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### *First-aid course in Pakistan.*

Delegates also took part in humanitarian law organization for law students and held the same mission, they gave a talk to 420 students of 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.

In the context of urgent missions to Uruguay, the regional delegate based in Buenos Aires had regular contacts with the National Society. ICRC delegates 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.

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In 1989 the continent of Asia continued to be an important area of ICRC operations and expanding activities. While continuing its work in the Philippines, the ICRC stepped up its aid to victims of the Cambodian conflict in Cambodia itself and remained very active along the Thai-Cambodian border, where more than 300,000 displaced persons were still living in camps. It greatly increased its aid to victims of the Afghan conflict, deploying more human and financial resources there than anywhere else in Asia.

The ICRC entered upon a new operation in 1989, in Sri Lanka, and its regional delegation in Jakarta extended its work to the province of Irian Jaya. During the year, ICRC delegates visited prisoners taken in the Afghan conflict and in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Indonesia, Viet Nam and China. In the course of many missions its representatives continued and intensified the ICRC's negotiations with governments and National Societies in Asia and the Pacific to promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law and encourage ratification of the Geneva Conventions and/or their Additional Protocols.

For all its operations in Asia and the Pacific region in 1989, the ICRC had, on average, 253 delegates (including medical and administrative staff and staff seconded by National Societies) and more than 1,650 locally recruited employees working in six delegations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines. There were also four regional delegations:

- **New Delhi**, covering India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives and Myanmar;
- **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, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand and the island States of the Pacific.

To finance all its activities in Asia and the Pacific in 1989 the ICRC made a regional fund-raising appeal for 112,261,500 Swiss francs, which took into account gifts in kind and a balance brought forward from 1988. It also made an *ad hoc* appeal for funds for its work in Irian Jaya, which increased during the year.

## CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN

The withdrawal of Soviet forces in 1989 was a landmark in the Afghan conflict, which nevertheless continued. A flare-up in hostilities greatly increased the number of victims and made heavy demands on ICRC surgical services in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The ICRC had frequently to make representations to both parties, calling for civilian lives to be spared in the hostilities and for humanitarian law to be respected.

The ICRC maintained regular contacts with the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations working in the context of the Afghan conflict.

In circumstances in which its presence was more necessary than ever, the ICRC extended and consolidated its traditional range of activities. It expanded the geographical area of its operations in Afghanistan by opening two sub-delegations in August in Herat and Mazari-i-Sharif, and its Pakistan-based delegates greatly extended their field of activities in the course of many missions into the Afghan interior. In 1989 the ICRC greatly increased the number of staff at both its delegations with a view to fulfilling its mandate, and at the end of the year its delegations in Kabul (including the sub-delegations in Herat and Mazari-i-Sharif) had 422 local employees and 77 expatriate employees. Most of the 35-strong medical personnel were seconded to the ICRC by the National Societies of various European countries, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. The Peshawar delegation (including the Quetta sub-delegation) comprised 82 persons, of whom 42 (many of them seconded to the ICRC by National Societies) were engaged in medical care, and 1,006 local employees.

## AFGHANISTAN

To extend its humanitarian activities in areas of Afghanistan under government control, ICRC representatives had several meetings with government officials: the head of the delegation had an interview on 9 July with Mr. Abdul Wakil, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and on 22 November with Mr. Abdul Hammeed Mohtat, Vice-President of the Republic; at the Belgrade summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in September, the President of the ICRC had talks with President Najibullah; and



Mr. Hossein, Minister of Planning, visited ICRC headquarters on 13 December.

The ICRC repeatedly attempted to obtain greater recognition of its mandate in insecure conditions that made its delegates' work difficult. For example, just before the withdrawal of Soviet troops, which ended on 15 February, the ICRC was one of the few organizations still in Kabul. Stricter security measures were discussed with the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific when he went on mission to Kabul and then adopted, and the ICRC felt obliged to withdraw part of its expatriate personnel for the time being, so reducing their number to about 40. Meanwhile the delegation concentrated its work on war surgery and protection, the two most vital areas. As soon as the situation allowed, the personnel withdrawn were brought back to Kabul and quickly resumed all the ICRC's activities.

From July onwards the conflict in Afghanistan flared up again, especially in Kabul and a number of other towns.

Indiscriminate shelling killed and wounded many civilians in the capital. On 1 October an **Afghan Red Crescent** office was hit by a rocket which killed two people and wounded 13 others. Yet again the ICRC called upon all parties to the conflict to respect the civilian population and the protective emblems of the red cross and red crescent.

To cope with the needs arising from the conflict the ICRC extended its coverage of Afghanistan in 1989, opening sub-delegations in Herat and Mazari-i-Sharif in August. The delegation's permanent presence in these towns, in which it had carried out several missions in 1988, enabled it to pursue various activities of which details will be found below under the appropriate headings. Kabul-based delegates went on several missions, mainly to conduct prison visits, in various parts of the country.

With the agreement of the parties to the conflict, from whom it obtained the necessary security guarantees, the ICRC set up a regular **weekly airlift** between Peshawar and



Kabul in March 1989, to bring to Afghanistan the supplies needed for ICRC activities and to transport its staff. In November the airlift was extended from Kabul to Herat and Mazari-i-Sharif.

### Medical activities

There was a marked increase in ICRC medical activities in 1989. The **war surgery hospital** opened in Kabul in October 1988 admitted steadily growing numbers of patients — up to 50 daily. In April and November 1989 extensions were made to the hospital so that it could accommodate 200 patients, four times the initial number. In 1989 the hospital treated 2,061 wounded (not including 8,937 out-patients) and performed 4,005 surgical operations. The hospital is under the sole responsibility of the ICRC. On 31 December it had two surgical teams supplied by National Societies. The repeated shelling of the capital from July onwards led to an unprecedented influx of war wounded, and bore testimony to the hospital's operating capacity, as it often had to treat victims immediately after the incident in which they were wounded. Besides dealing with the emergencies caused by the situation in Kabul, in 1989 the hospital admitted many wounded from areas outside the capital. This was encouraging evidence that its neutrality was being recognized.

The ICRC **orthopaedic centre** in Kabul, opened in 1988, also had a much busier year in 1989. It was closed for three weeks in February because of the temporary withdrawal for security reasons of some of the ICRC expatriate staff, but reopened on 1 March and over the whole year produced 698 prostheses and orthoses and 3,732 pairs of crutches for war amputees. The manufacture of wheelchairs began in July and 91 units were produced by the end of the year. Once ICRC sub-delegations were opened in Herat and Mazari-i-Sharif, war amputees from these two towns were flown to Kabul by the ICRC charter plane for treatment at the orthopaedic centre, which also repaired orthopaedic devices. Courses in physiotherapy were given at the centre and at the war surgery hospital, and production staff were recruited and trained locally. The programme lasts between two and three years, and trains orthopaedic technicians and physiotherapists in the skills they require to run workshops in various provinces of Afghanistan.

The ICRC continued to assist the 10 **Afghan Red Crescent dispensaries** in Kabul by providing them with emerg-

ency medical supplies and medicines for the civilian population. It also helped to run them: six ICRC nurses worked in the 10 dispensaries every day to train National Society staff in medical care.

As a result of the opening of the two ICRC sub-delegations, a **first-aid post** was opened on 15 October in the dispensary run by the Afghan Red Crescent in Herat. On 24 October the ICRC opened its own dispensary there, which by the end of the year was giving consultations to large numbers of patients.

The ICRC gave regular medical and surgical assistance to 11 civilian hospitals in Kabul, Herat and Mazari-i-Sharif for the treatment of war wounded, making regular assessments so that its assistance could be adjusted to meet emergency needs.

*Pakistan-based ICRC medical activities on Afghan territory are described under the corresponding heading below.*

### Activities for detainees

Early in 1988 the ICRC was authorized to visit people detained in Afghan prisons because of the conflict. In 1989 it stepped up these activities. Afghanistan's main prison, **Pul-i-Charkhi** prison in Kabul, was the object of visits of several kinds. A second complete series of visits to sentenced detainees under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of State Security (Blocks 1 and 2) was made in February. Sentenced detainees under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior (Blocks 3 and 4) received the ICRC's third complete series of visits, beginning on 7 November and continuing at the end of the year. Regular fortnightly partial visits for the purpose of conducting tracing activities were made throughout the year to sentenced security detainees under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior (Blocks 3 and 4), to register new detainees, give the prison population greater protection through regular monitoring, and distribute and collect Red Cross messages. The ICRC also obtained *ad hoc* access to an American citizen and a Spanish national (both since freed) who exchanged Red Cross messages with their families.

From 29 April to 3 May the ICRC made a second complete visit to the **Dar-ul-Tadib detention centre** in Kabul, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of State Security and holds people under 20 years old. There was a follow-up visit to Dar-ul-Tadib in November. **Mazari-i-Sharif and Herat provincial prisons**, which are under the

jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior and were visited for the first time in 1988, received second complete visits in 1989, in March and May respectively. Now that sub-delegations had been opened in both these towns and delegates permanently based there, the ICRC was able to make *ad hoc* intermediary visits to both prisons on Tracing Agency business, for the same purposes as to Blocks 3 and 4 of Pul-i-Charkhi prison.

In the course of missions outside Kabul the ICRC extended its area of activities by visiting for the first time four provincial prisons under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior. These were at Shibirgan (Jawzjan province), visited in April, Farah prison, visited in June, Quala-i-Nau (Badghis province), visited in August, and Faizabad (Badakhshan province) visited in September. Shibirgan prison also received a second complete visit in December.

The ICRC regularly distributed *ad hoc* assistance to detainees when visiting all these prisons. In January it conducted a special winter help programme for detainees in Pul-i-Charkhi prison, to whom it distributed more than 30 tonnes of food, clothing, blankets and other items.

All the ICRC visits to Afghan government prisons took place in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures, and confidential reports on all of them were sent to the detaining authorities. In the course of these visits in 1989 the ICRC interviewed more than 3,000 security detainees. However, in spite of repeated representations it was still unable at the end of the year to gain access in accordance with its criteria to detainees under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of State Security who were awaiting sentence.

*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 sent through the ICRC were exchanged by detainees, held by the government or opposition forces or the Pakistan authorities, and their families resident abroad or in Kabul or in the Afghan provinces accessible to the ICRC. More than 10,000 Red Cross messages passed through the Tracing Agency's office in Kabul in 1989, and nearly 7,500 through the Peshawar office (these figures are not cumulative, as messages exchanged

between both countries pass through each delegation). In 1988, about 1,600 messages were exchanged through each of the Agency's offices. Stepped-up ICRC activity in the Afghan provinces, enabling messages to be exchanged within Afghanistan, accounts for much of this increase; so does the twice-weekly airlift between Peshawar and Kabul, enabling the two delegations to exchange messages quickly.

Several hundred files were opened to deal with tracing requests for persons presumed detained, or of whom their families had no news. The Agency also issued travel documents for 68 people who were to be resettled in third countries by the UNHCR.

In 1989 the ICRC offered its services to a number of **released persons**. Beginning in August, the ICRC used its airlift to repatriate to Pakistan former detainees of Pakistan nationality freed by the Afghan authorities. Fifteen Pakistani ex-prisoners had been repatriated in this way by the end of 1989.

The bodies of the nine occupants of an Afghan airplane that crashed in Pakistan were repatriated to Kabul on a special ICRC flight in February and handed over to their families for burial.

### Dissemination

In 1989 the ICRC continued its programmes to disseminate knowledge of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and ICRC activities, concentrating on locally recruited ICRC staff, the staff of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, persons receiving aid from the ICRC (patients and their families), schools and academic circles, and the staff of government departments and of companies; in other words, on groups likely to pass on what they learned to those around them.

In May the ICRC gained access to that highly important target group, the armed forces. From then on it gave several talks on international humanitarian law in military and police academies and to officers of the Ministry of State Security, and established working relations with the officers of the government's armed forces.

The ICRC's dissemination work is also an important indirect means of ensuring that delegates can go about their humanitarian work in safety. Messages in Pashtu and Dari announcing the whereabouts of delegates travelling in the

Afghan provinces were regularly broadcast on the BBC and Deutsche Welle shortwave networks.

## PAKISTAN

The ICRC's operations in Pakistan, or in Afghan territory from Pakistan, greatly increased in 1989. Delegates went on many missions on the other side of the Afghan border, which led to a significant increase in ICRC activities, especially those of protection and the Tracing Agency. At first, as had been the case in 1988, the delegates kept to areas near the border, but after some months they were able to travel farther north, so greatly extending the area covered by the ICRC in Afghanistan. Briefly, missions were carried out to the north of the town of Kandahar in Wardack province southwest of Kabul, and two journeys lasting nearly two months, in the summer and autumn, were made to north-eastern Afghanistan — in the Panjshir valley and as far as Badakshan. These missions were made difficult by climatic conditions and insecurity. As well as furthering the ICRC's traditional tasks, they prepared the ground, by approaches to all the parties to the conflict, for the granting to the ICRC of permission for its Afghanistan-based delegates to enter areas controlled by the opposition.

In Pakistan itself, as a result of representations made in 1988, ICRC protection work was much extended; in two provinces delegates were authorized to make regular visits to Afghan detainees in Pakistan prisons. As in the past, regular talks were held with officials of the government of Pakistan, to whom the ICRC gave a full account of its activities in the Afghan conflict and of whom it requested support for its prime concern of gaining access to all persons detained because of the conflict. For this purpose there were two meetings with Mr. Yaqub Khan, Minister for Foreign Affairs. The first was in April, when the ICRC's Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific met the Minister during a visit to Pakistan. The second was when the President of the ICRC met the Minister in Belgrade in September.

For the ICRC, the year 1989 was marred by a serious incident in Pakistan. On 28 August Mr. Mohamed Zaker, a local employee working under the medical co-ordinator of the ICRC delegation, was murdered by unknown persons in Peshawar while walking to work. In a press release the ICRC said that it deeply regretted this dreadful deed, which was an extremely serious breach of the Fundamental Principles governing its activities.

## Medical activities

The **two surgical hospitals** set up by the ICRC near the Afghan border in **Peshawar and Quetta**, in 1981 and 1983 respectively, continued to work at maximum capacity. Renewed fighting in the border areas led to an influx of wounded, especially in Peshawar. From March to June, when the battle of Jalalabad was raging, Peshawar hospital admitted up to 500 patients every month. Its maximum capacity was extended to 390 beds, and in May an extra surgical team — the fourth — had to be called in for two months. Three surgical teams were working in Quetta hospital at the end of the year, and it was extended so that it could admit up to 250 patients in emergencies. Its normal capacity is 150 beds. The nominal capacities of both hospitals were often exceeded during the year, especially at Peshawar hospital whose average occupancy rate was 178 per cent in 1989 (compared to, on average, about 100 per cent at Quetta). In 1989 Peshawar hospital admitted 4,242 patients and Quetta hospital 1,877. Medical staff at Peshawar performed 9,626 surgical operations and gave 13,616 outpatient consultations. Medical staff at Quetta performed 3,683 operations and gave 11,202 outpatient consultations.

Most of the patients cared for in the ICRC hospitals (about 60 per cent in Peshawar and 72 per cent in Quetta) were brought there from **first-aid posts** on either side of the border. These posts all had ambulances to pick up the wounded near the combat zones, provide first aid and then take them to one of the ICRC hospitals if necessary. In 1989 as at the end of 1988, there were nine such posts in Pakistan: six in North West Frontier Province (at Mohammad Gat, Landi Kotal, Parachinar, Thal, Miram Shah and Wana) and three in Baluchistan (Dalbandin, Chaman and Badini); because of weather conditions the Chitral post in North West Frontier Province was open only in the warm season.

The ICRC extended its medical network by opening four first-aid posts in the interior of Afghanistan in 1989. These were serviced from Pakistan so as to provide a chain of first-aid posts as close as possible to combat zones.

On their many visits to regions entered by the ICRC for the first time delegates were careful to assess the medical needs caused by the conflict and the feasibility of setting up medical facilities. In January a first-aid post was opened in Sarroza in Paktika province, and another at Nurgal in the Kunar Valley (halfway between Peshawar

and Kabul). In April the latter post was moved to Showki, about 15 kilometres away, for security reasons. In March a first-aid post was opened in Bazawol in Nangahar province, on the road to the Khyber Pass between Kabul and Peshawar, and not far from Jalalabad. In July the ICRC opened a first-aid post at Misrabad, north of the town of Kandahar. These four posts are permanently manned by local staff and visited by ICRC delegates and nurses as regularly as possible. They are in fact "advanced medical units" that can easily be moved to where they are most needed. During the year, increasing numbers of wounded were evacuated from these four posts to the hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta.

The first-aid posts in Pakistan are run in co-operation with the Pakistan Red Crescent; the teams working there are made up of a doctor or nurse, a driver and a guard. The delegates based in Peshawar and Quetta regularly assess their needs and monitor how they work. In all, the 10 first-aid posts, including the Chitral post open during the summer, treated 390 patients in 1989 and transferred 3,172 others to the two ICRC hospitals.

The ICRC continued to work for the long-term rehabilitation of war wounded, in close co-operation with the North West Frontier Province branch of the Pakistan Red Crescent. The rehabilitation **centre for paraplegics in Hyatabad**, on the outskirts of Peshawar, was opened in 1984 and is run by the North West Frontier Province branch. The ICRC funds the centre and an ICRC doctor works there regularly. In August an ICRC ergotherapist was posted there to improve the care of patients and reintegrate them into society after their discharge. The National Society provides the rest of the staff. The centre admits Pakistanis and Afghans in roughly equal numbers. The total number of patients looked after in Hyatabad in 1989 was 313. Equipment for the disabled is manufactured on the spot from locally available materials; 310 wheelchairs, 396 orthopaedic appliances and 91 pairs of crutches were produced in 1989.

The **ICRC orthopaedic workshop in Peshawar**, which opened in 1981, fits Afghan amputees with prostheses. An ICRC prosthetist works there full-time, helped by a locally recruited and trained Afghan team. In 1989 this workshop manufactured 841 prostheses, 180 orthoses and several hundred rubber feet. The centre also fits amputees with artificial limbs, repairs worn devices and replaces those no longer suitable (mainly for child amputees). If necessary, patients may stay at the centre and later the ICRC teaches

them to look after themselves to some extent so that they may more easily resume their place in 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, refugees and local and expatriate ICRC staff. In all, 3,343 units of blood were collected in 1989 and 3,155 were used for transfusion.

**First-aid courses** continued for Afghan nationals preparing to return to their country. The ICRC holds two types of course in Peshawar and Quetta. The first is a one-month course that includes an introduction to Red Cross and Red Crescent principles and international humanitarian law. Trainees completing the course receive a first-aid certificate. The second is a two-day course in the rudiments of first aid, international humanitarian law and Red Cross/Red Crescent Principles. In 1989 about 250 people took the one-month course and about 3,000 people the two-day course. In 1989 the ICRC began holding similar courses, lasting a single day, in its first-aid posts in the interior of Afghanistan; about 1,500 Afghans attended during the year. The ICRC gave a first-aid kit to everyone in Pakistan and Afghanistan who took the course.

#### Activities for detainees

In 1989 the ICRC delegation in Pakistan stepped up the number of its missions to the field and its contacts with the opposition parties and their regional commanders. As in 1988, many talks were held with those commanders, the delegates explaining the role and mandate of the ICRC in the Afghan conflict and its working procedures, especially for the protection of detainees. In all their contacts the delegates pressed for access to all captured persons of whatever nationality, this being one of the ICRC's principal aims.

Accordingly delegates went on many missions in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and were able to make many more visits in about 60 places to people detained by various Afghan resistance movements.

The ICRC did its utmost to make these visits in accordance with its standard procedure (interviews without witnesses, medical examinations) and from time to time handed to the detaining authorities working papers containing its observations and recommendations. Prisoners filled out family message forms and many of them were



given *ad hoc* material assistance (toilet articles and blankets). In 1989, during two of the many missions by ICRC delegates in the Afghan provinces, the ICRC visited a number of Soviet prisoners, who sent messages to their families in the USSR.

In Pakistan in November, the ICRC interviewed without witnesses four Soviet prisoners handed over by the Afghan opposition to the Pakistan authorities and about to be released. During these talks two of them said that once they were released they hoped to rejoin their families in the USSR. ICRC representatives were present later at the ceremony at which the two prisoners wishing to return home were handed over to Soviet diplomats.

Again in Pakistan, 1989 saw a steady increase in ICRC activities for detainees. In 1988 the ICRC Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific and the late President of Pakistan, Mr. Zia ul Haq, reached an agreement in principle on the subject of ICRC visits to Afghans held in Pakistan prisons because of the conflict. That agreement was implemented in 1989. On 2 April the provincial authorities of North West Frontier Province confirmed their agreement to the ICRC, which commenced its visits on 5 April. In August the Baluchistan authorities similarly confirmed that agreement and the ICRC at once started its visits to Afghan detainees there. The delegates paid several regular visits to eight prisons and one detention centre in these two provinces, and by the end of the year had visited several hundred Afghan prisoners there who were either sentenced, awaiting trial or under interrogation.

#### Activities for the civilian population

In 1989 the ICRC continued to use its contacts with all the parties to the conflict to make them aware of the importance of protection for the civilian population affected by the conflict — one of the ICRC's constant objectives.

In January, as on various occasions in 1988, the ICRC gave material and medical assistance to 1,700 displaced persons still in a camp in Afghanistan, near the Pakistan border.

#### Tracing Agency

In 1989 the Tracing Agency in Peshawar arranged for the exchange of nearly 7,500 Red Cross messages between detainees visited in Pakistan and Afghanistan and their

families in Pakistan, or in Kabul or the Afghan provinces to which the ICRC had access, or abroad. The ICRC continued to issue travel documents for people resettled in third countries through the good offices of the UNHCR. In all, 324 people received travel documents issued by the Agency's Peshawar office in 1989.

*Detailed information on the Agency's activities in the Afghan conflict is given under the corresponding heading in the Afghanistan section.*

#### Dissemination

In 1989 the ICRC continued to use its medical activities at first-aid posts, and its frequent missions into the field, for large-scale dissemination work among the Afghan opposition movements. It described ICRC activities, explained the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and of international humanitarian law, tried to get assurances that ICRC delegates could travel safely in the interior of Afghanistan and that ambulances and buildings bearing the red cross/red crescent emblem would be respected, and urged that it was essential for the ICRC to be able to discharge its mandate in behalf of all the victims of the conflict. A considerable contribution to the ICRC's local contacts and dissemination talks in 1989 was made by distributing a soldier's manual (printed in Pashtu and Dari) and first-aid kits to about 23,000 Afghans.

In 1989 the ICRC continued to co-operate in the Pakistan Red Crescent's dissemination activities. About 3,700 students attended a dissemination session, part of a campaign run jointly with the National Society from February to April in the schools and universities of Peshawar. The ICRC also helped the Pakistan Red Crescent to hold first-aid courses in Peshawar and Quetta as part of the United Nations programme to warn the public of the danger of mines.

#### SRI LANKA

In 1989 the serious disturbances in Sri Lanka grew worse. There was great tension in the north and east because of the Tamil crisis, and serious non-ethnic violence in the centre and south. In 1989 the ICRC renewed its offer of services to the Sri Lankan authorities, first made in 1983, to protect and assist the civilian victims of the conflict and people

detained because of the events. These were the principal matters discussed with members of the government, including Mr. Wijeratne, Minister for Foreign Affairs, by the ICRC Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific during his mission to Colombo in May 1989. At this same time the President of the ICRC received Mrs. Herath, Minister for Health and Women's Affairs, at ICRC headquarters. In June the ICRC sent a summary of its proposals to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who again discussed them, this time with the President of the ICRC, in September in Belgrade.

On 9 October 1989 a letter from Sri Lanka's President R. Premadasa invited the ICRC to send a delegation to Sri Lanka to start ICRC traditional activities there. On 16 October a team of four delegates arrived in Colombo, where they made detailed arrangements with the highest national authorities in preparation for ICRC activities, concurrently with prompt assessments of the situation and medical needs in certain parts of the island. President Premadasa received the head of the ICRC delegation on 18 October and confirmed his full support for ICRC activities. In October and November there were more interviews with the Ministers of Health, Foreign Affairs and Justice, as a result of which the ICRC quickly put a programme of action into effect and started its activities within a very short time. There was also sustained contact with the National Society, which helped the ICRC as much as it could, especially in the first few weeks. By the end of the year the staff of the ICRC delegation in Colombo numbered 41, including 23 local employees.

#### **Activities for detainees**

Between the arrival of the ICRC delegates in Colombo and the end of the year, the ICRC was engaged mainly in the protection of detainees. In November the ICRC reached an agreement with the authorities allowing it to visit all persons detained in connection with the events, and to make such visits in accordance with its standard procedure. At the end of November the ICRC made its first visit to Boosa Army Detention Camp, near the southern town of Galle, registering more than 2,300 detainees. At the beginning of December it visited about 1,300 detainees at Pelawatta Camp in the south. At the end of December it registered more than 1,000 detainees in the course of a visit to a third army detention camp at Punani in the east of the island. In December it also visited 12 police

stations used as temporary places of detention for persons just arrested. ICRC delegates also saw detainees held in New Magazine Prison in Colombo and in a prison hospital in Colombo. In all, the ICRC saw 5,298 persons in 1989 during its prison visits in Sri Lanka.

#### **Tracing Agency**

During this initial period, the work traditionally done by the Tracing Agency rapidly increased in volume. The delegation made lists of detainees visited and took steps to deal with the 3,857 tracing requests received by 31 December about people reported missing and/or presumed detained. Most of the detainees visited were already in touch with their families before the ICRC visits; the others were able to tell their families of their arrest and place of detention, through the ICRC.

#### **Assessment of medical needs**

As soon as it arrived in Sri Lanka the ICRC set out to assess needs caused by the conflict, and for this purpose conducted surveys in various parts of the island. These did not reveal any needs calling for an ICRC emergency operation. By the end of the year no similar survey had been made in the north and east of the country, as the ICRC had been unable to travel to those areas.

#### **Dissemination**

With the agreement of the competent authorities, in November an expatriate delegate specialized in dissemination to the armed forces prepared a programme of seminars for the armed forces and police on the subject of international humanitarian law. The programme started at the end of December with a talk given to about 20 officers at Boosa near Galle.

### **MYANMAR**

The ICRC has been running an orthopaedic programme in Myanmar since 1985. Further to its activities in 1988 following the disturbances in Myanmar, the ICRC made



representations in various quarters, and the regional delegate based in New Delhi visited Myanmar several times in 1989 to improve his contacts with the National Society and the government authorities. In the course of these missions he contacted the Ministries of Health, Defence and Foreign Affairs, and met the Health Minister, the Minister of the Interior and Brigadier General Khin Nyunt, First Secretary of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). The purpose of these contacts was to urge the Myanmar government to accede to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977, and to pursue negotiations in accordance with the memorandum handed to the authorities in October 1988, relating especially to ICRC visits to security detainees. The ICRC wishes to obtain access to all detainees, including those held in connection with the ethnic conflicts that have been going on in this country for the last 40 years.

Having received no positive reply to its proposals for visits to detainees, the ICRC tried to raise the whole question anew at the highest level. Early in November, therefore, the President of the ICRC wrote to the Head of State, General Saw Maung, asking him to grant the ICRC's Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific an interview in December, to resume discussion of the ICRC memorandum and Myanmar's accession to the Geneva Conventions. Regrettably, by the end of the year the authorities had still not reacted positively to the ICRC's proposals for a resumption of the dialogue.

#### **Orthopaedic assistance**

The orthopaedic programme run in conjunction with the Myanmar Ministry of Health and the National Society at the civilian centre for the disabled at Thamaing, Yangon, ended in 1988. In 1989 the ICRC continued to participate in another joint programme, begun in 1987 and concerning the centre for the disabled in Mingaladon, on the outskirts of Yangon, and the opening of a new centre at Maymyo, near Mandalay. In 1989 the ICRC was engaged mainly in starting a physiotherapy programme, after helping to set up the necessary infrastructure. It also continued to train orthopaedic technicians. At the end of the year the ICRC was employing three expatriates (an orthopaedic technician, a physiotherapist and an administrator), and 14 local employees, for its orthopaedic programme in Myanmar.

#### **Medical assistance**

For the first two months of the year the ICRC continued to provide medical assistance to certain hospitals in Myanmar under a programme begun in 1988 in co-operation with UNICEF and the National Society. From January to April 1989 the ICRC also gave material assistance to the Yangon and Mandalay blood banks and helped to train Myanmar Red Cross Society first aiders. A nurse seconded to the ICRC by the Swedish Red Cross spent the first six months of 1989 in Myanmar, where together with the National Society he organized and gave three one-month courses for the Society's first-aid instructors. About 250 instructors were trained in this way. The ICRC helped to organize and finance the courses and gave material assistance to the National Society for its first-aid activities.

#### **CONFLICT IN CAMBODIA**

The plight of the victims of the conflict in Cambodia continued to be a major source of concern for the ICRC. There was intense diplomatic activity throughout the year to find a negotiated settlement to the conflict, but at the same time living conditions worsened for the civilian population directly exposed to the hostilities. Political and diplomatic events, and the official withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia on 26 September, brought about a change in the conflict and gave rise to new hopes, including that of a global repatriation of the displaced persons who had been living along the Thai border for the last 10 years. The civilian population was, however, very seriously affected by renewed fighting that on several occasions involved camps for displaced persons.

The ICRC accordingly adjusted and expanded its activities inside Cambodia and along the border to meet the needs caused by continued hostilities. While continuing to cope with immediate emergencies, it prepared to assume the responsibilities entrusted to it by the international community, especially as concerned medical care and the Tracing Agency, with a view to a repatriation of the displaced. In 1989 the ICRC therefore made many contacts with the governments and international organizations involved, to which it explained its views on any such repatriation and the co-operation it was prepared to offer the competent organizations in the light of its mandate and on condition that its operational criteria were respected.

It explained these matters fully to the delegates attending the Paris Conference on Cambodia held from 30 July to 30 August. Although taking no official part in the proceedings of the Conference, an ICRC delegation followed in particular the work of its Commission 3, which dealt, *inter alia*, with the repatriation of the displaced population along the border. Outside the Conference itself, the ICRC representatives informed the participants of the ICRC's concern about the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, and stressed that any settlement should take into consideration the humanitarian implications of repatriating displaced civilians and persons detained because of the conflict.

The ICRC's concerns were expressed in a document handed to the ministers of the States taking part in the Paris Conference. That document emphasized that the principle of voluntary repatriation should be respected and that those repatriated should be free to choose their place of resettlement. The ICRC stressed that its delegates and those of the international organizations should have access to all displaced persons along the border before they were repatriated. It pointed out that precautions should be taken to protect civilians from mines before any mass repatriation. It stated that the repatriation operation could not succeed unless family ties were first re-established, pointing out that the ICRC Tracing Agency had done much for this purpose on both sides of the border, and would do more if necessary. On the subject of medical care the ICRC stated that it was prepared to continue providing surgical assistance, and stressed that repatriates would be at risk from malaria, unhygienic conditions and unsafe water.

In conclusion, the document drew attention to the ICRC's repeated but vain applications for permission to visit persons detained by any of the parties to the conflict. The ICRC reaffirmed that it was anxious to carry out its mission in respect of all the parties involved, without political preconditions, and that it was willing to facilitate the return of these people to their families as soon as they were released.

The final document adopted by Commission 3 of the Paris Conference mentions the principles to be respected in repatriation operations (as set out by the ICRC), with the clear implication that the ICRC would take part in any such operation. Commission 1 mentioned in the course of its work the ICRC's role and responsibility in the event of the release of prisoners of war and political detainees.

Outside the Conference the ICRC representatives had talks with many participants, and by commenting on the document (which was distributed to them) discussed the ICRC's main concerns relating to the conflict, and the activities it wanted to carry out. Among the persons with whom the ICRC held such talks in Paris were, in chronological order, Mr. Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the State of Cambodia, Prince Sihanouk, Head of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), and Mr. Son Sann, Head of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and Prime Minister of the CGDK. There had been a previous talk with Mr. Son Sann when he visited ICRC headquarters in April.

By giving special prominence in the introduction to this section to its activities at the Paris Conference the ICRC wishes to stress its unfailing concern for the humanitarian values it has upheld throughout the year in the context of the Cambodian conflict. Far from offering conditions favourable to repatriation, the latter part of the year was marked by an escalation of hostilities, and the ICRC warned the parties not to give way to the temptation to forcibly repatriate displaced persons. The ICRC saw some positive developments in its activities on either side of the border, but like the international organizations and in spite of repeated representations, it was still refused access to several camps for displaced persons, and the forced transfers of civilian populations continued. In Cambodia the ICRC failed to obtain regular access to all the regions affected by the conflict. Regrettably, at the end of the year it was still impossible for it to visit persons detained because of the conflict, either in Cambodia or in Thailand.

## Staff

The ICRC has delegations in both capitals, Bangkok and Phnom Penh, and a large sub-delegation at Aranyaprathet, on the Thai side of the Thai-Cambodian border.

At the end of the year 32 ICRC delegates and medical staff (11 of whom were working at the surgical hospital and were seconded to the ICRC by National Societies) and 219 locally recruited Thai employees were at work in Thailand. About 160 Khmer employees were working for the ICRC in various camps on the border, either at Khao-I-Dang surgical hospital or with the Tracing Agency. The ICRC delegation in Cambodia numbered 12 persons (including four members of the National Societies of Poland

and the Federal Republic of Germany, and one local employee).

## CAMBODIA

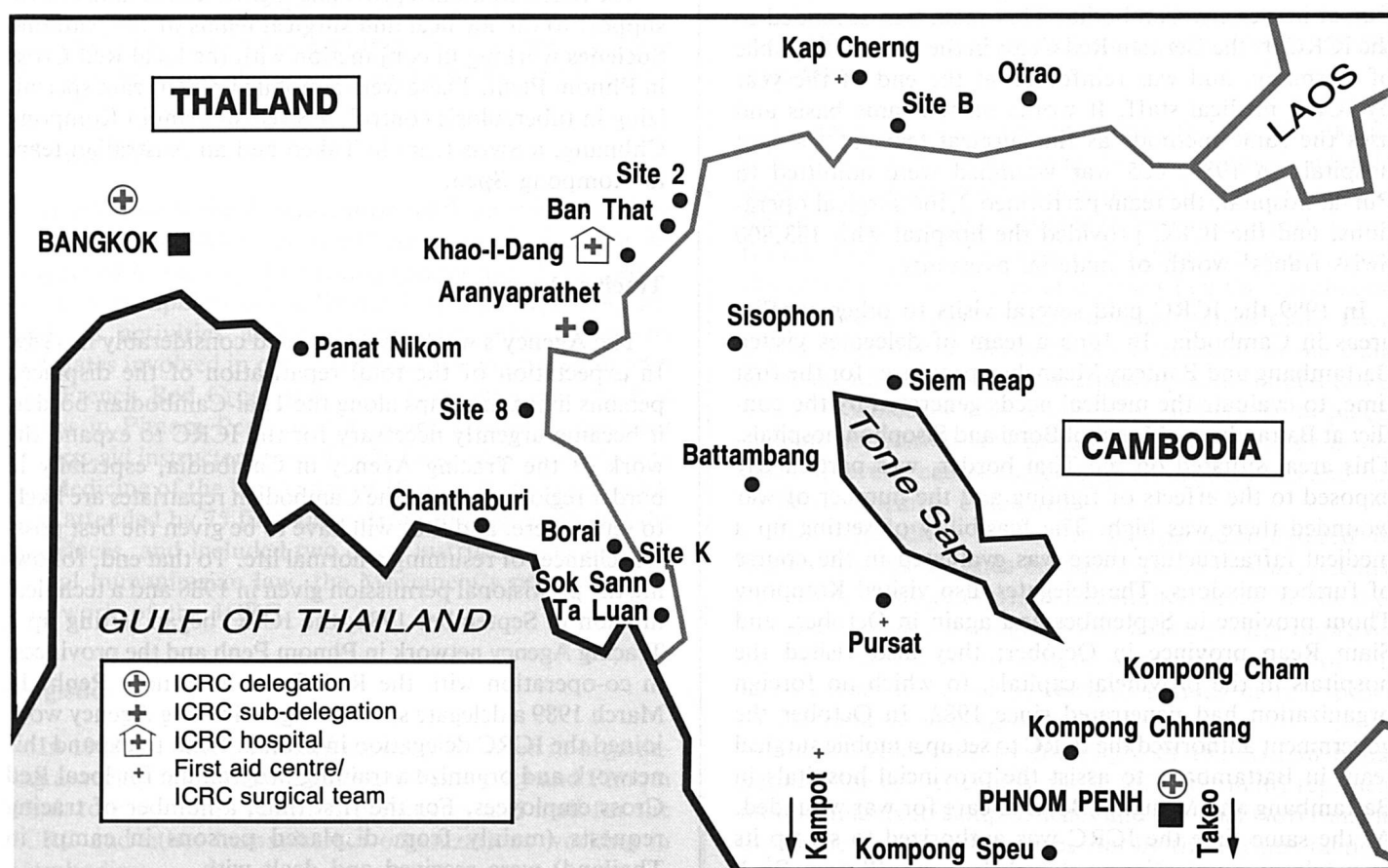
At an interview granted in 1988 by Mr. Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the State of Cambodia, to the ICRC Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific, the ICRC was granted permission to increase its activities in Cambodia, especially as concerned medical assistance and the Tracing Agency. In 1989 the ICRC continued to discuss implementation of that decision with the competent authorities. Besides the interview with the Prime Minister, mentioned at the beginning of this section, several interviews took place with other leading government officials. Thus ICRC representatives had several meetings with Mr. Kong Sam Ol, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers. One of these

meetings was attended by the head of the ICRC's General Medical Division, who during a mission to Cambodia in September evaluated the medical situation and considered how the ICRC could do more in that field.

## Activities for people affected by the conflict

The ICRC continued to press the authorities of the State of Cambodia for access to certain categories of people deprived of their freedom because of the conflict, namely people captured carrying arms, civilians arrested in connection with the events, and foreign nationals without diplomatic protection. The ICRC was nevertheless unable to visit any such persons detained in Cambodia in 1989.

The ICRC continued to draw the authorities' attention to the potentially serious consequences of the direct or indirect involvement of civilians, against their will, in military operations in conflict zones.



## Medical assistance

Since May 1987 surgical teams seconded to the ICRC by the Polish Red Cross to treat war wounded, including persons injured by mines, have succeeded each other at the **government hospital in Kampot** on the south coast of Cambodia. Part of their work involves training Khmer medical staff. In 1989 they treated 1,151 war wounded (many more than in previous years), took in other patients, gave outpatient consultations and performed 2,362 surgical operations. The ICRC supplied this hospital with material assistance worth 170,700 Swiss francs.

The ICRC had previously told the government on several occasions that it was willing to expand ICRC medical activities in Cambodia, especially in the provinces most severely affected by security problems. In 1989 this led to a marked increase in the work of the ICRC. As a result of the preliminary work carried out in 1988, in February 1989 a surgical team joined the **government hospital at Pursat** in western Cambodia. That team was seconded to the ICRC by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, and was reinforced at the end of the year by ICRC medical staff. It works on the same basis and uses the same methods as the surgical team at Kampot hospital. In 1989, 605 war wounded were admitted to Pursat hospital, the team performed 2,166 surgical operations, and the ICRC provided the hospital with 183,800 Swiss francs' worth of material assistance.

In 1989 the ICRC paid several visits to other conflict areas in Cambodia. In June a team of delegates visited Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces for the first time, to evaluate the medical needs generated by the conflict at Battambang, Mongkol Borei and Sisophon hospitals. This area, situated on the Thai border, was particularly exposed to the effects of fighting and the number of war wounded there was high. The feasibility of setting up a medical infrastructure there was evaluated in the course of further missions. The delegates also visited Kompong Thom province in September and again in October, and Siam Reap province in October; they also visited the hospitals in the provincial capitals, to which no foreign organization had penetrated since 1982. In October the government authorized the ICRC to set up a mobile surgical team in Battambang to assist the provincial hospitals in Battambang and Mongkol Borei to care for war wounded. At the same time the ICRC was authorized to set up its own telecommunications network between Phnom Penh

and the provinces where its surgical teams were working, to give them greater safety and make them more efficient. Delegates also paid two visits in December to Battambang and delivered emergency medical supplies to the provincial hospital. At the end of the year, however, it had still not been possible to implement the decision granting the ICRC the permission to set up a permanent surgical team in Battambang.

As in previous years, the ICRC provided emergency medical relief supplies (medicine and medical material) as needed 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.

The total value of the assistance provided in 1989 was 15,000 Swiss francs.

The ICRC continued providing logistic and administrative support to the **medical and surgical teams of the National Societies** working in conjunction with the local Red Cross in Phnom Penh. These were a mobile French team specializing in tuberculosis control, a Swedish team in Kompong Chhnang, a Swiss team in Takeo and an Australian team in Kompong Speu.

## Tracing Agency

The Agency's work also expanded considerably in 1989. In expectation of the total repatriation of the displaced persons living in camps along the Thai-Cambodian border, it became urgently necessary for the ICRC to expand the work of the Tracing Agency in Cambodia, especially in border regions; most of the Cambodian repatriates are likely to settle there, and they will have to be given the best possible chances of resuming a normal life. To that end, following the provisional permission given in 1988 and a technical mission in September 1988, the ICRC began setting up a Tracing Agency network in Phnom Penh and the provinces, in co-operation with the Red Cross in Phnom Penh. In March 1989 a delegate specializing in Tracing Agency work joined the ICRC delegation in Phnom Penh to expand this network and organize a training programme for local Red Cross employees. For the first time, a number of tracing requests (mainly from displaced persons in camps in Thailand) were received and dealt with.



In 1989 the Agency's Phnom Penh office received tracing requests relating to 3,028 persons; 886 of these cases were solved. The number of family messages exchanged through the Phnom Penh Agency was 1,001, most of them between persons on either side of the border.

In 1989 the ICRC continued its efforts to reunite families separated by the conflict situation. One individual repatriation from Thailand to Cambodia was successfully carried out in December 1988 and another family was reunited in August 1989, when a woman living in Site 2 was reunited with her family in Phnom Penh through the efforts of the ICRC. This was the ICRC's first family reunion involving a person coming from a border camp. Two soldiers of the army of the Phnom Penh Government were repatriated at their own request under ICRC auspices, one in October and one in November, after treatment at the ICRC surgical hospital in Khao-I-Dang. In October the UNHCR repatriated 12 persons from Thailand to Cambodia after the ICRC had put them in touch with their families. As in previous years, in 1989 the ICRC reunited several persons living in Cambodia with their families abroad; three persons were thus allowed to join their families in France.

### **Dissemination**

In addition to the dissemination work done in the course of its daily activities, the ICRC attempted to increase the impact of its message by making greater use of the media. Various pamphlets in the Khmer language explaining the ICRC's activities and principles were distributed by delegates involved in other activities. In co-operation with the French Red Cross and with ICRC support, the Red Cross in Phnom Penh held a second training course for its first-aid instructors from 5 to 26 September at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Phnom Penh. The course was attended by 75 first-aiders from Phnom Penh and the provinces, and included two days' instruction on international humanitarian law, the Movement's principles and the work of the ICRC.

### **Logistics**

In 1989 the ICRC was still partially involved in organizing a weekly flight between Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh to carry relief supplies, passengers and mail for the ICRC and other humanitarian organizations working in Cambodia.

## **THAILAND**

In 1989, for the tenth consecutive year, the ICRC continued its efforts to protect and assist the victims of the conflict, i.e., civilians displaced on the Thai-Cambodian 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. The responsibility for assistance is shared between UNBRO (United Nations Border Relief Operation) and the ICRC. UNBRO supplies food and material assistance and basic medical care, whereas the ICRC provides emergency medical assistance — surgery, ambulance services and the blood bank.

### **Activities and representations in aid of the civilian population**

In many respects living conditions for the 300,000 displaced civilians in camps along the Thai-Cambodian border were even worse in 1989 than in previous years. Those conditions were originally intended to be temporary; their continuance led more than ever to heightened tension among the inmates of the camps at a time when the Cambodian conflict was at a diplomatic and military crossroads. There was a sharp rise in the number of incidents in the camp involving the use of weapons, especially in the largest camp, Site 2, in which 140,000 people live. In 1989 the displaced civilian population was threatened by ever closer armed clashes; several camps suffered direct artillery hits and had to be temporarily evacuated.

The difficulties arising in camps administered by Democratic Kampuchea became even more acute because humanitarian organizations had limited access to them or no access at all (although this situation greatly improved in 1989) and because people were still being forcibly moved from these camps 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 the Thai Government, on whose territory the camps run by the various factions of the CGDK were situated. As well as the many contacts

maintained by the delegation with the Khmer and Thai political and military authorities in the frontier provinces and Bangkok, the ICRC's Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific carried out a mission in May in the course of which he aired the ICRC's concern at the highest level in Bangkok. The ICRC made known its views on the question of repatriation of displaced persons to Cambodia, as stated in the introduction to this section. In particular the ICRC stressed that the civilian character of the camps should be respected and that no combatant should be allowed there, and drew attention to the situation in the camps administered by Democratic Kampuchea.

It will be remembered that in 1988 the ICRC made a special report to the Thai authorities on the situation in camps controlled by the Democratic Kampuchea faction. At talks in Bangkok in November 1988 the ICRC's Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific asked the Thai authorities to have the civilian population in the camps administered by that faction in the northern and southern border sectors relocated to two camps in areas well away from the fighting, in which it could enjoy the same humanitarian services as in the other border camps. In co-operation with the international organizations giving aid to the displaced civilian population, the ICRC made many and more frequent representations to that effect in 1989.

These led to the choice, agreed on with the Thai authorities, of two sites for the relocation of the camp inmates — at Otrao camp in the north, and at Site K in the south, where a new camp was built by UNBRO. Following incidents in Otrao camp, it was closed to the international organizations and the ICRC at the beginning of the year by order of the Thai authorities. At that time it had only 4,000 inmates, as against 16,500 a few months earlier. As soon as it was reopened at the end of January, its population grew steadily to about 7,000 on 30 April and 20,000 by the end of the year. The new Site K camp was opened in May to house the population of Ta Luan camp, which had just been closed by order of the Thai authorities. In fact only about 2,200 of the 8,000 people at Ta Luan camp at the beginning of the year were then transferred to Site K. The others were transferred to various sites to which neither the ICRC nor the international organizations had access. By the end of the year Site K camp was nevertheless sheltering about 8,000 people, after a sharp increase in July caused by the arrival of about 10,000 people from several inaccessible camps administered by Democratic Kampuchea in the southern part of the border which had been bombarded by artillery.

The representations made to the Thai authorities by the ICRC and the international organizations led to improved — but still in many respects inhumane — living conditions for some of the civilians under the authority of Democratic Kampuchea. Moreover, in the next few weeks several thousands of the 10,000 people driven by fighting to take refuge in Site K were transferred by Democratic Kampuchea to places inaccessible to humanitarian organizations. At the end of 1989, both north and south of the border, tens of thousands of civilians under the authority of Democratic Kampuchea were still beyond access by the ICRC and international organizations and were therefore barred from any humanitarian assistance.

In 1989 the ICRC also intervened in aid of people who had fled from Khmer Rouge camps on the southern part of the border. Mainly in May and June, about 800 persons from these camps arrived at Sok Sann camp and applied for admission. The ICRC delegates and UNBRO representatives registered the new arrivals, interviewed them without witnesses, and made representations to the Thai authorities to ensure that they were not sent back against their will to their point of departure.

In 1989 military operations escalated and fighting on the border seriously compromised the safety of the camps. For the first time since 1985 the population of several civilian camps had to be temporarily evacuated to previously prepared sites. In January, after large-scale fighting, Borai camp was totally evacuated. In March Site 2 camp was threatened by shelling in the immediate vicinity and inside the camp. The ICRC started an emergency programme and together with UNBRO temporarily evacuated 5,000 people belonging to the most vulnerable groups in the camp. Intermittent bombardment continued in April and May near the camp, which was therefore periodically closed to international organizations and voluntary agencies, whose place the ICRC occasionally took in providing basic medical services in the camp. On 21 and 22 July Site 8 camp sustained direct hits by shells which killed three persons and wounded 28 others. The rest of the camp inmates took temporary refuge nearby. The ICRC evacuated 1,000 of the most vulnerable persons to its hospital in Khao-I-Dang.

Although the situation urgently required its services, it was sometimes impossible for the ICRC to discharge its mandate in aid of the victims of the conflict. In April fierce fighting spread to Ta Luan camp, administered by Democratic Kampuchea, and various inaccessible camps nearby. A delegate went to Ta Luan and partially evaluated the condition of the wounded, but the ICRC's appli-



cations for access to all wounded and for permission to evacuate them to its surgical hospital and transfer the civilian population to a safer site were unsuccessful. Similarly, in July fighting involving several inaccessible camps administered by Democratic Kampuchea in the southern part of the border caused 10,000 people to flee to safety at Site K (*see above*), but the ICRC's approaches to the Thai authorities, asking for access to the scenes of the fighting and authorization to evacuate the wounded, and for permission for all civilian refugees in Site K camp to stay there, were unsuccessful.

In addition to these activities and representations for the general protection of the civilian population, ICRC delegates contacted the competent authorities about allegations of violence and security incidents indicating the presence of armed men in the camps. The introduction in 1988 of the Displaced Persons Protection Unit (DPPU), a new Thai unit in charge of security in the camps, led to improved conditions there, but there was a marked resumption of security incidents in 1989. The ICRC submitted three situation reports on protection to the Thai authorities in March, June and October, listing security incidents in the civilian camps.

In 1989 the ICRC ceased to look after the **Vietnamese Land Refugees (VNLR)** who arrived at the border overland, the Thai authorities having decided in 1988 to transfer them from Site 2 to Ban That, a new camp farther south run by the UNHCR. The transfer began at the end of 1988 and continued in the first months of 1989. In accordance with an agreement reached at the preparatory meeting, at Kuala Lumpur in March, for the International Conference on Indochinese Refugees, the VNLR who arrived in Thailand before March 1989 were transferred in July to Panat Nikom, a UNHCR camp used as a centre preparing refugees for resettlement. By the end of the year only about 370 VNLR who had recently arrived at the border were still in Ban That.

As in the past, the ICRC continued to make systematic representations to the authorities to ensure the prompt transfer from border crossing points to safer places in Thailand of Khmer and Vietnamese civilians who had recently arrived.

### **Representations for detainees and released prisoners**

The ICRC continued its efforts to get access to Khmer and Vietnamese nationals detained by CGDK factions or

the Thai authorities because of the Cambodian conflict. In spite of its representations the ICRC was not allowed to visit detainees in Thailand in 1989, but ICRC delegates registered and interviewed two groups of, in all, 142 people captured in battle by the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (FNLPK) and subsequently freed and transferred to Site 2. Another 119 people, who were arrested by the Thai authorities after crossing the border, were given medical and material assistance provided by the ICRC, which registered them and transferred them to Site 2 after their release.

### **Medical activities**

In 1989 the ICRC was again the only organization offering emergency surgical services to 300,000 displaced persons on the Thai-Cambodian border. These services were more necessary than ever, fighting near the camps and security incidents inside them having become more frequent.

There was a steady increase in the number of wounded admitted to **Khao-I-Dang surgical hospital**. This hospital was opened in 1980 near the Thai-Cambodian border. It was run by the ICRC with medical staff seconded by National Societies, and locally recruited Thai and Khmer employees. It had 100 beds and admitted 2,747 patients in 1989. Its three surgical teams (each comprising a surgeon, an anaesthetist and an operating theatre nurse) performed 5,308 operations.

The ICRC also ran an **ambulance service** to evacuate emergency cases and war wounded from the border to Khao-I-Dang hospital.

The **Kab Cherng first-aid post** on the northern border continued to admit patients, some of whom were transferred to Khao-I-Dang hospital by ambulance.

The ICRC continued to encourage those living in the camps to **give blood** so that Khao-I-Dang hospital should be able to carry on without outside help. At blood donor clinics in Khao-I-Dang camp and at Sites 2, 8 and B, 4,717 units were collected, which covered most of the ICRC hospital's medical and surgical needs and those of the medical services in the camps. The Australian Red Cross Society provided a further 1,093 units of blood.

The nurses on duty at the border gave **first-aid courses**, sometimes with the help of the Red Cross sections at the camps. In 1989, 19 one-week courses were held for the combatants of the three CGDK factions in Site 8, Site B, Sok Sann and Borai camps and at other points on the

border. The total number of trainees was 265 and each of them was given a first-aid kit at the end of the course.

### **Support for the National Society in aid of Thai civilians**

The inhabitants of the Thai villages near the border were also affected by the conflict, more so than in previous years. The ICRC therefore continued to assist the Thai Red Cross Society in support of its programmes for these villages.

For this purpose, the ICRC handed over 813,278 Swiss francs to the National Society in 1989, and made available to it 4,718 Swiss francs to help it to assist the victims of floods in the south of Thailand in November.

### **Tracing Agency**

The work of the Tracing Agency increased enormously in 1989. In the hope that the Khmer civilians who had taken refuge in the border area would be repatriated in the foreseeable future, the ICRC set up a network to put camp inmates in touch with their families in Cambodia. The Agency's exchange of messages between Thailand and Cambodia is described in greater detail under the heading *Tracing Agency* in the section on Cambodia. At the border, the Agency's services were available to more people, new offices having been opened in September and November in Site K and Otrao camp. Both camps are run by Democratic Kampuchea.

The following figures show the great volume of work done by the Bangkok delegation's tracing office. They do not include activities between Thailand and Cambodia.

- ☐ Enquiries were made into the whereabouts of 11,309 persons of Khmer origin and 259 Vietnamese refugees, in response to tracing requests by their families; 3,931 and 59 cases respectively were resolved.
- ☐ 12,232 letters and Red Cross messages, 99 of which were written by Vietnamese refugees, were exchanged through the ICRC between displaced persons and members of their families in other camps or abroad.
- ☐ Following ICRC representations to the Thai authorities, 97 people were allowed to transfer to another camp to be reunited with members of their families.
- ☐ Several other transfers took place under ICRC auspices: 1,202 Khmer civilians were transferred from entry points on the border to a camp for displaced persons; 120 Viet-

namese were escorted by the ICRC to Site 2 or Ban That after serving sentences at Prachin Buri military prison, and 34 others were transferred to those camps from entry points on the border.

### **Dissemination**

Promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross was still one of the most important tasks of delegates on the border. Working closely with the Thai Red Cross Society and from time to time with the help of the Red Cross sections active in the camps, the ICRC continued to expand its dissemination programme for Khmer and Thai civilians, the Thai armed forces, combatants of the three factions making up the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, and the medical personnel and staff of the voluntary agencies working in the area. With the assistance of a specialist from ICRC headquarters, the ICRC held the first seminar on the law of armed conflicts in Bangkok from 22 to 26 May. The seminar was attended by 23 officers from all three branches of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, and by instructor officers, a representative of the National Society and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Thai and Khmer versions were made of the film "*A borderline case*", produced by the ICRC and recording the story of its work on the border, and it was widely shown to Khmer, Thai and expatriate audiences.

## **CHINA**

Closer relations between the ICRC and the People's Republic of China were facilitated in 1987 by the opening of a regional delegation in Hong Kong, and continued in 1989. The ICRC's Hong Kong-based delegates went on many missions to Beijing, were in frequent touch with the authorities, and established closer links with the National Society.

### **Activities for Vietnamese prisoners**

From 11 to 19 January ICRC delegates made a third series of visits to Vietnamese prisoners of war. In the course of these visits they interviewed 40 Vietnamese prisoners, 23 of them for the first time, in three places of detention, and distributed a limited amount of material aid to them.

As a result of the ICRC's requests in 1988, the visits made in 1989 were to prisoners captured on the Sino-Vietnamese border and to Vietnamese military personnel taken prisoner during clashes between the Chinese and Vietnamese navies around the Spratley Islands in March 1988. An ICRC doctor and an ICRC 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. During and after the visits the ICRC arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between the Chinese or Vietnamese prisoners of war and their families. In 1989 the ICRC forwarded 32 messages of this kind, nine of which were written by Vietnamese prisoners when the ICRC visited them in January.

Beside its activities in aid of prisoners of war the ICRC offered both parties its services to repatriate any prisoners of war who might be released. The ICRC applied to the Chinese authorities for the release of a Vietnamese prisoner of war and his repatriation on medical grounds, in accordance with Article 110 of the Third Geneva Convention. No favourable reply to this application had been received by the end of the year.

#### **Representations in aid of persons affected by the events**

In the spring of 1989 there were violent events in Beijing and other Chinese towns. The ICRC was able to follow closely the situation in Beijing, since two of its delegates were there for nearly all the time from 27 April to 20 June and were in close and constant touch with the Red Cross Society of China. Following the violent clashes of 3 and 4 June on Tiananmen Square the ICRC offered, through the intermediary of the National Society, to provide medical assistance to the wounded. Its offer was declined.

The ICRC, being concerned by the plight of the persons arrested following the events of June and in other similar situations, made oral and written representations to the Chinese authorities reminding them of its mandate to visit detainees. Its representations had achieved no results by the end of the year.

#### **Tracing Agency**

In addition to its work for Chinese and Vietnamese prisoners of war (*see above*), the Tracing Agency office at the regional delegation in Hong Kong was still mainly concerned with tracing families separated in the late 1940s,

when some two million persons left mainland China for Taiwan. Between November 1987 (when the Taiwanese authorities first allowed people in Taiwan to visit their next-of-kin on the mainland) and the end of 1988, the delegation received more than 100,000 tracing requests. It continued to act as a neutral intermediary and to forward tracing requests to the Red Cross Societies in Beijing and Taipei, which deal with the actual tracing with technical assistance from the ICRC. In 1989, 28,465 tracing requests were received and 12,077 of them solved. The Hong Kong-based delegates went on several missions to Beijing and Taipei to co-ordinate this large-scale operation.

The family reunification programme between Viet Nam and China continued in 1988 (see under *Viet Nam* below). A few other Tracing Agency cases were dealt with between mainland China or Taiwan and other countries.

#### **Dissemination**

The ICRC continued its discussions of dissemination projects with the National Society. To make Red Cross activities better known to the Chinese public, the ICRC paid for a comic to be translated into Chinese and for 600,000 copies of it to be printed. A team from the Red Cross Society of China made a film on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the ICRC, with material and financial support from the ICRC.

#### **VIET NAM**

The ICRC has a regional delegation in Hanoi which covers both Viet Nam and Laos. At the end of the year the delegation had a staff of five, assisted by three local employees. In 1989 ICRC work in Viet Nam included visits to Chinese soldiers captured by the Vietnamese armed forces, and it gave more orthopaedic assistance and did more Tracing Agency work than before. Discussions with the Vietnamese authorities continued; the regional delegate in Hanoi maintained his regular contacts with them, and when the Deputy Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific went on a mission to Viet Nam in February he met the leaders of the Red Cross of Viet Nam, signed an orthopaedic co-operation agreement between the ICRC and the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, and had talks with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for the first time with the Ministries

of National Defence and the Interior. In June the President of the ICRC had talks with Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, who was in Geneva to attend the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees. These talks focused on ICRC work in Viet Nam and the ICRC offer of services, made several years previously, to visit detainees in re-education camps. By the end of the year no positive reply to this offer had been received from the Vietnamese authorities. Other matters discussed were the humanitarian problems in the Cambodian conflict, especially the ICRC's position on the repatriation of displaced persons (see under *Conflict in Cambodia* above).

#### **Activities for Chinese prisoners**

In accordance with permission granted in 1988 the ICRC delegates paid a second visit on 4 January to the Chinese prisoners captured on the Sino-Vietnamese border, visiting 12 prisoners of war, 10 of whom they had already seen in September 1987. Ten prisoners were released soon after the January visit. On 8 September a team of delegates went to the same place of detention to visit five prisoners about to be released. This was the first visit to three of the prisoners. The visits took place in accordance with ICRC criteria, and the prisoners wrote Red Cross messages to their families (see under *China* above).

#### **Orthopaedic programme**

The signature on 17 February of a co-operation agreement between the ICRC and the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Welfare gave formal effect to an orthopaedic co-operation programme begun by the ICRC at the end of 1988. In accordance with that agreement the ICRC started setting up a unit for the manufacture of orthopaedic components at the orthopaedic rehabilitation centre in Ho Chi Minh City. For that purpose, in February and August two ICRC prosthetists joined their colleague in Ho Chi Minh City, where he had been posted in 1988.

In the course of this first year the ICRC staff renovated and re-equipped the centre to make it fully operational. Three machines for the mass production of prostheses were designed and built in co-operation with Ho Chi Minh City Polytechnic University. An ICRC prosthetist spent the last few months of 1989 helping to improve the training of the

workers at the centre. By the end of the year the project was sufficiently advanced to justify hopes that within months a start would be made on the mass production of prostheses that would partly satisfy the needs of the many war amputees in Viet Nam. The ICRC and the Ministry of Labour were considering the possibility of the ICRC and its Vietnamese partners working directly together to produce prostheses and equip amputees, as part of a further stage in their co-operation programme.

#### **Tracing Agency**

In addition to its activities for Chinese and Vietnamese prisoners of war (see under *China* above) the ICRC continued its work on a family reunification programme between Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China. In May one person of Chinese origin was reunited with his family in China under ICRC auspices, with the help of the Red Cross Society of China.

The ICRC continued to help the National Society to set up a tracing network. A delegate specializing in work of this kind was sent to Hanoi in April, and assisted the National Society during many visits to its provincial branches. Together with the ICRC, the Red Cross of Viet Nam held two seminars in May on tracing techniques for its staff from the central and northern provinces of Viet Nam. Two courses for representatives of the southern provinces had already been held in December 1988.

#### **Dissemination**

The first dissemination seminar for the Vietnamese armed forces was held at Son Tay near Hanoi from 18 to 28 October 1989. It was organized by the Ministry of National Defence in co-operation with the National Society and the ICRC, and was attended by 42 high-ranking officers. For the first two days, the ICRC regional delegate gave a talk on the history of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its principles and activities, and the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC also participated in a summer youth camp held by the Red Cross of Viet Nam. Radio programmes made in the course of this national gathering were broadcast by radio and television in order to make the Red Cross and its work better known.



## INDONESIA

In Jakarta, the ICRC maintained a regional delegation with two regional delegates, one covering Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, and the other the whole Pacific region. Besides the two regional delegates, the delegation had 10 expatriates and 33 local employees at the end of the year.

The delegation's activities expanded in several directions in 1989. The delegates made two series of visits to separate categories of security detainees. They also evaluated the living conditions of part of the civilian population of Irian Jaya province, where the ICRC opened an office. In addition to the delegates' regular contacts with the authorities and the Indonesian Red Cross, high-level talks were held in February at which ICRC representatives, including a lawyer from headquarters, met Admiral Sudomo, Minister for Political Affairs and Security, and Mr. Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs. The President of the ICRC had talks with President Suharto and his Minister for Foreign Affairs when they were in Belgrade for the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in September.

These discussions were mainly concerned with ICRC visits to security detainees, in addition to ICRC activities and concerns in connection with the situation in East Timor. The ICRC again raised with the authorities the question of Indonesia's ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, in particular in June when the ICRC's legal adviser in that matter was in Jakarta on mission.

### Activities for detainees

During interviews with the authorities in February the ICRC representatives handed them the confidential reports made after the ICRC's visits in 1988 to detainees sentenced after the attempted *coup d'état* of 30 September 1965 (ex-G. 30 S/PKI prisoners). On that occasion the ICRC made known to the competent authorities its observations and concern about the plight of these detainees, some of whom were under sentence of death. The ICRC was granted permission to visit this category of detainees annually, and following representations made over the last few years, the Indonesian authorities agreed to the ICRC's also visiting persons detained as members of the Irian Jaya OPM (Organisasi Papua Merdeka).

The ICRC accordingly made another series of visits, from 5 June to 1 August, to detainees arrested following the attempted *coup d'état* of 30 September 1965. Delegates saw, in accordance with ICRC criteria, 52 detainees in 13 places of detention on six different islands. At the end of each visit material and medical assistance was distributed to the detainees. The delegates also made a first visit to seven prisoners belonging to the OPM who were detained outside Irian Jaya.

In Irian Jaya the first series of visits to this category of detainees began on 29 September and were not entirely finished at the end of the year. By 31 December the delegates had visited, in accordance with ICRC criteria, 84 prisoners, either sentenced or awaiting trial, in eight places of detention in Jayapura and elsewhere in the province. Assistance in the form of food, toilet articles and leisure items was distributed to the detainees.

### Activities in Irian Jaya

The ICRC conducted an initial mission to Irian Jaya in 1988. In 1989 a delegate and a nurse visited the province from 9 January to 11 March and continued to assess the situation of the civilian population, particularly the people forced by the events of 1984 to flee across the border to Papua New Guinea. Some of those people had returned to Irian Jaya in the meantime.

Following that mission the ICRC subsequently submitted a programme of action to the Indonesian authorities. The programme comprised visiting detainees arrested as OPM members, co-ordinating the return of the Papua New Guinea refugees with the UNHCR (which is not working in Irian Jaya), giving those refugees any necessary supplementary assistance during their resettlement, and in general monitoring the situation of the civilian population.

The competent authorities having agreed to admit the ICRC and allow its activities, a team of delegates went to Irian Jaya on 26 September. An office intended as the permanent place of residence of one delegate and one nurse was opened in Jayapura, the provincial capital. The ICRC made an *ad hoc* appeal for 763,500 Swiss francs to finance its activities in Irian Jaya. The visits mentioned under the previous heading were the ICRC's main activity during this initial stage. The delegates also made the necessary contacts so that the ICRC could start work in the province, and saw to the arrangements for the journey home of a group of 60 refugees repatriated by the UNHCR in

December. The ICRC gave the group only supplementary material assistance, its main needs having been covered by the government.

## East Timor

### Activities and representations for detainees and the civilian population

The situation in East Timor remained tense throughout 1989. It was a source of sustained concern to the ICRC, which continued its visits to persons (ex-GPK prisoners) arrested and sentenced for their part in the events in East Timor. Delegates carried out two series of visits in accordance with ICRC criteria, seeing 26 detainees in January and 23 in April, some detainees having been released. No new detainees were registered. The Timorese detainees were held either at Becora prison in Dili, East Timor, 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; five of them were transferred in 1989. With the co-operation of the National Society the ICRC continued to organize family visits to the detainees still in Jakarta, 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.

The ICRC continued its representations to the authorities, asking to be notified of arrests made because of the events, and for permission to visit all persons detained because of them. By the end of the year the delegate and the nurse permanently based on East Timor had still not received such permission, but the ICRC had nevertheless visited 91 persons detained, but not sentenced, in connection with the events. The ICRC also concerned itself with the plight of the civilian population affected by the situation, and passed on to the authorities allegations made to the delegates about incidents connected with the events, on the understanding that this information should be treated as confidential.

The ICRC continued to enquire into the fate of missing persons, and made further representations to the authorities about 24 such persons about whom it had approached the authorities in the past but had still no reply. During the year 13 new cases of this kind, based on information given by the families, were submitted to the authorities.

## Tracing Agency

The programme to repatriate to Portugal officials of the former Portuguese administration in East Timor and their families continued in 1989. This programme was started at the request of the Indonesian and Portuguese authorities in 1986. It is financed by the UNHCR and carried out (i.e., the formalities and actual transfers) by the ICRC. In January, April and May 1989 five groups totalling 104 persons were sent to Portugal under ICRC auspices. Another ICRC programme to reunite families and transfer victims of the conflict situation to other countries continued in 1989, but led to no transfers.

The ICRC also enabled members of separated families to exchange news and keep in touch through Red Cross messages. In East Timor, this service was used mainly by ex-GPK detainees and persons whose families lived abroad. In 1989, 919 messages were exchanged through the Agency.

### Medical, nutritional and sanitation programmes

In January 1989 a doctor, a nutritionist and a nurse, all from the ICRC, made a general survey of the nutritional and medical situation in 18 East Timor villages. This was the fifth survey of its kind since 1985. It did not reveal any urgent needs requiring ICRC action. The ICRC submitted a report to the Indonesian authorities, informing them of its findings and of the worst affected areas so that they could take preventive measures or provide the necessary assistance. The ICRC nurse permanently based on East Timor made several return visits to the villages previously visited, to monitor health and nutrition there.

Following a survey in 1988 by a sanitary engineer of 24 villages affected by the events, the ICRC introduced a programme to improve the water supply and sanitation in nine of these villages. An ICRC engineer stayed in East Timor for five months, from April to September 1989, to train local personnel and provide technical supervision of the programme. Its results in 1989 were seven wells bored and a protected spring prepared for use as a water supply. The necessary materials were supplied by the ICRC.

## PHILIPPINES

In 1989 the ICRC continued its activities in aid of detainees and civilian victims of the insurgency. Delegates



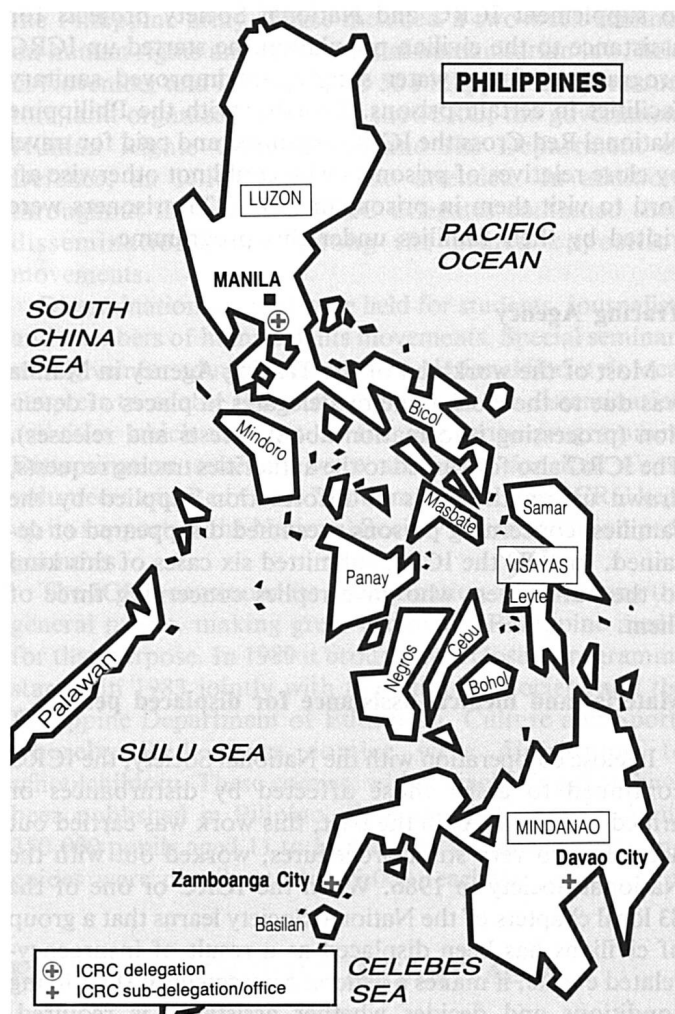
went to civilian and military prisons throughout the country to visit persons arrested in connection with insurgency movements or attempted *coups d'état*. Working closely with the Philippine National Red Cross, the ICRC continued its medical and food assistance programme for civilians affected by armed incidents on the island of Mindanao and in other parts of the country such as the Visayas, a group of islands in the central Philippines. At the end of the year the ICRC and the National Society gave assistance to the victims of clashes arising from the attempted *coup d'état* in December. Both the ICRC and the Philippine National Red Cross were active in dissemination throughout the year.

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

To carry out its many activities throughout the vast territory of the Philippine archipelago, the ICRC had a delegation in Manila, a sub-delegation in Davao on the island of Mindanao, and an office in Zamboanga City on that island. At the end of the year the ICRC was employing 30 delegates in the Philippines and 108 local employees.

#### Activities for detainees

At the beginning of 1989 the ICRC finished its second complete series of visits to the country's civilian and military prisons. It has resumed its visits in July 1986, shortly after Mrs. Aquino came to power. Besides the visits made as part of a complete series (a third series began in early 1989), delegates make more frequent visits to some places of detention, mainly to register detainees recently arrested or when the conditions of detention so require. In the course of its complete and *ad hoc* visits the ICRC has had access to people held in connection with the insurrection, and from late December 1987 onwards to military personnel arrested following attempted *coups d'état*. In June a confidential report made by the ICRC at the end of its second complete series of visits, and also summarizing all its activities for the civilian population, was sent to the Secretaries of State for the three Departments (i.e., Ministries) responsible for the places of detention visited by the ICRC. These were the Departments of Justice, Local Government and Defence



(the Department of Defence is responsible for the Integrated National Police and the Philippine Constabulary). In 1989 the ICRC concluded an agreement with the authorities supplementing those made in previous years and formally regulating and systematizing ICRC access to all persons detained by the armed forces.

In 1989 ICRC delegates visited 983 people detained in 155 places in the Philippine archipelago and Manila; 508 of these people were visited for the first time.

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 1989 an ICRC sanitary engineer went on two missions to the Philippines, each lasting about one month;

to supplement ICRC and National Society projects for assistance to the civilian population, he started up ICRC programmes for a water supply and improved sanitary facilities in certain prisons. Together with the Philippine National Red Cross the ICRC organized and paid for travel by close relatives of prisoners who could not otherwise afford to visit them in prison; in 1989, 226 prisoners were visited by their families under this programme.

### Tracing Agency

Most of the workload of the Tracing Agency in Manila was due to the work done by delegates in places of detention (processing information about arrests and releases). The ICRC also forwarded to the authorities tracing requests, drawn up on the basis of information supplied by the families, concerning persons presumed disappeared or detained. In 1989 the ICRC submitted six cases of this kind to the authorities, who gave replies concerning three of them.

### Material and medical assistance for displaced persons

In close co-operation with the National Society, the ICRC continued to assist those affected by 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 as a result of insurgency-related events, it makes a general assessment of their living conditions and decides whether assistance is required. Assistance by specialized ICRC/National Society teams may include:

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

In 1989, therefore, ICRC and Philippine Red Cross mobile teams carried out many surveys of the health and nutritional status of civilians affected by the insurrection, followed where necessary by medical consultations, distributions of medical supplies, and vaccinations against measles

for children of displaced families. The emphasis throughout was on a wider range of activities, so that besides the surveys, distributions and consultations the delegates often held dissemination meetings. The presence of ICRC delegates in insurrectional areas enables the ICRC to look into what happens to the civilian population and to make representations for its protection.

In the course of this joint operation with the National Society, the ICRC assisted 73,500 recently displaced persons in 1989 — fewer than in 1988 because governmental organizations did more to look after displaced persons, but ICRC delegates nevertheless remained very active in the field.

Large-scale fighting in April having displaced 30,000 people on the island of Negros in the Visayas archipelago, in May the ICRC and the National Society began their biggest-ever emergency assistance operation in the Philippines, distributing nearly 50 tonnes of food aid in a few days to 10,000 displaced persons. Because of the unhygienic conditions and risk of epidemics in resettlement areas, the ICRC and the National Society launched a health programme, seconding six ICRC or National Society nurses to work in a field hospital opened by the local medical authorities, to whom medicines were supplied for emergency needs.

Throughout 1989, however, most of the ICRC's assistance operations were on the island of Mindanao (70 per cent of all beneficiaries). Their operations on the main island, Luzon, in the north, and in the Visayas in the centre, accounted for 9 and 21 per cent respectively of all beneficiaries. In 1989 the ICRC and the National Society distributed 328 tonnes of relief material under their joint programme, 312 tonnes of it in food aid.

### Activities for victims of clashes

The ICRC delegation was very active at the time of the clashes in the Philippines, particularly in Manila during the attempted *coup d'état* of December. The ICRC kept in constant touch with all the parties concerned so that the civilian population should not suffer in the military operations. It made several appeals to this effect, broadcast by radio and television, in which it enjoined all persons to respect the red cross emblem.

The ICRC also gave its support — at times its active support — to the Philippine National Red Cross, which evacuated hundreds of wounded civilians and combatants.

The ICRC provided the National Society with three ambulances for this purpose. Four temporary first-aid posts were set up near the scenes of the fighting and the ICRC supplied medical equipment, medicines and blood to the Philippine National Red Cross and the hospitals in the capital. More than 10,000 civilians were moved from combat areas to evacuation centres and given medical and food aid.

### Co-operation with the National Society

The ICRC defrays the entire cost of the above-mentioned joint assistance programmes, and has 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 take a more active part in joint operations.

In addition to its co-operation with the National Society in dissemination and assistance to victims of the December clashes (mentioned under the appropriate headings of this section), the ICRC made several *ad hoc* donations to strengthen the National Society's operational capacity in its own sphere of activities (blood banks and social services). For example, 354,579 Swiss francs were used to buy blood transfusion equipment, while 153 tonnes of food (mainly rice) were placed at the Society's disposal to help meet the most urgent needs in the wake of three typhoons which devastated the north of the Philippine archipelago in September and October.

### Dissemination

The ICRC considers that it is essential to the success of its work, in the Philippines and elsewhere, and particularly in conflict areas, to promote knowledge of the Movement's principles and the rules of international humanitarian law, and to explain how the ICRC works in the field.

As in the past, dissemination meetings were held for a wide variety of groups. The ICRC made great efforts to include such meetings in its assistance activities, as part of its joint programme with the National Society (*see above*). This enables it to explain the principles on which it works to its audience of civilians or members of the armed forces, and to answer any questions from them.

The ICRC held special dissemination sessions on international humanitarian law for the soldiers and officers of

the Philippine army. These included a two-week seminar on human rights and international humanitarian law, held in November and December for 50 Philippine army instructors, and organized jointly by the ICRC, the government Human Rights Commission and the Department of Defence; an ICRC lawyer also attended. In addition, throughout the year the ICRC delegates continued their dissemination work among the armed opposition movements.

Dissemination sessions were held 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 assistance programmes. Dissemination seminars were also held for Red Cross volunteers and Red Cross Youth members. The ICRC kept up its support of the National Society's dissemination programmes.

The ICRC continued its dissemination work among the general public, making great use of the Philippine media for that purpose. In 1989 it brought to a close a programme started in 1983 jointly with the National Society and the Philippine Department of Education, Culture and Sport, whereby Red Cross comics were distributed to schoolchildren. These comics, with a teacher's guide, have been published in Pilipino, Cebuano and English. Some 350,000 pupils aged 11 to 14 received a comic in 1989, and guides were distributed to 15,000 teachers.

### REFUGEES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

The ICRC continued its activities in aid of Vietnamese Boat People, through its Central Tracing Agency, which co-ordinates all activities of this kind by means of the Tracing and Mailing Services (TMS) set up in the National Societies of Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and the Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross Society.

In 1989, 843,311 letters, nearly double the number of previous year, were exchanged through the TMS network, which received 12,714 tracing requests, 4,315 of which were resolved.

### OTHER COUNTRIES

**INDIA** — The ICRC maintained a regional delegation in New Delhi which at the end of the year was staffed by



two expatriates, including the regional delegate, and 19 local employees. The delegates continued their contacts with the local branches of the National Society, in support of their efforts to disseminate international humanitarian law and do tracing work. In 1989 missions were conducted to Gauhati in the State of Assam, Madras (Tamil Nadu), Bangalore (Karnataka), Trivandrum (Kerala), Panaji (Goa), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Patna (Bihar), Calcutta (West Bengal), Kohima (Nagaland), Chandigarh (joint capital of Haryana and Punjab) and — mainly to give a course on the dissemination of international humanitarian law at Jammu University — Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir). These missions strengthened the working relations established with the Indian Red Cross Society and enabled the ICRC representatives to contact the authorities of the states they visited.

Contacts were also kept up during the year with the Central Government of the Union in New Delhi. In June the ICRC legal adviser dealing with the question of India's acceding to the Additional Protocols went to New Delhi for talks with the government, mainly on that subject but also about the refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh) in the State of Tripura and the ICRC's work in Sri Lanka.

The second seminar for the dissemination of international humanitarian law to the Indian armed forces, organized by the ICRC in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence and the National Society, was held from 22 to 26 May in New Delhi and was attended by a delegate specialized in dissemination to the armed forces. The audience consisted of senior officers from all branches of the armed forces. From 1 to 3 October Mr. A. Hay, a member of the International Committee and former President of the ICRC, represented the ICRC at an Indian government seminar in New Delhi marking the centenary of the birth of Jawaharlal Nehru and attended by an impressive number of Nobel Peace Prize winners.

**BANGLADESH** — The regional delegate based in New Delhi went on three missions to Bangladesh, in April, June and November 1989. However, the plan for a joint mission to the Chittagong Hill Tracts by the ICRC, the National Society and the League, for a preliminary assessment of needs, had still not been implemented at the end of the year.

There were further contacts between the ICRC and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, mainly concerning the National Society's dissemination and tracing activities.

**BHUTAN** — Regular representations were made to the ambassador in New Delhi of the Kingdom of Bhutan, who was handed a letter from the President of the ICRC to King Jigme Singye Wangchuk relating to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. The Kingdom of Bhutan has not yet acceded to either the Conventions or the Protocols.

**NEPAL** — ICRC representatives made several visits to Nepal in 1989. Mr. J. Forster, a member of the Committee, was on mission in Nepal from 28 February to 6 March, to represent the ICRC at the ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the National Society. During his stay in Katmandu he had several talks with the authorities, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Forster was accompanied by two delegates based in New Delhi who later took part in a seminar held by the Nepal Red Cross Society at Pokhara from 27 to 30 March. This seminar, the second of its kind, was attended by 40 senior officials of the National Society and dealt with Tracing Agency matters, dissemination and international humanitarian law. The delegates from New Delhi returned to Nepal in May and November to pursue and extend their contacts with the authorities and the National Society. They discussed dissemination projects and Nepal's accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, and gave the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior detailed information on the ICRC's work for the protection of detainees.

**MALDIVES** — The regional delegate based in New Delhi visited the Maldivé Islands (an independent State since 1968) from 20 to 22 August to call on the government. This was the first ICRC mission to this archipelago. During his talks with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and other authorities, the delegate described the ICRC and the Movement, and pointed out the importance of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. The Maldives have not yet acceded to either the Conventions or the Protocols.

**LAOS** — The regional delegate based in Hanoi visited Laos in March, October and November 1989 to establish closer relations between the ICRC and the Lao government and National Society. He discussed with the National Society how the ICRC might be able to help it, especially with dissemination and tracing work. During his visit in November he gave a three-day seminar in Vientiane which was attended by 19 representatives of the Lao government

and Red Cross Society. This seminar, the first of its kind, was organized jointly by the ICRC and the National Society. It described international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its principles, organization and activities.

**MONGOLIA** — Mrs. Denise Bindschedler-Robert, ICRC Vice-President, accompanied by the Delegate General for Europe, was in Ulan Bator in November to attend the Fifth Congress of the Red Cross Society of Mongolia, which coincided with the Society's 50th anniversary, and to establish relations with National Society representatives and the government authorities. During her visit Mrs. Bindschedler-Robert met the Permanent Secretary of the People's Great *Hural* (Parliament), the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Director of Civil Defence and Deputy Minister of Defence, and the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Science, Technology and Higher Education. The meetings provided an opportunity to present the role and activities of the ICRC and to discuss prospects for co-operation between the ICRC and the Mongolian authorities.

**HONG KONG** — A headquarters agreement was signed in July with the authorities of the British colony of Hong Kong; the agreement governs the terms under which the ICRC works in Hong Kong. At the end of the year the ICRC regional delegation employed three expatriates and seven local employees.

**JAPAN** — The ICRC continued to maintain close relations with the Japanese authorities and the National Society. The regional delegate based in Hong Kong went to Japan six times during the year, three times with other ICRC representatives. Mr. P. Languetin, a member of the Committee, visited Japan from 5 to 10 November with the regional delegate and the head of the General Division for External Resources. They explained the work of the ICRC to many representatives of the National Society and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and to economic experts, and discussed subjects of common interest. On 18 April the ICRC was honoured by the visit to its headquarters of Prince Fumihito, the son of the Emperor Akihito, who was received by Mr. M. Aubert, Vice-President of the Committee. Mr. Tanaka Naoki, Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister, visited ICRC headquarters on 13 June and had talks with the institution's President.

The ICRC's many discussions with the National Society and the Japanese authorities were mainly about Japan's accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the need for wider knowledge and dissemination of international humanitarian law, the government's financial backing for the work of the ICRC, and the National Society's support of that work.

In 1989 the ICRC conducted a number of dissemination activities in Japan. On 3 July, 26 senior officers of the army, navy and air force attended a course given by an ICRC delegate specialized in dissemination to the armed forces. It covered ICRC principles and activities, the law of war, and methods of disseminating international humanitarian law to the armed forces. On 7 July the same audience attended a lecture on the substance and ratification of the Additional Protocols, given by the ICRC legal adviser, who also had far-reaching talks on the subject with the Japanese authorities. On 24 and 25 August, a dissemination specialist from ICRC headquarters spoke at a seminar on dissemination techniques and methods, held by the Japanese Red Cross Society for its members.

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA** — The regional delegate based in Hong Kong went to Seoul six times in 1989. He exchanged views with the authorities and the National Society on the issue of Korean families separated by the demilitarized zone. The ICRC encouraged dialogue on the subject between the two National Societies, which in September resumed working relations for the first time since 1985.

Dissemination of Red Cross principles and international humanitarian law was discussed at many meetings. A seminar on international humanitarian law, the first of its kind, was organized in June 1989 jointly by the ICRC, the Ministry of Defence and the National Society. An ICRC delegate specialized in dissemination to the armed forces gave two three-day courses to some 60 senior army, navy and air force officers. At this seminar the delegate also gave a talk on ICRC work to the leaders of the Republic of Korea National Red Cross. The regional delegate and an ICRC dissemination expert conducted a seminar on dissemination methods, held jointly by the ICRC and the Seoul Institute of Humanitarian Law from 28 to 31 August. It was attended by 28 senior National Society officials.

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA** — The topics covered in Seoul were also on the agenda for the regional delegate's talks with the authorities and the National Society during his mission to Pyongyang from

20 to 27 September. He discussed with them the ratification by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions and gave two talks, attended by some 250 academics, on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and the work of the ICRC. He also delivered messages to a local resident from his sister in the United States, following a tracing request made in 1950.

**MALAYSIA** — Delegates based in Jakarta paid four visits to Malaysia in 1989, mainly to continue discussions with the Malaysian authorities about ICRC visits to detainees held under the Internal Security Act. Confidential reports on ICRC visits to these detainees in 1988 were handed to the competent authorities, together with ICRC comments, in May, when the ICRC was given provisional permission to make a further series of visits to Malaysian prisons in 1989. In the end this series of visits was postponed, as the authorities did not accept the ICRC's normal procedure for visits. The delegates again raised with the Malaysian authorities and the National Society the question of Malaysia's accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. The ICRC legal adviser dealing with the Additional Protocols took part in a seminar on this subject organized in July in Kuala Lumpur with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society. The seminar was held for representatives of that Society and of the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore. Its purpose was to explain the Additional Protocols and promote their ratification.

The ICRC continued to support the National Society's aid for Vietnamese Boat People (see above, under the heading *Refugees in South-East Asia*). The Malaysian Red Crescent Society was particularly active in this work; it forwarded 833,004 letters exchanged between Vietnamese refugees and their families.

**SINGAPORE** — The regional delegate based in Jakarta visited Singapore twice in 1989. His discussions with the authorities and the National Society dealt mainly with the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. Singapore has not yet acceded to the Protocols.

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM** — The regional delegate based in Jakarta was in the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam from 3 to 5 June. His talks with the authorities dealt mainly with the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. The Sultanate has not yet acceded to the Protocols.

In July the President of the ICRC wrote to the Head of State, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah, on this subject.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** — The regional delegate for the Pacific visited Papua New Guinea five times in 1989. During a short stay in January he had talks with the authorities and the UNHCR representative. On his second visit, from 25 February to 11 March, the condition of refugees from Irian Jaya in four camps was investigated (the ICRC meanwhile making a similar survey on the other side of the border with Indonesia) in connection with their possible repatriation and the ICRC's intended programme of action in Irian Jaya (see also *Indonesia* above).

During his third visit, in April, the regional delegate made the first-ever visit by an ICRC representative to the island of Bougainville. He contacted the authorities and the local section of the National Society and assessed the situation on the island, where unrest had led to incidents involving armed men and displacements of the civilian population. His assessment and contacts continued during further missions to the capital (Port Moresby) and Bougainville, from 30 June to 12 July and again from 18 to 25 November. By the end of the year, however, the ICRC had not had to take any special action.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS** — During his mission from 1 to 3 February the regional delegate based in Jakarta continued his contacts with the authorities and the Red Cross Society, now in process of recognition.

**KIRIBATI** — Following ICRC representations that formed the main subject of discussion during the regional delegate's mission to Kiribati in November and December 1988, the Republic of Kiribati declared its succession to the four Geneva Conventions on 5 January 1989.

**VANUATU** — The regional delegate made three visits to Vanuatu, in February, April and November. His discussions with the authorities and the representatives of the Red Cross Society now in the process of formation dealt mainly with the ICRC's *modus operandi* and projects for the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

**FIJI** — The ICRC established closer relations with the National Society and the authorities in the course of the regional delegate's five visits to the country in 1989. The ICRC continued to support the Fiji Red Cross Society's



programme for the dissemination of international humanitarian law, begun in 1987. On many occasions the ICRC discussed with the Prime Minister and the authorities the ICRC's wish to open a regional delegation for the Pacific States in Suva (that delegation is at present based in Jakarta) and the Additional Protocols, to which Fiji has not yet acceded.

**TONGA** — The regional delegate based in Jakarta visited Tonga from 5 to 9 June to take part in the fourth meeting of the National Societies of the Pacific. His talks with the authorities and leaders of the National Societies related to projects for the dissemination of international humanitarian law and Tonga's accession to the Additional Protocols.

**AUSTRALIA** — The ICRC's legal adviser dealing with the Additional Protocols visited Australia from 23 to 27 June. There he discussed Australia's ratification of the Additional Protocols with leading members of the Australia's government. The regional delegate based in Jakarta visited Australia three times in 1989. He, too, discussed Australia's

ratification of the Additional Protocols. His other contacts with the authorities and the National Society, of which he visited several divisions, were concerned with dissemination of international humanitarian law to the armed forces. This led him and the Australian Red Cross Society to take part from 10 to 25 August in the biggest military manoeuvres ever held in Australia, in which the armed forces had to deal with situations entailing application of the principles of international humanitarian law and featuring the ICRC's traditional activities.

**NEW ZEALAND** — The regional delegate based in Jakarta visited New Zealand from 12 to 16 February and again from 27 October to 10 November, for further contacts with the authorities and the National Society. During his second visit he gave a seminar on international humanitarian law for the members of the New Zealand Red Cross Society, on the latter's invitation. The seminar was followed by talks on international humanitarian law and the work of the ICRC, given in six local branches of the National Society and to students and journalists.

# RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1989

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Recipients	Relief		Medical assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		(Tonnes)	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
Afghanistan .....	Civilians, detainees, the disabled and the war-wounded	63	520,215	1,771,702	2,291,917
Cambodia .....	Civilians, the war-wounded and National Society	—	1,114	736,902	738,016
Indonesia .....	Detainees	1	4,974	—	4,974
Indonesia (East Timor conflict) .....	Displaced civilians, detainees	5	5,978	3,915	9,893
Myanmar (formerly Burma) ..	The disabled	—	—	180,314	180,314
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan) .....	The war-wounded, the disabled and paraplegics	210	250,789	2,606,351	2,857,140
Philippines .....	Displaced civilians, detainees, their families and National Society	502	383,806	439,690	823,496
Sri Lanka .....	Displaced civilians, detainees	—	—	8,509	8,509
Thailand (conflict in Cambodia) .....	The war-wounded	10	73,245	744,281	817,526
Viet Nam .....	The disabled	—	—	186,617	186,617
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>791</b>	<b>1,240,121</b>	<b>6,678,281</b>	<b>7,918,402</b>