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Food distribution in Ganda (Angola).

AFRICA

During the period under review, ICRC activities in Africa (not counting the countries covered by the regional delegations in Cairo and Tunis) were conducted out of 10 operational delegations: Addis Ababa, Kampala, Khartoum, Luanda, Maputo, Mogadishu, Nairobi-Lokichokio, N'Djamena, Pretoria and Windhoek. During the year a new regional delegation was officially opened in Dakar. Taking into account the countries now dealt with from Dakar, the ICRC's six regional delegations in Africa covered the following countries:

- **regional delegation in Dakar:** Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Senegal;
- **regional delegation in Harare:** Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe;
- **regional delegation in Kinshasa:** Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Principe and Zaire;
- **regional delegation in Lagos:** Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone;
- **regional delegation in Lomé:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Togo;
- **regional delegation in Nairobi:** the Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania.

Following ethnic unrest in Senegal and Mauritania in April 1989, the ICRC opened a delegation in Nouakchott.

From these 17 delegations, the ICRC assisted hundreds of thousands of victims of armed conflict and internal disturbances and tension. Some of its operations were considerably expanded in 1989, in spite of the many delays and other difficulties caused by security problems. In order to raise sufficient funds for its activities, the ICRC made a global emergency appeal for 137,522,300 Swiss francs, while special appeals were launched for its operations in Sudan and Somalia and those related to the dispute between Senegal and Mauritania.

Southern Africa

SOUTH AFRICA

As in previous years, in 1989 the ICRC remained concerned about the internal disturbances in South Africa,

where the state of emergency was renewed in June for the fifth consecutive year. Clashes between various political movements in Natal province were also a cause of serious concern to the ICRC, which endeavoured, in co-operation with the National Society, to bring assistance to those affected, in particular homeless people and families whose bread-winners had been injured or killed. In addition, invoking its statutory right of initiative, the ICRC pursued its efforts to gain access to all categories of persons arrested in connection with the internal situation.

Representations and activities

For prisoners and detainees

An Angolan military pilot, captured and interned by the South African authorities after making an emergency landing in Namibia on 13 December 1988, was visited by the ICRC in January, February and March, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Third Geneva Convention.

A South African soldier captured in Angola and transferred to Cuba for medical care was visited by the ICRC in Havana in February in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Third Geneva Convention.

Those two prisoners, as well as 11 prisoners of Angolan origin and three others of Cuban origin held by UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), were released on 31 March under the terms of an agreement between South Africa, Angola and Cuba reached in New York in December 1988 under the auspices of the United Nations (see *1988 Annual Report*).

With clashes between South African forces and SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) in northern Namibia intensifying in early April, following the implementation of United Nations resolution 435, the ICRC continued its approaches to the South African government for permission to discharge its mandate in favour of the victims of the conflict (see also under *Namibia*).

In South Africa itself, every year from 1969 to 1986 the ICRC conducted a series of visits to sentenced security prisoners and people held in preventive detention under various security laws.

Concerned about the many security detainees to whom it did not have access, in 1986 the ICRC began making representations, in particular to the Ministers of Justice and of Law and Order, to obtain permission to visit not only sentenced security prisoners, as in the past, but also

those sentenced for unrest-related offences. The ICRC also concerned itself with unsentenced security detainees. The negotiations continued throughout 1989, with the ICRC delegates in Pretoria meeting the Minister of Justice in May and the Commissioner of Prisons in October. Some progress was made but by the end of the year no formal agreement had been reached. As in the previous two years, the ICRC decided against carrying out a series of prison visits, since it would have had access only to sentenced security prisoners. This decision was taken because the ICRC felt that, in view of the worsening situation in South Africa, it was essential to obtain fresh guarantees in order to clarify and extend the detention-related activities of its delegates there.

As in previous years, the Pretoria delegation was concerned about security detainees in **Venda, Ciskei, Bophuthatswana and Transkei**. After more than six years of negotiations, in 1989 the ICRC was authorized to visit persons detained for security reasons in Transkei. From 10 to 14 July an ICRC team visited in accordance with the institution's customary criteria 28 security detainees in two places of detention in Umtata and Butterworth.

Over the year the ICRC's assistance programme for former security prisoners and needy families of security prisoners was broadened to include families of persons detained for unrest-related offences. Relief in the form of vouchers for food and other essential items was distributed to an average of 250 families a month. As in the past, the ICRC paid travel expenses for people visiting close relatives in detention.

For the black communities in townships and rural areas

The delegation in Pretoria endeavoured to keep abreast of developments in the townships, the homelands and other regions affected by the disturbances. In the course of their visits, the delegates sought to foster contacts with regional authorities, the police and the black communities in order to make the role and activities of the ICRC better known.

The delegates visited mostly the townships in western and eastern Cape Province and Natal. With outbreaks of violence continuing in the townships in the Pietermaritzburg and Hammarsdale areas, the ICRC continued, in co-operation with the South African Red Cross, its assistance programme set up in 1988 for families whose bread-winners had been killed or badly injured in the violence or whose homes or property had been seriously damaged. Since the programme began, food parcels, tents, soap, blankets and cooking utensils have been distributed as needed to over

700 families in Pietermaritzburg and over 1,000 others in Hammarsdale. In addition, at the end of the year a similar programme was started in Phoenix, a northern suburb of Durban.

For refugees from Mozambique

The ICRC continued to support various organizations which provide aid for Mozambican refugees in the homelands of Kangwane and Gazankulu. At the end of the year in the two homelands there were 46,000 officially registered refugees, although their exact number was probably higher. The delegates regularly took part in meetings of the local relief committees in order to follow developments in the situation and distributed over two tonnes of soap, 100 tents, some 18,000 blankets and around 1,700 cooking sets to refugees in various transit centres.

In addition, the ICRC focused on providing protection to these people who do not have refugee status in South Africa and are therefore often sent back to their country of origin in perilous circumstances. A small-scale programme for the exchange of Red Cross messages on behalf of Mozambican refugees in Kangwane and Gazankulu was also continued.

Tracing Agency

The Pretoria delegation handled tracing requests and arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between members of families separated by the events. Working closely with the South African Red Cross, the delegation also dealt with requests from other countries.

Co-operation with the National Society

Relations with the South African Red Cross

During the period under review the ICRC continued to be concerned about structural problems within the National Society which had in 1988 led to the creation within the South Transvaal regional branch of a group consisting essentially of black employees and calling itself the "Henry Dunant Coalition". The group's aim was to promote Red Cross activities on behalf of black communities and foster their participation in the National Society's governing bodies at regional and national levels.

From May 1989 both sides hardened their positions. Following the announcement of the dismissal by the National Society of the head of the "Henry Dunant

Coalition'', some 40 black employees of the South Transvaal regional branch — half of them community organizers employed by the ICRC — went on strike and were subsequently dismissed by the National Society.

The ICRC attempted, unfortunately without success, to promote solutions based on the statutes of the South African Red Cross which would allow the country's various ethnic groups to be equitably represented in the Society's governing bodies. Thereby it also hoped to elicit interest and proposals for activities in favour of all South Africa's poor.

The ICRC also joined a delegation made up of representatives of the League and four National Societies which at the beginning of June went to Johannesburg to discuss with the parties concerned which measures should be taken to achieve equitable representation. In addition, a delegation from the South African Red Cross, led by the Society's President, was received in Geneva on 17 October by the ICRC President who repeated the institution's position in this matter.

By the end of year, despite numerous approaches made by various members of the Movement, little progress had been made.

Activities in the townships

Since the end of 1985, the South African Red Cross has been running a programme supported by the ICRC to increase its presence and activities in the townships and rural areas (see *1988 Annual Report*). In 1989 the pursuit of this joint programme was hindered by the problems within the National Society. Nevertheless, community organizers trained by the ICRC and the South African Red Cross were able to carry out their tasks in several townships and in rural areas of Ciskei, Transkei and Kwazulu. Others took part in relief distributions in Hammarsdale and Pietermaritzburg.

After four years of close co-operation, the ICRC withdrew from the programme at the end of the year, as had been agreed in 1986 with the South African Red Cross.

Relations with opposition movements

Throughout the year ICRC representatives met various representatives of South African opposition movements. The meetings took place in South Africa, in neighbouring countries or in Geneva, and centred on the situation in South Africa and questions of common interest (suspension of ICRC visits to persons detained for reasons of security, South African Red Cross, etc.).

NAMIBIA

Following intense diplomatic activity between Angola, South Africa and Cuba, which led to the signing of a peace treaty under United Nations auspices in New York on 22 December 1988 (see *1988 Annual Report*), the Namibian independence process, as devised by the United Nations in 1978 (Resolution 435), got under way on 1 April 1989.

The ICRC continued to provide protection and assistance to the principal victims — Namibian civilians and Angolan refugees — and to security prisoners detained in Namibia. The volume of detention work increased following clashes from 1 April between South African-led security forces and the members of PLAN (People's Liberation Army of Namibia, the military branch of SWAPO).

Representations and activities

For prisoners and detainees

As in previous years, the ICRC had regular access to sentenced security prisoners and security detainees awaiting trial. Over the year and in accordance with the institution's customary criteria, delegates based in Windhoek saw 27 security prisoners already sentenced or awaiting trial before most of them were released by the South African authorities on 20 July. At the end of the year there were still three prisoners belonging to these two categories to whom the ICRC had access.

Following the fighting in northern Namibia in early April between PLAN combatants and security forces under South African command, the ICRC immediately applied for access to all captured persons. In all, about 50 PLAN combatants and other people arrested in connection with various security incidents were visited in accordance with ICRC criteria. Most of them were released before long, and the ICRC was able to ascertain whether they wished to be returned to Angola; the repatriation operation was conducted by UNTAG (United Nations Transition Assistance Group).

Early in the year the head of the ICRC delegation in Windhoek met the SWAPO Secretary-General, Mr. Toivo ja Toivo, to whom he repeated the institution's readiness to visit persons detained by SWAPO, but to no avail. In addition, following SWAPO's announcement in May that the organization had freed all the prisoners it was holding, families without news of relatives possibly held by SWAPO asked the ICRC delegation in Windhoek for help. The ICRC made approaches to SWAPO and UNTAG, but at the end of the year the issue was still unresolved.

As in previous years, the ICRC provided assistance (educational and leisure items) to the prisoners visited and in some cases paid travel expenses of families visiting relatives in detention. It also continued to offer aid to needy ex-detainees or prisoners' families along the lines of similar programmes under way in South Africa.

For the civilian population

The ICRC remained concerned about civilians living in the north of the country (Ovambo, Kavango and Caprivi). Throughout the year a delegate was stationed almost permanently in Oshakati (Ovambo) in order to develop and strengthen contacts with the population and with representatives of the security police and armed forces.

In addition, as in previous years, delegates assessed the medical and health situation in mission dispensaries and clinics in the north of the country. *Ad hoc* distributions of food (vitamin supplements) were made, especially in medical establishments treating elderly people and children of Angolan origin.

Tracing Agency

For a number of years the ICRC Tracing Agency in Windhoek has worked mostly on behalf of two groups of people: Angolan refugees in Namibia and their families in Angola, and Namibians living abroad or detained in connection with the conflict in their country. Over the year the volume of work concerning Namibians living abroad diminished as a result of the repatriation operation, organized by the UNHCR, which enabled some 40,000 Namibians to return to their country. The number of Red Cross messages exchanged between Angolan refugees and their families in Angola and the number of tracing requests concerning the former remained constant. Overall, the Agency office in Windhoek received 808 tracing requests, collected 1,228 Red Cross messages and distributed 1,375.

ANGOLA

The ICRC continued to provide material and medical assistance to the civilian population affected by the internal conflict between government forces and members of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), which persisted throughout the year despite prospects for peace which emerged in mid-June during talks

held in Gbadolite between the Angolan President, Mr. dos Santos, and UNITA leader, Mr. Savimbi.

The ICRC conducted most of its activities on the high plateaux (Planalto) in the provinces of Huambo, Bié and Benguela, but was also active in Cunene province, where a sub-delegation was opened, and in the south-east of the country.

In addition, the ICRC maintained close contact with the Angolan authorities and with UNITA (*see below*) in order to make the institution's mandate and its working procedures better understood, especially with regard to detention and security guarantees. On several occasions ICRC representatives met — in Geneva, in Angola and in Addis Ababa (headquarters of the OAU) — high-ranking officials from the ministries most closely concerned by ICRC activities, namely Health, Security, Defence, External Relations and Justice.

Representations and activities for prisoners

In the aftermath of the international conflict between South African forces and combatants of the FAPLA (Angolan Army), SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) and the Cuban armed forces, and by virtue of the mandate entrusted to it under the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC made six visits to a soldier of the "Territorial Forces of South West Africa" captured by the Angolan army in September 1987 (*see 1988 Annual Report*). The prisoner was released by the Angolan authorities at the end of November and repatriated under ICRC auspices.

In addition, a South African soldier held in Cuba, an Angolan military pilot detained in Pretoria, as well as 11 Angolans and three Cubans held by UNITA, were released by the respective detaining authorities and repatriated in accordance with the New York agreement.

Throughout the year the ICRC pursued its approaches to the Angolan authorities to gain access to persons captured and detained in connection with the internal conflict and those arrested for security or political reasons. In mid-June the ICRC formally renewed its offer of services to the Angolan Minister of External Relations, Mr. Van Dunem "Loy". Despite repeated follow-up approaches, at the end of the year the ICRC was still unable to visit that category of detainees.

On 5 April the UNITA leader gave his agreement in principle for the ICRC to visit persons detained by his movement. On 5 and 17 September the delegates visited, in accordance with the institution's usual criteria, 54 members

of the Angolan armed forces captured by UNITA. In addition, in September and October the delegates saw 45 persons held by UNITA in their place of detention. All Angolan nationals held in south-eastern Angola, whether or not they were visited by the ICRC, were able to exchange news with their families by means of Red Cross messages.

On 7 December, at the request of the Angolan government and mainly for purposes of Tracing Agency work, the delegation visited two Namibians who had been captured in southern Angola.

Tracing Agency

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Angola continued to work in co-operation with the Angola Red Cross tracing offices in the provinces. The ICRC delegate in charge of Agency work went to most of the provinces to co-ordinate the processing of tracing requests and the forwarding of Red Cross messages and to provide further training for Angola Red Cross tracing staff. In addition, activities aimed at restoring and maintaining contact between refugees of Angolan origin living abroad, mainly in Namibia, and their families in Angola constituted much of the Agency's work. Out of a total of more than 2,000 Red Cross messages forwarded some 1,700 were sent to Namibia, while out of a total of 1,500 messages distributed in Angola almost 900 had come from Namibia.

Medical activities

For displaced persons on the Planalto

Throughout the year, ICRC medical teams monitored the nutritional status of the population living on the Planalto. Systematic and repeated surveys were made in 20 towns regularly visited by the ICRC. This consisted in studying local markets and available stocks, in assessing harvest prospects and, more particularly, in keeping a check on children's health.

The results of the first surveys led the ICRC to open a therapeutic feeding centre in Bailundo (Huambo province) from late 1988 to April 1989 and to offer support to the paediatric units of several local hospitals. The level of activity in the centres dropped after the harvesting season.

Starting in October, the combined effects of the drought (which threatened harvests, to varying degrees depending on the regions) and the conflict (crops were destroyed, and only narrow strips of land around the villages could be safely cultivated) led to a deterioration in the nutritional

status of the population, particularly in the south of Huambo and Benguela provinces, where the ICRC made substantial food distributions. It was expected that these effects on harvests would continue to be felt until the first quarter of 1990.

The evacuation — mainly by air — of people badly wounded in the conflict or otherwise seriously ill to military or civilian hospitals in Huambo, Kuito and Benguela once again represented a major part of the ICRC medical teams' work. In all, the ICRC organized the transfer to hospital of 2,185 such patients and the return of 1,875 others to their homes after treatment.

As in previous years, ICRC engineers continued work on sanitation systems, mainly at the health centres in Huambo and Kuito and elsewhere in the three Planalto provinces receiving assistance. They also sank wells and reinforced existing wells and springs in the same area; some 40 projects were completed.

For war wounded and amputees

In addition to evacuating the wounded and sick to provincial hospitals, the ICRC continued to manufacture prostheses for disabled people in the orthopaedic centres which it runs in conjunction with the Ministry of Health in Bomba Alta (just outside Huambo) and in Kuito (Bié province).

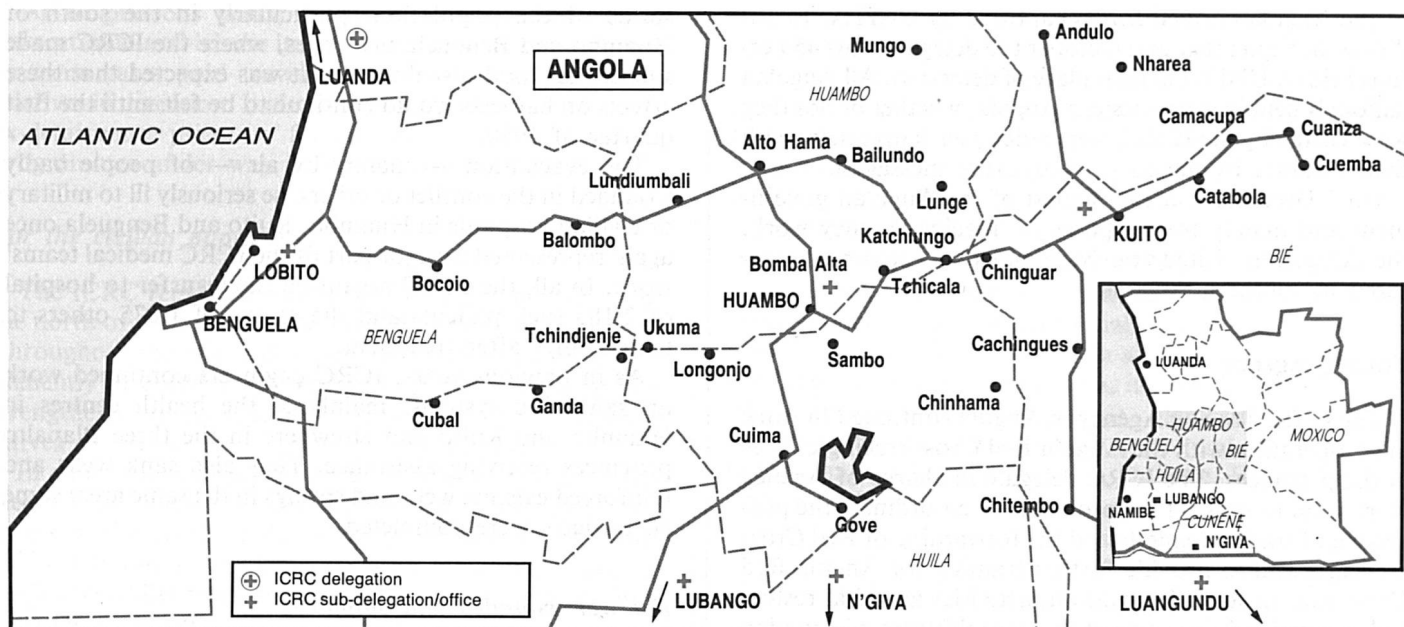
Over the year the centres fitted 1,154 patients with prostheses; 2,125 prostheses and 1,356 pairs of crutches were manufactured and 1,580 orthopaedic devices were repaired. The two centres also continued to admit patients, providing them with accommodation and care in *abrigos* until they regained a measure of independence and were able to return to their villages.

In addition, 862 patients were fitted and 871 prostheses manufactured in the "Neves Bedinha" centre in Luanda, which is run by the Angola Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross and the Angolan Ministry of Health with technical support from the ICRC.

South-eastern Angola

From January to July an ICRC surgical team worked in the Luangundu hospital, mainly providing further training for local surgeons. The ICRC medical team, consisting of a general practitioner, a midwife and a nurse, remained in Luangundu throughout the year.

As part of its medical activities, the ICRC delegation in south-eastern Angola regularly furnished medical



supplies and medicines to the Luangundu and Chilembô Chuti hospitals. The ICRC also dispatched to the same area 50,000 doses of vaccine for an immunization campaign against childhood diseases carried out by local medical staff.

Food and material assistance for the civilian population

Distributions of foodstuffs and basic necessities

Food distributions to the civilian population were organized regularly in the towns of Huambo, Bié and Benguela provinces. The amounts distributed varied according to the needs established by preliminary surveys of the inhabitants' nutritional status. During the first quarter the volume of food aid was substantial (some 1,000 tonnes a month in February and March); it diminished from May onwards, and from July to September, i.e., after the harvest, about 20 tonnes of foodstuffs were distributed each month. During this period of relative self-sufficiency pockets of malnutrition nonetheless persisted, and the ICRC supplied food as needed to the most vulnerable population groups. From October onwards, when the combined effects of drought and conflict began to be felt, the quantities distributed again rose sharply, reaching 700 tonnes in December. Over the year the ICRC distributed some

4,000 tonnes of food on the Planalto to an average of 140,000 people each month.

In addition, first-aid teams organized *ad hoc* distributions of basic necessities, blankets and clothing to people who had recently been displaced or who had been victims of attacks by armed groups.

In June the ICRC opened a sub-delegation in N'Giva, in Cunene province, where a survey conducted in January had shown that there were no functioning medical facilities and that the civilian population was suffering severe hardship from the combined effects of the conflict and the drought. The ICRC carried out medical and nutritional work, with two ICRC nurses running the dispensary and providing consultations for the population in the area.

Agricultural programme

The ICRC continued distributing seed and farming tools in an attempt to enable the civilian population affected by the conflict to become self-sufficient again. Since the planting season is different for different crops, the various programmes were launched between April and June and between September and November. In all, 962 tonnes of seed were distributed in Benguela province, 171 in Bié province and 37 in Huambo province to some 120,000 families.

Logistics

As in previous years, the poor security conditions, the difficulty of overland travel and the great distances to be covered made it necessary to maintain a fleet of aircraft to transport goods and staff to the provinces receiving assistance. To transport goods from the Atlantic coast to Huambo and Kuito, on the Planalto, the ICRC used a wide-bodied Hercules aircraft from January to March and from October to December. The supplies were stored in Huambo and Kuito and three Twin Otter planes distributed them according to need to smaller towns in the area. From October onwards a fourth and then a fifth Twin Otter had to be commissioned. The fleet chalked up over 4,800 flying hours and carried a total of 9,900 tonnes of cargo. The aircraft were also used to take sick and injured people to the provincial hospitals and to fly them home after treatment.

Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

During the year the Luanda delegation carried out many dissemination activities among a variety of target groups.

During the first quarter it conducted a dissemination programme for the political and traditional authorities of the towns regularly visited on the Planalto. The programme aimed to make the authorities more aware of ICRC working methods and to promote respect for the emblem.

A novel written by an ICRC delegate about two families in wartime was printed in several thousand copies and widely distributed. The delegation also published a leaflet with a comic strip illustrating the principles and activities of the Red Cross; the leaflet was translated into Umbundu and distributed in Luanda and on the Planalto. Finally, a travelling exhibition of photographs on the 125th anniversary of the initial Geneva Convention was shown in Luanda and later in the provincial capitals.

As in the previous year, the ICRC organized dissemination sessions for guards and inmates in a number of prisons.

In addition to several dissemination sessions for FAPLA members at the provincial level, for the first time a course on the law of war was given by a delegate specialized in dissemination among the armed forces to about 30 training officers of the Angolan army in Huambo.

Relations with UNITA

ICRC representatives maintained regular contact with members of UNITA in Europe and south-eastern Angola

and twice met the movement's leader, Mr. Savimbi. With the latter they discussed security problems encountered by delegates travelling in the field and the possibility for the ICRC to carry out its protection and assistance activities on a regular basis for all persons, Angolan or foreign, who had been captured by UNITA.

Besides its medical work in Luangundu hospital, the ICRC concerned itself with the civilian population to which it had access in south-eastern Angola. On the basis of surveys conducted in the region, some 20 tonnes of relief supplies (blankets and clothing) and nine tonnes of seed were distributed.

MOZAMBIQUE

Following the negotiations conducted the previous year (see *1988 Annual Report*), the ICRC was able to step up its activities in Mozambique for security detainees and the civilian population affected by the conflict.

Starting on 4 January, after a six-month suspension due to security reasons, the ICRC resumed its flights as and when authorizations were received and weather conditions permitted, to many destinations in four provinces (whereas in 1988 only one province could be reached). During the last quarter, however, ICRC activities in those provinces were curtailed because of a flare-up in hostilities.

The ICRC also stepped up its contacts with the Mozambican authorities and RENAMO (Mozambican National Resistance Movement) in order to make its conditions of independence and impartiality and its working methods better understood. While in Belgrade for the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in September, the ICRC President met the Mozambican Head of State, Mr. Chissano. Earlier, on 24 February, Mr. Sommaruga had received Mozambique's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mocumbi, in Geneva. In addition, the ICRC Delegate General for Africa went to Mozambique twice, in January and August. He met the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Co-operation, Defence and Health, as well as the Deputy Minister of Security and the army Chief of Staff, all of whom expressed their willingness to support ICRC activities in Mozambique. The ICRC also maintained contact both orally and in writing with RENAMO officials, in particular the movement's leader, Mr. Dhlakama.

Activities for detainees

In February the delegation completed the first series of visits, begun in June 1988, to security detainees held by



the Ministry of Security who were either awaiting trial or had already been sentenced. The ICRC team, which included a doctor, visited a total of 1,039 detainees in accordance with the institution's criteria in 11 places of detention throughout the country (security prisons in Machava and Cuamba and provincial security prisons in Cabo Delgado, Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia).

From 1 May to 31 October, the delegates again visited the same category of detainees in the same places of detention. They saw 604 security detainees, about 20 of them under preliminary investigation (i.e., under interrogation).

The number of prisoners visited was much lower than during the previous round of visits, since 400 prisoners had benefited from an amnesty; the latter were given *ad hoc* aid by the delegation upon their release. In addition, toiletries and leisure items were distributed to detainees, either immediately after the visit or during one of many partial follow-up visits organized for that purpose. An ICRC sanitary engineer surveyed the sanitary facilities in the prisons and suggested repair work where needed. As of November, a new series of visits started with the prisons in Inhambane, Machaze and Xai Xai.

Throughout the year the delegates again endeavoured to gain access to security detainees undergoing preliminary investigation. The ICRC was notified of their identity from the beginning of the year, but at the end of 1989 it had still not been able to visit them (except for about 20 such detainees).

The ICRC also tried to gain access to people held by RENAMO, but in vain. It was nevertheless able, in its role as a neutral intermediary and with the agreement of all the parties concerned, to facilitate the release by RENAMO of an Italian missionary and his return to Italy.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency in Mozambique concentrated primarily on arranging for the exchange of family messages, mainly between Mozambican refugees in neighbouring countries and their families in Mozambique, between family members all living in Mozambique but separated by the conflict and with no other means of communication, and between detainees visited by the ICRC and their families, most of whom were living in Mozambique. Although poor security conditions and difficult access to some areas caused many problems, co-operation on the part of the Mozambique Red Cross, which has trained tracing employees in each provincial branch, greatly facilitated the work of the Agency. Throughout the year, the ICRC gave technical and practical support to the National Society's tracing service. In addition, computer facilities were set up in the Maputo delegation to register and process tracing information.

In all, 739 Red Cross messages from Mozambique and the neighbouring countries, as well as from Angola, Uganda and Portugal, were delivered in Mozambique and 1,128 messages were collected there and sent to those same countries. The Agency also registered 288 tracing requests concerning persons reported missing in the conflict zones or outside the country.

Activities for civilians

Food and material assistance

From 4 January onwards, the ICRC gradually began protection and assistance work for victims of the conflict in the provinces of Manica, Nampula, Sofala and Zambezia. The activities were conducted in government-controlled areas, in disputed sectors and in areas controlled by RENAMO, where the ICRC is the only humanitarian organization allowed to work. On 14 March, a team consisting of three ICRC delegates and a member of the Mozambique Red Cross was detained by RENAMO in Memba (Nampula province). RENAMO representatives at once assured the ICRC that all four members of the team would be set free as soon as possible, and this was done two weeks later. Fortunately, the incident did not greatly affect the ICRC's activities in the country.

On the whole, the situation of the civilian population had improved, but in a number of regions additional assistance was required. After assessing the needs of local residents and displaced persons, food and other relief supplies were distributed. To prevent any duplication of aid, the operation was closely co-ordinated with other organizations such as the DPCCN (the Mozambican government department set up to prevent and deal with the effects of natural disasters).

☐ **Manica** province:

In Tambara, between April and July some 24,000 people received clothing. In Machaze, from February onwards the delegates distributed monthly rations of food to about 4,000 people and provided assistance to the orphanage and the transit centre for displaced persons. In Save, the ICRC transported spare parts for water pumps as well as seed and farming tools on behalf of two governmental organizations, "Agua rural" and "Agricom".

☐ **Nampula** province:

In the Memba area over 150 tonnes of relief supplies were distributed to some 14,000 totally destitute people. In Namahaca the ICRC took part in a feeding programme and provided food for the hospital and for vulnerable population groups, such as the disabled.

☐ **Sofala** province:

Starting in March, clothing was distributed to 19,000 people in Panja. An ICRC sanitary engineer was sent to Casa Banana and Machanga; under his supervision and in conjunction with "Agua rural", several wells were sunk and a number of existing wells repaired.

☐ **Zambezia** province:

In Ilé and the surrounding villages, an area from which the ICRC had been absent for two years, the nutritional status of the population was found to be alarming. From June to October 450 tonnes of food were airlifted from Quelimane and distributed to a total of 30,000 persons. In Inhassunge, the ICRC provided tents to inhabitants whose dwellings had been burned down, and in May World Vision and Catholic organizations co-operated in providing food assistance for 15,000 people.

In addition to the above operations, which were carried out as and when authorizations were received and weather conditions permitted, the ICRC supported relief activities conducted by the Mozambique Red Cross, providing the latter with food, blankets and clothing. The relief distributed or put at the disposal of the National Society during 1989 amounted to 1,510 tonnes of foodstuffs and 109 tonnes of material assistance.

Medical activities

During missions carried out to assess the needs of the civilian population, ICRC teams made up of nurses, nutritionists and sanitary engineers visited places where the inhabitants' nutritional status made it necessary to set up therapeutic feeding centres, in addition to making relief distributions. In Ilé (Zambezia province) such a centre was opened on 18 July and treated an average of 110 children suffering from severe malnutrition and marasmus until October, when the needs somewhat diminished. The centre was closed on 16 November. In Namahaca (Nampula province) the ICRC was involved in a feeding programme run by religious organizations at the local hospital. Starting in June, a nurse and a nutritionist went to the hospital several times a week in order to reorganize the service and supervise its work. Unfortunately, on 4 December the hospital was ransacked by armed men. The ICRC condemned the act as a grave violation of the basic principle of respect due to the wounded and the sick, to hospitals and hospital staff.

In many of the places visited the ICRC identified medical needs which called for technical and material support. Besides providing basic medicines and medical supplies, on each visit ICRC nurses gave technical advice to the medical staff of the centres concerned. The ICRC also lent support to the public health programme by providing air transport for Ministry of Health vaccination teams, medical workers and medical supplies. In addition, in Tambara and Panja ICRC nurses gave courses to RENAMO nursing

staff, supervised their work and assisted them as necessary. Finally, during its visits the ICRC evacuated hundreds of wounded and seriously ill to hospitals which could provide appropriate treatment.

Logistics

As in the past, the sheer size of the country and the often hazardous security conditions made it necessary for the ICRC to transport relief supplies and personnel by air both between the provincial capitals and to the areas where it was working in the field. In all, its three airplanes logged over 3,300 flying hours, transporting some 1,500 tonnes of cargo.

In mid-1989 the Mozambican authorities allowed the ICRC to transport supplies by road, without military escort. Road convoys were organized mainly in Nampula province, bound for Memba and Namahaca, and in the provinces of Sofala and Manica.

Activities for the disabled

The ICRC continued the work for war disabled which it had been carrying out since 1981 in conjunction with the Ministry of Health. Prostheses continued to be manufactured and fitted to war amputees both in the main workshop in Maputo and in the Beira and Quelimane centres. In addition, in March a new workshop was opened in Nampula.

Throughout the year two ICRC orthopaedic technicians worked closely with 67 Mozambican employees, including 11 orthopaedic technicians and a physiotherapist. In the period under review, 373 amputees were fitted for the first time, while 334 others had their prostheses adjusted or repaired; the four workshops also manufactured 739 prostheses, 35 wheelchairs and 3,834 pairs of crutches.

In addition, as part of the plan gradually to hand over management of the orthopaedic programme to the Ministry of Health, the delegation launched a campaign to recruit Mozambican trainees, who will follow training courses spread over three and a half years, starting in early 1990.

Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

From 13 to 17 February, a delegate specialized in dissemination among the armed forces, sent from Geneva, gave a course on the law of war at the military academy in Nampula. The participants were officers from all the

provinces in the country. In addition, courses on international humanitarian law were given to various target groups (students of the teacher training college, the Institute of International Relations and E. Mondlane University, members of the country's armed forces, prison staff from establishments run by the Ministry of Security).

On 3 November, the ICRC, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Mozambique Red Cross invited representatives of the Mozambican press corps to a meeting at which the three organizations explained their respective activities in the country. Lastly, throughout the year dissemination officials from the National Society's regional branches, who are trained and given technical support by the ICRC, organized dissemination meetings in their respective regions.

The ICRC continued to give material and financial aid to the Mozambique Red Cross and held working sessions with the National Society to identify priorities in providing support to strengthen its operational capacity in the longer term. The ICRC also provided technical assistance and organized courses in administration, vehicle maintenance and radio communications for National Society employees.

OTHER COUNTRIES

ZIMBABWE — The regional delegation in Harare which, in addition to Zimbabwe itself, also covers Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zambia, continued to provide operational support for the ICRC's emergency operations in Angola and Mozambique. In co-operation with National Societies of countries in the region, it also took part in implementing dissemination programmes on international humanitarian law.

In Zimbabwe itself, the delegation continued its assistance programme, conducted jointly with the National Society since 1988, for displaced people living near the Mozambique border whom hazardous conditions had compelled to leave their homes; over the year 125 tonnes of relief supplies (food, seed, tools, blankets) were distributed in nine districts along the border with Mozambique, i.e., in the provinces of East and Central Mashonaland, Masvingo and Manicaland. In addition, the Harare delegation continued to distribute relief supplies to newly-arrived Mozambican and South African refugees before other relief organizations took charge of them. Regarding dissemination, a training seminar for dissemination officials from 15 National Societies of southern and East Africa was held in Harare from 13 to 22 November.

Orthopaedic workshop in Bulawayo

As had been agreed, after five years of involvement the ICRC handed over technical responsibility for the orthopaedic workshop in Bulawayo to the country's Ministry of Health, which will be fully in charge of running the centre from 1990 onwards. During 1989, the workshop fitted 185 patients and manufactured 266 prostheses and 1,187 pairs of crutches. As in the previous year, the ICRC trained technicians from a number of neighbouring countries. In addition, two repair workshops were set up in Mutare and Masvingo to provide better service for amputees who live far from Bulawayo.

An ICRC specialist led a mission to **Swaziland** and **Lesotho** to assess the technical and human resources of their hospital facilities with regard to orthopaedic work.

BOTSWANA — ICRC specialists based at the orthopaedic workshop in Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) continued to assist the Botswana Ministry of Health in its rehabilitation projects for war amputees. During the year the ICRC helped train local technicians, thereby enabling the orthopaedic centre in Gaborone to continue producing prostheses and orthoses.

MALAWI — Over the year the delegates based in Harare made many visits to Malawi to monitor the situation of Mozambican refugees there. A Central Tracing Agency delegate travelled to Malawi in June to train National Society employees in Tracing Agency work for the refugees.

ZAMBIA — The regional delegation in Harare set up an assistance programme, modelled on the one conducted in Zimbabwe, for displaced people living near the Mozambique border who were forced to leave their homes because of lack of security. In co-operation with the National Society, almost 40 tonnes of aid in the form of food, seed, tools and blankets were distributed in three districts in the east of the country. In addition, in the wake of floods in Lusaka and its suburbs, the ICRC handed over to the Zambia Red Cross 175 tents, 500 blankets and other supplies. In the area of dissemination, a seminar for about 20 high-ranking officers from Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia was conducted in September by a delegate specialized in dissemination among the armed forces.

Moreover, in early September a delegate sent from Geneva met several representatives of the Ministry of Legal Affairs to promote ratification of the Additional Protocols.

East Africa

ETHIOPIA

During the period under review the ICRC stepped up its approaches to the Ethiopian government and the armed opposition movements with a view to assisting victims of the combined effects of the conflict and the drought in the north of the country, as well as persons detained by both sides on account of the conflict.

Starting in September, when it became evident that the civilian population in the provinces of Eritrea and Tigray and in the northern regions of Gondar and Wollo would again experience severe food shortages, the international community rallied to help by organizing a large-scale assistance operation. The ICRC, for its part, refrained from launching an appeal to donors since it felt that it had not received sufficient guarantees with respect to recognition of its mandate (including work in favour of detainees) and its corresponding working procedures.

Relations with the Ethiopian government

In June 1988, following a decision by the Ethiopian authorities, the ICRC was forced to withdraw from Ethiopia's northern provinces. The negotiations conducted by the ICRC until the end of 1988 to be allowed to resume its activities in those regions failed to bring about a solution.

At the beginning of 1989 relations between the ICRC and the Ethiopian government improved; during the first half of the year several meetings between ICRC delegates and representatives of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and the Ethiopian Red Cross confirmed that the time had come for the ICRC to make another formal offer of services to the Ethiopian authorities. This was done on 21 June. The offer of services was threefold (assistance to victims of the conflict in the north, visits to persons detained in connection with the events, activities of the Central Tracing Agency) and was also in keeping with the peace initiative launched by the Ethiopian Head of State during a session of the Shengo (the Ethiopian parliament) at the beginning of June.

While in Addis Ababa for the OAU summit in July, an ICRC delegation made up of Mr. Rudolf Jäckli, a member of the Committee, the Delegate General for Africa and the head of the Addis Ababa delegation held talks with Mr. Berhanu Bayeh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colonel Tesfaye Wolde Selassie, Minister of the Interior, and

General Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, Commander of northern Ethiopia, who declared themselves willing to give favourable consideration to the ICRC proposals of 21 June. In addition, while in Belgrade for the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement at the beginning of September, the ICRC President met Mr. Fikre Selassie Wogderess, the Ethiopian Prime Minister, who confirmed that the authorities were favourably disposed towards the ICRC.

In this connection, an ICRC team consisting of the head of delegation in Addis Ababa, a doctor and an agronomist conducted a survey from 13 September to 2 October in Eritrea, Gondar and Wollo provinces. On the basis of information gathered by the team, on 10 October the ICRC submitted a plan of action to the Ethiopian Minister of the Interior. The plan contained definite proposals for material and food assistance for some 400,000 people in the northern provinces and stressed the specific nature of the ICRC's mandate.

At the end of the year the ICRC had not yet received a reply from the Ethiopian government.

Relations with the armed opposition movements

In parallel with its approaches to the Ethiopian government, the ICRC maintained contact throughout the year with the EPLF (Eritrean People's Liberation Front) and the TPLF (Tigrayan People's Liberation Front), and with their respective humanitarian branches, ERA (Eritrean Relief Agency) and REST (Relief Society of Tigray). The contacts were intended to enable the ICRC to carry out evaluation missions in the regions controlled by those movements and to implement material, food and medical assistance programmes for the civilian population. The ICRC also continued to request access in accordance with its criteria to members of the Ethiopian armed forces held by the two movements.

At the end of the year the negotiations were still in progress.

Activities for the disabled

In 1988 two ICRC prosthetists were sent to help with the work of the Prosthetic/Orthotic Centre in Addis Ababa, and later that year the Ethiopian authorities asked the ICRC to resume its activities in the orthopaedic centre in Debre Zeit. In December 1988, one of the two ICRC technicians working in Addis Ababa went to Debre Zeit, where he was joined by two other prosthetists in 1989. In June an agreement between the ICRC and the authorities made official

the institution's involvement in the centre's activities. During 1989 the centre fitted 167 new patients and manufactured 306 prostheses and 538 pairs of crutches.

Dissemination

An ICRC dissemination delegate went to Addis Ababa in January to draw up a joint dissemination programme with the Ethiopian Red Cross. On 17 April the ICRC and the National Society signed an agreement on strengthening dissemination activities, especially in regions affected by the conflict, training qualified staff within the National Society and publishing teaching material and brochures. In addition, to round off the training given to the National Society's dissemination officials, in December the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross jointly organized a seminar on international humanitarian law.

Activities conducted from Sudan for people affected by the Eritrean and Tigrayan conflicts

In addition to the activities of the orthopaedic centre in Kassala for Eritrean and Tigrayan war amputees (see *Sudan*) and despite some technical problems, the ICRC continued its medical assistance to dispensaries and health posts in Eritrea and Tigray. Medicines and basic medical supplies were distributed to a total of 124 dispensaries in the two provinces.

While waiting to be authorized by the EPLF to visit the prisoners it was holding, the ICRC sent the ERA material assistance intended to improve the prisoners' conditions of detention. Assistance consisted of toiletries, blankets, cooking utensils, clothing and leisure articles.

Activities for Somali refugees

See under *Somalia* below.

SOMALIA

During the period under review there were favourable developments in ICRC activities in Somalia. Following repeated approaches to the authorities in Mogadishu and contacts with the armed opposition (the Somali National Movement — SNM), at the beginning of the year the ICRC reached an agreement with the Ministries of Defence and Health enabling it to set up a sub-delegation in Berbera in order to deal with the consequences of the worsening

situation in the north-west of the country, which has been torn by conflict since 1988. To finance this extension of its activities, on 27 April the ICRC launched an emergency appeal for 8,615,800 Swiss francs.

The protection of detainees and the needs of Somali refugees in Ethiopia with regard to Tracing Agency work continued to be among the main concerns of the Mogadishu delegation.

Activities and representations for civilians and war wounded in the north-west of the country

The surveys carried out by the ICRC in June and November 1988 in north-western Somalia revealed the extent of the needs of the population affected by the conflict, especially in the medical field. Following an agreement reached at the end of 1988 with the Minister of Health and the Somali Red Crescent, the ICRC converted a former tuberculosis clinic in Berbera into a war surgery hospital.

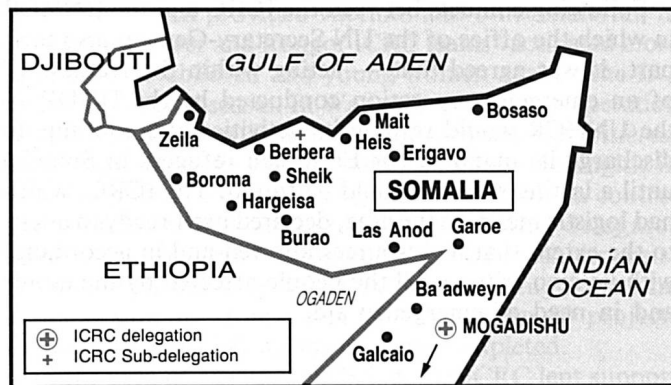
The hospital opened in August with 33 beds but can accommodate up to 100 patients in an emergency. It is run by a medical and technical team of 14 people seconded by six National Societies, assisted by about 10 volunteer first-aid workers from the Somali Red Crescent who are being trained as nurses. At the end of the year about 30 patients were being treated at the hospital. The wounded either came from Berbera itself or were flown in by the ICRC from other towns in the north-west (Boroma, Burao, Hargeisa, Las Anod). Throughout the year the ICRC endeavoured to extend its activities towards areas controlled by the SNM, but without success.

Activities and representations for detainees

In the area of protection for detainees, the ICRC made repeated approaches to all parties to the conflict requesting permission to visit the prisoners they were holding.

On 12 March an offer of services regarding visits to all persons detained for security reasons was submitted to the Somali Deputy Minister of the Interior, who undertook to forward it to the relevant authorities. The head of the ICRC delegation had several meetings with the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior, following which the offer of services was accepted in principle on 5 September. The visiting procedures were still being negotiated at the end of the year.

On a number of occasions the delegation expressed to the Mogadishu authorities its concern about Ethiopians reported missing on Somali territory during the Ogaden



conflict and Ethiopian prisoners of war who may not have been freed at the time of the general repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees organized in August 1988 (see 1988 Annual Report).

Finally, at the request of the Somali government, starting on 6 January the ICRC delegation made several visits to six foreign nationals detained in Mogadishu and about to be released by the authorities. In addition to providing material assistance, the ICRC arranged for two of these persons to be repatriated to their countries of origin. Three others were handed over to the UNHCR, while arrangements were made for the sixth person to remain in Somalia.

Activities for refugees

Somali refugees in Ethiopia

During the year ICRC delegates conducted two missions to camps housing Somali refugees in Ethiopia's Hararghe province to assess the refugees' needs with regard to Tracing Agency work (tracing requests, exchange of messages, etc.). Following an agreement between the Ministry of the Interior, the Ethiopian Red Cross, the UNHCR (which is in charge of the camps) and the ICRC, a Tracing Agency delegate went to Ethiopia at the end of the year to set up the necessary facilities.

Ethiopian refugees in Somalia

The clashes going on in north-western Somalia since May 1988 have had negative repercussions on the situation of Ethiopian refugees living in Somalia since the Ogaden conflict. Seeing that precarious security conditions put its personnel at risk, the UNHCR, which has responsibility for the camps, suspended its assistance programme there.

Following contacts between the ICRC and the UNHCR in which the office of the UN Secretary-General also took part, it was agreed that — acting within the framework of an emergency operation conducted by the UNDP — the UNHCR would resume its activities and continue to discharge its mandate for Ethiopian refugees in Somalia until a lasting solution could be found. The ICRC, which had logistic means in the area, declared itself ready to assist, to the extent that its resources allowed and in accordance with its own criteria, all the people affected by the events and in need of emergency aid.

SUDAN

During the period under review the ICRC pursued and considerably expanded the assistance and protection activities which it has been carrying out in southern Sudan since December 1988, when the Sudanese authorities and the representatives of the SPLM/SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army) opposition movement formally accepted the ICRC plan of action (see *1988 Annual Report*). The operation in aid of victims of the non-international armed conflict, living either in areas controlled by the Sudanese government or in those under SPLM/SPLA control, necessitated the deployment of considerable human and financial resources. Over 100 ICRC delegates and other staff, assisted by some 800 local employees, took part in the operation. Four ICRC delegations were also involved: the Nairobi delegation handled activities in the area controlled by the armed opposition and negotiations with the latter; the Khartoum delegation was in charge of activities in the government-controlled area and negotiations with the government; the Addis Ababa delegation conducted negotiations with SPLM/SPLA leaders; and the Kampala delegation saw to the running of the Entebbe logistics base. The operation cost about 115 million Swiss francs in all and necessitated a special emergency appeal to donors.

In addition to the work carried out by delegates in the field, over the year the ICRC had frequent contacts with the authorities in Khartoum and with SPLM/SPLA leaders in order to make its specific mandate and its working procedures better understood by both parties. To this end, immediately after the military junta took power in June the Deputy Delegate General for Africa, accompanied by the head of the Khartoum delegation, met members of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council. Moreover, in July and August the Delegate General for Africa had two meetings with the Head of State, Lt.-Gen. al-Bashir, to



whom he presented ICRC activities in southern Sudan. In addition to regular talks with representatives of the SRRA (Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, the humanitarian branch of SPLM/SPLA), the SPLM/SPLA leader, Colonel John Garang, was received in June at ICRC headquarters in Geneva by the Director of Operations and the Delegate General for Africa. Their talks focused on the problems linked with the development of ICRC activities in southern Sudan.

Staff and logistics

ICRC activities in the three provinces in southern Sudan (Bahr el Ghazal, Equateur and Upper Nile) were developed in successive stages. From December 1988 to February 1989 the delegates went to Akon, Aweil, Wau and Yoirol, and from March onwards they were able to reach Kongor, Leer, Juba and Malakal. A permanent presence was established in all the towns (except Aweil), and from these bases the delegates later visited about 15 more villages in the three southern provinces. Visits were quite regular but still depended on the authorizations received and on weather conditions, since in some areas the rainy season starts in mid-May.

On 3 November the Sudanese government informed all the humanitarian organizations working in the country of its decision to close Sudanese air space. The ICRC made numerous approaches to be allowed at least to make emergency flights to evacuate the wounded and replenish stocks of supplies in places accessible only by air, but at the end of the year the ban was still in force. ICRC personnel, although isolated, were able to continue working in Wau, Juba and Malakal, where they had sufficient stocks of relief supplies and medicines. In Akon, Kongor, Leer and Yirol relief work had to be suspended before long, but medical activities continued.

On account of the size of the country and the impossibility of reaching the areas where it was working overland, the ICRC had to employ considerable logistic means to transport personnel and relief supplies into the field. During the months of intense activity, when sufficient stocks had to be built up before the rains closed all airstrips in April and May, the ICRC was using 15 aircraft, eight of which were wide-bodied Hercules and Transall planes. During the year, the fleet logged a total of nearly 12,000 flying hours, transporting some 19,900 tonnes of relief supplies.

Activities and representations for detainees

Throughout the year the ICRC was concerned about the fate of persons arrested and detained in connection with the conflict. By the end of 1989 its approaches to the Sudanese government and the SPLM/SPLA to obtain access to these persons had met with only partial success.

In June the delegates went to the Kapoeta area where they visited, in accordance with ICRC criteria, 105 members of the Sudanese armed forces captured by the SPLA. The prisoners were able to write Red Cross messages and during a follow-up visit in August received material assistance from the ICRC.

In August delegates visited eight SPLA combatants in government hands in Wau and Juba. The visits were conducted in accordance with customary ICRC criteria and the prisoners were able to write Red Cross messages to their families.

Nevertheless, during 1989 the ICRC was unable to discharge its protection mandate on a regular basis in favour of all persons detained by the two sides in connection with the conflict.

Activities for the civilian population

Medical activities

The ICRC's medical activities covered prevention as well as care for the wounded and sick. In co-operation with

UNICEF, which provided vaccines and other material, in Akon, Yirol, Leer and Kongor ICRC teams vaccinated more than 100,000 children and young women against the five main childhood diseases. In Wau and Aweil, in co-operation with the Ministry of Health and *Médecins sans frontières*, some 50,000 people were immunized against meningitis in order to prevent an incipient epidemic. A malaria control programme was also launched, with the delegates distributing materials for making 12,000 mosquito nets. Finally, with the help of ICRC sanitary engineers and material support from UNICEF, more than 80 projects to supply safe drinking water were completed.

In the area of curative medicine, the ICRC lent support to the medical services where they still existed. ICRC nurses regularly visited 37 dispensaries and health centres where besides distributing basic medicines and medical supplies they organized training courses for Sudanese medical staff. In addition, the ICRC reconditioned three hospitals (in Juba, Malakal and Yirol). Where there were no medical facilities offering adequate treatment, the sick and wounded were taken by the ICRC to its hospital in Lopiding (over the border in Kenya, near Lokichokio), which has a maximum capacity of 120 beds. During the year the hospital admitted 671 patients and its surgical teams carried out over 450 major and some 2,650 minor operations (the latter figure includes treatment of outpatients).

Food and material assistance

Both in government-controlled areas and in those controlled by the SPLM/SPLA, ICRC delegates closely monitored the nutritional status of the civilian population. The quantity of food distributed and the number of beneficiaries varied constantly from place to place and according to the needs observed. In addition to these *ad hoc* distributions, the ICRC provided regular food aid to vulnerable population groups such as recently displaced people, pregnant women, the sick and elderly. It also regularly assisted institutions such as orphanages, dispensaries and prisons by providing them with food.

Before certain areas became cut off by the rains the ICRC set up about 20 field warehouses where it stored food supplies to meet the population's needs during the rainy season. The warehouses were run by SRRA staff, under ICRC supervision. This system kept people living in isolated areas from gathering in large numbers around fixed distribution points and prevented any problems which could have arisen from such a situation (poor hygiene, epidemics, etc.).

During the year the ICRC distributed over 12,000 tonnes of food as follows: 3,730 tonnes in Wau, 230 in Aweil,

80 in Malakal, 1,100 in Juba, 2,050 in Yirol, 3,150 in Akon, 1,100 in Leer and 1,100 in Kongor. It also supplied about 95,000 blankets, 3,000 cooking sets, plastic sheeting, 11 tonnes of clothing and 54 tonnes of soap, mainly for people who had recently been displaced and were totally destitute.

Veterinary, agricultural and fishing programme

In 1988, thousands of people fleeing combat and famine in southern Sudan had undertaken a massive and perilous exodus towards northern Sudan and the neighbouring countries. To prevent a repetition of those tragic events, in 1989 the ICRC not only made food distributions but also endeavoured to promote the resumption of traditional food-producing activities in southern Sudan and help the population affected by the conflict regain a measure of self-sufficiency.

Aware of the importance of cattle in the traditional communities of southern Sudan, the ICRC continued the vast veterinary programme launched in December 1988. The region's herds had not been treated since 1983 and were decimated by disease, depriving the semi-nomadic inhabitants of an important source of food (milk, blood). Veterinary teams working in the rural areas vaccinated nearly a million head of cattle against cattle plague. In October 1989, the ICRC reached an agreement with the Danish Red Cross whereby the latter would take charge of the project, with the ICRC retaining overall responsibility.

Moreover, from April to October the ICRC distributed 500 tonnes of seed (sorghum, beans, peanuts, vegetables) and 30,000 farming tools. People living near the Nile received over 500,000 hooks, as well as fishing lines and nets, which enabled them to start fishing again, thereby restoring a valuable element to their diet.

Activities for the disabled

As in the previous year, the ICRC's orthopaedic workshop in Kassala continued to work almost independently, using the services of five local prosthetists. Since the ICRC had no local counterpart, an expatriate prosthetist remained posted in Kassala. He acted as technical adviser and maintained contact with the local authorities as well as representatives of refugees from Tigray and Eritrea, since almost half of the amputees fitted at the workshop were from those two provinces. Over the year 185 patients were fitted with prostheses and 37 with orthoses. The workshop also produced 286 prostheses and 227 pairs of crutches.

In the course of the year approaches were made to the Ministries of Health and Defence with a view to reopening the orthopaedic workshop in Khartoum and reaching a new agreement whereby the Kassala workshop would be placed under the authority of the Ministry of Health.

Tracing Agency

From June onwards an ICRC delegate specialized in Tracing Agency work was based in Khartoum. The Tracing Agency in Khartoum and its offices in Port Sudan, Kassala and Juba worked in close co-operation with ICRC delegations in Kampala and Nairobi in assisting three main groups of victims: Ugandan and Sudanese refugees on both sides of the border between the two countries, Ethiopian refugees around Port Sudan and Kassala, and persons affected by the conflict in southern Sudan. Most of the work had to do with the exchange of Red Cross messages and requests to trace missing persons.

Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

As in the previous year, the ICRC kept up its support for the assistance programme undertaken by the Sudanese Red Crescent in 1987 for displaced persons who had fled the fighting in the south and were arriving in the capital. The National Society distributed food and basic necessities made available by the ICRC to an average of 800 people every month.

In addition, thanks to financial and administrative support from the ICRC, three branches of the Sudanese Red Crescent (in Wau, Juba and Malakal) which had been cut off from their headquarters in Khartoum were reopened. The branches in Wau and Juba had set up an assistance programme for the destitute (about 150 families in each town). The ICRC helped finance the programme and provided food and material assistance.

In view of the general lack of knowledge of the Red Cross and its role, a dissemination campaign was launched in southern Sudan. In conjunction with the Sudanese Red Crescent and the League's office in Khartoum, dissemination sessions were organized in the region.

Co-operation with other humanitarian organizations

In 1988 the international community rallied to the aid of the stricken population in Sudan. In 1989 the United Nations launched "Lifeline", a massive relief operation for victims of the conflict. At the beginning of March a

high-level meeting on emergency assistance operations brought together in Khartoum members of the Sudanese government, representatives of the UN and its various agencies (UNICEF, World Food Programme) and of the ICRC, as well as ambassadors of the countries helping finance operation "Lifeline". On that occasion ICRC delegates explained the objectives and procedures involved in their activities in southern Sudan and the institution's specific mandate in relation to other non-governmental organizations working in the country. The ICRC also attended the meetings in New York which throughout the year brought together representatives of the main financial backers of operation "Lifeline".

To avoid any duplication of aid, the ICRC assistance operation in the field was co-ordinated with operation "Lifeline" and with other humanitarian organizations which were able to work in southern Sudan after the cease-fire was proclaimed. However, the ICRC operation in Sudan was based on a formal agreement given in 1988 by both parties to the conflict, and the institution continued to act independently when carrying out activities covered by its specific mandate.

At the end of February, an ICRC plane flew to Kapoeta (Equateur province) to bring back the bodies of two American pilots whose plane had crashed in the area in January. The bodies were flown to Nairobi, where they were handed over to the United States ambassador. On 28 December, following a serious security incident in which a plane belonging to *Médecins sans Frontières* was shot down in Aweil, the ICRC took the mortal remains of the four occupants to Khartoum.

UGANDA

In Uganda 1989 began with tragedy. On 9 January an ICRC convoy taking relief supplies to Amuria (Soroti district) was attacked by armed men. In the leading vehicle an employee of the Uganda Red Cross Society, Mr. Michael Egabu, was killed, and an ICRC delegate, Mr. Jürg Bühler, was seriously wounded. Mr. Egabu was posthumously awarded the Henry Dunant Medal.

Despite this attack on vehicles clearly marked with the red cross emblem and the often precarious security conditions which led to ICRC activities being temporarily suspended several times, the Kampala delegation was able to pursue its assistance programmes for persons affected by the conflict in **Soroti** and **Gulu** districts.

In the area of detention, regular visits were made to persons detained by the army for security reasons and held

in civilian prisons and police stations, while visits to prisoners held in military garrisons, begun at the end of 1988, were suspended in March.

This and other questions concerning the delegation's work were discussed during meetings with various government members, especially those most concerned by ICRC operations — Ministers of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Justice and the armed forces Chief of Staff. In addition, while in Addis Ababa for the OAU summit, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni met Mr. Rudolf Jäckli, a member of the Committee, accompanied by the Delegate General for Africa, on 25 July. During their meeting President Museveni confirmed his agreement, given in 1986 and renewed in 1988, for ICRC visits to all persons detained by the army, wherever they were being held.

On 18 October President Museveni informed the head of delegation that he fully accepted the ICRC's mandate, with regard to both detention and assistance activities for victims of the conflict.

Representations and activities for detainees

Throughout the year, the ICRC continued to visit most places of detention run by the civilian authorities but holding persons arrested and detained under army responsibility. ICRC teams saw, in accordance with standard ICRC procedure, 5,946 persons held for reasons connected with the country's internal situation, in 15 places of detention (five prisons and 10 police stations). Most police stations were visited once a week, while four complete visits and a number of interim visits were made to the prisons.

During complete visits, ICRC delegates registered each new prisoner, called the roll of all detainees previously registered and had the opportunity to speak without witnesses to anyone wishing to talk to them. ICRC specialists (sanitary engineers, nurses and nutritionists) examined all the premises in each prison. On the basis of their conclusions, measures were suggested to the prison administration with a view to improving conditions of detention. Nutritional and medical programmes and work on improving hygiene conditions were carried out with the support of the authorities. Finally, the delegation helped train medical staff, provided medicines and medical supplies to prison dispensaries and dealt with a number of individual cases (medical transfers, special diets, etc).

On 19 August the authorities released 1,076 and on 21 October 614 people who had been arrested by the army in the conflict zones and held in army-controlled prisons

without being charged. The delegation provided them with *ad hoc* food and material assistance on their release.

As in the previous year, the delegation carried out visits to military barracks used as transit centres for people arrested by the army. From 20 February to 24 March the delegates visited 13 barracks in Kampala and the north and east of the country, where they registered and interviewed without witnesses 615 detainees. Following this series of visits, the ICRC submitted to the Ugandan authorities a summary report containing observations made by the delegates and suggestions for improving conditions of detention. From the end of March the ICRC was not allowed to visit the barracks. It was only at the end of the year that it received a new authorization after making numerous approaches to President Museveni and, regarding practical aspects of visits, to the Minister of State for Defence.

Representations and activities for civilians

Following evaluation missions to **Gulu** and **Soroti** districts during the last quarter of 1988, the ICRC delegation set up emergency medical and material assistance programmes for displaced people who had assembled around towns and villages in the area. During the year the programmes were stepped up because of an increase in the number of displaced people and the fact that the resident population was also hard hit by the conflict.

The agricultural programme carried out in Gulu and Soroti districts was aimed at enabling the resident population and the displaced people who had gone back to their homes, in accordance with the government policy of return, to regain self-sufficiency in producing food. Two distributions were made, in March and August, during which some 30,000 families received several hundred tonnes of seed (sorghum, beans, etc.) and farming tools. At the same time the ICRC continued to provide food and material assistance to about 10,000 displaced families assembled in camps. ICRC doctors and nurses gave medical consultations, vaccinated children and women of child-bearing age and arranged for the wounded and sick in need of treatment to be taken to government hospitals.

In addition to assistance activities, the Kampala delegation concerned itself with the protection of the civilian population. A report setting out the problems encountered by civilians in the north and east of the country was forwarded to President Museveni on 5 September. Delegates working in the field also took every available opportunity to remind the military authorities of their obligation to respect civilians and civilian property.

Activities for Sudanese refugees

The fighting which affected southern Sudan in 1989 forced many Sudanese civilians and military personnel to seek refuge in Uganda, mainly in **West Nile** province and in the **Kitgum** area. The ICRC delegation in Kampala was concerned about their plight; the delegates conducted several missions to West Nile province to assess the refugees' living conditions and carry out Tracing Agency work. *Ad hoc* material and food aid was distributed to some 5,000 Sudanese refugees before they were repatriated under a bilateral agreement between the governments of Uganda and Sudan. The ICRC also put an airplane at the disposal of the UNHCR for 10 days to enable it to transport 3,000 Sudanese refugees from Kitgum to Adjumani (West Nile), where the UNHCR has suitable accommodation facilities.

Tracing Agency

As part of the delegation's activities in places of detention in Uganda, the delegates registered new detainees, dealt with tracing requests and distributed family messages exchanged between prisoners and their relatives.

Close co-operation was maintained between the Uganda Red Cross Society tracing service and the ICRC's Tracing Agency office in Kampala. More than 250 tracing requests were processed and about 18,000 Red Cross messages forwarded on behalf of detainees, displaced persons and refugees.

Activities for the disabled

Following the agreement reached in October 1988, the orthopaedic programme conducted jointly by the Ministry of Health, the British Red Cross, the Uganda Red Cross Society, the Italian co-operation agency and the ICRC expanded rapidly in 1989. Under the supervision of an ICRC technician, the orthopaedic workshop at Mulago Hospital in Kampala treated 72 patients and produced about 160 prostheses and orthopaedic appliances, over 150 wheelchairs and nearly 1,600 pairs of crutches.

Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

As was the case for assistance and tracing work, the delegation's activities to disseminate knowledge of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and of international humanitarian law were conducted in close co-operation with

the Uganda Red Cross Society, in particular with the National Society's 10 regional field officers.

The two mobile dissemination units (vehicles equipped with projection material, documentation, etc.) were used throughout the country to organize dissemination sessions in towns and rural areas for different target groups (members of the Red Cross, the armed forces, the police, schoolchildren, etc.).

In the second half of 1989 the delegation was authorized to set up a dissemination programme for the armed forces. Until the end of the year delegates gave talks at a number of barracks throughout the country.

The Uganda Red Cross Society and the ICRC also organized a celebration of the 125th anniversary of the initial Geneva Convention, with about a dozen theatrical groups presenting short plays about the Red Cross. Finally, throughout the year the ICRC delegation worked on promoting knowledge of the Red Cross among the general public through radio and television broadcasts, seminars, newspaper articles, etc.

OTHER COUNTRIES

KENYA — During the period under review, the ICRC regional delegation in Nairobi maintained regular contact with the authorities and National Societies in Kenya, the Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Seychelles and Tanzania. The delegation also served as an important logistics base for operations conducted in Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Somalia. In addition, it carried out Tracing Agency work such as forwarding family messages, processing tracing requests and issuing travel documents, mainly for Ugandan nationals.

In Kenya itself, the delegates continued their work on disseminating international humanitarian law, in co-operation with the National Society. Throughout the year talks were given to students of the Law Faculty of Nairobi University, personnel of the Kenya Red Cross, journalists, jurists from various ministries and officers from Kenya's armed forces. At the beginning of November, a three-day seminar in Nairobi brought together about 15 university professors for a comparative study of African customary law and international humanitarian law.

COMOROS — The regional delegate was in the Comoros during the events which shook the country in late November and early December. He reminded the parties concerned of the need to respect fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. He also met National Society of-

ficials and assured them of ICRC support for the Society's work.

DJIBOUTI — The ICRC regional delegate went to Djibouti twice, in June and December, to meet representatives of the National Society. In addition, in September a delegate sent from Geneva met the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Justice to encourage the government to accede to the Additional Protocols.

MADAGASCAR — The regional delegate went to Madagascar three times, in February, May and August. During his missions he encouraged the development of the National Society and pursued contacts with the armed forces and university circles to promote dissemination of international humanitarian law. In this connection he gave talks to members of the armed forces, university students and the general public and, in conjunction with the National Society, organized a photo exhibition. In addition, talks aimed at encouraging ratification of the Additional Protocols were pursued with the government authorities.

SEYCHELLES — The regional delegate travelled to the Seychelles in October. The purpose of his mission was to support the efforts of the emerging National Society and to give lectures on international humanitarian law to members of the armed forces and the Red Cross.

TANZANIA — The Nairobi regional delegation supported the National Society's dissemination activities. A vehicle provided by the ICRC made it possible to organize dissemination sessions throughout the country. Moreover, in September a delegate specialized in dissemination among the armed forces conducted a course on the law of war for about 20 senior officers of the Tanzanian army.

Central and West Africa

CHAD

As a consequence of the armed clashes between Chad and Libya that persisted until the cease-fire of 11 September 1988, all the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, to which both sides were party, were applicable. In spite of this, ICRC representations made with a view to discharging its mandate, especially for Libyan prisoners of war held by Chad, were not successful in 1989. This situation

constituted a serious violation of international humanitarian law, especially of the provisions relative to the treatment of prisoners of war.

Representations and activities for prisoners held in Chad

Chadian prisoners

On 13 January, the last 140 Chadian prisoners detained in N'Djamena prison were released (312 prisoners had already been released at the end of 1988). After making sure that released persons whose state of health required prolonged medical care would continue to be treated, the ICRC nurse left the delegation after six years of work for that category of detainee (see previous *Annual Reports*).

Prisoners of war from Libya and other countries

In accordance with the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention, which give the ICRC a mandate to visit all persons captured during an international armed conflict, the ICRC made repeated representations to the Chad authorities throughout the year for access to prisoners of war from Libya and other countries held by the Chad National Armed Forces. The head of delegation in N'Djamena remained in close contact with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Deputy Delegate General for Africa travelled to Chad at the end of January to hand over to the authorities a letter from the ICRC President. In addition, the ICRC made an appeal to States party to the Geneva Conventions on the basis of Article 1 common to the Conventions. The Organization of African Unity was informed of this step at its headquarters in Addis Ababa. On 8 September the ICRC President met Chad's Minister of Foreign Affairs while in Belgrade for the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement and confirmed his intention to accept the invitation extended at the end of August to visit Chad.

The visit took place from 4 to 8 November. During a meeting with President Hissène Habré, the ICRC President noted the existence of an agreement in principle on the ICRC carrying out the mandate conferred on it by the Conventions with regard to prisoners of war. After that meeting the Chad authorities set up a follow-up committee in charge of defining the procedure whereby the ICRC could discharge its mandate under the Conventions.

At the end of the year no tangible progress had been made, and the ICRC still had no information regarding the number of prisoners, their identity, state of health and

conditions of detention. Libya was kept informed of the measures taken by the ICRC.

Activities for war amputees

The ICRC continued to run the orthopaedic centre in Kabalaye, N'Djamena, in co-operation with "Secours catholique et développement" (Catholic Development Fund). Renovation and extension work started in 1988 was completed at the beginning of the year. Three ICRC orthopaedic technicians work in the centre. A two-year training programme for orthopaedic technicians, attended by 11 trainees, got under way in early January. During the period under review 89 patients were fitted, and 182 prostheses and 201 pairs of crutches were produced.

During his visit to Chad the ICRC President visited the workshop and met representatives of the organization with which the ICRC runs the centre.

Tracing Agency

Since its activities had practically come to a standstill, the Tracing Agency Office in N'Djamena was closed down in mid-1989 and the remaining files were transferred to Geneva.

Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

In co-operation with the Red Cross of Chad, the ICRC continued its dissemination activities for members of the National Society, schoolchildren and the general public. Moreover, in November the ICRC President gave a talk to some 200 students at N'Djamena University about international humanitarian law and the activities of the ICRC.

SENEGAL/MAURITANIA

Following the ethnic clashes that broke out in Mauritania and Senegal at the beginning of April, at the request of the two National Societies and on the basis of agreements with the two governments the ICRC undertook a number of activities for victims of the events. At the height of the operation a total of 16 delegates were working in the two countries, forming two teams each of which included a Tracing Agency specialist, a sanitary engineer and a doctor. In Geneva, the ICRC and the League reached an agreement on their respective roles, and the ICRC allocated 1.9

million Swiss francs to its emergency operation which focused on the following:

- protection and assistance activities for Senegalese and other ethnic minority groups in Mauritania, and for Mauritians in Senegal;
- assistance for people returning (voluntarily or under duress) to their countries of origin;
- traditional Tracing Agency activities for persons separated by the events or without news of a close relative;
- support for the National Societies to strengthen their operational capacity.

Activities for people in danger because of their nationality or origin

The ICRC was concerned about the plight of people who were in possible danger because of their nationality (mainly Senegalese in Mauritania or Mauritians in Senegal) or origin (members of minority ethnic groups in Mauritania).

An ICRC doctor visited hospitals in both countries to make sure that wounded and sick foreigners were being given proper care. After making a complete survey of the medical situation, the ICRC carried out a two-way repatriation: 11 injured and seven sick persons accompanied by 14 relatives were flown from Dakar to Nouakchott on a medical aircraft provided by the French government, and on the return flight 23 injured and three relatives were taken from Nouakchott to Dakar. In both cases the injured and sick were examined by an ICRC doctor and asked whether they wished to return to their country of origin.

The ICRC also requested and was granted authorization by the two governments to tour prisons in order to check whether there were any foreign detainees and to make sure that they were not being discriminated against on the sole grounds of their ethnic origin or nationality. The delegates had access to three places of detention in Senegal (two in Dakar and one in the provinces) and 13 in Mauritania (two in Nouakchott and 11 in the provinces).

During the visits, which were carried out in accordance with standard ICRC procedure, 12 people were registered in Senegal and 69 in Mauritania, and *ad hoc* material assistance was provided as needed.

Besides activities for foreign nationals detained or wounded during the events, while the situation was still unclear ICRC delegates assessed the living conditions of other vulnerable population groups on either side of the frontier. Numerous

missions were carried out in both countries, especially in the border region along the River Senegal.

Activities for persons returning to their countries of origin

In both Senegal and Mauritania the ICRC launched programmes to provide material, medical and food assistance to the many people who had crossed the border voluntarily or had been forced to do so. ICRC specialists provided advice on setting up camps and arranged for extensive work on repairing or rebuilding houses and building shelters for the new arrivals.

In mid-May, faced with a massive influx of people from Mauritania in the region of the River Senegal, the delegation based in Dakar set up an assistance programme in centres where the refugees had assembled. Food and material assistance was provided to some 40,000 beneficiaries through the Senegalese Red Cross. From 1 July the programme, financed by several European governments, was turned over to the UNHCR since the people in question were covered by its mandate.

In Nouakchott an ICRC engineer designed sanitary facilities for a camp housing people repatriated from Senegal. Once the work was completed, the camp was placed under the administration of the Mauritanian Red Crescent. The ICRC also carried out repairs on the sanitary infrastructure of the central prison in Nouakchott.

Tracing Agency

On both sides of the border the ICRC worked with the two National Societies to set up a tracing network to meet the needs of tens of thousands of people who were repatriated in an airlift operation organized by the two governments or had crossed from one country to the other, often at night and in great haste. Two tracing delegates were dispatched from Geneva to train personnel in Senegal and Mauritania and to open a tracing office in each National Society. By the end of the year about 1,550 Red Cross messages had been exchanged and over 1,450 tracing requests received.

Support for the National Societies

The National Societies of Mauritania and Senegal were entrusted with important tasks by their respective governments. They worked in close co-operation with the relevant authorities in providing medical and food aid to vulnerable population groups. Following consultations

between the League and the ICRC in May and in view of the nature of the disturbances in Senegal and Mauritania, it was decided that the ICRC would be in charge of co-ordinating activities and the support given to the two National Societies.

The ICRC also worked on strengthening the operational capacity of the two National Societies, providing financial assistance to meet urgent needs, as well as vehicles and first-aid kits. The aid given to the Mauritanian Red Crescent and the Senegalese Red Cross amounted to 314,000 and 313,000 Swiss francs respectively.

ICRC's gradual disengagement

At the end of June the situation had become more stable and the ICRC was able to scale down gradually its presence in the two countries. The disengagement plan was presented to the authorities of both on several occasions, including the OAU summit in Addis Ababa where Mr. Rudolf Jäckli, a member of the Committee, met the President of Senegal, Mr. Abdou Diouf, and Mauritania's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Jäckli clearly stated that the ICRC's disengagement did not imply its complete withdrawal from the two countries and that the institution would continue to discharge its mandate as long as circumstances required.

At the end of the year the situation in Senegal was being monitored by the regional delegation in Dakar, while events in Mauritania were followed by the regional delegation in Tunis, which maintained an additional delegate in Nouakchott.

OTHER COUNTRIES

BENIN — During the period under review the regional delegate based in Lomé maintained close contact with the Beninese authorities during regular missions to Cotonou. In July she was received by the Head of State, Mr. Mathieu Kerekou, who was accompanied by the Minister of the Interior, Public Security and Territorial Administration. On that occasion the delegate informed President Kerekou of the observations made by ICRC delegates during visits to security detainees. From 24 April to 19 May the delegates, one of them an ICRC doctor, had interviewed without witnesses 156 security detainees in 16 places of detention and distributed medical and material assistance to some 2,500 detainees as needed. In addition, a technical mission was carried out in September to nine places of detention, of which seven had already been visited in 1988. The visit

showed that repair and renovation work — recommended and financed by the ICRC in 1988 — on sanitary facilities had been completed.

BURUNDI — Throughout the year the regional delegate based in Kinshasa maintained contact with Burundi's highest authorities. He met the Prime Minister and Minister of Planning, Mr. Sibomana, the Minister of Justice, Mr. E. Niyonkuru, the Minister of the Interior, Lt.-Col. A. Kadoyi, and the National Police Administrator, Mr. L. Niyonkuru.

At the beginning of the year the Minister of Justice authorized the ICRC to make quarterly visits to persons arrested on account of ethnic clashes which had broken out in August 1988 in the communes of Ntega and Marangara (see *1988 Annual Report*). The first series of visits was conducted at the end of 1988. In January, May and November 1989 ICRC delegates saw, in accordance with the institution's criteria, 131 people detained for security reasons in 11 places of detention. *Ad hoc* material assistance was distributed as needed.

Moreover, in early 1989 the ICRC gradually phased out assistance programmes for victims of the events of August 1988. The need for Tracing Agency work having diminished considerably, Agency offices in Burundi and Rwanda were closed.

Distributions of material assistance were suspended in mid-March since nearly all the displaced people had gone back to their homes. Finally, the ICRC and the Burundi Red Cross signed a co-operation agreement aimed at encouraging dissemination of international humanitarian law among different target groups.

CONGO — The ICRC continued its efforts to promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law among the Congolese National People's Army. A delegate specialized in dissemination among the armed forces gave several courses and seminars to officers. In addition, speakers trained by the Congolese Red Cross and the ICRC gave numerous talks to a wide variety of target groups.

COTE D'IVOIRE — On 20 September 1989 Côte d'Ivoire ratified the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

From 29 March to 7 April, a regional course on international humanitarian law was organized in Abidjan for some 30 army officers from the seven member countries of the Agreement on Non-aggression and Defence Assistance (ANAD) and two observers (Benin and Guinea). The course was given by the regional delegate based in Lomé and a

delegate specialized in dissemination among the armed forces who had come from Geneva for the occasion.

GAMBIA — On 12 January 1989 Gambia acceded to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

From 23 to 27 February the regional delegate based in Lagos and an ICRC doctor visited detainees in the central prison in Banjul. The visit, during which 42 detainees were interviewed without witnesses, was conducted in accordance with standard ICRC procedure. The delegates noted that plumbing work suggested on the previous visit in February 1988 and financed by the ICRC had been carried out. Material assistance (paint, insecticide) and medical supplies were distributed.

GABON — As part of various events organized to raise funds for the emerging National Society, ICRC delegates co-operated with the Society's volunteers in giving talks on international humanitarian law for the general public. At the beginning of the year they also examined with National Society officials the conditions for the recognition of the Gabonese Red Cross by the ICRC.

GHANA — In March a five-day course on the law of war was given to about 20 high-ranking army officers. An ICRC delegate specialized in dissemination of international humanitarian law among the armed forces came from Geneva for the occasion.

LIBERIA — In January and February the regional delegate based in Lagos and an ICRC doctor visited 10 people detained in Monrovia's central prison following the attempted *coup d'état* of March 1988. At the beginning of July, an ICRC sanitary engineer visited the prison in order to carry out repair work on the electrical system and recommend further improvements to sanitation.

MALI — On 8 February, Mali acceded to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

NIGERIA — In addition to carrying out numerous missions to countries covered from Lagos, the regional delegate organized a seminar on communication and disaster preparedness. The seminar was held in Lagos from 28 March to 2 April and brought together Secretaries-General and dissemination officials from National Societies of English-speaking countries in West Africa.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC — The ICRC maintained contact with the authorities and the National So-

ciety and organized a seminar in Bangui from 16 to 20 May on international humanitarian law for the country's army officers. A delegate specialized in dissemination among the armed forces came from Geneva for the occasion.

RWANDA — In addition to its activities in the wake of the ethnic strife that broke out in Burundi in August 1988, the ICRC's regional delegation in Kinshasa pursued its approaches to the Rwandese authorities to obtain access to persons held for security reasons. Following the regional delegate's meeting with the Minister of Justice in March, a training course on international humanitarian law and the ICRC's traditional activities on behalf of detainees was organized in June for the officials in charge of prison medical and social services and representatives of the Ministry of Justice. The ICRC also provided financial support for several dissemination projects of the National Society.

SIERRA LEONE — In November a delegate specialized in dissemination among the armed forces gave a four-day course on the law of war in Freetown to about 20 officers from Gambia, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. He had working sessions with each delegation to draw up programmes for the dissemination of international humanitarian law in the different armies. Moreover, during a mission in June, the regional delegate based in Lagos worked out the terms of an agreement with National Society officials on the dissemination of international humanitarian law and conducted a seminar for prison officials.

TOGO — The regional delegate was received several times by the Minister of the Interior, General M. Amegi, with whom she discussed the possibility for the ICRC to resume its visits to security detainees arrested after the attempted *coup d'état* of September 1986 and previously visited in October of the same year. On 7 September General Amegi agreed in principle that the visits could be resumed. From 31 October to 4 November the delegates, including an ICRC doctor, interviewed without witnesses 14 people detained in Kara prison. A few days later they also visited, at police headquarters, three persons normally held at the General Information Bureau. After the visit to Kara prison, *ad hoc* material assistance (medicines, toiletries, clothing, games) was sent to the prison in question.

ZAIRE — From 20 to 23 February the Delegate General for Africa was in Kinshasa. His talks with numerous government representatives centred on the possibility for the ICRC to have regular access to all places of detention.

During the year ICRC delegates continued to visit places of detention whenever they were authorized to do so. In Kinshasa and in the provinces of Shaba, Bas-Zaïre and Equateur they visited a total of 341 persons detained for offences against State security. They had access to 54 places of detention run by the National Police Force, the Civil Guard, Military Security, the country's armed forces, the National Documentation Agency and the Justice Department. In addition, for the first time the ICRC was authorized to visit persons detained under the responsibility of the National Immigration Agency. In most cases the delegates were able to make regular follow-up visits in accordance with the institution's customary procedure.

As part of its detention activities, the ICRC distributed aid as needed to detainees and their families. The delegates also registered detainees visited for the first time, informed

families of their relatives' imprisonment and arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between detainees and their relatives.

The delegation in Kinshasa also maintained close contact with the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zaïre. In co-operation with the ICRC, the National Society organized training and proficiency courses for its dissemination officers. Throughout the year, they gave a number of talks on international humanitarian law to different target groups. The National Society and the ICRC also joined forces to set up a stand at the Kinshasa International Fair which is held every two years during the month of July. Finally, delegates specialized in dissemination were dispatched from Geneva to give courses and hold seminars for army officers and students at Kinshasa University.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1989

AFRICA

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Recipients	Relief		Medical assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		(Tonnes)	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
South Africa	Detainees, their families, refugees and civilians	194	405,721	—	405,721
Angola	Civilians and the disabled	6,075	6,481,090	307,744	6,788,834
Angola (south-east)	Displaced civilians, the war-wounded	25	138,751	118,606	257,357
Benin	Detainees	27	31,144	8,366	39,510
Burundi	Displaced civilians, detainees	126	201,027	—	201,027
Ethiopia	The disabled and various institutions	76	53,089	83,232	136,321
Ethiopia (Tigray and Eritrea, via Sudan)	The disabled and prisoners of war	68	609,407	242,018	851,425
Gambia	Detainees	2	9,977	4,284	14,261
Liberia	Detainees	—	—	4,296	4,296
Mozambique	Displaced civilians, detainees, the disabled	1,620	1,351,361	399,704	1,751,065
Namibia	Detainees, their families and refugees	41	54,073	—	54,073
Uganda	Displaced civilians, refugees, detainees	1,327	1,946,317	152,289	2,098,606
Senegal	Displaced civilians, refugees	369	875,863	3,684	879,547
Somalia	Displaced civilians, the war-wounded	34	55,273	747,839	803,112
Sudan	Displaced civilians	5,159	4,397,731	459,899	4,857,630
Sudan (conflict in southern Sudan, via Kenya)	Displaced civilians, the war-wounded	7,414	4,569,662	759,905	5,329,567
Chad	Detainees, the disabled and various institutions	40	79,755	121,240	200,995
Togo	Detainees	—	1,179	17,024	18,203
Zaire	Detainees and their families	27	48,406	6,568	54,974
Zambia	Displaced civilians, refugees and National Society	45	142,957	7,569	150,526
Zimbabwe	Displaced civilians, refugees, the disabled and National Society	130	104,179	102,769	206,948
TOTAL		22,799	21,556,962	3,547,036	25,103,998