

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1989)

Rubrik: Europe and North America

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 24.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

In 1989 the ICRC maintained its contacts with most of the governments and National Societies in Europe and North America. The ICRC President, members of the Committee and numerous staff members carried out a number of missions in order to explain the legal bases of ICRC action, to present the institution's activities in the field and to draw attention to the difficulties it sometimes encounters in the course of its work. Where appropriate they also drew attention to the importance of ratifying the Additional Protocols, reminded the international community of its duties under the Geneva Conventions and sought financial support in keeping with the increasing scope of the ICRC's humanitarian work.

ICRC staff members went to Iceland in May and to Denmark, Finland and Sweden in November to hold talks with government authorities and National Society officials. They urged their contacts to increase their financial contributions and encouraged the National Societies' efforts in recruiting staff to be seconded to the ICRC. The questions of financing and National Society support were also discussed during missions to the Netherlands and Luxembourg in December.

In this connection, the ICRC President went to Brussels twice, in February and December, for talks on the European Community's support for ICRC activities, in the form of contributions in cash and in kind. Mr. Sommaruga held talks with the members of the Commission of the European Communities who are in charge of the departments concerned: Mr. Abel Matutes (Mediterranean Policy, North-South Relations, Relations with Latin America), Mr. Frans Andriessen (External Relations and Trade), Mr. Manuel Marín (Co-operation and Development, Fisheries), and Mr. Martin Bangemann (Internal Market, Industrial Affairs, Relations with the European Parliament). President Sommaruga also had in-depth discussions with the successive presidents of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER), Mr. Carlos Westendorp, Ambassador of Spain, and Mr. Vidal, Ambassador of France.

Finally, through its Central Tracing Agency the ICRC continued to deal with requests relating to the Second World War.

BELGIUM

During 1989 the ICRC President went to Belgium on two occasions. The main aim of his visit to Brussels in

February was to attend the 125th anniversary of the Belgian Red Cross, the oldest National Society. Mr. Sommaruga also met the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Léo Tindemans, with whom he discussed Belgium's ratification of the Additional Protocols, its financial contribution to the ICRC's budget and a number of operational issues, and held talks with senior European Community officials (*see above*). Mr. Sommaruga later attended a ceremony organized in Flanders by the Flemish-speaking community of the Belgian Red Cross. During his visit in December, the ICRC President again held talks with a number of European Community officials (*see above*) and had extensive discussions with high-ranking representatives of the Belgian Red Cross.

BULGARIA

Mr. Yaroslav Radev, Vice-Chairman of Bulgaria's Council of State, was received at ICRC headquarters on 8 June. Discussions centred on the humanitarian problems that could arise from the exodus of Bulgarian Muslims to Turkey. In mid-July the Delegate General for Europe and North America went to Sofia where he discussed the same matter with leading officials of the National Society.

From 26 November to 1 December a delegate specialized in dissemination of international humanitarian law among the armed forces took part in a course for about 100 high-ranking officers of the Bulgarian army. The course was organized by the Bulgarian Red Cross and the Ministry of Defence, in co-operation with the ICRC. It was the first course of its kind to be given to army officers of a Warsaw Pact country.

CANADA

The ICRC continued its efforts to promote international humanitarian law in Canada. Its dissemination delegate based in New York took part in training seminars organized by the Canadian Red Cross Society and in a course for 350 naval officers organized by the Canadian Navy in Halifax (Nova Scotia) in August. The course was the first of its kind in the country. The ICRC delegate also took part, as he does every year, in the course on the law of war for military lawyers held in Cornwall (Ontario).

SPAIN

It will be remembered that in 1986 the ICRC had initiated a dialogue with the Spanish authorities with a view to gaining access to places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior (detainees undergoing interrogation in national police stations and barracks of the Civil Guard), in addition to the visits it had carried out regularly since 1972 to prisons depending on the Ministry of Justice (last series of visits carried out in 1986). In that connection, an ICRC delegate was sent to Madrid during the last quarter of 1988.

At the end of that year the question of access to places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior had still not been resolved, despite repeated assurances regarding an agreement in principle, issued by the Spanish government at the highest level. The ICRC therefore recalled its delegate and on 14 March 1989 handed over to the Spanish authorities a memorandum reviewing the situation in the light of the previous two years of negotiations. Both parties agreed to a period of reflection before the issue is re-examined.

An ICRC delegate specialized in dissemination of international humanitarian law among the armed forces went to Madrid in April to give a lecture on international humanitarian law to 50 officers, as part of a course on the law of war organized by the Spanish Red Cross in co-operation with the Ministry of Defence.

At the beginning of December the ICRC President attended the General Assembly of the National Society in Madrid and gave a speech during the closing session.

UNITED STATES

The ICRC President was in Washington from 14 to 17 May, accompanied by Mr. André Pasquier, Director of Operations. Mr. Sommaruga and Mr. Pasquier were received by the President of the United States, Mr. George Bush, to whom they expressed their warm thanks for the financial support provided by the American authorities to the ICRC; they expressed the hope that the contribution would be increased, given the expansion in ICRC operational activities in many parts of the world. There was also an exchange of views as to ratification by the United States government of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, as well as talks on humanitarian mobilization and current ICRC activities. Mr. Bush assured Mr. Sommaruga that he could count on continued diplomatic and financial support from the United States.

At the State Department, Mr. Sommaruga and Mr. Pas-

quier met Mr. Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy Secretary of State, and several Assistant Secretaries of State and discussed with them the financial implications of the ICRC's operational activities.

The ICRC representatives also met Senator Claiborne Pell, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and four members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, accompanied by several colleagues. They said they were in favour of an increase in the American financial contribution. The meeting also provided an opportunity to describe the mandate and activities of the ICRC.

Mr. Sommaruga and Mr. Pasquier then visited the headquarters of the American Red Cross where they were received by the Society's President, Mr. Richard Schubert, and other leading officials.

During the year the ICRC remained in close contact with the National Society. At the invitation of the American Red Cross Mrs. Liselotte Kraus-Gurny, a member of the Committee, attended the Society's Annual Convention in Houston (Texas) in May, and in September another Committee member, Mr. Pierre Keller, travelled to the United States for discussions with senior officials of the National Society.

Throughout the year the ICRC continued its efforts to make international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement better known. As part of its programme for dissemination of international humanitarian law among the armed forces, the ICRC, as it has done since 1985, once again took part in teaching a course on the law of war organized by the United States Marine Corps. Lectures were also given to senior officers of all three branches of the armed forces. Moreover, the ICRC had the opportunity to make itself better known at several military academies running training programmes for foreign officers.

A large proportion of the activities of the ICRC delegation in New York focused on co-operation with the American Red Cross: the delegates gave numerous talks to various chapters of the National Society and took part in a number of courses for its training staff.

Information days and lectures were also organized for university students, non-governmental organizations, departments of the Federal Administration, veterans' associations, etc.

FRANCE

On the occasion of the meeting of the National Societies of the European Community member States in Paris in

March (see section entitled *Participation in meetings of National Societies*), the ICRC President was received by Mr. Roland Dumas, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed the ICRC's operational activities and their financing.

HUNGARY

During the summer of 1989 Hungary found itself faced with a new problem, the presence within its borders of hundreds of nationals of the German Democratic Republic who wished to go to the Federal Republic of Germany. The Hungarian Red Cross provided humanitarian assistance by setting up camps in which they were housed until a solution could be found. The ICRC, for its part, was asked by the Hungarian and Federal German authorities to intervene in one particular case: it provided travel documents for 105 GDR nationals who were taken to Austria before going on to the Federal Republic of Germany on 24 August. The Deputy Delegate General for Europe and North America went to Bonn and Budapest in September to examine the situation with the Federal German and Hungarian authorities. Following the coming into effect on 11 September of Hungary's decision to open its borders and allow free passage to GDR citizens who requested it, ICRC involvement was no longer required.

ITALY

From 23 to 28 November the ICRC President was in Rome, where he had talks with Mr. Giulio Andreotti, Prime Minister, Mr. Gianni De Michelis, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Francesco De Lorenzo, Minister of Health, on the ICRC's operational activities and its financial requirements. During his visit Mr. Sommaruga also met the leading officials of the National Society and gave a speech to the assembly of representatives from the various voluntary services of the Italian Red Cross.

POLAND

Mrs. Anne Petitpierre, a member of the Committee, attended the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Polish Red Cross in November (see section entitled *Participation in commemorative events held by National Societies*). On that occasion she met an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with whom she discussed the question of Poland's ratification of the Additional Protocols.

PORTUGAL

At the invitation of the Portuguese government, the ICRC President visited Portugal in November. He held talks with the President of the Republic, Mr. Mário Soares, the Prime Minister, Mr. Aníbal Cavaço Silva, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. João de Deus Pinheiro, and the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence, Mr. Eugenio dos Santos Ramos. They discussed some of the ICRC's activities in the field (mainly East Timor, Angola and Mozambique) and their financing, and Portugal's ratification of the Additional Protocols.

President Sommaruga also had numerous contacts with leaders of the Portuguese Red Cross, in particular the Society's President, Dr. Luis Gonzaga Ribeiro.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

At the invitation of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, the ICRC President took part in the *Schleswig-Holstein Tag* in Neumünster, northern Germany, in June. In his address he spoke of the 125th anniversary of the Schleswig-Holstein war which marked the first field mission by ICRC delegates and the first use of armbands bearing the red cross in an armed conflict. President Sommaruga also gave a lecture in Kiel.

The Delegate General for Europe was in Bonn on 19 December for talks with National Society officials on a number of issues, including developments in Central and Eastern Europe.

ROMANIA

Long concerned by the large numbers of requests for family reunifications which had received no reply from the Romanian authorities, the ICRC had tried to discuss this issue on several occasions and had sent a note in September 1988 offering its good offices to Romania (see 1988 *Annual Report*). In 1989 there was still no progress on the official level, but in February the ICRC was nevertheless able to provide assistance in one particular case. With the co-operation of the National Societies of Bulgaria, Austria and Hungary, about a dozen Romanian nationals who had taken refuge in the Hungarian Embassy in Sofia (Bulgaria) were taken via Austria to Hungary to join relatives living there. The ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary, providing the necessary travel documents and maintaining contact with the Austrian and Bulgarian authorities.

The situation changed at the end of the year, when the ICRC organized a large-scale emergency operation to assist

the victims of the events which took place in Romania during the second half of December. On 22 December, a few hours after the fall of the Ceaucescu regime, a first ICRC team arrived at Bucharest airport, where it took care of about 300 civilians unable to leave because of the fighting. The delegates treated the wounded and registered the first detainees. The next day, the ICRC broadcast a radio appeal asking all concerned to respect the basic humanitarian principles and the red cross emblem.

While setting up the emergency operation, ICRC delegates contacted the new authorities in order to explain the institution's role and its protection and assistance mandate. On 28 December the head of the ICRC delegation was received by Prime Minister Petre Roman and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Corneliu Bogdan.

Additional staff and gifts of material relief and medical supplies soon began arriving in Budapest (Hungary) and Varna (Bulgaria), where logistic bases were set up. Some 20 National Societies took part in the operation, which was co-ordinated by the ICRC in co-operation with the Romanian Red Cross and in liaison with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The National Societies in the neighbouring countries were especially active. From 25 December, when the situation stabilized and its delegates were able to ascertain that the emergency phase was over, the ICRC attempted to channel the surge of support towards specific aid better matched to the actual humanitarian needs in Romania. To this end, following a field survey conducted by teams of ICRC and National Society delegates based in Bucharest and along the Bulgarian and Hungarian borders to set a scale of priorities and determine the kind and amount of relief supplies needed, the ICRC launched an appeal for 18 million Swiss francs. By the end of the year 4,500 tonnes of relief had arrived, were on their way or had been pledged.

Convoys carrying Red Cross supplies and personnel rolled into Romanian towns at a steady rhythm to support hospitals and care for the civilian population. Besides Bucharest, their main destinations were Timisoara, Brasov, Tirgu Mures, Oradea, Arad, Sibiu, Craiova and Constanza. In the early days of the operation security conditions were precarious, and the ICRC repeatedly appealed for the red cross emblem to be respected. In Timisoara a Hungarian Red Cross worker was shot dead at point-blank range as he accompanied a convoy taking in supplies. The ICRC expressed its indignation and again called for Red Cross personnel and vehicles to be allowed to work unhindered.

After the fall of the Ceaucescu regime more members of the Romanian security police, the Securitate, and supporters of the former government were captured or gave themselves up. The ICRC appealed to the Romanian people not to carry out summary executions and to abide by the basic principles of international humanitarian law protecting civilians and military personnel no longer taking part in the fighting. ICRC delegates soon started visiting people arrested and detained because of the events. The visits were carried out in accordance with the institution's customary procedures. During the first few days of the operation the delegates saw several dozen detainees, primarily in order to protect their lives. More formal visits, authorized by the new government, were to be conducted at the beginning of 1990.

At the end of 1989, 34 ICRC delegates and 28 National Society members were still on the spot, working from the ICRC delegation in Romania, and a large team was co-ordinating activities from ICRC headquarters.

UNITED KINGDOM

As a follow-up to the series of visits carried out the previous year to places of detention in Northern Ireland (see *1988 Annual Report*), from 1 to 11 May an ICRC team made up of two delegates and a doctor visited the Young Offenders' Centre in Hydebank Wood and Maghaberry Prison, where they saw some 400 detainees.

In addition, at the invitation of the British Red Cross the Acting Delegate General for Europe gave a number of lectures in Northern Ireland from 27 February to 3 March. In Londonderry he gave a talk to British Red Cross volunteers and their guests, representatives of the Irish Red Cross Society (County Donegal branch). He also presented the ICRC and its activities to students of Ulster University in Jordanstown (near Belfast) and Queen's University in Belfast.

HOLY SEE

During his visit to Rome in November, the ICRC President was received in private audience by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. He was also received by Cardinal Casaroli, Secretary of State, and Cardinal Etchegaray, President of "Cor Unum" (the Pontifical Council that co-ordinates the charitable organizations of the Catholic Church), with whom he reviewed various ICRC field activities.

SWITZERLAND

In addition to numerous contacts with the Federal authorities in Bern and representatives of the various Swiss cantons, President Sommaruga and several members of the Committee received the following Federal Councillors at ICRC headquarters during the year: Mr. Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, President of the Swiss Confederation (21 August), Mr. Flavio Cotti, Head of the Federal Department of the Interior (22 September), and Mr. Kaspar Villiger, Head of the Federal Military Department (13 November). Government members of the following cantons also visited ICRC headquarters in 1989: St. Gallen (11 January), Neuchâtel (13 January), Thurgau (8 February), Appenzell Ausser-Rhoden (3 May) and Jura (7 July).

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In May, ICRC Vice-President Maurice Aubert took part in the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and attended the National Society's 10th Congress.

The ICRC Deputy Delegate General for Europe and North America happened to be on mission in Prague from 19 to 24 November, at the time of the events which led to the change in government. He made numerous contacts with the National Society and with senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in order to discuss various co-operation projects concerning dissemination of international humanitarian law and training for members of the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

TURKEY

After attending the Eighth Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Balkan countries in Istanbul from 18 to 20 July (see section entitled *Participation in meetings of National Societies*), the ICRC President went to Ankara, where he was received by Mr. Ali Bozer, Deputy Prime Minister, and by Mr. Kamran Inan and Mr. Ercument Konukman, Ministers of State. Their talks focused mainly on the question of Bulgarian Muslims who were crossing into Turkey in large numbers and the resulting humanitarian problems. The ICRC offered its services in arranging for family reunifications, but in the end the authorities did not request assistance in any areas covered by the ICRC mandate.

The ICRC continued to be concerned about the plight of Kurdish civilians who had fled from Iraq to south-east Turkey in 1988 and were interned in a number of camps (see *1988 Annual Report*). The Acting Delegate General for Europe, who was in Ankara in February, went to the east of the country to visit two camps which were receiving some assistance from the Turkish Red Crescent. An outbreak of food poisoning in the Mardin camp in June prompted the ICRC to offer its services to the authorities, but the offer was declined.

All these humanitarian matters were discussed on several occasions with officials of the Turkish Red Crescent, in particular during a visit to Ankara by the Delegate General and the Deputy Delegate General for Europe at the end of June. The ICRC also informed the authorities on several occasions that it was ready to provide services in connection with the internal situation (mainly to visit detainees).

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

During 1989, the ICRC was engaged in a wide range of activities in the Soviet Union. At the request of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, an ICRC delegation visited Soviet Georgia in May to advise Soviet doctors on the treatment to be given to victims of the riots of early April in the Georgian capital Tbilisi, during which gas was used against demonstrators. The ICRC mission was made up of two Swiss specialists (a neurologist and a toxicologist), a delegate and a doctor. They examined some 300 patients hospitalized for nervous disorders caused by inhaling gas during the riots, and discussed their findings with Georgian doctors in order to decide on a diagnosis and suitable treatment. The ICRC's report, containing practical recommendations, was sent to the National Society for forwarding to the Georgian medical authorities.

The head of the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) and his deputy took part in a seminar in Yerevan, Soviet Armenia, in April. The seminar was organized jointly by the League and the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR and dealt with the problems encountered by the Agency in the aftermath of the 1988 earthquake in Armenia. Its aim was to examine the measures the Alliance had taken in order to handle tracing work in that context and to see whether, in the light of its experience, it could offer some useful suggestions to improve the guidelines for tracing activities, recently adopted by the League, the ICRC and representatives of a number of National Societies. The seminar demonstrated, among other things, the usefulness of training given to tracing officials of cer-

tain National Societies at CTA headquarters in Geneva. The person appointed as the new head of the Alliance's tracing office and dispatched to Yerevan the day after the earthquake had in fact received such training in Geneva.

Also in the area of tracing activities, more particularly with regard to the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Arolsen (*see also box on page 107*), it should be mentioned that for the first time since the end of the Second World War the Soviet government opened its central archives to the ICRC and to the ITS, making further information available on the victims of Nazi persecution in Auschwitz concentration camp. An ICRC/ITS delegation visited Moscow in September and was given access there to 46 "death books" containing the names of nearly 74,000 people who died in Auschwitz. Two ITS experts returned to Moscow in October and November to microfilm the documents. The ICRC also obtained the Auschwitz camp's card index containing the names of some 130,000 people drafted for forced labour in German factories outside the camp. Since being informed as far back as 1964 that the "death books" found by Soviet forces when they liberated the camp were being kept in Moscow, the ICRC had repeatedly requested the Soviet government for access to them.

The lists they contain will help to clear up thousands of cases, and following assurances given by the Soviet authorities the ICRC and the ITS hope to gain access to documents concerning other concentration camps liberated by Soviet troops.

The ICRC Director of Operations, accompanied by the Delegates General for Europe and Asia, was in Moscow from 23 to 25 August for an in-depth exchange of views with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ICRC delegation was received by Mr. Komplektov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, with whom they discussed many operational issues of common interest and the USSR's recent ratification of the Additional Protocols.

While in Moscow in late November, ICRC Vice-President Mrs. Denise Bindshedler-Robert had a meeting with Dr. Dmitry Venedictov, Chairman of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR.

YUGOSLAVIA

During the first few months of the year the ICRC maintained contact with National Society officials and with Yugoslavia's Permanent Representative in Geneva regarding the situation in the province of Kosovo and the question of detentions for security reasons, in Kosovo and the rest of the country. The Acting Delegate General for Europe was in Belgrade from 12 to 15 June to attend a training course given by the Red Cross of Yugoslavia. On that occasion he discussed the situation in Kosovo and the issue of political detention with Serbia's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and with the President and the Secretary of the Socialist Alliance Co-ordinating Committee for International Relations. The ICRC's readiness to visit Yugoslav prisons was discussed more particularly with the principal private secretary to the Federal Secretary for Justice, who stated that the Yugoslav Federal government agreed in principle to ICRC visits to detainees sentenced for political or security reasons, especially in connection with the situation in Kosovo. On 14 August the ICRC officially handed over its offer of services for visits to persons arrested on account of the events. The dialogue continued until the end of the year, and a series of visits to sentenced detainees was to be carried out during the first half of 1990. In addition, while in Belgrade for the ninth summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in September, the ICRC President was received by members of the State Presidency and had talks with the Federal Secretaries for Foreign Affairs and for Justice. He also visited the headquarters of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, where he was received by the Society's President.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1989

EUROPE

Country	Recipients	Relief		Medical assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		(Tonnes)	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
Romania	Civilians, hospitals and National Society	5,580	15,456,707	6,323,189	21,779,896



Medical assistance to a hospital in Bucharest (Romania).

THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE IN AROLSEN

The International Tracing Service (ITS) in Arolsen, Federal Republic of Germany, continued to receive a growing number of requests for certificates from civilians persecuted under the Third Reich. This exceptional increase, which began in 1986, is largely due to the fact that many of the former victims are now reaching retirement age and thus have the possibility of receiving a pension and, above all, to the release of new funds and the broadening of categories of victims entitled to receive them. Many people are therefore only now able to claim benefits.

To handle the workload, the ITS again had to increase its staff and 42 new people were taken on in 1989. This was the third set of auxiliary posts granted. The 330 employees of the ITS, whose terms of reference are set out in the 1955 Bonn Agreements, work under ICRC management. The International Commission - International Tracing Service (IC-ITS), made up of representatives of Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, acts as a supervisory body. Under the above-mentioned Agreements, the Federal Republic of Germany provides the ITS with the necessary funds to continue its work.

The work of the ITS in 1989 can be summarized as follows (*the corresponding figures for 1988 are in brackets*):

- ☐ 110,314 (95,128) enquiries were received from 39 countries. They concerned 103,247 (88,162) people wishing to obtain some form of certification of detention, with or without forced labour, or of time spent in camps for displaced persons;
- ☐ ITS staff carried out 533,029 data checks in 29 different sets of documents;
- ☐ following this research, the ITS was able to send 131,577 (105,071) replies. This represents a significant increase: thanks to the granting of additional posts, the ITS has been able to make 25% more replies than in the previous year;
- ☐ nevertheless, at the end of 1989, 106,254 (73,010) cases remained unresolved and had to be carried over into 1990.

It was thus unfortunately impossible to clear all the requests, despite the additional staff. This was because they were hired only in mid-year and because they required a period of training.

Finally, ITS archival classification is making good progress, with the acquisition from various sources of 191.7 linear metres of documents on the National Socialist persecution of civilians. In addition, 46 "death books" from the Auschwitz concentration camp were photographed in Moscow. They contained the names of over 70,000 detainees who died in the camp. The new documents have finally made it possible to issue certificates to some 470,000 people.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC AND INVENTORIED IN THE FIELD IN 1989
(Geographical distribution by recipient country)

COUNTRY (in French alphabetical order)	CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND			ICRC PURCHASES			TOTAL	
	RELIEF (Tonnes)	(Sw. fr.)	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (Sw. fr.)	RELIEF (Tonnes)	(Sw. fr.)	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (Sw. fr.)	(Tonnes)	(Sw. fr.)
AFRICA	11,985	16,154,684	913,761	17,341	14,734,887	2,776,533	29,326	34,579,865
South Africa	23	90,665	—	163	317,527	—	186	408,192
Angola	4,178	4,297,303	1,540	3,090	2,684,116	306,516	7,268	7,289,475
Angola (south-east)	24	95,755	3,458	13	65,849	102,675	37	267,737
Benin	—	—	—	27	31,144	8,366	27	39,510
Burundi	—	—	—	103	90,212	—	103	90,212
Ethiopia	—	—	—	—	4,802	70,553	—	75,355
Ethiopia (Tigray and Eritrea, via Sudan) .	36	319,513	209,684	—	—	128,018	36	657,215
Gambia	—	—	1,848	2	9,977	2,436	2	14,261
Liberia	—	—	1,848	—	—	2,448	—	4,296
Mozambique	966	848,967	—	15	155,440	380,317	981	1,384,724
Namibia	—	—	—	40	50,251	—	40	50,251
Uganda	160	828,014	—	908	1,171,731	144,298	1,068	2,144,043
Senegal	361	708,257	—	8	168,942	3,684	369	880,883
Somalia	28	127,285	580,270	27	70,459	167,563	55	945,577
Sudan	4,255	4,380,848	59,328	4,294	3,158,833	472,204	8,549	8,071,213
Sudan (conflict in southern Sudan, via Kenya)	1,943	4,315,029	55,785	8,438	6,464,074	748,094	10,381	11,582,982
Chad	—	—	—	1	1,205	105,431	1	106,636
Togo	—	—	—	—	1,179	17,024	—	18,203
Zaire	—	—	—	27	46,733	6,568	27	53,301
Zambia	8	89,279	—	55	155,244	7,569	63	252,092
Zimbabwe	3	53,769	—	130	87,169	102,769	133	243,707
LATIN AMERICA	985	3,535,705	33,770	632	1,320,382	716,712	1,617	5,606,569
Chile	200	871,171	—	130	237,364	44,268	330	1,152,803
Colombia	—	—	—	—	2,787	11,987	—	14,774
El Salvador	2	15,000	31,250	13	109,899	405,590	15	561,739
Haiti	—	—	—	—	—	4,301	—	4,301
Honduras	18	64,123	—	5	61,506	1,775	23	127,404
Nicaragua	688	1,510,342	—	419	802,728	178,915	1,107	2,491,985
Paraguay	40	470,667	—	—	—	—	40	470,667
Peru	37	604,402	2,520	64	103,723	69,876	101	780,521
Suriname	—	—	—	1	2,375	—	1	2,375
ASIA	—	—	74,889	920	1,287,360	6,528,281	920	7,890,530
Afghanistan	—	—	9,309	79	609,085	1,688,514	79	2,306,908
Cambodia	—	—	—	—	1,114	787,267	—	788,381
Indonesia	—	—	—	1	4,974	—	1	4,974
Indonesia (conflict in East Timor)	—	—	—	5	5,674	3,915	5	9,589
Myanmar (formerly Burma)	—	—	—	—	—	180,314	—	180,314
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan)	—	—	—	210	250,789	2,543,182	210	2,793,971
Philippines	—	—	—	615	342,479	455,207	615	797,686
Sri Lanka	—	—	—	—	—	8,509	—	8,509
Thailand (conflict in Cambodia)	—	—	65,580	10	73,245	674,756	10	813,581
Viet Nam	—	—	—	—	—	186,617	—	186,617
EUROPE (Romania)	5,712	16,236,815	6,198,760	—	—	124,595	5,712	22,560,170
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	1,675	1,697,260	572,107	4,300	9,365,227	1,832,364	5,975	13,466,958
Iraq	4	42,970	—	86	1,681,381	64,614	90	1,788,965
Iran	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	25
Israel and the occupied territories	9	197,068	—	311	2,065,438	149,997	320	2,412,503
Jordan	—	—	—	1	26,668	—	1	26,668
Lebanon	1,582	1,249,453	561,406	3,899	5,506,880	1,583,417	5,481	8,901,156
Mauritania	—	—	—	3	84,860	13,220	3	98,080
Syria	80	207,769	—	—	—	9,829	80	217,598
North Yemen	—	—	10,701	—	—	11,262	—	21,963
TOTAL	20,357	37,624,464	7,793,287	23,193	26,707,856	11,978,485	43,550	84,104,092

**CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC
AND INVENTORIED IN THE FIELD IN 1989**

Listed by donor

DONORS (in French alphabetical order)	Food and seeds (Tonnes)	Blankets (No.)	Tents (No.)	Kitchen sets (No.)	Clothing (Tonnes)	OTHER RELIEF SUPPLIES (Tonnes)	TOTAL RELIEF SUPPLIES (Sw. fr.)	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (Sw. fr.)	OVERALL TOTAL (Sw. fr.)
NATIONAL SOCIETIES	4,212	248,894	315	2,900	2,002.3	71.0	22,302,156	7,776,301	30,078,457
Germany (Democratic Republic) ..	363	5,000	—	—	100.0	—	1,176,000	—	1,176,000
Germany (Federal Republic)	—	—	—	—	—	21.5	510,000	205,160	715,160
Australia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65,580	65,580
Austria	1,425	—	—	—	—	—	2,850,000	829,315	3,679,315
Belgium	325	—	—	—	50.0	—	850,000	204,409	1,054,409
Bulgaria	6	675	—	—	—	—	20,588	264,706	285,294
Denmark	—	53,550	—	—	107.4	—	1,028,586	702,147	1,730,733
Spain	—	1,000	10	—	—	0.1	15,000	13,465	28,465
Finland	350	34,630	100	—	—	—	1,738,051	1,181,506	2,919,557
France	20	2,400	—	—	5.0	—	81,156	—	81,156
Hungary	680	—	—	—	1,403.0	—	6,972,000	—	6,972,000
Iceland	—	—	—	—	11.9	—	64,252	—	64,252
Italy	—	5,964	—	—	5.6	4.5	247,343	645,226	892,569
Japan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	549,248	549,248
Norway	50	—	—	—	—	2.0	226,762	1,501,659	1,728,421
New Zealand	—	—	—	—	1.7	—	315,000	—	315,000
Netherlands	—	24,750	150	1,000	—	10.4	323,253	708,162	1,031,415
Poland	30	1,600	—	—	55.5	10.4	328,572	36,200	364,772
United Kingdom	5	52,000	—	—	—	—	553,399	188,385	741,784
Sweden	—	16,005	—	—	183.2	19.9	1,959,162	292,518	2,251,680
Switzerland	78	35,760	55	1,900	70.0	—	1,250,932	174,940	1,425,872
Czechoslovakia	48	11,500	—	—	3.0	—	200,010	—	200,010
Turkey	—	3,000	—	—	—	—	62,609	213,675	276,284
USSR	485	—	—	—	4.0	2.0	1,001,000	—	1,001,000
Yugoslavia	347	—	—	—	—	—	505,208	—	505,208
Other National Societies ¹	—	1,060	—	—	2.0	0.2	23,273	—	23,273
GOVERNMENTS	3,978	126,200	80	—	—	265.1	7,449,066	12,686	7,461,752
Germany (Federal Republic)	441	49,200	—	—	—	183.0	2,978,496	—	2,978,496
Denmark	59	43,000	80	—	—	40.2	571,043	—	571,043
United States of America	3,243	—	—	—	—	7.8	1,615,088	—	1,615,088
Finland	45	34,000	—	—	—	30.0	1,066,623	—	1,066,623
Mexico	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,686	12,686
United Kingdom	—	—	—	—	—	4.1	26,518	—	26,518
Switzerland	190	—	—	—	—	—	1,191,298	—	1,191,298
OTHER DONORS	9,208	5,000	200	—	—	21.9	7,873,242	4,300	7,877,542
EEC	7,645	5,000	—	—	—	10.4	7,172,213	—	7,172,213
UN (WFP, UNHCR, etc.)	1,415	—	—	—	—	3.2	523,921	—	523,921
Others	148	—	200	—	—	8.3	177,108	4,300	181,408
TOTAL DONATIONS	17,398	380,094	595	2,900	2,002.3	358.0	37,624,464	7,793,287	45,417,751
ICRC PURCHASES (non-earmarked)	1,548	112,018	332	5,550	55.9	945.0	10,001,377	11,978,485	21,979,862
ICRC PURCHASES (earmarked)	19,743	150,340	700	3,062	—	244.8	16,706,479	—	16,706,479
TOTAL ICRC PURCHASES	21,291	262,358	1,032	8,612	55.9	1,189.8	26,707,856	11,978,485	38,686,341
TOTAL	38,689²	642,452	1,627	11,512	2,058.2	1,547.8	64,332,320	19,771,772	84,104,092

NB: ambulances are included under "OTHER RELIEF SUPPLIES" and not under "MEDICAL ASSISTANCE".

¹ National Societies whose contributions were less than 20,000 Swiss francs.

² Including 1,831 tonnes of seed.

ICRC TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

with direct links to Geneva
(Situation as of December 1989)

DISPATCH CENTRE

PC MAIL BOX

TELEX

FAX

RADIO HBC-88

AMERICAS

NEW YORK

PC/FAX

● MANAGUA HTCR-88

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

● SAN SALVADOR HUSR-2

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

BOGOTA HJC-88

TELEX/RADIO

● LIMA

PC/RADIO

SANTIAGO

PC

SAN JOSE

TELEX/FAX

PORT-AU-PRINCE HHCR

RADIO

BUENOS AIRES

TELEX

GUATEMALA CITY

TELEX/FAX

PANAMA CITY

FAX

TEGUCIGALPA

TELEX/FAX

AFRICA

■ NIAMEY 5UV-222

RADIO

N'DJAMENA TTR-88

RADIO

KINSHASA 9TO-20

RADIO

LOME 5VR-88

RADIO

● LUANDA D2N77LD

TELEX/RADIO

● KAMPALA 5XR-88

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

■ PRETORIA ZSH-880

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

DAKAR

TELEX/FAX

NOUAKCHOTT

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

● WINDHOEK ZRL-230

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

● MAPUTO C8Z-650

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

HARARE Z2C-88

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

● NAIROBI 5ZR-88

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

NAIROBI Regional

TELEX/FAX

● ADDIS ABABA ETC-88

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

● MOGADISHU 6OA-88

TELEX/RADIO

● KHARTOUM 6TR-88

RADIO

LAGOS

TELEX/FAX

MIDDLE EAST

TUNIS

TELEX

■ AMMAN JYL-88

RADIO/FAX

■ BEIRUT ODR-88

TELEX/RADIO

■ DAMASCUS YKR-88

RADIO

■ CAIRO SUR-88

RADIO

TEHRAN EPR-88

TELEX/RADIO

TEL AVIV

TELEX/FAX

JERUSALEM

RADIO/FAX

BAGHDAD

TELEX/FAX

ASIA

● BANGKOK HSR-50

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

● MANILA 4GR-21

TELEX/RADIO/FAX

JAKARTA

TELEX/FAX

NEW DELHI

TELEX/FAX

● PESHAWAR ARH-252

TELEX/RADIO

HONG KONG

TELEX/FAX

● KABUL

TELEX/RADIO

COLOMBO

TELEX/FAX

TOKYO

TELEX/FAX

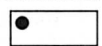
SINGAPORE

TELEX/FAX

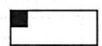
YANGOON

TELEX/FAX

Networks



Delegation having *local* networks (HF or VHF) including sub-delegations, vehicles, aircraft or portable transceivers.



Delegation having *regional* networks.
(Both types of network use SSB-voice or Answer-back ARQ systems).

As at 31 December 1989, the ICRC had a total of 1,726 transceivers, 1,407 of which were being used in the field (439 HF and 968 VHF).

In 1989, 38,000 radio messages were transmitted between

ICRC headquarters and the delegations, and 67,000 between the delegations, sub-delegations and offices.

The Dispatch Centre handled a total of 110,000 messages transmitted by various means.