance provided cost a total of 330,190 Swiss francs.

The ICRC continued supplying logistic and administrative support for the medical and surgical teams from National Societies working in conjunction with the Red Cross of Kampuchea: a mobile French team specialized in tuberculosis control, a Swedish team in Kompong Chhnang, a Swiss team in Takeo and an Australian team in Kompong Speu (since April).

#### Tracing Agency

Agency work also began to expand in 1988 after the authorities of the People's Republic of Kampuchea allow-





ed the local Red Cross in Phnom Penh and in several provinces to set up tracing committees with technical and financial help from the ICRC. An ICRC delegate specialized in tracing work went to Kampuchea in September to lay the groundwork for this new service in conjunction with leading officials of the Red Cross in Phnom Penh.

In 1988 the ICRC continued its efforts to reunite families separated because of the conflict: five people were allowed to join their relatives abroad (an increase over previous years); and for the first time, the ICRC was able to reunite a young man who had been detained in Thailand with his family in Kampuchea.

### **Dissemination**

In addition to the dissemination work carried out, particularly among National Society staff, as part of the ICRC's other activities, an unprecedented event took place in 1988: the Red Cross and the Kampuchean Ministry of Health organized, with the help of the ICRC, a training seminar for first-aid workers from 5 to 26 September at the University of Phnom Penh Faculty of Medicine. The seminar was attended by some 100 people and included three days specifically devoted to international humanitarian law, the principles of the Movement and the work of the ICRC.

### **Logistics**

The ICRC is still involved in organizing a weekly airline service between Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh to carry relief supplies, passengers and mail both for the ICRC and for other humanitarian organizations working in Kampuchea.

## **THAILAND**

### **Activities for the civilian population**

#### ***Displaced persons on the border***

In 1988, for the ninth consecutive year, the ICRC continued its efforts to protect and assist the victims of the conflict, both the civilians displaced on the Khmer-Thai border and persons detained by the various factions of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) or by the Thai authorities. The institution's role in protecting the civilian population was reaffirmed: it is based on the mandate entrusted to the ICRC by the international community and carried out in co-ordination with the various United Nations agencies working to help the victims of

this conflict. Responsibility for assistance is shared between UNBRO (United Nations Border Relief Operation) and the ICRC. UNBRO supplies food and basic medical care, whereas the ICRC provides emergency medical assistance: surgery, ambulance services and the blood bank.

In many respects, living conditions for people in the camps along the Khmer-Thai border had deteriorated even further than in the past, especially towards the end of the year. The problems caused by the prolongation of a situation which was originally intended to be temporary were exacerbated by a rise in the number of incidents inside the camps, in particular Site 2, and by armed clashes that broke out near the camps, in both northern and southern sectors of the border.

Furthermore, the difficulties that had arisen in camps administered by Democratic Kampuchea became even more acute because humanitarian organizations had limited access to them or no access at all; and there was evidence of people being forcibly moved towards regions more exposed to the fighting and equally inaccessible.

Gravely concerned by the plight of the civilian population in the border camps, the ICRC made many representations, mainly to camp officials and to the Thai government, on whose territory the camps run by the various Khmer factions are situated. These repeated representations culminated in a special report submitted to the Thai authorities in September on the situation in camps controlled by Democratic Kampuchea. The report, which was accompanied by a letter from the President of the ICRC to the Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Siddhi Savetsila, reminded the Thai government of its responsibilities towards all civilians who had sought refuge on its territory. It stressed not only the plight of the civilians in the camps and the conditions in which they were living, but also the difficulties of access that prevented the ICRC and other humanitarian organizations from offering their services and providing medical and material assistance. When he went on mission to Thailand in November, the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific again informed members of the Thai government, in particular the Minister for Foreign Affairs, of the ICRC's concern. He also stressed how urgent it was for humanitarian organizations to be allowed access to all people displaced along the border. At the same time, he asked the Thai authorities to have the civilian population in the camps administered by the Democratic Kampuchean faction in the northern and southern border sectors relocated in two camps accessible to the international organizations and situated in areas well away from the fighting.

Improvements noted in 1988 included the gradual introduction of a new Thai unit responsible for security in the camps, the Displaced Persons' Protection Unit (DPPU), which has demonstrated its willingness to co-operate with the international organizations.

Although the ICRC was far from being able to gain regular access to all the border camps, in 1988 it continued its medical and tracing activities for civilians living there. The ICRC had only restricted access to the Natrao, Otrao and Huay Chay camps in the northern sector of the border and to the Ta Luan and Borai camps in the south, all administered by the Democratic Kampuchea faction, and was not authorized to engage in its traditional activities on a regular basis. ICRC delegates contacted the appropriate authorities about allegations of violence and security incidents, particularly those indicating the presence of armed men inside the camps. Three situation reports dealing specifically with matters related to protection and listing security incidents in the civilian camps were submitted by the ICRC to the Thai authorities in March, June and October.

As in previous years, the ICRC was concerned about the plight of a particularly vulnerable group of persons, the Vietnamese Land Refugees (VNLR). In July, the Thai authorities notified the ICRC of their decision to transfer these refugees to Ban That, a new camp located south of Site 2 and run by the UNHCR. The first group was transferred there at the end of the year. ICRC delegates also approached the authorities regularly to have new Khmer and Vietnamese arrivals transferred rapidly from entry points along the border to safer places in Thailand.

### *Detainees*

The ICRC continued its efforts to gain access to Khmer and Vietnamese detained in connection with the conflict by the various factions of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) and by the Thai authorities. The institution was nevertheless unable to visit any detainees in Thailand in 1988.

### *Flood victims in the south*

Under an agreement with the League, the ICRC supplied the Thai Red Cross with trucks and drivers and donated 250 kitchen sets during the initial emergency phase to support the National Society in its efforts to help thousands of victims of the flooding that affected the south of the country in December.

## **Medical activities**

The ICRC continued to provide an emergency surgical service for the some 300,000 Khmer and Vietnamese living along the Khmer-Thai border; this was all the more necessary in that the situation remained tense both within the camps and outside.

Opened in 1980 near the border, the **Khao-I-Dang surgical hospital** is run by the ICRC with medical staff seconded by twelve National Societies (see above) and locally recruited Thai and Khmer employees. It has a capacity of 100 beds and admitted a total of 2,240 patients in 1988. During the year the three permanent medical teams (each comprising a surgeon, an anaesthetist and a theatre nurse) performed 4,462 operations.

The ICRC provides an **ambulance service** to evacuate emergency cases and war wounded from the border to the Khao-I-Dang hospital. Every proposed evacuation from the Natrao, Huay Chan, Otrao, Ta Luan and Borai camps, administered by the Democratic Kampuchea faction, had first to be negotiated with the Thai authorities and often could not be carried out.

The **Kap Cherng first-aid post** on the northern border treated a total of 595 people, 85% of whom were taken by ambulance to the Khao-I-Dang hospital. A third of the patients were war casualties.

The ICRC continued to encourage the local population to give blood in order to make the Khao-I-Dang hospital as self-sufficient as possible in this respect. **Blood collections** were organized in Khao-I-Dang camp itself, which is run by the UNHCR, in Site 2, in Sok Sann and in Site B. A total of 3,904 units were collected, which covered most of the hospital's medical and surgical needs; an additional 980 units were supplied by the Australian Red Cross.

Nurses stationed along the border gave **first-aid courses**, sometimes helped by the Red Cross branches that are active in the camps. In 1988, 35 one-week courses were arranged for combatants of the three parties making up the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, at Site 8, Site B, Sok Sann, Phnom Chat and Borai. Each of the 553 participants received a first-aid kit at the end of the course.

## **Tracing Agency**

The Tracing Agency office at the delegation in Bangkok continued its many activities to assist the civilians displaced on the Khmer-Thai border, helping them in particular to trace relatives and exchange news with them. Below are some figures:

- Enquiries were made into the whereabouts of 9,186 persons of Khmer origin and 949 Vietnamese refugees, in response to tracing requests filed by their families; 3,533 and 463 cases respectively were resolved.
- 20,078 letters and Red Cross messages, 815 of which were written by Vietnamese refugees or their families, were exchanged through the ICRC, enabling displaced persons in the camps or evacuation sites on the border to remain in contact with their relatives living abroad or in other camps.
- Following ICRC representations to the Thai authorities, 43 people were allowed to transfer to other camps in order to be reunited with members of their families.
- Several other transfers took place under ICRC auspices: over 1,000 Khmer refugees were transferred from entry points on the border to a camp for civilians; 1,190 Khmer and 374 Vietnamese were taken from Site 2 to the Panat Nikhom transit centre prior to being resettled abroad; 11 Vietnamese were escorted by the ICRC back to the border area after serving sentences at the Prachin Buri military prison; the 146 Khmer Khrom (ethnic Khmer community from Viet Nam) in Site 8 were transferred to Site 2.

### Dissemination

Promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross was one of the most important tasks of delegates on the border. Working closely with the Thai Red Cross Society, the ICRC continued to expand its dissemination programme for Khmer and Thai civilians, the Thai armed forces, combatants of the three parties making up the Coalition of Democratic Kampuchea, medical personnel and staff of the voluntary agencies working in the area. A special effort was made to reach children and adolescents living in the border camps who were able to take part in a drawing contest. Posters were made of the winning entries and displayed in a number of camps. Monthly dissemination meetings were held for secondary school pupils and Red Cross volunteers from the camps.

May 1988 was the 125th anniversary of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Special programmes were broadcast on Thai radio, and Thai television showed the film *What's in a Symbol?* In addition, there were various exhibitions, film shows and distributions of teaching material in the Khmer and Thai languages.

## CHINA

Prominent among the ICRC's activities in China were a series of visits to Vietnamese military personnel captured by the Chinese armed forces and a marked increase in messages exchanged by members of families separated between mainland China and Taiwan. At the invitation of the Red Cross Society of China, Mr. Maurice Aubert, the ICRC Vice-President, went to China from 8 to 15 October and met the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs to review ICRC activities. His mission also enabled the ICRC to strengthen ties with the National Society, several of whose leaders Mr. Aubert also met.

### Activities for Vietnamese prisoners

In February, ICRC delegates once again visited Vietnamese prisoners captured as a result of tension between Viet Nam and China. Seventeen Vietnamese prisoners were seen in three different places of detention. A limited amount of material aid was distributed to them at the time of the visit. An ICRC doctor and an interpreter took part in the visits, which were carried out in accordance with ICRC criteria and were followed up by confidential reports submitted to the Chinese and Vietnamese authorities. Twelve of the prisoners wrote Red Cross messages to their families.

The ICRC also asked the Chinese authorities for permission to visit the Vietnamese military personnel taken prisoner during clashes between the Chinese and Vietnamese navies around the Spratley Islands in March 1988. The Chinese authorities agreed in principle to allow a visit in early 1989 to those prisoners and to prisoners captured along the border between the two countries.

### Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency office at the regional delegation in Hong Kong was mainly concerned with tracing members of families separated in the late 1940s, when some two million people left mainland China for Taiwan, and arranging for the exchange of news. Since November 1987, when the Taiwanese authorities allowed the island's inhabitants to visit their relatives on the mainland, the National Societies in both Taiwan and mainland China have been inundated with tracing requests.

The regional delegation has been acting as a neutral intermediary in this process and has forwarded over 100,000 tracing requests to the two Red Cross Societies concerned, which carry out the tracing itself with technical assistance

from the ICRC. The delegates based in Hong Kong often travel to Taiwan and mainland China to co-ordinate this vast operation.

The ICRC also forwarded Red Cross messages and various other forms of family news until May 1988 when a postal service was established between mainland China and Taiwan.

In addition, the programme for the reunification of families split up between Viet Nam and China was continued in 1988 (see under *Viet Nam* below).

### **Dissemination**

The ICRC continued its dissemination activities in China. Chinese lawyers gathered in Beijing in November for a round-table discussion on international humanitarian law organized jointly by the Red Cross Society of China and the ICRC.

## **VIET NAM**

The ICRC has a regional delegation in Hanoi which covers both Viet Nam and Laos. In addition to the regional delegate based in Hanoi, as at 31 December 1988 the ICRC had an orthopaedic technician in Ho Chi Minh City and two locally recruited employees. During the period under review there was a marked increase in the ICRC's activities in Viet Nam in the areas of both orthopaedic assistance and tracing. Several missions were also made to Hanoi from ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

### **Activities for detainees**

In 1988 the ICRC received permission to make a fresh visit in early 1989 to the Chinese prisoners captured in connection with the tensions on the Sino-Vietnamese border. At the same time the ICRC was visiting Vietnamese military personnel interned in China (see under *China* above). The ICRC also arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between the prisoners of war and their families in Viet Nam or China.

Following clashes between the two countries around the Spratley Islands in March 1988, the ICRC was asked by the Vietnamese authorities to approach the Chinese authorities in order to establish what had happened to Vietnamese sailors missing at sea or taken prisoner.

The ICRC also obtained from the Vietnamese authorities a list of the some 6,000 people released to mark the Têt

festivities in February 1988, so that it could inform their families abroad.

### **Activities for residents of Chinese origin**

The ICRC continued organizing the departure of foreign nationals to their countries of origin. In July, five people of Chinese origin were reunited with their families in China under ICRC auspices and with the co-operation of the Chinese Red Cross.

The ICRC also organized, for the last time, the departure to Taiwan of people of Taiwanese origin (406 in 1988). The Intergovernmental Committee for Migration took over the running of the programme in November. Since the operation began in 1976, the ICRC has organized the departure of 6,198 people.

### **Orthopaedic programme**

The visit to Viet Nam of an orthopaedic specialist from 26 September to 4 October enabled the ICRC to make final arrangements for a programme of co-operation in the orthopaedic field with the Ministry of Labour, Disabled Soldiers and Social Affairs. This programme for people disabled by the war began in December with the arrival of an ICRC orthopaedic technician in Ho Chi Minh City.

### **Dissemination**

The programme launched in Viet Nam in 1985 to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law took on a new dimension in 1988, which was the 125th anniversary of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The occasion was marked by a series of radio and television broadcasts on the Movement's activities and fundamental principles.

During the training courses on tracing procedures held in Ho Chi Minh City in December, the ICRC delegate also gave several talks on international humanitarian law and the Movement's principles.

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

The head of the Central Tracing Agency carried out a mission in Viet Nam from 7 to 12 October to help the National Society set up a tracing network. In co-operation with the ICRC, the Red Cross of Viet Nam organized two initial seminars to train its staff in tracing procedures in December. Personnel from 21 provinces in the south of the country took part.



An ICRC representative also attended the Fifth Congress of the Red Cross of Viet Nam on 11 and 12 March in Hanoi. This gave him an opportunity to meet the new leaders of the National Society.

## REFUGEES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

The ICRC continued its activities on behalf of Vietnamese "boat people". This work was carried out through the Central Tracing Agency, which played a co-ordinating role for the whole range of tracing activities conducted by the Tracing and Mailing Services (TMS) network set up for the purpose in the Malaysian, Indonesian, Thai and Philippine National Societies and the Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross. The annual seminar held to co-ordinate the five TMS took place in Singapore on 9 and 10 June. It was also attended by representatives of the Red Cross Societies of China, Viet Nam, Singapore, Macao and the main countries of resettlement.

In the period under review, a total of 517,197 letters were exchanged by means of the TMS network — more than double the number in the previous year. It received 13,140 tracing requests, 4,776 of which were resolved.

## INDONESIA

The ICRC delegates in Jakarta were particularly busy in 1988 as, apart from the missions they carried out to countries covered by the regional delegation based in the Indonesian capital, they conducted a series of medical and nutritional surveys in East Timor and were able for the first time to go to Irian Jaya. As for detention activities, they received permission to carry out a series of visits to persons imprisoned following the events of 30 September 1965 (the previous visits had been made in 1986). In addition, they twice saw detainees arrested in connection with the situation in East Timor.

### Staff

At the end of 1988, the ICRC had 16 locally recruited employees in Indonesia and five Swiss expatriates, including two regional delegates. In addition to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, the delegates' responsibilities extended over the entire Pacific region (a complete list of the countries concerned can be found at the beginning of this chapter).

## Visits to security detainees

The ICRC resumed its visits to detainees arrested following the attempted *coup d'état* of 30 September 1965 (category ex-G.30S.PKI). The series of visits took place from 7 June to 19 July. Delegates saw, in accordance with ICRC criteria, 59 persons detained in 14 places of detention on six different islands. At the end of each visit, material assistance in the form of clothing and hygiene and leisure items was distributed to the detainees.

## Mission to Irian Jaya

In 1988, the ICRC went for the first time to Irian Jaya to assess the situation of people whom the events of 1984 had forced to flee across the border to Papua New Guinea and some of whom had now returned to Irian Jaya. The mission, in which an ICRC nurse took part, lasted from 6 to 22 July and provided an opportunity to make contact both with the local authorities and with the people who had resettled there. A complementary survey was carried out on the other side of the border in Papua New Guinea (see under *Papua New Guinea* below).

## East Timor

### Activities for detainees

The ICRC continued its visits to persons arrested in connection with the events in East Timor (ex-GPK prisoners). It was able to carry out two series of visits in the period under review, the first in April and the second in September. The number of detainees in the ex-GPK category had dropped from 122 in November 1987 to 35 in September 1988 because many had been released. No new detainees were registered. The Timorese detainees were held either at Becora prison in Dili in East Timor itself or at Cipinang prison in Jakarta. The ICRC continued its representations to the authorities to have the Timorese detainees in Jakarta transferred to East Timor to be nearer their families; 16 of them were transferred in 1988. With the co-operation of the National Society, the ICRC also organized family visits in December to the detainees remaining in Jakarta, which is some 2,000 kilometres from their homes.

Delegates also provided *ad hoc* material aid (food and hygiene and leisure articles) to the Timorese detainees. As in the past, the most needy of the detainees' families received food assistance.

## Tracing Agency

The programme to repatriate to Portugal former officials of the Portuguese Administration in East Timor and their families continued in 1988. This programme was set up at the request of the Indonesian and Portuguese authorities; it is financed by the UNHCR and carried out (i.e., the formalities and actual transfer) by the ICRC. The ICRC also took steps to reunite families and transfer victims of the conflict situation in East Timor to Portugal or Australia. Seven such persons were transferred to Portugal, one to the Portuguese territory of Macao and three to Australia; 19 others joined their families in other countries.

The ICRC also enabled members of separated families to remain in contact by exchanging news through Red Cross messages. In East Timor, the main beneficiaries of this service were the above-mentioned people whose families lived abroad and the ex-GPK detainees. In the period under review, the ICRC arranged for the exchange of 3,005 such messages.

Finally, the Tracing Agency submitted to the Indonesian authorities lists of persons whose families were without news and who were presumed missing in connection with the events in East Timor.

## Medical and nutritional survey

In January, a delegate and an ICRC nurse conducted a general survey of the medical and nutritional situation in four of the villages in East Timor where the most serious problems had been found during the previous survey in December 1987. The Indonesian authorities were informed of their findings and of the worst affected areas so that they could provide the necessary assistance. In February and March, the ICRC and the National Society distributed maize to needy villagers. ICRC delegates returned on several occasions to about 15 Timorese villages to monitor the medical and nutritional situation.

In addition, from 1 August to 14 September a sanitary engineer conducted a survey of the water supply and sanitary facilities in 24 villages affected by the events. Following his study, a series of measures were proposed to improve the health of the villagers concerned.

## MALAYSIA

The ICRC once again visited people held under the Internal Security Act. Between 12 September and 11 October delegates, including an ICRC doctor, saw 132 detainees

in 11 places of detention in Peninsular Malaysia and regions further east. Red Cross messages were exchanged through the ICRC between the detainees and their families. When this fresh series of visits was completed, recommendations were made to the Malaysian authorities.

A seminar was organized in August by the ICRC in co-operation with the National Society to promote knowledge of humanitarian law among the Malaysian armed forces. The ICRC sent a dissemination specialist to Kuala Lumpur for the occasion.

The service set up within the Malaysian Red Crescent Society to assist Vietnamese "boat people" (see under *Refugees in South-East Asia* above) was particularly busy in 1988. It arranged for the exchange of 500,662 letters between Vietnamese and their families.

## PHILIPPINES

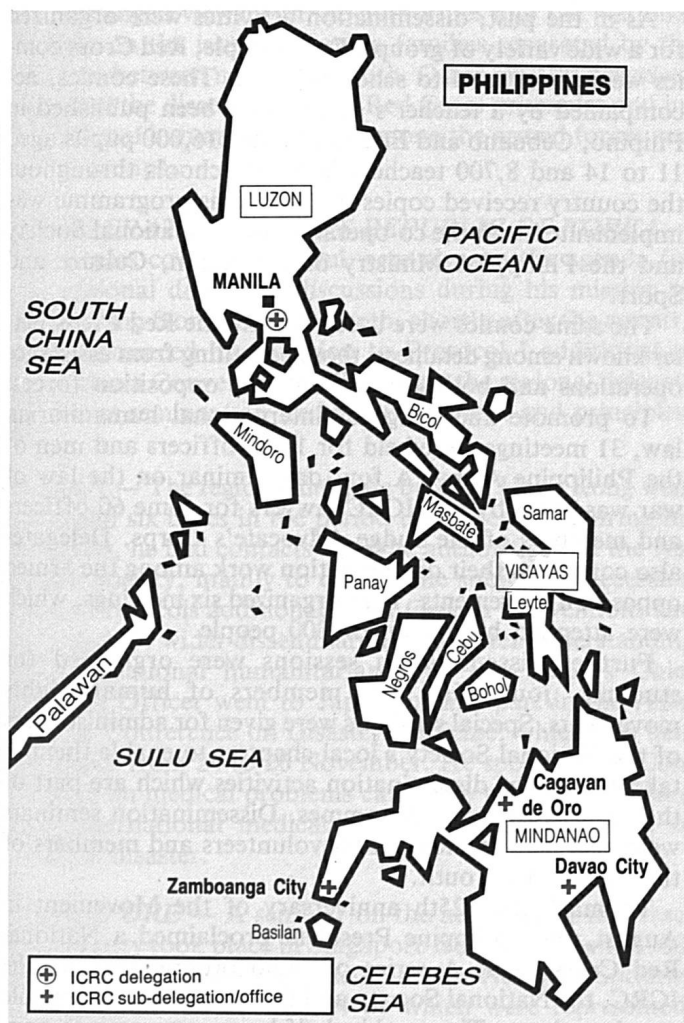
The ICRC continued its activities in behalf of both detainees and civilian victims of insurgency-related events. Delegates went to civilian and military prisons around the country to visit persons arrested either in connection with their participation in the insurgency movements or in connection with attempted *coups d'état*. Working closely with the Philippine National Red Cross, the ICRC also continued its medical and food assistance programme for civilians affected by armed incidents on the island of Mindanao and, increasingly, in other regions of the country such as the Visayas, a group of islands in the central Philippines. Finally, the ICRC and the National Society made sustained efforts to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law during 1988, the 125th anniversary of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Delegates also maintained regular contact with representatives of the country's highest authorities, in particular those responsible for administering places of detention. They also established contact with the main opposition groups, on the island of Mindanao in particular, in order to make the Red Cross, its principles and activities known to them and to ensure that they respected the emblem.

On 14 June, Mrs. Corazon Aquino, the President of the Philippines, was received at ICRC headquarters by President Sommaruga. They discussed a range of problems in South-East Asia as well as the work of the ICRC and the Philippine National Society.

To carry out its many activities throughout the vast territory of the Philippine archipelago, the ICRC, as at 31 December 1988, had a delegation in Manila and a sub-delegation in Davao on the island of Mindanao, where there





were also two ICRC offices in Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga City. The ICRC had 33 delegates in the Philippines, including a radio technician provided by the Belgian Red Cross, a medical co-ordinator, a doctor and five nurses, as well as 108 locally recruited employees.

#### Activities for detainees

At the end of 1988, the ICRC had all but finished its second complete series of visits to the country's civilian and military prisons. The series had begun in July 1986, several months after Mrs. Aquino came to power. Only a small number of prisons in region 6 (western Visayas) remained to be visited. During their visits, the delegates saw people held in connection with insurgency-related incidents and, as from late December 1987, military person-

nel arrested following attempted *coups d'état*. The detaining authorities, i.e., the Departments of Justice, Local Government and Defence (which are responsible for the Integrated National Police and the Philippine Constabulary), co-operated with the ICRC to ensure that it had access to all places of detention. Confidential reports on the visits were submitted to the authorities.

In the period under review, delegates visited a total of 1,283 persons held in 210 places of detention throughout the country, including the capital.

ICRC nurses and doctors took part in many of the prison visits to check medical and nutritional conditions. Medicines and leisure and hygiene items were distributed to needy detainees. In addition, the ICRC, in co-operation with the National Society, defrayed the travel costs of detainees' families who would not otherwise have been able to visit their relatives in prison. In all, 198 detainees benefited from this programme.

The work of the Tracing Agency office in Manila was closely linked to the delegates' visits to places of detention, since it consisted mainly of the processing of information on arrests and releases.

#### Material and medical assistance for displaced persons

In close co-operation with the National Society, the ICRC continued its assistance to people displaced following disturbances or armed incidents. As in the past, this work was carried out according to very strict procedures worked out with the National Society in 1986. When the ICRC or one of the 83 local chapters of the National Society learns that a group of civilians has been displaced following insurgency-related events, a general assessment is made of the material situation of the people concerned. On the basis of that assessment, a decision is made as to whether an assistance programme is necessary. The assistance provided by specialized ICRC/National Society teams may include the following, backed up in some cases by dissemination sessions:

- ☐ general distributions of basic foodstuffs, rice and cooking oil (supplementary rations to last three weeks), soap and sometimes blankets;
- ☐ detailed study of the medical and nutritional condition of the displaced persons in their new environment, occasionally leading to further medical surveys to monitor their progress and health education programmes.

In the course of this operation conducted jointly with the National Society, the ICRC came to the assistance of

132,000 recently displaced persons in 1988 — 20% more than in the previous year. This increase is explained by the larger number of delegates present in the field, which made it possible, for example, to carry out a much more intensive programme on the main island of Luzon in the north (11% of the beneficiaries) and in the Visayas (12%). But the island of Mindanao remained the scene of most of the ICRC's assistance activities (77%). In all, the ICRC distributed 630 tonnes of food relief, 33 tonnes of soap and almost 3,000 blankets to displaced civilians.

A large number of surveys were carried out by ICRC and Philippine National Red Cross mobile teams to ascertain the medical and nutritional condition of civilians affected by the insurgency-related situation. Where necessary, these evaluations were followed up by distributions of medical supplies, medical consultations and measles vaccination for the children of displaced families.

### Co-operation with the National Society

Under the above-mentioned joint assistance programmes, the ICRC paid the salaries of the Philippine National Red Cross nurses and drivers taking part and defrayed the cost of the distributions carried out by the local chapters of the National Society. The ICRC also provided these chapters with six vehicles in 1988.

In addition, the ICRC organized and financed several training courses for the National Society's medical and administrative personnel (first-aid and public health courses for medical staff and management courses for administrative staff) to enable them to play a more active role in joint operations.

Several *ad hoc* donations were made to strengthen the National Society's operational capacity in its own sphere of activities (relief for the victims of natural disaster, blood banks, social services). For example, 182,000 Swiss francs were used to buy blood-transfusion equipment while 100 tonnes of rice were placed at the National Society's disposal to help meet the most urgent needs in the wake of typhoon Unsang, which devastated large areas of the Philippines in October.

### Dissemination

For the ICRC, promoting knowledge of the Movement's principles and the rules of international humanitarian law and explaining how the institution works in the field is essential to the implementation of its activities in the Philippines and elsewhere, particularly in regions affected by conflict.

As in the past, dissemination activities were organized for a wide variety of groups. For example, Red Cross comics were distributed to schoolchildren. These comics, accompanied by a teacher's guide, have been published in Pilipino, Cebuano and English. Some 216,000 pupils aged 11 to 14 and 8,700 teachers in 5,321 schools throughout the country received copies in 1988. This programme was implemented with the co-operation of the National Society and the Philippine Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.

The same comics were used to make the Red Cross better known among detainees, those benefiting from assistance operations and both government and opposition forces.

To promote knowledge of international humanitarian law, 31 meetings were held for 1,700 officers and men of the Philippine Army. A four-day seminar on the law of war was given by two ICRC lawyers for some 60 officers and members of the Judge Advocate's Corps. Delegates also continued their dissemination work among the armed opposition movements. They organized six meetings, which were attended by a total of 800 people.

Further dissemination sessions were organized for students, journalists and members of human rights movements. Special seminars were given for administrators of the National Society's local chapters to enable them to take part in the dissemination activities which are part of the joint assistance programmes. Dissemination seminars were also held for Red Cross volunteers and members of the Red Cross Youth.

To mark the 125th anniversary of the Movement in August, the Philippine President proclaimed a National Red Cross Year. A series of radio programmes on the ICRC, the National Society and the Movement as a whole was broadcast. The weekly half-hour programmes continued for six months and reached an audience of a million people.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

**LAOS** — The regional delegate based in Hanoi went on two missions to Laos in 1988. The first, from 4 to 9 February, was made following the events on the border between Thailand and Laos; the second was carried out from 18 to 25 June. These missions helped to establish closer relations between the ICRC and the Lao government and National Society.

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA** — The regional delegate based in Hong Kong went to Seoul on several occasions. There

he exchanged views with the authorities and the National Society on the issue of Korean families separated by the division between north and south. Other matters discussed included the dissemination of Red Cross principles and international humanitarian law among the armed forces and other groups.

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA —**

The topics covered in Seoul were also on the agenda for the regional delegate's discussions during his mission to Pyongyang from 21 to 28 March, shortly after the country had announced its accession to Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions. While there the regional delegate gave two seminars on Red Cross activities and principles.

**JAPAN —** The regional delegate based in Hong Kong went to Japan six times in the period under review. During his missions, he had contacts with the authorities and the National Society, mainly to discuss the subject of accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and the need for wider dissemination and better understanding of international humanitarian law. The ICRC's Chief Medical Officer went to Japan to take part in the Asia-Pacific Conference on Disaster Medicine, which was held in Osaka from 24 to 26 November. He spoke to the Conference on medical problems caused by conflict situations and international medical co-operation in the event of natural disaster.

**SINGAPORE —** A seminar on the activities of the Tracing Agency took place in Singapore from 1 to 8 June 1988. The ICRC organized this seminar for National Societies in Asia and the Pacific, 24 of which were represented. An ICRC delegate specializing in dissemination among the armed forces gave another seminar in Singapore, from 18 to 22 July, on international humanitarian law. It was attended by some 40 people representing the authorities and the army.

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM —** The regional delegate based in Jakarta was in the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam from 13 to 17 June. He had talks with the authorities and the National Society on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, to which the Sultanate had not yet acceded.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA —** The regional delegate based in Jakarta twice went to Papua New Guinea in 1988. The first of these missions, in February, was carried out to con-

tinue the ICRC's dialogue with the authorities and National Society officials on the subject of the country's accession to the Additional Protocols and dissemination of international humanitarian law. His second mission, in September, took him to the areas near the border with Indonesia where he assessed the situation of refugees from Irian Jaya (see also under *Indonesia* above).

**KIRIBATI —** Kiribati's declaration of succession to the Geneva Conventions and accession to the Additional Protocols was at the centre of discussions when the regional delegate went there from 25 November to 7 December.

**TUVALU —** The first seminar to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law ever given in Tuvalu was organized for employees of the emerging Tuvalu Red Cross Society and for policemen and teachers.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS —** During his mission from 27 February to 3 March, the regional delegate based in Jakarta had talks with the Prime Minister and several other leading government officials. Among other things, they discussed the subject of the country's accession to the Additional Protocols. On 19 September, the Solomon Islands announced its accession to the Protocols.

**VANUATU —** The regional delegate's tour of Pacific States also took him to Vanuatu from 14 to 18 April. His talks with the Minister of Home Affairs and representatives of the emerging National Society provided an opportunity to discuss the basic rules of international humanitarian law and the criteria for ICRC activities.

**FIIJI —** The mission to Fiji carried out by a dissemination specialist in late 1987 led to a comprehensive dissemination programme which, by the end of 1988, had already reached a large portion of the armed forces of Fiji including the units (about 720 men) provided to UNIFIL in Lebanon (see also under *Lebanon*). The regular contacts between the ICRC and the National Society and authorities in Fiji were consolidated in April by a lengthy visit to the country by the regional delegate, during which he had talks with several leading government officials.

**NEW ZEALAND —** The regional delegate based in Jakarta was in New Zealand from 19 to 31 March to attend the annual meeting of the New Zealand Red Cross Society's National Council. He also visited several local branches.

# RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1988

## ASIA

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Recipients	Relief		Medical assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnes	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
Afghanistan .....	Civilians and detainees	52	313,994	2,114,787	2,428,781
Burma .....	The disabled	—	—	218,948	218,948
Indonesia .....	Detainees	1	3,124	—	3,124
Indonesia (East Timor conflict) .....	Displaced civilians and detainees	23	26,523	8,683	35,206
Kampuchea .....	Civilians and National Society	1	8,145	330,494	338,639
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan) .....	The war-wounded and the disabled	200	221,175	2,157,001	2,378,176
Philippines .....	Displaced civilians, detainees, their families and National Society	869	850,975	356,097	1,207,072
Thailand (conflict in Kampuchea) .....	The war-wounded	5	45,774	576,153	621,927
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>1,151</b>	<b>1,469,710</b>	<b>5,762,163</b>	<b>7,231,873</b>