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*Course on the law of war in Honduras.*

## LATIN AMERICA

As in previous years, it was in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Peru that the ICRC conducted the bulk of its protection and assistance activities in Latin America in 1989. Its delegates were also active elsewhere, in particular visiting security detainees in Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and Suriname; towards the end of the year they were present in Panama, too, where they provided assistance to the population and visited detainees.

In addition, the ICRC maintained contact with governments and National Societies in Latin America to promote the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and encourage ratification of the 1977 Additional Protocols. In July the Protocols were ratified by Peru, where they will come into force in January 1990.

The ICRC maintained an average of 92 delegates in Latin America (including administrative and medical staff provided by National Societies), assisted by over 300 local employees. They were assigned to six delegations (Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru) and three regional delegations (Buenos Aires, Bogotá and San José). 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.

Taking into account the balance available and contributions in kind, a special appeal was launched to raise 34,451,600 Swiss francs for the ICRC's activities in Latin America in 1989.

### 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. 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 continued to expand its activities aimed at assisting the civilian victims of the conflict. It repeatedly reminded the government authorities and the Farabundo Marti 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.

The events which shook the country at the end of the year demonstrated the usefulness of ICRC presence and the necessity of pursuing the delegation's assistance and protection activities, as well as its work to disseminate knowledge of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law so as to ensure that they are respected in times of crisis.

On 11 November the FMLN launched its heaviest offensive in ten years; the ensuing fighting mainly affected the towns in eight of the country's 14 departments. The state of emergency, proclaimed the following day, was still in force at the end of the year.

In view of the difficulties facing the relief workers of various organizations, including the Salvadoran Red Cross, in assisting the victims, the ICRC launched two appeals for a truce, on 15 and 18 November, to allow evacuation of the wounded. The Salvadoran Red Cross ambulance fleet, which was supplemented by four ICRC vehicles, sustained some damage and one of the National Society's first-aid workers was wounded. The ICRC Delegate General carried out a ten-day mission to El Salvador to assess the situation and redefine the ICRC's short- and medium-term objectives accordingly. He was received on 27 November by President Cristiani, to whom he expressed the ICRC's concern over the non-respect of the emblem and the difficulties encountered by first-aid workers in evacuating the wounded.

Two doctors, two nurses and a relief co-ordinator were sent to El Salvador to strengthen the team already working in the country. On the basis of evaluations carried out in hospitals, the delegates distributed four and a half tonnes of surgical supplies and medicines and made regular visits to civilian and military wounded. In addition, they closely monitored the situation of persons arrested during the conflict (*see following section*).

The ICRC also provided basic essentials to churches which had set up shelters for displaced persons, and its delegates evacuated 17 civilians held by opposition combatants in a hotel in San Salvador.

#### Activities for persons detained in connection with the conflict

From January until 12 November delegates had regular access, in accordance with ICRC criteria, to places of detention in the capital and elsewhere in the country. Visits were made to prisons, penitentiaries and juvenile detention centres under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and to places used for administrative detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, i.e., the armed forces' garrisons and premises of the Security Corps (National Guard, National Police and *Policía de Hacienda*).

Following the proclamation of the state of emergency on 12 November, the ICRC renewed its agreement with the government concerning visiting procedures which had been followed during the state of emergency in force until

January 1987. Focusing its attention on temporary places of detention, the ICRC endeavoured to gain access to security detainees as soon as possible after their arrest; its delegates were thus able to visit detainees placed in solitary confinement (for a maximum period of 15 days) from the eighth day after arrest.

The delegates made 1,772 visits to 123 places of detention and three hospitals; they saw 3,280 persons, of whom 2,280 were registered for the first time. Visits were especially frequent during the last two months of the year on account of the high number of arrests — over 1,600.

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 516 particularly needy persons were paid by the ICRC to enable them to visit relatives in detention.

A confidential summary report on conditions of detention, covering the visits made between June 1988 and June 1989, was submitted to the authorities.





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 Salvadoran Church in Panama in January 1987, the ICRC organized an operation in which 46 wounded and disabled members of the opposition were flown from San Salvador to a country of asylum on 7 October, 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, after its delegates had ascertained that the people concerned wished to leave El Salvador.

Throughout the year, the ICRC transferred out of the conflict areas wounded and sick civilians who were in urgent need of hospital care. With the authorities' agreement, the ICRC also transported 20 members of the armed forces and five FMLN combatants to civilian hospitals in San Salvador and San Miguel.

Finally, on four occasions the ICRC was asked to assist in the release of armed forces personnel by the FMLN.

#### **Tracing Agency**

The ICRC Tracing Agency in El Salvador has a main office in the capital and regional offices in Santa Ana, San Miguel, Chatelanango, Usulután and San Francisco Gotera. Some 600 people came to the Agency every month, most of them 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. Of the 178 formal tracing requests filed in the Agency's six offices during 1989, 121 were resolved.

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

It also collected 1,910 and distributed 1,593 Red Cross messages, making exchanges of news possible between persons detained by government authorities or the FMLN and their families, between refugees living in camps in Hon-

duras and their relatives in conflict zones in El Salvador, and between disabled people transferred to other countries and their families.

On account of the fighting, the Agency received an increased number of enquiries towards the end of the year, many from persons living abroad who were without news of their relatives in El Salvador.

#### **Activities for civilians**

The plight of the civilian victims of the conflict continued to be one of the ICRC's major concerns. Its delegates reminded both the Salvadoran authorities and the FMLN that the civilian population must be spared and treated in accordance with international humanitarian law. As in 1988, delegates drafted confidential reports on the situation: one was submitted to the FMLN in May, while the report intended for the authorities was submitted to President Cristiani on 31 October 1989. In addition, throughout the year the delegates informed the authorities about incidents reported by the civilian population.

On 6 October the ICRC was asked, as a neutral intermediary, to evacuate 18 members of an opposition group who had occupied the embassy of a neighbouring country, as well as 13 persons they were holding hostage.

In late October the ICRC helped in the repatriation of 1,100 Salvadoran refugees from Honduras by providing vehicles and personnel to the UNHCR.

#### **Relief distributions and agricultural assistance programme**

The ICRC continued providing food assistance as needed to families cut off from their source of supplies on account of the conflict. Delegates distributed 154 tonnes of food to 20,100 persons, mainly in the centre and east of the country (San Salvador, Cuscatlán, San Miguel, Usulután and Morazán).

During the fighting in November, emergency assistance was given to 20,000 persons who had sought refuge in shelters set up by the Church.

The ICRC was able to phase out its agricultural assistance programme since favourable weather conditions resulted in good harvests in most parts of the country.

#### **Medical and sanitation activities**

Despite problems of access to the conflict zones, the two ICRC medical teams visited as regularly as was possible the departments of Cabañas, Chalatenango, La Libertad,

La Paz, La Unión, San Vicente, Santa Ana and Usulután. During the first few months of the year it was difficult to cover the departments of Morazán and San Miguel, while access to Cuscatlán, northern Morazán and the area around the volcano near San Salvador was severely restricted in August and September.

Over the year, the teams were nevertheless able to:

- give medical and dental consultations to 16,115 persons who had no access to other medical facilities
- transport 133 wounded civilians and military personnel to the nearest hospital
- vaccinate 8,000 persons, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, as part of the WHO immunization programme against measles, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough
- provide supplies to and supervise five health centres and train health workers in charge of centres to which the ICRC did not always have access
- give basic information on health and hygiene to persons included in the ICRC's medical programme
- supply medical material and medicines as needed to hospitals treating victims of the conflict.

Following the events in November, ICRC teams made a survey of hospitals admitting the wounded in San Salvador, San Miguel and other towns in the country. On the basis of information gathered there, four and a half tonnes of medical supplies and medicines worth 396,000 Swiss francs were dispatched to El Salvador.

Regarding sanitation, two ICRC teams monitored the progress of 29 projects to supply safe drinking water and 41 latrine-building projects. Of these, 13 and seven respectively were completed, benefiting a total of 23,000 persons. Information meetings were organized for the population taking an active part in the construction work. The ICRC had supplied materials worth 181,000 Swiss francs, representing 60% of the total cost of the projects, while the remainder was borne by the villages.

## Dissemination

Working in close co-operation with the Salvadoran Red Cross, the ICRC continued its efforts to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross among the Salvadoran armed forces, the Security Corps, FMLN combatants, the general public and members of the National Society.

On the basis of a monthly programme drawn up by the ICRC according to the situation in the field and submitted to the military authorities, the delegates gave talks to four different groups within the armed forces:

- military units in the field: a total of 10,000 persons attended *charlas* (talks) and took part in theatrical presentations which focused on rules of behaviour for combatants
- the Security Corps, in particular persons responsible for interrogating detainees
- local commanders in charge of civil defence in the villages
- military academy cadets

Whenever the military situation allowed, delegates organized information meetings for opposition combatants.

A new handbook for combatants, adapted to the situation in El Salvador, was published by the delegation and distributed from June onwards.

ICRC delegates were invited to present the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law at various seminars organized by Church circles and the Law Faculty of the Central American University in San Salvador. In May, the ICRC and the UNHCR took part in a seminar for Salvadoran health workers, organized by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights based in San José.

ICRC delegates participated in courses and seminars given as part of the National Society's training programme for its personnel and volunteer workers; the programme focused on local branches, especially those covering regions affected by the conflict. Additional training was also given to the ICRC's local employees and to health workers in charge of *botiquines* (pharmacies) stocked by the ICRC.

Finally, four local and one national radio station broadcast programmes on the ICRC at regular intervals. From November, three more stations joined this information campaign, which was aimed at the general public and also included many presentations given during missions in the field.

## Co-operation with the National Society

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

Following the damage caused to its vehicles during the clashes in November, at the end of the year the Salvadoran Red Cross received six ambulances from the ICRC. The total value of support provided to the National Society was 1,343,000 Swiss francs.

## NICARAGUA

During the period under review, the ICRC was present throughout the country, operating from its delegation in Managua, four sub-delegations (Matagalpa, Juigalpa, Puerto Cabezas and Bluefields) and an office in La Rosita. As in previous years, its activities centred on persons detained for security reasons and the civilian population living in the areas affected by the armed clashes between government forces and the Contras. Regular contact was maintained with the authorities to keep them informed about the ICRC's activities. In this connection, the Delegate General went on three missions and the Deputy Delegate General on one mission to Nicaragua.

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

The ICRC also closely followed the negotiations between the government and the opposition movement and maintained contact with the authorities and the UNHCR regarding the ICRC's possible role in the peace process.

### 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 prisoners and their families.

In keeping with its humanitarian mission, the ICRC also gave attention to the plight of Nicaraguan citizens, whether civilian or military, captured by the Contras. It arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between these detainees and their families and reminded the captors of their responsibilities towards those they held and of the humane treatment to which the detainees were entitled.



### Visits to detainees

At the beginning of the year the ICRC was visiting some 3,000 security detainees in prisons under the jurisdiction of the National Penitentiary System (SPN). After a preparatory visit, the delegation attended the release of 1,650 detainees in Managua on 17 March. It provided the detainees with clothing and chartered 50 buses to take them to their homes. Over the year 460 detainees were released. The ICRC maintained contact with all the persons released and provided assistance where needed.

The delegates continued to make regular visits to all SPN prisons in Managua and the rest of the country. They went six times to Tipitapa prison, three times to the Zona Franca prison and twice to "La Esperanza", a prison for women. In the provinces, three series of visits were made to six places of detention run by the SPN (in April/May, August and October/November), while prison-farms (*granjas*) were visited in January, July and October. The delegation continued to submit confidential reports to the country's highest authorities on the conditions of detention observed during the visits.

The ICRC continued to make representations, through the delegates stationed in Managua as well as the Delegate



General and Deputy Delegate General during their missions, aimed at obtaining access to persons detained under the authority of the State security services, most of whom were undergoing interrogation. The authorities, however, did not approve visiting procedures in accordance with ICRC criteria.

Following the submission in late 1988 of a report on legal aspects of detention, contacts with the Chief Public Prosecutor were pursued with a view to settling cases still pending (detainees subjected to prolonged pre-trial custody, persons not released after serving their sentences, etc.).

### *Medical and material assistance*

The medical delegate continued to give medical consultations to sick detainees in the prisons and to make regular visits to hospitalized detainees. The sanitary and hygiene conditions, the food and the health of the detainees were assessed several times during the year. On the basis of eye tests carried out by the doctor, the ICRC continued to pay for spectacles, and in some prisons (Juigalpa and Estelí) it financed improvements to the sanitary facilities.

The ICRC also distributed food and personal hygiene and leisure articles to the detainees as necessary, for a total value of 891,600 Swiss francs.

Finally, the delegation continued its programme to assist the neediest families of detainees. Food parcels were distributed, and travel costs paid for those wishing to visit relatives detained in the capital. The cost of this programme amounted to 159,500 Swiss francs.

### *Tracing Agency*

As previously, the Tracing Agency office in Managua was engaged mainly in registering detainees visited, arranging for the exchange of news between detainees and their families and processing the information gleaned from those activities.

The Agency also continued to organize the exchange of messages between refugees in Honduras and Costa Rica — mainly Miskito Indians — and their relatives still in Nicaragua, and between separated families within Nicaragua itself.

In conjunction with the tracing offices in Costa Rica and Honduras, the Agency office in Managua processed 1,236 tracing requests concerning persons reported missing; of these, 507 were successfully concluded.

During 1989 the Tracing Agency office in Managua forwarded a total of 14,386 Red Cross messages.

### *Activities for the civilian population*

Delegates in the sub-delegations of Bluefields, Puerto Cabezas, Juigalpa and Matagalpa and in the La Rosita (Las Minas) office stepped up their efforts and the frequency of their field missions so as 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 recommendations by the ICRC, were regularly submitted to the authorities.

The ICRC continued throughout the year to provide material and medical assistance to civilians cut off in the conflict zones. The total value of food and other aid provided was 521,000 Swiss francs. In addition, during the first few months the ICRC continued to assist the population affected by Hurricane Joan in 1988.

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 Atlantico Norte region;
- Out of the Bluefields sub-delegation, which covers Laguna de Perlas, Rio Escondido, Rio Wawasang and Rio Grande de Matagalpa;
- Out of the Matagalpa and Juigalpa sub-delegations, which essentially cover the departments of Jinotega, Matagalpa, Boaco and Chontales.

### *Food and material assistance*

Despite certain problems of access to the conflict zones due to 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 continued to distribute food rations for an average of three months and basic necessities such as blankets, cooking utensils, tools and fishing tackle. In addition, delegates supplied corrugated iron and provided food assistance as needed to the victims of Hurricane Joan. They also made the last relief distributions to persons affected by the 1988 floods in the plains south of the Rio Coco.

The Bluefields sub-delegation continued to help families living in isolated villages who had come under attack or

had just returned home. Relief distributions along the Rio Wawasang and Rio Grande de Matagalpa were made by boat, out of Bluefields.

### *Medical assistance*

The ICRC medical team, comprising a doctor and two nurses, continued to monitor the food and medical situation of the people assisted. There was also intense activity in the regions covered by the ICRC to help the local population cut off by the conflict, displaced or recently returned from abroad.

By accompanying delegates making relief distributions, the medical staff was able to gain access to persons whom it was difficult for the government health services to reach. Besides giving medical consultations and transporting seriously ill and wounded people to government hospitals, the medical team carried out parasite control and vaccination campaigns, mainly against tuberculosis, measles, tetanus, poliomyelitis and diphtheria.

ICRC nurses also gave talks on public health and medical care to health workers in the villages and provided them with pharmaceutical kits containing medicines and medical supplies worth a total of 112,000 Swiss francs.

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 staff assigned to the centre was gradually reduced to two technical advisers who supervise the local team. The centre employs a total of 72 persons (21 prosthetists, physiotherapists and trainees, and 51 specialized workers). The ICRC contributed 30% of the centre's budget, essentially by supplying imported materials worth 69,200 Swiss francs.

The centre provides accommodation for patients from outside Managua while they are being fitted. During the period under review, 328 new amputees were fitted with

prostheses, and a total of 1,124 orthoses and 538 prostheses were manufactured.

### **Dissemination**

On the basis of the programme drawn up with the military authorities in June 1988, ICRC delegates gave talks on international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross to staff officers in all military districts and to air force and naval officers; a total of 14 four-hour courses were given.

In December, a new programme for 1990 was submitted to and approved by the military authorities. The authorities also agreed to finance the publication of the handbook for combatants prepared by the delegation.

As in the previous year, delegates gave talks to representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Interior. During field missions they also distributed an explanatory leaflet and described the role of the ICRC to the local population.

Finally, the ICRC pursued its co-operation with the National Society in training its active members and employees. ICRC delegates conducted three seminars for dissemination officials and in September took part in a seminar which brought together the presidents of the branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross. They also gave many lectures aimed at volunteers and first-aid workers of the National Society.

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

In addition to its co-operation with the National Society in the area of dissemination, the ICRC continued to provide the Society with logistic support. To help the Society maintain its ambulance service, the ICRC provided an expatriate mechanic, as it had done the previous year, as well as vehicles, spare parts and various other equipment worth 824,000 Swiss francs.

The ICRC also co-operated closely with the National Society in the area of relief distributions to civilians. Over the year, the delegation delivered to the branches concerned 57 tonnes of relief supplies for persons who were not receiving any direct aid from the ICRC.

With support from the British Red Cross and the ICRC, the National Society put into service two ambulance boats based in Bluefields, where port facilities destroyed by Hurricane Joan had had to be rebuilt, and the ICRC installed a fuel tank for use by its own boats and by the ambulance boats of the Nicaraguan Red Cross.



## HONDURAS

ICRC activities in Honduras continued to be conducted from the regional delegation in San José, Costa Rica. During his missions the regional delegate maintained close relations with the Honduran authorities and Red Cross. The situation in the country — in particular in the border areas where citizens of neighbouring countries were living as refugees — was followed closely, both from San José and from the Agency offices in Tegucigalpa and Mocarón, opened in 1987 and 1988 respectively.

### Detention

Following the arrest for security reasons of four Hondurans and one Salvadoran in Tegucigalpa in August, the ICRC was granted permission to visit them in the central penitentiary once a month, starting in September.

### Activities for displaced civilians

During 1989 ICRC tracing activities continued to be conducted and co-ordinated by the delegate stationed in Tegucigalpa. Over the year 10,535 family messages were exchanged between refugees in Honduras and their families in Nicaragua and El Salvador, and 506 out of 881 tracing requests were resolved. Working out of Tegucigalpa for the area south-east of the capital and out of Mocarón for the Moskitia area, where Miskito Indians displaced from Nicaragua are living, the ICRC strengthened its contacts with the local population, the displaced persons, the Honduran military authorities and officials of Nicaraguan resistance movements in the region. As a result, various places where refugees were living could be reached more easily; the number of family messages collected and distributed and tracing requests resolved increased accordingly.

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

Work continued to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among the Honduran armed forces. The dissemination delegate specialized in this field went to Tegucigalpa from 13 to 17 February to give the fifth course on the law of war to the sixth class of future staff officers. During field missions the regional delegate, too, gave talks on international humanitarian law to members of the armed forces, in particular to the Fifth Brigade stationed in Mocarón.

The ICRC continued to co-operate with the Honduran Red Cross in training the Society's volunteers, personnel and branch representatives.

In addition, food and other assistance worth 125,700 Swiss francs was delivered to the National Society for distribution among displaced persons and the victims of Hurricane Joan.

## GUATEMALA

The ICRC delegation set up in Guatemala in January 1988 continued its approaches to government authorities in order to expand its activities in the country and conclude a headquarters agreement, which was in fact signed on 13 September.

In this connection, the Delegate General undertook missions to Guatemala City in May and December. On 25 May he was received by the Guatemalan President, Mr. Vinicio Cerezo, with whom he discussed the headquarters agreement, dissemination of international humanitarian law among the armed forces and the restructuring of the National Society. The Delegate General also had a meeting with the Minister of Defence, General Gramajo, who gave his backing to the ICRC's programme aimed at promoting international humanitarian law in the Guatemalan army. In December, during a subsequent meeting with the Delegate General, the Minister of Defence declared himself in favour of rapid ratification of the headquarters agreement.

### Dissemination

The ICRC delegation pursued its activities to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces and in university and legal circles.

In May, the head of delegation gave a series of talks on international humanitarian law to law students at Landívar University.

In July, the delegation conducted a two-day seminar on Red Cross principles and international humanitarian law for a group of jurists of the national police force.

In October, during a seminar which was organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and held at the country's Centre for Military Studies, the delegates gave a talk on international humanitarian law and methods for its teaching in the armed forces.

### Co-operation with the National Society

The ICRC closely followed the negotiations on the revision of the statutes and the restructuring of the Guatemalan Red Cross, which was experiencing internal difficulties, and was ready to offer the National Society its services and advice.

## PANAMA

In view of the tense situation prevailing in the country, the ICRC closely monitored developments in Panama from the regional delegation in San José and through numerous missions undertaken by the delegate in charge.

During the last few months of the year the ICRC stepped up approaches to obtain a reply to its offer of services, submitted in June 1987, concerning persons detained for security reasons. The regional delegate raised the matter with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. L. Kam, and the Vice-President, Mr. C. Osori, who received him on 1 December, but received no reply.

On 20 December, following the United States armed intervention, the ICRC reminded both parties of the applicability of international humanitarian law and offered them its services. The regional delegate arrived in Panama the following day to assess the situation and contact the relevant authorities, in conformity with the provisions of the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. The US military authorities allowed the ICRC to visit prisoners of war and detained Panamanian civilians in two internment camps in the Canal zone from 30 December. Prisoners who were not released in the days following their arrest were transferred to Panamanian prisons, where the delegates were to visit them in early 1990. An ICRC team consisting of seven delegates based in Central America was in Panama during the events: besides visiting detainees, the delegates distributed three tonnes of medicines and medical supplies to hospitals, assessed the situation of displaced persons and collected their family messages and tracing requests. They also organized the evacuation of 350 foreign civilians to their countries of origin.

### Co-operation with the National Society

The ICRC continued to support the Panamanian Red Cross, mainly to help it strengthen its operational capacity in case of disturbances. During the United States intervention, the National Society evacuated the wounded, took part in distributing medicines dispatched by the ICRC and

put its premises at the disposal of ICRC delegates sent to Panama. Two ICRC cross-country vehicles which brought surgical supplies and medicines from San José were handed over to the National Society to increase its operational capacity.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

**BARBADOS** — The regional delegate based in San José travelled to Barbados in November to renew contacts with the authorities and the National Society. He was received by the Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Ministry, with whom he discussed dissemination and the country's accession to the Additional Protocols. Dissemination was also the topic raised with the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's office and the acting Minister of Education. During talks with the National Society he outlined — and proposed for implementation in 1990 — dissemination programmes intended for teachers as well as for representatives of the various ministries and the armed forces.

**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 continued to provide logistic support for the Managua and San Salvador delegations, mainly with regard to activities of the Tracing Agency, and maintained contacts with Nicaraguan opposition movements. The delegates also closely followed developments in Haiti; towards the end of the year, Panama became the focus of the delegation's concerns.

Within Costa Rica itself, the ICRC continued to support the National Society, in particular in its tracing activities along the Nicaraguan border and in the sphere of dissemination. The Tracing Agency delegate based in Honduras travelled to Costa Rica in July, September and November in order to improve co-ordination, visit camps where Nicaraguan refugees are living and hold talks with the relevant Costa Rican authorities (the General Directorate for Refugee Affairs). A local employee was hired part-time to visit the camps regularly, follow up tracing requests and forward family messages.

The two regional delegates based in San José went on numerous missions, mainly to work with the National Societies of the countries visited in promoting international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Movement, either by organizing courses and seminars or by providing support for local Red Cross programmes in this sphere.

The delegates' talks with government representatives met during their missions centred on ratification or accession to the Additional Protocols by countries not yet party to them and the promotion of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

**CUBA** — The regional delegate based in San José went on four missions to Cuba. The primary aim of his talks with the authorities was to finalize procedures for visits to security detainees. Ratification of Additional Protocol II and promotion of international humanitarian law were also discussed.

ICRC delegates carried out a new series of visits to Cuban prisons in May, visiting 257 detainees in nine places of detention in Havana and other parts of the country. A report on those visits was submitted to the authorities in September. In addition, the regional delegate visited, in accordance with ICRC criteria, a South African soldier captured in Angola in 1988.

The Delegate General and the Deputy Delegate General for Latin America travelled to Havana in December to define visiting procedures and the categories of detainees to which the ICRC would have access on future visits. During their mission they also held further talks on Cuba's ratification of Protocol II.

The ICRC worked in close co-operation with the Cuban Red Cross regarding the repatriation of shipwrecked Haitians (see *Haiti*). The regional delegate and the National Society took an active part in the second congress on natural disasters, held in Havana in July. Finally, the regional delegate gave a presentation of international humanitarian law during a conference organized by the Cuban *Asociación de las Naciones Unidas*.

**DOMINICA** — The regional delegate based in San José carried out a four-day mission to Dominica in July to renew contacts with the authorities and the National Society, which was recognized on 15 March 1989. He was received by the country's President, Prime Minister and the Minister of Community Development of the Commonwealth of Dominica; he also held talks with the President and other officials of the National Society.

**HAITI** — The regional delegation based in San José closely followed developments in the situation in Haiti and continued to support the work of the National Society. The delegate with responsibility for Haiti went there four times: he was received three times by the Head of State, General Prosper Avril, with whom he discussed issues regarding detention, Haiti's accession to the Additional Protocols

and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces.

Following the disturbances in April, the ICRC was able to visit security detainees shortly after their arrest. Some of them had already been released in July, when the report on the visits was submitted. Three trade unionists who were arrested in November and transferred to the national prison were visited twice, and a new security detainee was registered in the same prison.

On account of the situation in the country, the National Society was prepared to take action in case of unrest: for instance, it evacuated and treated people who were wounded in the April mutiny. With ICRC support, it provided assistance to detainees and carried out a considerable amount of work disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.

Finally, in co-operation with the Red Cross Societies of Cuba and Haiti, the ICRC organized the repatriation of three groups of shipwrecked Haitian nationals. In all, 307 persons were flown back to Haiti at ICRC expense.

**JAMAICA** — The regional delegate was in Jamaica from 28 February to 4 March to renew dialogue with the authorities and the National Society and to prepare with them a seminar for journalists from the Caribbean, held from 2 to 5 April. The delegate was received by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to whom he conveyed an offer of ICRC services to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law. Dissemination was also the main topic of his meeting with the adviser to the Minister of Information. The delegate's talks with the National Society centred on activities in the wake of Hurricane Gilbert, and in particular the support that the Tracing Agency could lend to the Jamaica Red Cross Society. Dissemination projects were also discussed.

**MEXICO** — In the course of his three missions to Mexico (in February, September and November) the regional delegate based in San José continued discussions with the authorities and the National Society. He was received by the Minister of Justice, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Relations and the Honorary President of the Mexican Red Cross, Mrs. Occelli de Salinas, wife of the Head of State. The main matters discussed were Mexico's accession to Additional Protocol II, the plan to open a regional delegation in Mexico and programmes regarding the dissemination of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Movement. The same subjects were raised with senior officials of the National Society. In November,



the Delegate General took part in the 24th Convention of the Mexican Red Cross, held in Ciudad Juárez. In the course of that mission he held talks with the Minister of Defence and other government representatives on Additional Protocol II and the question of the regional delegation.

**SAINT LUCIA** — During his two-day mission to Saint Lucia in July, the regional delegate based in San José renewed contacts with the authorities and the National Society.

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES** — The regional delegate based in San José was in Kingstown, the capital of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, from 8 to 21 July in order to pursue discussions with the representatives of the local Red Cross about the process, currently under way, of granting it recognition as a National Society. During his mission the delegate also held talks with government representatives.

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** — The regional delegate based in San José carried out a mission to Trinidad and Tobago from 16 to 21 October. His talks with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Health, as with the armed forces Chief of Staff, centred on ratification of the Additional Protocols and dissemination of international humanitarian law. He also met leaders of the National Society, mainly to discuss programmes for dissemination of the Red Cross principles and international humanitarian law.

## South America

### CHILE

The main activities of the ICRC, which has been in Chile since 1973, continued to be visits and assistance to security detainees and their families. Regular contact was maintained in this respect with the relevant Chilean authorities. During high-level talks with representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence, the delegation also continued to discuss the question of ratifying the Additional Protocols.

#### Visits to detainees

ICRC delegates based in Santiago went regularly to the prisons there and in other parts of the country where 452 security detainees were being held, under security laws

12.927, 17.798 and 18.314. In all, 375 visits were made, and a detailed report on the conditions of detention was submitted to and discussed with the 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. Over the year, 162 such detainees were seen. The *Central Nacional de Informaciones* (CNI), which since 1987 had been transferring people it arrested to the *Policía de Investigaciones*, informed the ICRC of such arrests. Using the information received from the CNI and the lists of detainees provided to the ICRC by the headquarters of the *Policía de Investigaciones*, the delegates were able quickly to locate and see people arrested in the capital and elsewhere in the country. The ICRC was also given access, in accordance with its customary criteria, to detainees arrested by the *Carabineros*. Additional information was provided by lawyers, detainees' families and the media.

In June, Chile's Supreme Court adopted and transmitted to all civilian and military courts in the country a resolution in support of the ICRC's attempts to gain access to persons kept incommunicado under Article 11 of law 18.314 (by virtue of which a person may be held incommunicado in a place used for interrogation for up to 10 days, and even longer following transfer to a prison under Article 299 *et seq.* of the Chilean Penal Code). The resolution recommended that the relevant authorities allow the ICRC to visit such persons, but was not binding.

#### Medical and food assistance for detainees and their families

The ICRC continued its medical assistance programme for security detainees, financing their dental and eye care according to the needs assessed by the medical delegate. The latter also closely monitored the state of health of security detainees who in January went on hunger strike for six weeks. The detainees regularly received food aid, as well as hygiene items, blankets, clothing, and educational and leisure items.

The ICRC also continued its assistance programme for about 300 families of detainees and former detainees, providing food parcels and toilet articles and covering part of the cost of schooling and school supplies. In addition, the delegates transmitted Red Cross messages between the detainees and their families, traced missing persons and regularly covered travel expenses of persons visiting relatives in prison.

The cost of all these programmes came to 477,000 Swiss francs.

### **Dissemination**

In conjunction with the regional delegate based in Buenos Aires, the delegation organized two important conferences. The first was held at the Andres Bello Diplomatic Academy; it dealt with the philosophy of humanitarian law and was attended by representatives of Chilean authorities, civil servants and professors and students of the academy. The second conference was held at the National Academy of Political and Strategic Studies; it was intended for high-ranking officers of the armed forces and dealt with the foundations of the law of war. The delegation also took part in a meeting of legal experts on international humanitarian law, and in November mounted an exhibition on the ICRC in a shopping arcade in Santiago.

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

Throughout the year, the ICRC continued to support the National Society, in particular by providing 312 tonnes of food for its programme of aid to needy families.

The ICRC also took part in several seminars for Chilean Red Cross Youth and in a two-day seminar for 180 National Society adult volunteers.

## **COLOMBIA**

The activities of the regional delegation in Bogotá centred on visits to places of detention and dissemination of international humanitarian law.

In the course of his mission to Latin America, the ICRC President visited Colombia from 29 to 31 May. He was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Virgilio Barco, the Minister of Defence, the Commander-in-Chief of the Colombian armed forces and the President of the Colombian Red Cross, Dr. Rueda, who accompanied him during most of his mission. Mr. Sommaruga raised the issues of ratification of the Protocols and of systematic notification of the ICRC of arrests made because of the conflict. These topics were also discussed during the numerous meetings between the delegation and the authorities throughout the year. During his visit, Mr. Sommaruga also had contacts with members of the Andean Parliament and the press.

The protection of civilians affected by the clashes between opposition movements and government forces con-

tinued to be one of the delegation's main concerns. The delegation co-operated closely with the National Society in assisting displaced persons. On 10 April the ICRC assisted as a neutral intermediary in the release of four persons captured by opposition movements.

### **Visits to detainees**

The ICRC has been visiting since 1969 places of detention administered by the Ministry of Justice. During the period under review the delegates continued the visits, which were carried out at regular intervals and in accordance with ICRC criteria. They went to 27 prisons in Bogotá and other parts of the country, where they interviewed 433 detainees, 172 of them for the first time.

During the visits the delegates distributed clothing, books and personal hygiene items. According to the needs assessed by the ICRC doctor, who monitored the detainees' state of health, medicines and medical material were provided to the prison authorities or directly to the prisoners. Finally, the ICRC continued to pay travel expenses for released prisoners returning home and persons wishing to visit detained relatives.

The total value of material and financial assistance provided to detainees and their families amounted to 22,800 Swiss francs.

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

In view of the conflict situation prevailing in many parts of the country, promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law became a priority for the ICRC, working in close cooperation with the Colombian Red Cross, which devoted much time and effort to this task. Contacts with relevant authorities were maintained, and the two institutions were invited by the Presidential Council on human rights issues to take part in its programme to disseminate international humanitarian law. During a symposium on the rights of the sick, which was organized by the said Council and the University of Bogotá and held on 1 November, the ICRC gave a lecture on international humanitarian law to an audience of 500.

- On 17 and 18 February, as part of the national rally for peace held in Ibagué, the regional delegate gave talks on the ICRC and international humanitarian law to a wide audience which included representatives of the government, political parties, the Church, opposition groups and popular movements.



- At the request of the General Santander National Police Academy, on 22 February the regional delegate gave a lecture on international humanitarian law to 250 officers from Colombia, Bolivia, El Salvador and Peru.
- On 30 and 31 March, the delegation was invited by the Andean Legal Commission to give a lecture and take part in discussions which brought together Colombian non-governmental organizations and the UNHCR.

To the above examples of the delegation's dissemination work should be added its participation in many seminars and lectures held by the National Society and its branches or organized jointly with the ICRC, in Bogotá and elsewhere in the country.

## PERU

During 1989, despite many difficulties, the delegation continued its efforts to assist security detainees and civilians affected by the internal conflict. Most of the problems were eventually resolved in the course of the year.

The ICRC President's visit from 1 to 8 June took on particular importance as on that occasion Peru announced its ratification of the two Additional Protocols, with effect from 14 January 1990. Moreover, a headquarters agreement was signed on 6 June. Mr. Sommaruga was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Alan García Pérez, and had meetings with the President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of the Presidency, the Ministers of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Defence, the Interior and Health, as well as with the Commander-in-Chief of Peru's armed forces and many other high-ranking officials. In the course of the talks, Mr. Sommaruga raised the issues of ICRC access to emergency zones and to security detainees under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior, with a view to confirming and broadening the scope of authorizations granted to the delegation. The ICRC President also held talks in Lima with the President of the Peruvian Red Cross before travelling to Ayacucho to visit the ICRC's sub-delegation and meet the commander of the military region.

The delegation's activities were particularly intense in the emergency zones, which were extended in 1989. After the first two months of the year, during which they were refused virtually all access to these areas, the delegates undertook extensive programmes to assist and protect the civilian population, which necessitated numerous contacts with the authorities and with the armed forces in particular.

Regarding detention, the ICRC still encountered difficulties in visiting certain categories of security detainees.



Visits to places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice were in general carried out normally, but the delegates had to wait until June before gaining access to prisons in emergency zones. Concerning detainees held by the DIRCOTE (*Dirección contra el Terrorismo*), which is administered by the Ministry of the Interior, many high-level representations had to be made before the visits could be resumed in November, after a suspension of over two years.

Tracing Agency activities continued to focus on detainees: 718 new security detainees were registered in 1989.

In addition to the delegation based in Lima, at the end of the year ICRC presence in Peru included the sub-delegation in Ayacucho and two offices, one in Abancay and the other, opened in September, in Tingo María.

## Visits to security detainees

Despite difficulties mentioned above, the delegates were able to continue and even expand their activities in this field:

- In places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, to which the ICRC has regular access in accordance with its customary criteria, the delegates visited 1,290 security detainees, 705 of them for the first time, in 46 prisons and temporary places of detention in Lima and other parts of the country. Starting in June, they were able to visit prisons located in Apurímac, Ayacucho, Alto Huallaga and the other emergency zones. They also visited temporary places of detention, the *carceletas* (for men) in Lima and Callao and the CEDETRAM detention centre for women in Lima.
- Visits to detainees held by the DIRCOTE were resumed on 24 October. Up to the end of the year, the delegates visited 71 persons. They were also able to interview 31 detainees under the jurisdiction of the *Dirección de Policía Judicial* (DIRPOJ) which, like the DIRCOTE, is administered by the Ministry of the Interior.
- The delegates also visited hospitalized detainees.

## Material and medical assistance for detainees and their families

The ICRC continued to distribute food, clothing, blankets, personal hygiene items, leisure articles and medicines to security detainees, as needed. As a result of Peru's continuing economic crisis, both the population and the authorities were experiencing financial difficulties. The ICRC therefore maintained its supplementary food programme for tuberculosis patients in Lima's Lurigancho prison. It also provided building materials for sanitary and electrical installations and fumigated a number of prisons in Lima and elsewhere in the country. The cost of this assistance for detainees came to 58,600 Swiss francs. In addition, the delegation continued to defray the travel expenses of persons wishing to visit relatives in prison and to assist needy families of detainees.

## Activities for the civilian population

Delegates often travelled to the areas under a state of emergency in the departments of Alto Huallaga, Ayacucho 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 and the police, staff at health posts and the civilian 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 climatic conditions, but also to restrictions imposed on the ICRC by the authorities during the first few months of the year.

- In the department of **Ayacucho**, the delegates carried out 32 missions, covering 100 villages in seven provinces. They provided material and medical assistance directly to the population, supplied medicines to 15 dispensaries and paid hospitalization costs for civilian victims of the conflict. In the course of the malaria control campaign launched in September in Apurímac valley, 85,000 people were vaccinated. The school canteen in Ayacucho was reopened and another set up in San Miguel: in all, 800 children received one meal a day, from Monday to Friday.
- In the department of **Apurímac**, the two delegates based in the ICRC's office in Abancay, reopened in April, carried out 11 field missions in four provinces. They provided material assistance to 1,000 displaced persons, widows and orphans, instructed 860 mothers in basic preventive measures and child care, gave 1,400 medical consultations and took people to the hospital in Abancay. The four canteens opened in Abancay in 1988 continued to provide meals for 600 children.

- In **Huánuco**, the delegates carried out 10 missions in the region of Alto Huallaga. In June they vaccinated 3,600 people against yellow fever, evacuated 16 civilians and paid their hospitalization costs. They also provided material assistance to the most impoverished population groups. In September, an ICRC office was opened in Tingo María for the two delegates based in that region.

The overall cost of food and other assistance for displaced persons and the needy amounted to 158,200 Swiss francs, of which 23,200 went to the Abancay and Ayacucho school canteens run in conjunction with the National Society.

## Dissemination

The delegation gave talks on ICRC activities and the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law to:

- 281 officers and soldiers in the emergency zones;
- 162 senior officers of the naval air-defence forces and students of the military training school (CAEM);
- 746 members of the police force, 147 of them in the emergency zones, 199 in Lima and 400 cadets of the police academy in Lima;

□ 639 jurists and law students in Lima, Arequipa, Cuzco and Puno.

Contact with the civilian population — especially in areas under the state of emergency — was maintained through frequent radio broadcasts, distributions of printed material and presentations in towns and villages, as well as during vaccination campaigns, relief distributions and visits to schools.

### Co-operation with the National Society

The ICRC continued to support the work of the Peruvian Red Cross, mainly in its dissemination activities. The delegates took part in various courses and seminars for volunteer first-aid workers and group leaders and instructed young volunteers in Arequipa in dissemination techniques. Towards the end of the year, in co-operation with the ICRC, the Peruvian Red Cross organized the first meeting of Red Cross branches from the country's northern provinces. Forty representatives of seven local branches and members of the central committee attended the meeting, at which the head of delegation gave a talk on international humanitarian law.

As part of its relief operations, the ICRC also provided the National Society with clothing, blankets and food for a total value of 303,200 Swiss francs.

### OTHER COUNTRIES

**ARGENTINA** — The regional delegation maintained contact with the Argentine authorities through regular meetings. In connection with dissemination and following the appeal launched by the League in favour of people particularly hard hit by the economic crisis, the delegates had frequent contacts with the National Society and its branches.

The delegation's activities centred on dissemination. In conjunction with the Salvador University in Buenos Aires, from 23 October to 3 November the delegation organized a course on international humanitarian law for senior officers of the armed forces of nine Latin American countries.

The regional delegate also gave lectures at three of the country's law faculties (Mar del Plata, Santa Fe and Buenos Aires) and to members of the armed forces in Rosario and Buenos Aires.

**BOLIVIA** — In February, the Bolivian Red Cross and the ICRC organized a training course in international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles for dissemination officials of the National Society.

During a mission from 5 to 9 August, the regional delegate based in Buenos Aires gave three lectures on international humanitarian law to armed forces representatives in La Paz and Cochabamba and near Lake Titicaca. In the course of that mission he met the new authorities appointed following the election of President Jaime Paz Zamora.

At the end of the year, on account of a wave of strikes which were followed by numerous arrests, the regional delegation closely monitored developments in the country, especially with regard to detention.

**BRAZIL** — The regional delegate based in Buenos Aires made frequent visits to Brazil to organize dissemination seminars and discuss with the authorities the question of Brazil's accession to the Additional Protocols and dissemination projects for prison staff.

In co-operation with the National Society, the delegation organized the second seminar on international humanitarian law. The seminar, intended primarily for jurists, was held in Rio de Janeiro from 18 to 21 July.

During a seminar for Foreign Ministry officials of Latin American countries, held in Brasilia from 3 to 9 December at the initiative of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the host country, the regional delegate gave a talk on relations between the ICRC and Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

**ECUADOR** — The regional delegate based in Bogotá travelled to Ecuador several times on dissemination missions and, for the first time in 13 years, to carry out prison visits.

Following a meeting with the Minister of the Interior in February, the ICRC was invited to visit persons detained for security reasons. From 6 to 20 June delegates carried out visits in accordance with standard ICRC procedure to four *Centros de rehabilitación social*, where they interviewed 23 men and seven women detained for security reasons. On the basis of observations made by the medical delegate, medicines were handed over to the doctors responsible for treating the detainees.

Regarding dissemination, the regional delegate gave a talk at the seventh ordinary session of the Andean Parliament. On the same occasion, the Parliament adopted a resolution in support of the ICRC's work in member countries. In May, a two-day seminar on international humanitarian law was organized jointly with the UNHCR at the Diplomatic Academy. On 30 June, a course on international humanitarian law was given to 150 cadets of the Guayaquil Naval Academy.



ICRC support to the National Society continued. For the first time, the two institutions agreed on a common dissemination programme, to be conducted on a yearly basis. In this connection, in October the ICRC took part in a series of lectures and seminars prepared in co-operation with the Ecuadorean Red Cross for dissemination officials of the National Society and for police cadets.

**GUYANA** — A delegate based in Bogotá went to the Republic of Guyana from 21 to 25 April to renew contacts with the authorities and meet representatives of the National Society.

The delegate discussed the question of co-operation between the Guyana Red Cross Society and the country's health services with the Minister of Health, and projects regarding dissemination of international humanitarian law with the assistant to the Guyana Defence Forces' Chief of Staff. She also met members of the National Society's Executive Committee who gave details of their programmes in the fields of assistance and first-aid instruction.

**PARAGUAY** — Following the fall of General Stroessner's government on 3 February, the delegates based in Buenos Aires travelled to Asunción several times to establish contacts with the new authorities. On 7 June, the regional delegate was received by President Rodriguez. Their talks dealt mainly with ratification of the Additional Protocols and the ICRC's role in Paraguay.

From 3 to 7 July the delegates carried out the first series of visits to places of detention after the change of government. Security detainees imprisoned under the Stroessner regime had been released by the new government, and the ICRC team was able to ascertain that there were no detainees belonging to that category.

In co-operation with the employee in charge of the ICRC's office in Asunción, which was opened in July 1988, the regional delegation continued to support the work of the National Society, in particular its dissemination activities.

Delegates also took part in the course on international humanitarian law organized by the Paraguayan Red Cross for law students and held on 11 and 12 August. During the same mission, they gave a talk to 420 students at the police academy in Asunción.

In November, in conjunction with the Faculty of Law and Diplomatic Science of the Catholic University in Asunción, the regional delegation organized a symposium on international humanitarian law for senior civil servants, judges, diplomats, lawyers and members of military and university circles.

**SURINAME** — In view of the internal situation, the regional delegation in Bogotá closely monitored developments in the country. In the course of her four missions there, the delegate with responsibility for Suriname renewed contacts with the authorities and with the Jungle Commando opposition movement. Protection of the civilian population and the delegation's dissemination work, in particular the participation of two officers in the San Remo course in October 1989, were discussed on 20 July with Lt-Col. D. Bouterse, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, and with other authorities.

Four visits, one of them in the presence of an ICRC doctor, were made to the prison in Fort Zelandia where seven security detainees were seen for the first time. A hospitalized detainee was also visited and, for the first time, the ICRC was able to go to three police stations in Paramaribo, where it visited four security detainees. Moreover, ten people held by the Jungle Commando were seen twice, and the ICRC forwarded messages to their families.

In view of the possible repatriation of persons who had taken refuge in French Guyana the medical delegate carried out a survey of the country's hospitals in addition to visiting security detainees.

The ICRC also maintained close contact with the Suriname Red Cross. In co-operation with the National Society, the ICRC provided food aid as needed in April to about one hundred inhabitants of Pokigron, a village virtually destroyed during fighting between the opposition and government forces, and in November to 88 civilians in Albina who had been cut off from Paramaribo. In July, the delegate specialized in dissemination of international humanitarian law among the armed forces travelled to Suriname to conduct two one-week seminars for army officers. Finally, the ICRC took part in two courses for National Society first-aid workers.

**URUGUAY** — In the course of numerous missions to Uruguay, the regional delegate based in Buenos Aires had regular contacts with the National Society. ICRC delegates invited to a meeting of the branches of the Uruguayan Red Cross, held in Montevideo from 18 to 20 August, gave talks on the Movement's history, principles and structure.

The regional delegate also took part in a symposium on the implementation of international humanitarian law, which was organized by the country's Ministry of Foreign Relations in co-operation with the ICRC and held in Montevideo from 6 to 8 September.

**RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1989**  
**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	312	1,062,090	44,268	1,106,358
Colombia .....	Detainees	—	2,787	11,987	14,774
El Salvador .....	Civilians, detainees and National Society	207	219,589	354,857	574,446
Haiti .....	National Society	—	—	4,301	4,301
Honduras .....	National Society	23	125,629	1,775	127,404
Nicaragua .....	Civilians, the disabled, detainees, their families and National Society	1,171	1,939,898	193,384	2,133,282
Paraguay .....	National Society	40	481,909	—	481,909
Peru .....	Civilians, detainees and National Society	84	392,141	72,542	464,683
Suriname .....	Civilians	1	2,375	—	2,375
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>1,838</b>	<b>4,226,418</b>	<b>683,114</b>	<b>4,909,532</b>