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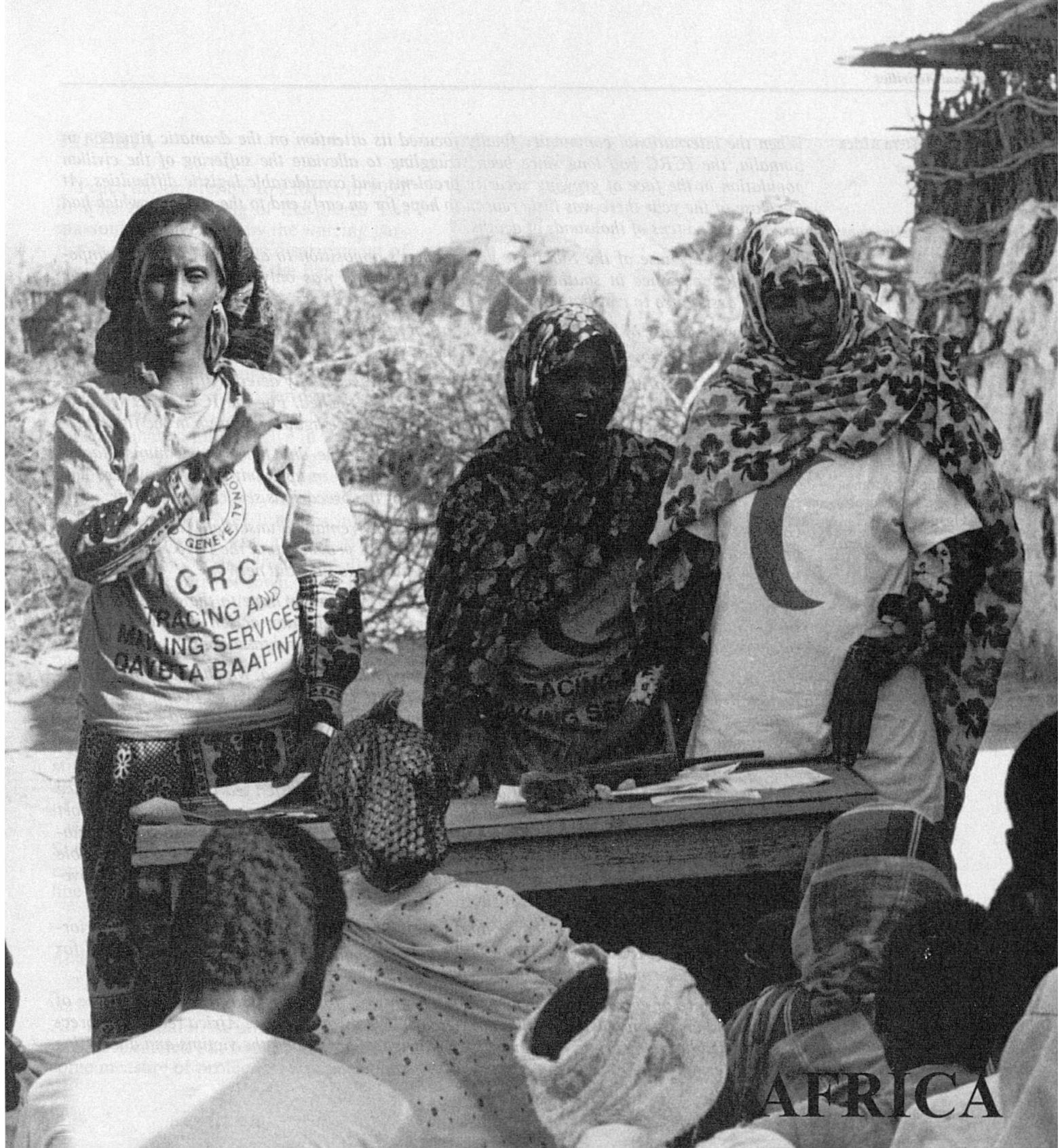
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AFRICA

**Central and Western Africa**

**ICRC delegations:**

Liberia, Mali,  
Sierra Leone

**ICRC regional delegations:**

Abidjan, Dakar, Kinshasa,  
Lagos, Yaounde

**Southern Africa**

**ICRC delegations:**

Angola, Mozambique,  
Namibia, South Africa

**ICRC regional delegation:**

Harare

**Eastern Africa**

**ICRC delegations:**

Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda,  
Somalia (based in Nairobi),  
Sudan, Uganda

**ICRC regional delegation:**

Nairobi

**Staff**

ICRC expatriates\* : 280

National Societies\* : 66

Local employees\*\* : 2695

**Total expenditure**

CHF 394,019,467

*When the international community finally focused its attention on the dramatic situation in Somalia, the ICRC had long since been struggling to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population in the face of growing security problems and considerable logistic difficulties. At the close of the year there was little reason to hope for an early end to the violence, which had already caused tens of thousands of deaths.*

*Meanwhile, because of the Sudanese government's opposition to any permanent or temporary ICRC presence in southern Sudan, the institution was only able to provide limited medical assistance to conflict victims in the area.*

*The growing needs of the Rwandese population affected by the unrest in the north of the country called for increasing ICRC involvement.*

*Towards the end of the year the situation in Angola was steadily deteriorating in spite of the Bicesse agreement, and hopes of a lasting peace were dashed. For the ICRC this spelt renewed concern for the plight of the civilian population once again caught up in the fighting.*

*The conflict in Liberia and in neighbouring Sierra Leone and the ensuing humanitarian needs gave the ICRC cause for great concern, especially in up-country Liberia where delegates could not carry out their mandate because of the precarious security conditions.*

*Growing unrest in Zaire, where the political situation remained unsettled, led to fresh outbreaks of violence between rival communities in Shaba province and the ICRC increased its efforts to help the National Society build up a nationwide first-aid network.*

*In Mozambique, the successful peace negotiations brought new hope to the civilian population, whose needs nevertheless remained enormous. Emergency action was necessary in many isolated areas until other humanitarian organizations could take over.*

*Yet there were some remarkably promising developments in Africa, which must not be overlooked in the general picture of growing distress. The ICRC mandate on behalf of security detainees was given wider recognition, especially in South Africa, Malawi and Ethiopia, but also among opposition groups involved in active confrontations with their countries' authorities.*

*In West Africa, where the political and economic difficulties often led to sporadic violence as popular dissatisfaction grew, the ICRC implemented numerous programmes to support the National Societies' efforts to improve their emergency preparedness. The ICRC contributed mainly by training first-aid teams and donating vehicles where necessary. Considerable progress was made in 1992 in this field and in promoting public awareness of the Movement's principles and emblem.*

*Increasing knowledge and respect for international humanitarian law also remained a priority task for the ICRC all over Africa and countless seminars and workshops were held for members of the armed forces, the police and other target groups.*

*Sadly, in spite of encouraging signs in some countries, 1992 will be remembered as one of widespread unrest and distress, and once again ICRC involvement in Africa reached unprecedented heights to meet the ever-growing challenge of protecting the victims and alleviating their suffering.*

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\* average numbers calculated on an annual basis

\*\* as at December 1992

## LIBERIA

Peace did not return to Liberia in 1992 in spite of the signing of the fourth Yamassoukro agreement by the warring parties in October 1991. The disarmament of the NPFL\* fighters and the handover of the territory they held to ECOMOG\*\* forces did not take place by mid-January as planned. Although roads were reopened and communications improved, Liberia remained a divided country.

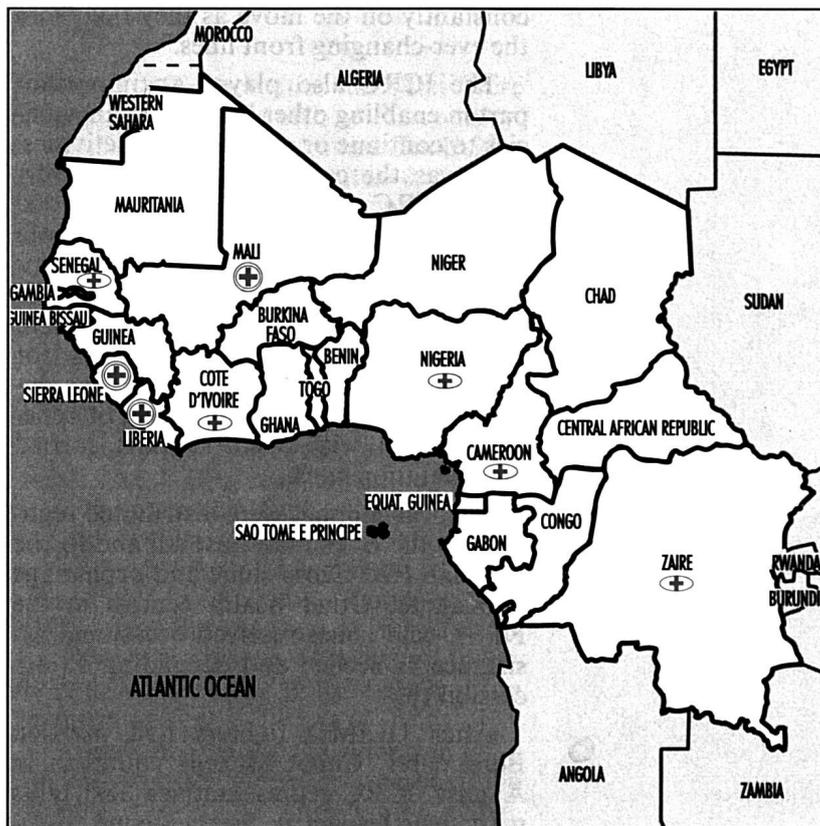
The situation soon deteriorated again and half way through the year ULIMO\*\*\* forces launched an offensive in Bomi and Cape Mount. Because of the growing insecurity, ECOWAS\*\* withdrew all its troops from areas held by the NPFL.

On 15 October, NPFL troops initiated a massive attack in and around Monrovia, causing some 200,000 people to seek refuge in the centre of town. Both the Liberian Red Cross and the ICRC became involved in the evacuation of the wounded and other emergency work. On 24 October the ICRC formally appealed to the warring parties to abide by international humanitarian law and respect the Red Cross emblem. However, the increasingly dangerous conditions forced the institution to withdraw its expatriates from all regions held by the NPFL at the end of the month.

In this war-torn country, the National Society managed to preserve its unity and remain active on both sides of the front line with the support of the ICRC.

### Activities for the civilian population

The ICRC's main cause for concern was the plight of the civilian population. All relief, sanitation and medical activities were carried out bearing in mind that some measure of protection was provided



⊕ ICRC regional delegation

⊕ ICRC delegation/sub-delegation

by the regular presence of delegates in war-affected areas, such as Grand Gedeh and Lofa counties. A large-scale distribution of non-food relief supplies, which had been launched in December 1991, came to an end in February having covered some 10,000 displaced people in Grand Gedeh. ICRC relief activities were mostly carried out on an *ad hoc* basis, however, since displaced people were

\* National Patriotic Front of Liberia (Charles Taylor)

\*\* Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS)

\*\*\* United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy

constantly on the move as they fled from the ever-changing front lines.

The ICRC also played an important part in enabling other humanitarian agencies to continue or resume relief activities. This was the case, for instance, in July when ICRC delegates opened the road leading to the north-western part of Lofa county. Some 100,000 Sierra Leoneans had sought refuge in this area from the fighting in their own country, and had been cut off from relief supplies for months. The National Society was involved in estimating the numbers of beneficiaries and, with ICRC support, carried out sanitation work.

Medical supplies were distributed regularly to the Buchanan hospital and to the Liberian Red Cross clinic and orphanage in Kakata. Other health centres in the NPFL-held zones received occasional assistance as needed and depending on accessibility.

After ULIMO fighters had invaded Bomi and Cape Mount counties in August, ICRC representatives held talks with their leaders in Sierra Leone to remind them of the basic humanitarian principles and the meaning of the Red Cross emblem. General lack of security in these areas had already led to the withdrawal of all other foreign aid agencies in February. On 26 August a tragic incident, in which a local employee was shot dead and an expatriate wounded, caused the ICRC to halt all field work in the two counties.

When fighting broke out in Monrovia, an ambulance fleet of eight vehicles was set up by the ICRC, the National Society and other humanitarian agencies. From mid-October to the end of December, some 1,500 wounded and sick people were evacuated and taken to hospital. In spite of the high number of casualties, the

capital's hospitals had sufficient medical supplies to meet most needs and only limited ICRC assistance was required.

In addition to protection activities, the ICRC helped supply the capital with drinking water when the main pumping station in White Plains broke down. Out of a total of 64 shallow wells dug by the ICRC in 1991 and 1992, 21 were rehabilitated, while others remained inaccessible because of the fighting. An information campaign on basic health rules and disease prevention was also carried out. On a "food for work" basis, Monrovia City Corporation staff continued, as in 1991, to clear refuse and keep public drains in good repair, with ICRC support.

Prior to the flare-up of violence in October, the ICRC consolidated and ensured the maintenance of the wells dug in 1991 and 1992 in the capital and in other towns and villages.

After the ICRC withdrew its expatriate teams from NPFL zones because of the increasing danger for foreign aid workers, medical supplies were forwarded from Man in Côte d'Ivoire, where a logistics base and stocks had been set up, to local ICRC staff and National Society teams who had remained in Gbarnga. Together they continued to support health centres and the clinic in Kakata.

As from June, when communications were to a large extent restored, most people could keep in touch with their relatives without help from the ICRC. Tracing activities therefore concentrated on special cases, family reunifications in particular. A total of 45 families were reunited thanks to the ICRC's tracing work. Some of the people concerned had been living in NPFL areas and were taken across the front line, while others rejoined their families who had sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

### Activities for detainees

In January, the ICRC was able to visit detainees in the hands of the NPFL in Gbarnga. They had been visited on several occasions in 1991. Fourteen detained people were freed after the ICRC intervened on their behalf and were taken back to their homes. On 24 June, ICRC representatives were able to meet Charles Taylor in Gbarnga and request free access to victims trapped in conflict areas and to all detainees. Dissemination activities were also discussed. Mr Taylor complied with the delegates' requests, but owing to implementation problems no further visits to detainees were made.

In Monrovia, following contacts with the Liberian Armed Forces, the Interim Government of National Unity and ECOMOG, delegates began visits to the capital's two main detention centres at the end of October. Visits continued on a regular basis in November and December. In all, 267 detainees falling within the ICRC's mandate were registered; 119 of them were still detained at the end of the year. Among the prisoners were 29 minors under 15 who were later transferred to a UNICEF-run rehabilitation centre. Some 60 detainees were put into the care of the National Readjustment Centre which caters for ex-combatants.

### Dissemination

Promotion of respect for the Red Cross emblem and dissemination of international humanitarian law remained high on the ICRC's agenda. Indeed, misuse of the emblem undoubtedly accounted for many of the incidents in which Red Cross staff were hampered in their work or even directly threatened. The ICRC supported the National Society's dissemination efforts throughout the country, in particular their television and radio broadcasts.

## MALI

The ICRC's activities in Mali were concentrated in the north of the country, especially in the area around Timbuktu, where Tuareg factions, united under the MFUA,\* were engaged in armed opposition against the government. Peace talks initiated in Algeria in 1991 led to the signing of a National Pact on 12 April 1992 and the gradual implementation of plans to stabilize the situation in the north.

However, security incidents still occurred and foreign aid workers found the situation too dangerous to resume regular field work. The ICRC maintained high-level contacts with the country's authorities and in April a headquarters agreement was signed and a delegation formally opened in the capital, Bamako. The ICRC also met leaders of the Tuareg movement on numerous occasions, to ensure its acceptance of ICRC field work in the north.

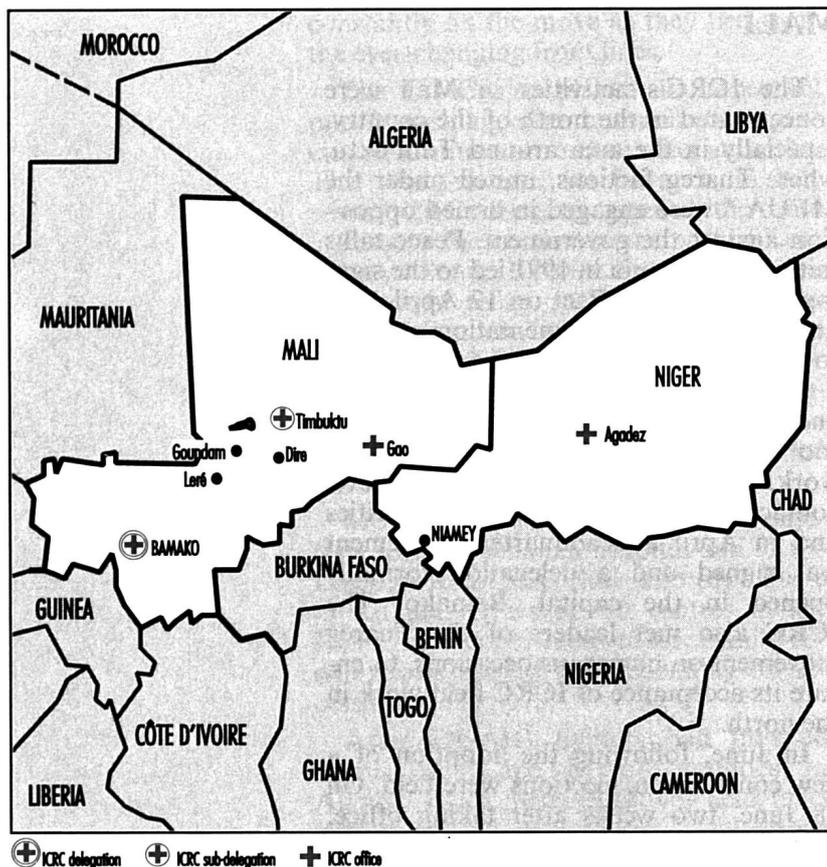
In June, following the adoption of a new constitution, elections were held. On 18 June, two weeks after taking office, President Alpha Oumar Konare received the ICRC and expressed his support for the institution's activities. He also asked to be informed of any allegations reported to delegates in the field concerning violations of humanitarian rules by his security forces. From then on, the ICRC was frequently granted high-level interviews with the new government.

For activities relating to Malian refugees in Mauritania, see *Mauritania*.

### Activities for the civilian population

With the approval of the authorities and the MFUA, the ICRC was able to carry out its traditional activities in the

\* United Movements and Fronts of Azawad



north of the country. Promoting the protection of the civilian population was the main purpose of the delegates' field work and they duly passed on to both the government and the Tuareg factions allegations regarding violations of international humanitarian law. In February five offices manned by local staff were opened in the Timbuktu area and an ICRC branch was set up in Gao.

Besides monitoring the situation and holding innumerable dissemination sessions, delegates assisted vulnerable groups cut off from their usual means of subsistence, other aid agencies having withdrawn from the north owing to repeated security

incidents. In all, ICRC delegates distributed some 706 tonnes of relief in 1992. Medical supplies were taken to outlying health posts, dispensaries and hospitals in the area around Timbuktu to rehabilitate them and make it easier for all ethnic communities to have access to medical care. The National Society's dispensary in Gao also received ICRC supplies.

One of the ICRC's main targets for 1992 was to help the National Society build up and train its first-aid emergency teams. On several occasions, ICRC and National Society personnel evacuated people injured in various security incidents. On 27 June, for instance, when fighting broke out in Gao between Songhraï and Tamashek communities following an attack on a Tamashek village, about 20 casualties were taken to hospital. Prior to that, the newly reinforced Mali Red Cross emergency teams had evacuated the dead and the wounded from Bamako central prison where a mutiny had broken out on 26 March.

In addition, the ICRC held a seminar on international humanitarian law in Bamako in March for some 20 instructors of the Mali armed forces.

#### Activities for detainees

In 1992, delegates continued to carry out regular visits to places of detention in Bamako and other towns. The authorizations received in 1991 were confirmed by the new government elected in June. The detainees visited by the ICRC were mainly members of the government ousted in March 1991 and people held in connection with the Tuareg rebellion in the north. On one occasion ICRC delegates also had access to people captured by one of the opposition factions. Where necessary, the ICRC offered medical and material assistance for the detainees and provided them with tracing services.

In February, the ICRC formally offered to act as a neutral intermediary for the liberation of detainees held by the Mali authorities and by the Tuareg rebels. Two months later, in accordance with the National Pact, 24 prisoners previously interviewed by the ICRC to check that they did in fact wish to be released were freed in the north of the country under ICRC auspices. Soon after, 28 people held by the Tuareg rebels were freed and flown to Bamako where they were received by the authorities in the presence of ICRC delegates.

## NIGER

In order to monitor the humanitarian needs arising from political tensions between the Tuareg opposition and the Niger government, in the north of the country, an ICRC delegate arrived in Niamey at the beginning of June and opened an office in Agadez a month later.

During the OAU\* summit which took place in Dakar in June, the ICRC Vice-President had talks with the Prime Minister of Niger, Mr Amadou Cheiffou. Matters such as visits to security detainees and ICRC presence in the northern provinces were discussed.

## SIERRA LEONE

The region bordering on Liberia continued to be affected by two ongoing conflicts. Besides suffering the effects of the civil strife in Liberia, many Sierra Leoneans in the eastern provinces had to flee from the internal unrest that resulted when the RUF\*\* took up arms in February 1991. Some crossed the border into

Liberia together with Liberians who had previously sought refuge in Sierra Leone. Others became displaced elsewhere in their own country.

On 27 April, General Joseph Momoh was ousted from power and the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) led by Captain Valentine Strasser was established. In spite of the peace overtures made by the NPRC, the RUF continued its operations and the fighting intensified in the last quarter of the year.

Meanwhile, fighting between Charles Taylor's NPFL and ULIMO caused many Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia to return to their home country (see *Liberia*).

In February, the ICRC had been granted permission by General Momoh to resume its visits to security detainees. This matter was raised with the new authorities and a formal offer was handed over on 18 May to the Secretary of State and personal adviser to the President, Mr John Benjamin. On 11 June, the Deputy Delegate General was received by the new Head of State, Captain Strasser, who agreed in principle to allow delegates to visit detainees. ICRC delegates also contacted the new head of the armed forces, Colonel J.S. Gottor, to discuss dissemination of international humanitarian law and detention matters.

### Activities for detainees

Following the agreement reached with the new authorities, delegates visited security detainees in Freetown Central Prison in June. The report on the June visit was handed over to Lt-Col Akim Gibril, Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, in August, and a second

\* Organization of African Unity

\*\* Revolutionary United Front

visit was made shortly afterwards. A third visit to Freetown Central Prison took place in November.

On 23 October, the army Chief of Staff gave the ICRC permission to visit all people arrested in connection with the conflict in the eastern province of Sierra Leone. However, security incidents prevented the planned visits from being carried out.

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

In the areas affected by the fighting, especially in and around Zimmi, the ICRC provided assistance for an average of 10,000 displaced civilians, returnees from Liberia and local people who were unable to farm their land for security reasons. Frequent ICRC missions in the area also afforded a measure of protection for civilians, in particular Sierra Leoneans returning from exile in Liberia who were screened for possible connections with the opposition. In addition, delegates provided the severely undernourished returnees with supplementary food and in some areas people were given seeds and tools to grow their own crops. The ICRC distributed some 950 tonnes of food and 30 tonnes of rice and vegetable seed during the year. The ICRC also set up a mobile clinic which visited villages cut off from medical services.

When fighting broke out in the streets of Freetown in April in connection with the *coup*, the ICRC helped the National Society give first aid and evacuate the wounded. The ICRC nurse also assisted local hospitals in dealing with the sudden influx of patients.

In September and October the ICRC attempted to reach the civilians affected by an upsurge of violence in the two regions held by the RUF rebels, but owing to the poor security conditions and two

serious incidents in which the Red Cross emblem was not respected, no field work was possible.

## **ABIDJAN**

### **Regional delegation**

**(Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone: see separate sections above for these last two countries)**

The regional delegations in West Africa were reorganized in the middle of 1992. A new delegation was opened in Abidjan and the Lagos regional delegation took over responsibility for ICRC activities in Togo and Benin. The main activities of the Abidjan regional delegation, apart from supervising ICRC work in countries affected by internal disturbances or outright civil war, were the traditional tasks of dissemination and support for the National Societies in its area. However, like in Lagos, the emphasis was laid on setting up or reinforcing local emergency first-aid teams and increasing awareness and knowledge among the public and the authorities of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross emblem and principles.

## **BURKINA FASO**

The regional delegation launched an information campaign on the Red Cross emblem which lasted from 1 to 17 June. In addition, the ICRC supported the National Society's assistance programme for detainees.

## **CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

On 2 July, the ICRC's Vice-President, Mr Claudio Caratsch, travelled to Abidjan where he had talks with the Ministry for

Foreign Affairs on the signing of a headquarters agreement. Following these meetings and previous contacts with the authorities, the new regional delegation was installed and opened its offices in August.

In March, the ICRC held an emergency preparedness workshop for Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross first-aid teams. This meeting was followed by a seminar for local journalists. The Ministers of Health and Information attended the opening ceremony.

In May, the ICRC regional delegate was received by the Minister of Justice to initiate discussions concerning visits to security detainees.

## DAKAR

### Regional delegation

(Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Senegal)

The regional delegate travelled to Gambia on several occasions to discuss matters of common interest with the National Society, such as the building-up of local emergency teams and their equipment, the protection of the emblem, the dissemination of international humanitarian law, and the Gambia Red Cross social welfare programme for detainees. Talks were also initiated on similar issues in Guinea Bissau with representatives of the National Society.

## SENEGAL

On 17 April, President Abdou Diouf was in Geneva where he met the President of the ICRC, Mr Sommaruga, the Vice-President, Mr Caratsch, and the Delegate General for Africa. He was accompanied by his Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Djibo Ka. The situation in Liberia and

Sudan was among the matters raised. Mr Diouf also expressed the wish that the ICRC increase its presence in West Africa in view of the mounting tension in several countries covered by the regional delegation. The ICRC Vice-President was in turn received by President Diouf in Dakar during the OAU summit meeting (see also *International Organizations*).

Civil unrest in the Casamance region of southern Senegal continued to affect the civilian population and even caused families to cross the border into Gambia and Guinea Bissau. Although the MFDC\* signed a peace agreement with the Senegalese government in Bissau on 31 May 1991, the movement took up arms again at the end of the year.

The ICRC carried out several missions to the area in 1992 to monitor the situation and hold talks with local authorities and opposition groups. In June, when Vice-President Caratsch travelled to Senegal, he and the president of the National Society took part in one of these missions. Back in Dakar, Mr Caratsch met the Ministers of the Interior and Health and the army Chief of Staff. National Society teams were subsequently given permission to evacuate both MFDC fighters and civilians wounded during attacks. Six first-aid teams had been set up and trained earlier in the year with ICRC support. Emergency preparedness courses were also held in Dakar together with the Senegalese Red Cross.

In Casamance, the situation continued to deteriorate and by August the Senegalese army was sent in to restore order. On 1 and 2 September fighting near Zingichor left 55 dead and about 70 wounded. Some 5,000 people fled to neighbouring Gambia and Guinea Bissau. The Gambia

\* Democratic Front of Casamance Movement

Red Cross set up a relief programme for the refugees whose main source of assistance was UNHCR.\*

Later in the year the situation was far from calm and sporadic fighting broke out on several occasions, causing deaths and injuries among civilians and combatants and forcing more people to flee. As a result of the growing insecurity, some 20,000 people left their homes but remained in Casamance. A relief programme, to be implemented with the help of the National Society, was being set up at year's end to help these displaced families.

## **KINSHASA**

### **Regional delegation**

**(Congo, Zaire)**

#### **ZAIRE**

Political tension ran high in Zaire throughout 1992. The general situation deteriorated as popular dissatisfaction grew and riots broke out repeatedly in Kinshasa and other parts of the country. In Shaba region political unrest led to violence between people originally from Kasai and the Katangans, forcing many Kasaians to leave their homes.

One of the ICRC's priorities was to support the National Society's efforts to build up its first-aid teams and improve their ability to deal with emergency situations. Delegates also carried out surveys in areas where disturbances had been reported and continued to visit detainees, mainly in the capital.

#### **Assistance for the civilian population**

When a demonstration led to street fighting between security forces and pro-

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\* Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

testers in Kinshasa on 16 February, local Red Cross first-aid teams and ICRC delegates transferred more than 30 wounded to hospital. In order to improve the National Society's ability to respond to such emergencies, the ICRC sent a nurse on a six-month mission to reorganize the National First-Aid Commission (a Zaire Red Cross body), together with the local Red Cross teams.

ICRC delegates carried out several missions to Shaba region following the disturbances arising from political tension between the Katangan and Kasaiian communities. Family homes had been destroyed and many people had fled the area to escape pressure from groups of local activists. In August, with the help of the local Red Cross, delegates distributed food and medical supplies to the most needy displaced people from both communities. The ICRC then reported its findings to the Zairian authorities, asking them to ensure greater respect for minority groups.

By October the situation had deteriorated considerably and more and more Kasaians (some 62,000) left their homes. Zaire Red Cross first-aiders worked in the trains carrying Kasaians back to their places of origin, which their families had left several generations earlier. At the end of the year the ICRC, with help from the Zaire Red Cross, set up an emergency relief programme for some 9,000 displaced people, including children suffering from malnutrition, who were living in camps close to the Likasi railway station.

In March and again in May, delegates based in Kinshasa and in Kampala visited the border region of northern Kivu, where the civilian population is affected by tension between local communities and confrontations with the army. The unrest in neighbouring Rwanda also has occasional repercussions on the local

population. Medical assistance was handed over to the Red Cross branch and dissemination sessions were held for local authorities and the armed forces based in the area. In June delegates visited five detainees in Goma.

#### **Activities for detainees**

In April delegates visited Makala prison, but no detainees falling within the ICRC's mandate were registered. The supplementary feeding programme for detainees which was started in July 1991 continued to be implemented by the Zaire Red Cross with ICRC support. ICRC delegates also visited places of detention under the responsibility of State security, the national police, the civil guard, military security forces and the Ministry of Justice. In all, 13 visits were carried out in places of detention where security detainees were being held. In September, delegates duly handed over the report on the ICRC visits to the highest authorities.

#### **Dissemination**

At the end of January, the regional delegate travelled to Shaba region where he gave three seminars for the armed forces and several lectures at the Lubumbashi military academy. The ICRC continued to supply Kinshasa university with teaching materials on international humanitarian law.

## **LAGOS**

### **Regional delegation**

**(Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo)**

The ICRC's priorities in the region were to support the National Societies' efforts to increase their emergency preparedness and to spread knowledge of the

basic principles of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross Movement among the general public, the authorities, National Society volunteers and armed forces at all levels. In December, a workshop was held in Lagos for military instructors from Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

#### **BENIN**

At the beginning of the year the army Chief of Staff introduced international humanitarian law into the regular training programme for military officers and the ICRC was invited to give a lecture at the Porto Novo military academy.

#### **GHANA**

In May, an emergency preparedness seminar was organized by the National Society, with support from the ICRC and the British Red Cross. The workshop focused on the setting-up of first-aid volunteer teams. Subsequently, the Ghana Red Cross became involved in an emergency preparedness plan devised by the authorities. The ICRC also held a three-day seminar on international humanitarian law at the Accra Military Staff College in July.

#### **NIGERIA**

Nigeria was seriously affected by social and economic difficulties which in May led to rioting in Lagos. Later, elections were held in a climate of heavy tension. In addition, clashes between rival communities in the north and east of the country cost the lives of several thousand people. The situation gave the ICRC great cause for concern and steps were taken to build up the National Society's ability to cope with emergency situations.

First-aid intervention teams were set up in several towns, including Lagos, Ka-

duna and Taraba. The ICRC installed the first elements of a nationwide HF radio network designed to improve communications within the National Society, and opened emergency relief stores in Lagos and Kaduna.

When rioting broke out in Lagos, the Nigerian Red Cross was not yet equipped to deal with the situation. By September, however, when primary elections were held, the National Society's teams were well prepared to cope with the evacuation of the people wounded in street fighting and isolated incidents.

The ICRC also carried out several missions to the provinces affected by disturbances to assess the needs of the civilian population. It supported the National Society's relief efforts in Taraba where Tivs and Yukuns are locked in age-old rivalry, as well as in the neighbouring state of Benue.

Delegates also held high-level talks with the Nigerian armed forces to pave the way for dissemination sessions on international humanitarian law. In 1992 the ICRC gave lectures at the Nigerian war college and the Jaji military college where senior officers are trained.

## TOGO

In March the ICRC gave its second seminar on international humanitarian law for members of the Togolese armed forces, in Kara. The regional delegation then organized a series of first-aid courses for some 400 civil servants as part of an emergency preparedness programme in the run-up to the elections, which were due to be held in the last quarter of the year. An ICRC nurse also spent time in Togo, advising the National Society on the training and coordination of first-aid teams. With backing from the ICRC, the Togolese Red Cross launched a series of

radio and television broadcasts on the Movement's basic principles and the need to respect the emblem.

In May, when violence broke out between rival communities in Sotouboua, the National Society, with the help of the ICRC, assisted some 1,500 displaced victims of the fighting.

On 6 August, following the decision by the ICRC to close the regional delegation, the organization's representative in Lomé took formal leave of the authorities. She was granted an interview by the Prime Minister, Mr Joseph Koffigoh. From then on, ICRC activities in Togo were run by the regional delegation in Lagos.

## YAOUNDÉ Regional delegation

(Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe)

The regional delegation was officially opened on 1 June. Its main tasks were to initiate and pursue contacts regarding ICRC access to security detainees, promote and organize the dissemination of international humanitarian law and cooperate with the National Societies' projects to build up their operational capacity.

Yaoundé was also the location chosen for the regional seminar on the implementation of international humanitarian law (see *The law and legal considerations p. 159*). In addition, a seminar for senior army and gendarmerie officers of ten member countries of ECCAS\* was held in Yaoundé at the beginning of September.

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\* Economic Community of Central African States

## CAMEROON

The regional delegation in Yaoundé was also in charge of monitoring the humanitarian needs arising from political unrest in western Cameroon.

In 1991 the ICRC had on two occasions offered its services to visit security detainees in Cameroon. In May 1992 the matter was once again raised with the Minister for Territorial Administration, who explained that the situation of security detainees had changed and the reeducation camps had been closed. However, he agreed in principle to allow ICRC delegates to visit the country's prisons.

In August, the ICRC visited three prisons in western Cameroon, but all detainees who might have been within the ICRC's mandate had been freed in May. Following these visits, a single donation of medical and material assistance was made to the prisons.

In the same area, when election results were being contested by opposition groups in October, people were arrested in Bamenda. The ICRC initiated talks with the authorities to visit security detainees held in connection with these events, but no visits were carried out and by the end of the year the prisoners had all been released. A relief programme was set up with the National Society at the end of December to help 400 families who had fled their homes because of the unrest.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

In 1992, the ICRC was granted permission in principle to visit security detainees. Following this agreement, visits were carried out in two of the country's prisons and three prisoners within the ICRC's mandate were seen according to the institution's customary procedures. Some medical and material assistance was handed over to the prison authorities.

The ICRC and the National Society continued to help Sudanese refugees in the Central African Republic keep in touch with their relatives living elsewhere. A total of 1,025 Red Cross messages were handled and 309 tracing requests received.

## CHAD

Throughout the year, the regional delegate repeatedly held talks with the Chad authorities with a view to obtaining permission to visit detainees. In spite of an agreement in principle given by all the Ministries concerned, no visits according to ICRC principles could be carried out.

The ICRC continued to run the Kabayale orthopaedic workshop. In 1992, over 185 disabled people were fitted with orthopaedic appliances and 151 prostheses and 179 orthoses were produced. The orthopaedic coordinator in charge also made preparations for the taking over of the centre by the ICRC's counterpart, SECADEV (Catholic Development Fund), a Chadian non-governmental agency.

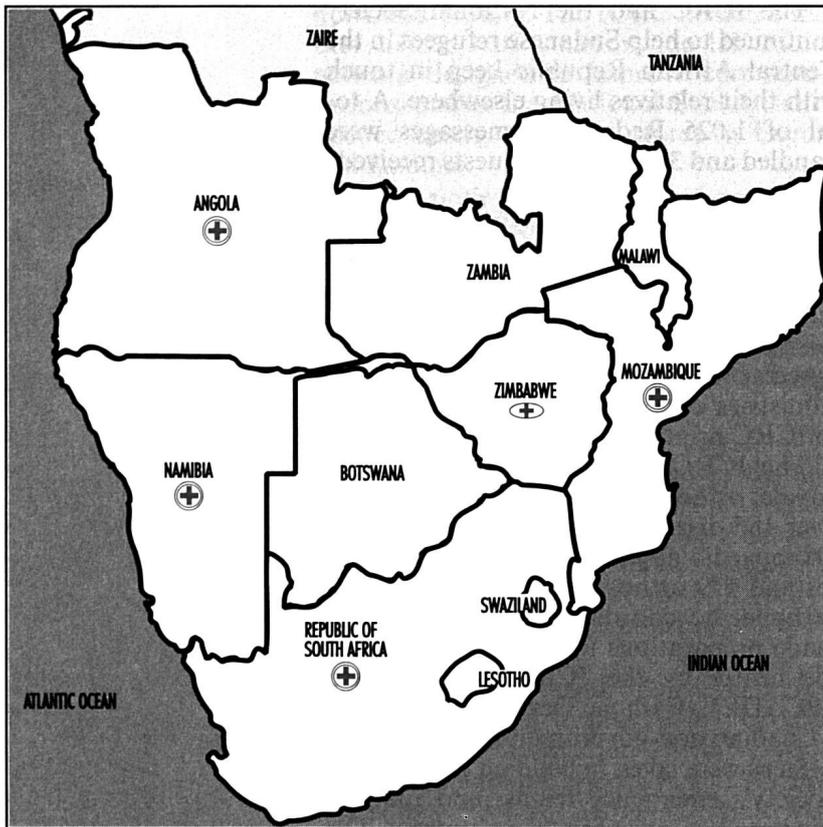
Steps were taken to build up the National Society's emergency teams, and first-aid courses were given for the volunteers. The latter also carried out sanitation work in N'Djamena with ICRC support.

## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

In 1992 the ICRC initiated talks with the authorities regarding access to security detainees. Although the Minister of Justice agreed in principle to ICRC visits, no such permission was granted by the Minister of the Interior. Consequently, no visits were carried out.

Cooperation with the National Society continued, in particular as regards the training of emergency first-aid teams and disseminating international humanitarian law.

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⊕ ICRC regional delegation

⊕ ICRC delegation / sub-delegation

## ANGOLA

Following the signing in May 1991 of the Bicesse agreement, which led to a cease-fire and the drawing-up of a peace plan to put an end to the 16-year civil war in Angola, ICRC plans to phase out its activities in the country were under way at the beginning of 1992. However, the ICRC was still involved in checking the release of detainees and bringing the various relief programmes to an end.

The social and economic situation gradually improved with the return to peace, but full implementation of the Bicesse agreement was slow to come and there

were occasional violent skirmishes on the Planalto and in the southern provinces.

The run-up to the elections, which were held on 29 and 30 September under United Nations supervision, was relatively calm, but trouble started when the results of the polls were published. From then on the situation deteriorated, and heavy fighting broke out in Luanda at the end of October. Thousands were killed or wounded and many families fled. The unrest soon spread to Huambo and other provincial towns.

At the end of 1992, every effort was being made to bring UNITA\* and the government back to the negotiating table and to prevent the country from sliding back into all-out war.

In spite of growing humanitarian needs, foreign aid agencies withdrew from most of the country because of the general lack of security and, by the end of the year, the situation was becoming too dangerous for even the United Nations monitoring groups (UNAVEM) to remain in the field.

### Activities for detainees

The Bicesse agreement stipulated that all civilians and military personnel taken prisoner as a result of the conflict should be freed, and the ICRC was entrusted with ensuring that this was done. The government released some 940 detainees in the presence of ICRC delegates between July 1991 and July 1992. By 23 April, the ICRC had visited all 24 prisons under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior to check that security detainees had been released. They had also registered 3,142 prisoners in UNITA hands, 723 of whom wished to return to their homes. The latter were duly transported to Luanda and the ICRC then helped

\* National Union for the Total Independence of Angola

them to return to their places of origin. The others were released on the spot and given ICRC assistance to help them make a new start in life.

The ICRC played an active part in the second stage of the release process, namely the investigation of cases of people who were allegedly detained by one party or the other but who did not turn up during the release phase. The ICRC acted as a consultant to both the government and UNITA representatives appointed to deal with this matter. By the end of the year, however, most of the cases remained unsolved.

In August, ICRC delegates visited six security detainees held by the government in Cabinda province. They belonged to the opposition movement FLEC\*, which had recently carried out several armed attacks. It was the first time that the ICRC had been allowed access to such people. Following the outbreak of fighting in Luanda in October, ICRC delegates were allowed to visit people held by the Angolan authorities in connection with the new upsurge of violence. By the end of the year, the ICRC had seen some 900 UNITA members and sympathizers. Out of these, 340 were formally registered as detainees in two places of detention under the responsibility of the former military police, and 12 at the military hospital. Food and medical assistance were provided by the ICRC, together with tracing services. In the space of two months some 1,200 messages were handled.

#### **Assistance for the civilian population**

The ICRC's assistance operations for victims of the 16-year Angolan conflict began in 1980. In all, some 69,000 tonnes of relief had been distributed.

\* Liberation Front of the Enclave of Cabinda

In December 1991, the ICRC launched its last distributions on the Planalto to help some 660,000 civilians bridge the gap between harvests and give them seed and tools to provide for their own needs. This relief operation, which included blankets and clothing, was completed by February 1992. Meanwhile, plans to hand over specific medical and nutritional programmes and logistic facilities to other aid agencies were being implemented. The ICRC also provided logistic support for the United Nations relief programme in its early stages.

By the end of March ICRC presence in the country had been considerably reduced. Six offices manned by local staff remained open but expatriate presence was limited to Luanda and Huambo.

#### **Medical assistance**

Although the end of the conflict meant that the ICRC could hand over many medical activities to other organizations, it did not signal the end of the institution's work in the orthopaedic field. Given the large number of war disabled, the two centres in Kuito and Huambo continued to receive support. In addition, three local repair workshops were opened in Luena, Menongue and Lubango in order to spare amputees long and difficult trips to have their prostheses repaired.

Following an evaluation mission carried out in the south-east of the country, the ICRC provided tools and basic materials for two UNITA orthopaedic workshops in Biongue and Kavaleka. Four local technicians were given the opportunity to receive extra training in the Bomba Alta (Huambo) orthopaedic centre.

During the year 382 war disabled were fitted with prostheses and the workshops produced 812 artificial limbs and 4,031 pairs of crutches.

When heavy fighting broke out in Luanda, the ICRC provided the capital's hospitals with medical supplies and food for patients and medical staff to help them deal with the immediate needs arising from the sudden influx of patients. Later, similar assistance was given to hospitals in Huambo, Lobito, Benguela and other provincial towns.

**Dissemination**

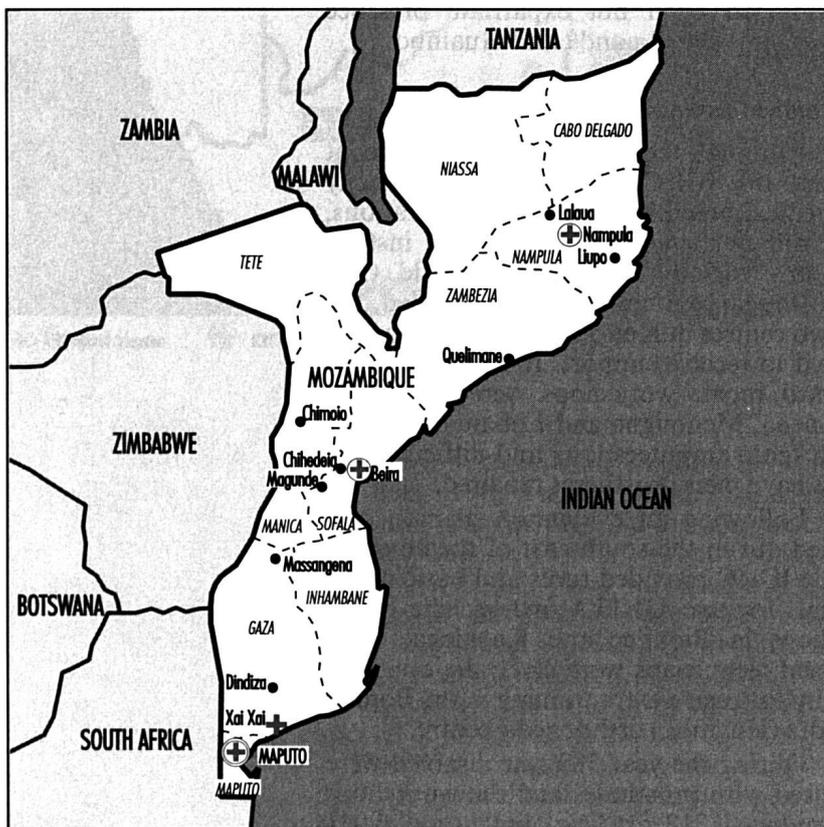
At the beginning of the year, the ICRC organized several dissemination sessions for senior officers recently incorporated into the new Angolan armed forces.

**MOZAMBIQUE**

As peace talks between the Mozambican government and the RENAMO\* opposition movement continued to raise hopes of seeing the 16-year civil war draw to a close, Mozambique started to feel the effects of the severe drought that affected southern Africa in 1992. However, the signing of the peace accord at the beginning of October meant that the humanitarian aid required by the widespread emergency situation could reach the stricken population more easily.

During the first months of the year and despite repeated guarantees from the Mozambican government and RENAMO, road access to many areas was blocked and remained irregular elsewhere. On 12 March the ICRC presented a memorandum to the government and to RENAMO reminding them of their obligations towards the civilian population. In May there was a major breakthrough when for the first time an ICRC road convoy was able to cross the lines, bringing relief supplies to villages cut off by the fighting in Sofala province, which was also hard hit by the drought.

In order to discuss humanitarian issues with the government and RENAMO, ICRC representatives went several times to Rome where the peace talks were being held. The Delegate General travelled to Maputo in May to raise the same matters with the authorities and with leaders of the RENAMO movement on the spot. On 16 July, the parties signed a declaration on principles governing humanitarian assistance and agreed to the setting-up of a special commission in charge of relief coordination. On the following day, the Director of Operations, the Delegate



\* Mozambican National Resistance Movement

General and the head of the Relief Division met RENAMO leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama in Geneva to discuss practical issues. Nevertheless, the ICRC's emergency plan of action could only be partly implemented owing to objections raised by the parties regarding the free use of roads.

At the end of September the parties agreed to open all roads to humanitarian convoys, thus allowing the ICRC to launch a major overland relief operation. The United Nations which, with the ICRC, is a full member of the humanitarian commission, gradually started to implement an assistance programme in densely populated areas while the ICRC concentrated its efforts on isolated regions.

In accordance with the terms of the peace agreement, the Italian government convened a conference of donor countries and organizations in Rome on 15 and 16 December. In its keynote speech the ICRC, which had been invited as an observer, appealed to the international community to make a concerted effort to support the peace process and stressed that aid was desperately needed in virtually all areas of the country in order to achieve peace and stability.

#### **Assistance for the civilian population**

The situation of the civilian population affected by the conflict and the severe drought gave the ICRC cause for great concern, until the parties agreed to allow humanitarian assistance free passage to all regions as from the end of September. Prior to that, ICRC delegates had been able to help civilians on the brink of starvation in areas such as Magunde, Dindiza, Chihedeia and Liupo, but regular follow-up was not possible.

In June, an ICRC team consisting of a nutritionist, an agronomist and a relief

expert was sent to Mozambique to assess the situation following alarming reports of the nutritional problems caused by the combined effects of conflict and drought. Six zones were considered as particularly severely affected and in need of immediate relief. Unfortunately implementation of the emergency plan suffered many setbacks owing to military operations and other problems. In September the ICRC had to resort to air transport to bring supplies to some 15,000 starving people in Magunde (Sofala).

Once the parties agreed to let humanitarian agencies work all over the country the ICRC launched a massive aid operation, bringing relief including food, seed and tools to some 350,000 people. Roads were gradually reopened and many destinations could be reached by truck. However, as mine clearance operations had not begun, some areas remained inaccessible and personnel and vehicles were still at risk. Besides, although the conflict had officially ended, isolated incidents still occurred.

In all, the ICRC distributed some 7,000 tonnes of relief in 1992 (1,200 in 1991).

#### **Medical assistance**

The ICRC continued its medical assistance programmes in government zones in 1992, but there was a shift in emphasis from March, when an additional medical team started a programme to rehabilitate local health facilities destroyed in the conflict and to train Mozambican personnel. From March to June the team was based in Massangena (Gaza province); it then moved on to Lalaua (Nampula province).

In RENAMO-held areas, the ICRC programme to set up basic medical structures launched in 1991 proved successful and local staff benefited from the training given. A network of centres was established to which the 50 local health posts

supervised by the ICRC could refer. As from May vaccination programmes were started in Sofala province for some 7,000 children under five and women of child-bearing age. These programmes were to be extended to other provinces in 1993.

In November an ICRC orthopaedics coordinator travelled to Mozambique to assess the work done by the four orthopaedic workshops (Beira, Maputo, Quelimane and Nampula). Production levels were good; by the end of the year 1,027 prostheses had been made and 436 new patients had been fitted with artificial limbs. The 20 Mozambican technicians receiving ICRC training were due to be fully qualified by the beginning of 1993.

In addition, the ICRC provided the Ministry of Health and other government bodies with support in rehabilitating wells, building latrines and carrying out an awareness campaign on hygiene. In remote areas, ICRC sanitation teams also dug and rehabilitated wells to provide isolated communities with drinking water.

#### **Activities for detainees**

As in previous years, the ICRC visited people held in places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior.

Fifty-three complete visits were carried out in 27 places of detention, where a total of 362 detainees were being held; 154 were seen for the first time in 1992. Personal items such as clothes, blankets and toiletries were distributed in the prisons visited and improvements were made to the water supply and sanitation facilities by an ICRC sanitary engineer.

In accordance with the peace agreement, the Mozambican parliament declared an amnesty for security detainees and by the end of the year some 400 had been freed in the presence of ICRC

delegates mandated to supervise their release. The ICRC provided the released detainees with transport to their homes and basic assistance. On 31 December, the ICRC held talks with the Attorney-General regarding detainees who had not benefited from the amnesty.

Following a meeting with the Minister of Defence, Lt-Col Alberto Chipande, on 30 January, ICRC delegates were given access to lists of detainees held on a temporary basis by the Mozambican counter-intelligence services. As from February, the ICRC started to visit provincial military barracks where such people were imprisoned, to consult the registers for protection purposes.

The ICRC received no information regarding any detainees held by RENAMO.

#### **Tracing activities**

The tracing network set up in 1991 handled 16,183 messages in 1992.

As from May, delegates meeting RENAMO representatives in the field were able to hand over lists and receive replies to tracing enquiries. Towards the end of the year, delegates became involved in the difficult task of tracing the parents of children who had been separated from their families because of the conflict. RENAMO gave the ICRC the names of several hundred such children living in isolated areas, and by the end of the year more than 150 youngsters had been reunited with their families.

With regard to Mozambicans refused refugee status in Zimbabwe for security reasons, the ICRC carried out several missions to the border to register and interview those who were being sent back (see also *Zimbabwe*). This enabled delegates based in Mozambique to check how the returnees were faring.

### Cooperation with the National Society

The Mozambique Red Cross Society cooperated closely with the ICRC in relief and tracing activities for the civilian population affected by the conflict and living in government-held areas. In addition the National Society continued its programmes for certain vulnerable groups (welfare cases, etc.), with ICRC support.

## NAMIBIA

The ICRC's activities in Namibia in 1992 focused almost entirely on tracing. The delegation was closed at the end of June, with only the tracing office kept open in Windhoek under the responsibility of the Harare regional delegation.

In November 1990 the Namibian National Assembly approved a motion asking the ICRC for help in tracing people reported missing during the country's struggle for independence.

The following June, the ICRC's working procedures were accepted and the Namibian government undertook to secure the cooperation of the governments of Angola, Botswana, South Africa and Zambia.

In December 1991 the ICRC handed over the first 100 cases to the liaison officer nominated by SWAPO,\* and in January 1992 the ICRC submitted its first quarterly report on the progress of the search for missing persons.

The ICRC made a public announcement in April, inviting all families wishing to trace missing relatives to contact the delegation. Within three months, 1,730 tracing requests had been collected by the ICRC both in Windhoek and outside the capital. On 27 November the regional delegate travelled to Namibia to report to the Prime Minister, Mr Hage Geingob,

and to inform the authorities that the ICRC considered its role as an intermediary between families of missing people and the parties concerned as having been fulfilled. Anyone who wished to trace a missing person had by then had a chance to come forward.

In all, 2,184 tracing enquiries were received by the ICRC. All but 34 cases concerned SWAPO, the rest relating to the former South African administration in Namibia. By the end of the year, SWAPO had given 306 replies to be handed over to families. It was decided that from 1993 the parties would send any further information directly to the enquirers. The ICRC planned to submit a final report summing up the whole process to the Prime Minister of Namibia at the end of April 1993.

## SOUTH AFRICA

While the South African government continued its process of political reform and apartheid was officially laid to rest, violence continued unabated in the townships. Tension was high between people associated with various political movements, particularly the ANC\*\* and Inkhata, but also between the security forces and sympathizers of other political parties and between the different communities.

Despite the formation of the regional and local dispute resolution committees, political violence continued to claim many victims. The worst months were June and September, when some 70 people lost their lives in Boipatong and Bisho alone. In the first six months of the year over 1,800 people died as a result of communal violence

\* South West Africa People's Organization

\*\* African National Congress

and repression, 90% of them in Natal and the Reef. The ICRC's task in that context consisted in providing protection and assistance to the victims of the unrest.

With regard to people held for security reasons and in connection with the unrest, an important step forward was made when the South African government allowed the ICRC access to sentenced prisoners and detainees awaiting trial. The agreement was signed on 8 July by the Ministry of Correctional Services and the ICRC. On 2 October the Ministry of Law and Order and the South African police also gave the ICRC permission to make unannounced visits to police stations.

The ICRC continued negotiations with the ANC with a view to visiting persons detained by the movement. Although the ANC declared on 10 June that the ICRC was welcome to visit camps under its control outside South Africa, in practice delegates did not do so as the ANC later announced that it had released all its detainees.

#### **Activities for detainees**

On 17 February, the deputy Director of Operations travelled to Pretoria where he was received by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Hernus Kriel, who informed him that the South African authorities would allow the ICRC unrestricted access to security and unrest-related detainees, including those held under section 29 of the Internal Security Act, in police stations throughout the country.

Visits to police stations eventually started on 22 October, and by the end of the year the ICRC had visited 51 of them, some on several occasions, in different parts of the country. In November and December delegates held talks with the detaining authorities on the ICRC's initial findings.

Previously, following the agreement signed with the Ministry of Correctional Services on 8 July, the ICRC had begun to visit South African prisons. After three visits in Port Elizabeth the ICRC decided to defer the programme until the beginning of 1993, as the authorities had decided to release security and unrest-related detainees. On 28 September, 148 detainees were released, followed by a further 42 in November.

Delegates continued to visit police stations and prisons in Bophuthatswana and Kwazulu, following authorizations given in 1991, and duly reported their findings.

On 24 February the Transkei Ministry of Police granted the ICRC permission to visit security detainees. In practice, however, visits were only allowed to start as from 3 July. A similar authorization was given by the Ciskei authorities on 18 March. In all, the ICRC carried out 175 visits to 77 police stations and eight prisons in the homelands.

#### **Assistance for the civilian population and refugees**

The ICRC continued to provide assistance in 1992 to victims of the violence (displaced people, families whose wage-earner had been killed or imprisoned, people made homeless, etc.). This assistance work, which concerned mainly the Natal and Reef areas, was carried out with the help of the South African Red Cross Society; the ICRC took action on its own only in regions where the National Society was not operational. Under these programmes, relief supplies in the form of food parcels, blankets and other basic necessities were distributed to around 38,000 people and help with funeral expenses was given to the families of

victims. The South African Red Cross and the ICRC also organized first-aid courses in the townships.

In addition, the ICRC gave transport vouchers to families wishing to visit their relatives in detention and released prisoners were given financial aid to help them re-settle.

When 49 people were killed and dozens wounded in the Boipatong township on 17 June, the ICRC and the local Red Cross brought immediate assistance to the victims. The relief operations were extended to the Eastern Cape/Border/Ciskei region in September following the killings in Bisho, where Red Cross emergency teams helped the wounded. At the funeral ceremony for the victims, Red Cross personnel set up first-aid posts where some 700 people suffering from minor injuries were treated. This was part of the policy of the ICRC and the National Society to step up Red Cross first-aid presence at events that might lead to outbreaks of violence.

The ANC donated a substantial sum of money to the ICRC for its activities to help the victims, and the South African government gave several million rand to the National Society for its assistance to communities affected by violence and drought.

The ICRC also continued to help Mozambican refugees fleeing the conflict in their country and entering South Africa through the homelands of Gazankulu and Kangwane. They received relief supplies (blankets, soap and kitchen sets) during the first three months after their arrival. Following the signing of the peace agreement in Mozambique, the number of new refugees arriving over the border dropped significantly in October and November. Until then the monthly average had been around 2,200.

In all, a total of 373 tonnes of food and other assistance was provided by the ICRC to South African victims of the violence and to Mozambican refugees.

#### **Tracing activities**

The ICRC tracing agency in South Africa focused its attention primarily on restoring family ties between Mozambican refugees and their families still in Mozambique. A total of 1,286 messages were exchanged in 1992.

#### **Cooperation with the National Society**

Besides working with the South African Red Cross to assist victims of the violence, the ICRC and the Federation continued to take an active part in the reorganization of the National Society. These efforts led to the adoption on 28 September of a new constitution and the election of a new National Executive Committee, paving the way for fundamental reforms which the ICRC will help implement.

#### **Dissemination**

With the aim of promoting tolerance and peaceful relations between different communities, a strip cartoon on basic humanitarian principles and Red Cross activities was prepared in Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Zulu and Sotho. It was published with the South African Red Cross and ran to some 100,000 copies.

### **HARARE** **Regional delegation**

**(Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia [as from 1 July], Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe)**

Besides visits to prisons in Malawi, the regional delegation's main activities in 1992 centred on the Mozambican refu-

gees who had sought asylum in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Swaziland. Tracing in particular represented a considerable amount of work for ICRC delegates and the National Societies of the countries concerned. In Malawi alone, over one million refugees had to be given a chance to find missing relatives and remain in touch with those whose whereabouts were known. In all, some 17,000 messages concerning Mozambican refugees were handled in the countries covered by the regional delegation. The salaries of National Society tracing officials working in this programme were paid by the ICRC.

After the signing of the peace accord by the Mozambican government and RENAMO, the influx of refugees slowed considerably and even stopped altogether in some areas.

The Harare regional delegation took over responsibility for ICRC activities in Namibia as from 1 July, when the delegation in Windhoek was closed (see also *Namibia*).

In the course of the year, the ICRC emergency preparedness delegate travelled to Lesotho, Botswana and Zambia to improve the National Societies' capacity to respond to disasters.

The regional delegation organized several dissemination sessions in military academies and training centres in Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Malawi, Zambia and Botswana. Delegates also participated in a workshop on international humanitarian law, human rights and peace held for high-ranking civil servants and representatives of the armed forces in Lesotho. The event was opened by the King of Lesotho and chaired by the Lesotho Red Cross.

The Henry Dunant Institute organized an international workshop for senior staff of penitentiary services in Harare.

## **MALAWI**

There was a major breakthrough in Malawi in May when the government and the ICRC came to an agreement allowing delegates to visit the country's prisons for the first time since 1969. An ICRC team started work on 3 August, and by the end of the year had registered 315 prisoners held for security reasons or in connection with incidents of unrest. At the end of September delegates had the first talks with the Malawi authorities regarding the conditions prevailing in the prisons they had visited. Eighteen of the country's 27 prisons had been visited by the end of the year and follow-up visits were made to most of them.

Towards the end of the year, the ICRC began a limited assistance programme in the prisons (toiletries, blankets, indoor games, first-aid kits, etc.) and planned to send a sanitation expert to assess needs and find ways of improving the situation.

## **ZAMBIA**

The number of people seeking refuge in Zambia from the fighting in Mozambique rose sharply in July before subsiding again in subsequent months. Zambia also gave asylum to refugees from Angola who, like the Mozambicans, tended to settle in villages and towns rather than in camps. The ICRC and the National Society continued to provide assistance and tracing services for the refugees.

In addition, the Zambia Red Cross and the ICRC helped Zambians who had fled from isolated areas in Mozambique to re-settle in their home country.

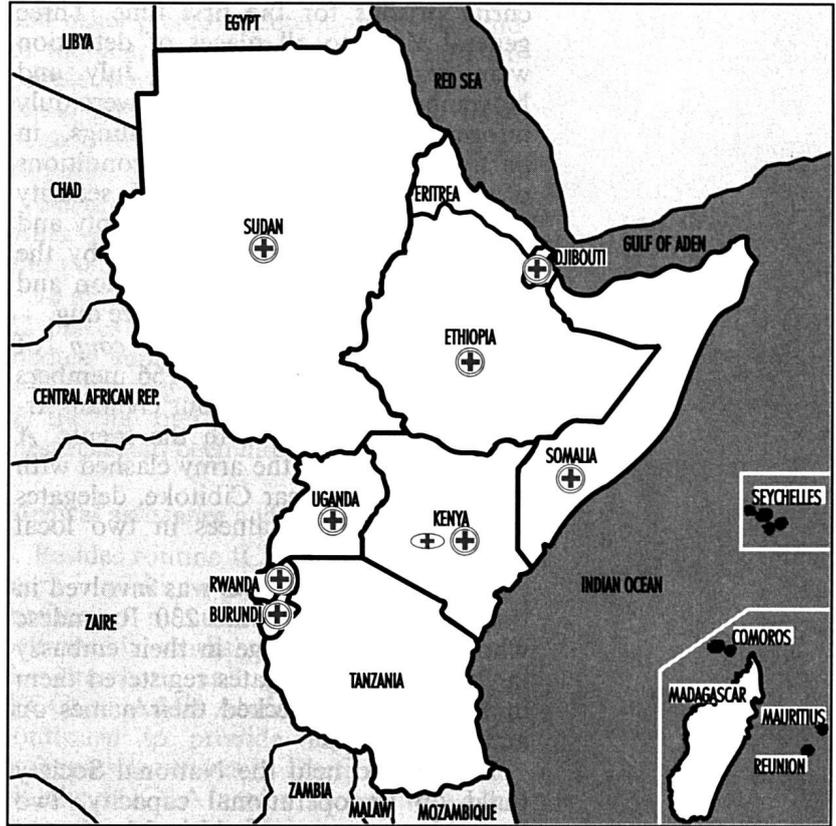
The regional delegate travelled to Lusaka in March and had talks with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, of Justice and of the Interior. Accession to the Additional Protocols was among the matters raised.

**ZIMBABWE**

Following a request by the Zimbabwe government in February 1991, the ICRC and the Zimbabwe Red Cross continued to monitor the situation of newly arrived Mozambican refugees on the border, registering them and supplying them with food. Zimbabwe was giving refuge to some 130,000 Mozambicans at the end of the year.

In 1992 the ICRC set up hospital tents and constructed pit latrines in the transit centres at the border. As in previous years, delegates arranged for refugees to be taken from border police stations and military camps to UNHCR-run settlements where the National Society, with the help of the ICRC, had set up five tracing offices. The ICRC is also allowed to interview asylum-seekers who are sent back to Mozambique for security reasons. The Maputo delegation is advised of such cases and endeavours to keep in touch with them.

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⊕ ICRC regional delegation    ⊕⊙ ICRC delegation/sub-delegation

**BURUNDI**

In March, a new constitution was adopted which led to the introduction of multi-party politics. However, this did not immediately put an end to the political tension in the country.

ICRC activities in Burundi were carried out by a small team based in Bujumbura with occasional support from neighbouring delegations or from headquarters. They focused on visits to security detainees and support for the National Society with a view to improving its emergency preparedness.

On 17 January and again a month later ICRC representatives were received by the Prime Minister, Mr Adrien Sibomana. The Additional Protocols were among the matters raised and, by the end of the year, the process of ratification was under way. Meetings were also held with the Minister of Foreign Affairs on this subject, and with the Ministers of Justice, Health and the Interior on matters relating to detention.

Regular visits continued to places of detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, the Special Inquiry brigade and the police forces. In January delegates were allowed to visit State se-

curity prisons for the first time. Three general visits to all places of detention were carried out, in May, July and November, and the authorities were duly informed of the ICRC's findings, in particular as regards the living conditions of the detainees. In all, 1,075 security detainees were visited. Water supply and sanitary facilities were improved by the ICRC in several places of detention and in Rumonge prison two wells were dug.

Following the attempted *coup* of 3 March, the ICRC visited 166 members of the armed forces and four civilians arrested in connection with the events. A month later, when the army clashed with opposition units near Cibitoke, delegates visited some 30 detainees in two local places of detention.

In January, the ICRC was involved in the repatriation of some 230 Rwandese who had sought refuge in their embassy in Bujumbura. Delegates registered them in Burundi and checked their names on arrival in Rwanda.

In order to help the National Society build up its operational capacity, two first-aid courses were held in March and June. In addition, a course on international humanitarian law organized by the ICRC was attended by 35 high-ranking military officers in June.

## ERITREA

The head of the ICRC delegation in Addis Ababa travelled to Asmara on several occasions in the first half of the year to have high-level talks with the authorities.

As from July, a delegate was based in Asmara to maintain a regular dialogue with the provisional government of Eritrea, with a view to carrying out the

ICRC's traditional activities in accordance with its mandate, such as providing support for the National Society and visiting places of detention. In November the ICRC had to withdraw its delegate for operational reasons, but contacts were maintained with the Eritrean authorities' representative in Addis Ababa.

Throughout the year, the ICRC gave considerable support to the Red Cross of Eritrea, providing it with medical materials for its first-aid work and helping it set up its ambulance service. In addition, two expatriate ICRC technicians worked in the orthopaedic centre in Asmara, which also received material assistance. At the end of July, an agreement was signed with the Secretary for Social Affairs of the provisional government to guarantee the continued production of appliances in the Asmara workshop.

## ETHIOPIA

At the beginning of the year, the demobilization of the former government's armed forces was still under way and the ICRC continued to be involved in the process. At the same time, the government was organizing the repatriation of tens of thousands of refugees.

Following an agreement reached with the transitional Ethiopian government in December 1991, ICRC delegates began to visit security detainees all over the country in February. This became the ICRC's main task in Ethiopia as thousands of people were arrested, mainly in connection with the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) uprising which led to clashes with units of the transitional government at the time of the elections in June.

In addition, the ICRC organized a seminar on international humanitarian

law at the end of May for high-ranking officers of the transitional government's army.

#### **Activities for ex-servicemen**

On 14 June 1991, the ICRC launched a large-scale protection and assistance programme to help demobilized soldiers of the former regime return to their homes and to give them a new start in life. In December 1991, ex-servicemen started to leave the camps in Tole and Hurso where they had been assembled, and the ICRC, with support from the National Society, was still involved in taking them home in January 1992. Later some 5,800 disabled soldiers and officers were transported from Tatek camp outside Addis Ababa to their places of origin. In June 1992, when the operation finally came to a close, 248,568 soldiers, including those who were posted in Eritrea at the time of the fall of the Mengistu government, had been taken back to their homes. The ICRC provided every one of them with food rations and other supplies for the five months following their return. In all, over 36,000 tonnes of relief were distributed through the Ethiopian Red Cross.

#### **Activities for detainees**

Visits to detainees held for State security reasons or for their connections with the former government started in Addis Ababa on 3 February.

By March, delegates were visiting places of detention outside the capital. In the south of the country they saw several hundred security detainees belonging to the OLF movement. The political situation became more and more tense and in June the OLF withdrew from the transitional government. Thousands of OLF sympathizers and combatants were arrested and taken to three military camps

and other places of detention. By the end of the year, some 12,000 to 14,000 such people were being held, but the transitional government announced that most of them would be released shortly. (*N.B. they were indeed freed in March 1993.*)

Meanwhile, delegates continued to visit other security detainees held in prisons and police stations all over the country.

In all, the ICRC carried out 50 visits to 42 places of detention and handed over medical supplies where necessary. Traditional tracing services were offered and by the end of the year some 965 family messages had been handled.

#### **Medical assistance and relief**

Besides routine ICRC medical involvement in visits to places of detention, the institution pursued its activities in the orthopaedic workshop in Debre Zeit and the Prosthetic and Orthopaedic Centre (POC) in Addis Ababa. The ICRC also continued to provide support for the orthopaedic centres in Dessie and Harar, via the POC. A new orthopaedic workshop was set up in Mekele to treat some 1,000 amputees in Tigray. It opened in September and by November had reached its maximum production capacity of 40 prostheses a month.

In September, a two-week orthopaedic seminar was held in Addis Ababa. It was attended by representatives from ICRC-supported orthopaedic workshops in Africa and by technicians from headquarters.

In addition, the ICRC supplied essential medicines to government hospitals, health centres and branches of the National Society, which also received basic medical and first-aid materials.

The ICRC, together with the Ethiopian Red Cross, provided assistance for some 1,300 families in the highlands of Hararge

province, who had left their villages because of the drought and for security reasons. Additional medical supplies were handed over to local health facilities to meet the extra demand. When the families returned to their homes two months later, in October, the ICRC provided them with tools and kitchen utensils.

## RWANDA

In the first seven months of 1992 the situation in the north of the country deteriorated considerably as fighting between the FPR\* and the Rwandese army intensified. The number of displaced people grew constantly, and by July some 350,000 Rwandese had become completely dependent on external food assistance because poor security conditions prevented them from living and working on their land. Peace negotiations initiated in June led to a cease-fire which came into effect on 31 July. Although it was generally respected until the end of the year, sporadic fighting did occur and landmines had not been cleared. Most families were therefore unwilling to return to their villages.

In the south, trouble broke out once again between Tutsis and Hutus, causing several thousand people to leave their homes and hundreds to be arrested in connection with the events.

For the ICRC this meant increasing involvement in protection and assistance activities for the civilian population, and a growing number of security detainees to visit in places of detention in Kigali and provincial towns.

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\* Rwanda Patriotic Front

All through the year, the ICRC maintained high-level contacts with the Rwandese authorities and with the leaders and representatives of the FPR in Europe and in the field. Both the emblem and the ICRC's mandate were generally respected. On 22 October the President of the FPR visited ICRC headquarters and confirmed his movement's acceptance of ICRC activities in the areas it controls, besides agreeing in principle to allow delegates access to people held by the movement.

### Activities for the civilian population

At the beginning of the year the ICRC was hoping to phase out its assistance operation for the 80,000 displaced people in the north of the country, leaving the World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian organizations to provide supplies to be distributed by the Rwandese Red Cross under ICRC supervision. However, the number of people cut off from their land grew steadily, reaching 350,000 in July.

The planned assistance programme could not keep up with the growing number of people to be covered, in spite of regular reassessments. The increasing need for supplies became more and more difficult to meet, as local markets could no longer cope with demands. This also meant that neither displaced people nor residents could afford to buy food to supplement the distributions. At the same time relief convoys encountered obstacles and could not always reach the camps before rations had run out.

Following reports of worsening conditions, a nutritionist from ICRC headquarters was sent to Rwanda in November to reassess the situation. The number of displaced people had not risen since the end of July (350,000) but there

was a high percentage of malnutrition among infants. As a result an emergency operation was launched and the ICRC again provided and transported food in addition to the supplies given by the WFP and various donor countries. In order to hasten the arrival of relief, negotiations were initiated with the FPR and the government to allow goods to enter the affected areas of the country straight from Uganda, where large quantities of food could be bought. The border had been closed for more than two years, but at the end of December the first convoy was allowed through.

Besides monitoring the needs of the displaced and organizing relief operations, ICRC delegates noted allegations of abuse and ill-treatment of the civilian population, with a view to submitting them to the parties concerned and urging better respect for international humanitarian law. The first report was handed over to the army Chief of Staff on 29 July.

When fighting broke out between Tutsis and Hutus in the south of the country in March, the ICRC immediately carried out a mission in the Bugesera region to assess needs and coordinate relief efforts. The National Society's emergency teams helped distribute supplies to some 12,000 displaced people. ICRC delegates also visited people arrested in connection with the unrest (see below). In September violent confrontations in the Kibuye and Cyangugu areas between the same rival groups made some 4,000 people flee their homes. A food distribution organized by the ICRC was carried out by the local Red Cross team.

On 28 May, a demonstration in Kigali led to rioting which left about 20 people dead and many wounded. The National Society's first-aid teams helped evacuate the injured. Shortly afterwards riots

broke out in the streets of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi, causing further deaths and injuries. The ICRC provided local hospitals with emergency medical supplies and visited detainees (see below).

#### **Activities for detainees**

Since November 1990 ICRC delegates have been allowed to visit people held in Rwandese prisons in connection with the events. At the end of 1991 an amnesty was pronounced and most security detainees were freed. In 1992, two general visits were carried out. Twenty prisons (Ministry of Justice) and ten barracks (Ministry of Defence) were visited. Delegates were not given access to the four military camps, in spite of an agreement in principle. Frequent follow-up visits were carried out and the ICRC's findings were duly reported to the Prime Minister, Mr D. Nsengiyaremye, and to the Minister of Justice, Mr M. Ngirumpatse. In all, 1,799 security detainees were visited.

On 20 February, the ICRC President and Vice-President received Mr Ngirumpatse at headquarters. Among matters raised was the release of FPR combatants held in Kigali, who were later freed in July. The ICRC visited them regularly and provided them with essential supplies after their release. A month later, they were taken to FPR-held territory by members of the GOMN,\* in accordance with an agreement reached between the government and the FPR in Arusha (Tanzania). On 7 August, ICRC delegates crossed into FPR-held territory for the first time. Eleven released members of the Rwandese armed forces who wished to return to Kigali were handed over to them.

Following the disturbances in the Bugesera region, ICRC delegates visited several hundred detainees held locally

\* Group of Neutral Military Observers

and in the capital in connection with the events. Over 600 such people were visited in March and April and some 120 after the September clashes.

The water and sanitation programme started in 1991 to improve conditions in places of detention continued in 1992. Besides leisure articles and toiletries, detainees were offered tracing services in order to keep in touch with their families. A total of 2,429 messages was handled.

The ICRC was present when some 230 Rwandese released in Burundi in January were taken back to Rwanda (see also *Burundi*), and in March repatriated 16 Ugandans who had been freed from Kigali Central Prison.

## SOMALIA

The plight of the Somali people reached tragic proportions as bitter fighting between rival factions and clans and the resulting famine spread like wildfire throughout the country.

At the beginning of the year the area worst hit was the capital, Mogadishu, where the leaders of the two USC\* branches waged a three-month war causing heavy bloodshed and loss of life. Later, fighting in Kismayo left hundreds dead or wounded as rival clans fought for control of the city. Clashes in the area west of Mogadishu, up to the Kenyan border, wrought havoc among the civilian population and with each new wave of fighting countless people took to the roads to try and escape. But they could not escape starvation.

The ICRC responded by launching its biggest relief operation since the Second

World War, in the form of an enormous food programme which reached up to two million people and involved the extensive use of ships, planes, trucks and even helicopters. A vast network of over 900 community kitchens was set up throughout the country, in cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent, to provide the most vulnerable people with a hot meal every day.

Meanwhile, at headquarters and wherever ICRC representatives took part in high-level talks, no effort was spared to draw attention to the plight of the Somali people and to urge the international community to bring about an end to the violence. The President of the ICRC, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, raised the matter with the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, only days after he took office, and in May discussed the situation with the Deputy Secretary General of the Arab League, Mr Mehdi Mostafa el Hadi. Close contact was maintained with the United Nations and its agencies in New York, Geneva and Rome throughout the year. In February, the Director of Operations, Mr Jean de Courten, met Mr Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General and head of the new United Nations department for humanitarian affairs, and later went to Rome to see representatives of the World Food Programme (WFP). He also spoke at the special conference on Somalia which was held in Geneva under United Nations auspices on 12 and 13 October. In the field, ICRC delegates had regular talks with leaders of the different Somali factions, including General Farah Aidid and interim President Ali Mahdi. They were also in close contact with the traditional Somali authorities, the community elders.

The Director of Operations travelled to Somalia in February, and the Director

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\* United Somali Congress

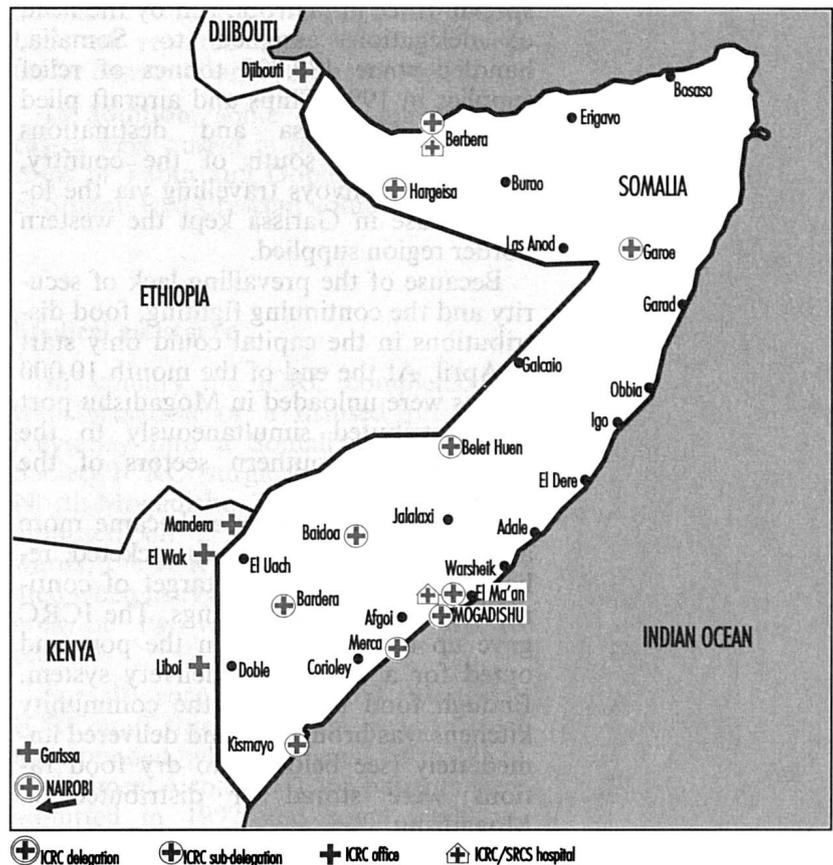
General, Mr Peter Fuchs, was in the country in July. The Delegate General for Africa went to Somalia on several occasions.

In July, the ICRC held simultaneous press conferences in Nairobi, Geneva and New York and soon afterwards the international community became fully aware of the dramatic situation in Somalia.

Although the ICRC stretched its operational capacities to the full, it could not hope to meet all demands. In August large-scale relief operations were planned by the United Nations, the European Community, the United States and many humanitarian organizations which were encouraged by the promise of some measure of safety provided by the deployment of some 500 United Nations peace-keeping forces and 50 cease-fire observers.

Throughout the year the ICRC's work was continually hampered by security problems, which were undoubtedly the main obstacle it encountered in Somalia. The proliferation of guns and heavy artillery, in a country where law and order had broken down, made any travel a dangerous matter, and armed guards had to be present to prevent the looting of relief goods and vehicles. In the course of 1992 countless death threats and physical assaults were directed at ICRC staff, and 14 local ICRC employees lost their lives in Somalia. The Somali Red Crescent also paid a heavy tribute in human lives.

Unfortunately, in spite of efforts by the United Nations peace-keeping contingent (UNOSOM) which arrived in Somalia in September, fighting continued. In December the United Nations Security Council gave member states the mandate to establish a safe environment for humanitarian relief operations in Somalia. The first American soldiers belonging to the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) arrived in



South Mogadishu on 6 December. At the end of the year, however, security problems were still hampering relief work in certain areas.

Meanwhile, in Somaliland, sporadic fighting continued throughout the area. As in the south, humanitarian agencies' warehouses, including the ICRC's, were frequently looted and the security of expatriates was often threatened.

### Relief supplies and transport

Bringing in massive food supplies was a matter of life and death for hundreds of thousands of Somalis, and the ICRC's

special office in Nairobi, run by the head of delegation assigned to Somalia, handled some 180,000 tonnes of relief supplies in 1992. Ships and aircraft plied between Mombasa and destinations throughout the south of the country, while road convoys travelling via the logistics base in Garissa kept the western border region supplied.

Because of the prevailing lack of security and the continuing fighting, food distributions in the capital could only start in April. At the end of the month 10,000 tonnes were unloaded in Mogadishu port and distributed simultaneously to the northern and southern sectors of the town.

As local food resources became more and more scarce and prices rocketed, relief supplies became the target of continual looting by armed gangs. The ICRC gave up its warehouses in the port and opted for a day-to-day delivery system. Enough food to supply the community kitchens was brought in and delivered immediately (see below). No dry food rations were stored or distributed in Mogadishu.

The port of Mogadishu could be used most of the time as from April, supplies being taken by truck to the capital's northern and southern sectors, but security conditions were at times far from satisfactory. Likewise in Kismayo, goods could not always be unloaded in the port because of fighting and raids on supplies. To help bridge the gap, airlifts were temporarily stepped up when necessary.

The airlift from Mombasa, covering Belet Huen, Baidoa, Bardera, Jalalaxi and Mogadishu, flew in over 30,000 tonnes of relief supplies, while a further 2,800 tonnes were flown from Nairobi. Road convoys from Kenya supplied areas in the south-west of the country which could not be reached from the coast,

bringing in a total of 13,000 tonnes in 1992. They were, however, frequently suspended following security incidents and fresh outbreaks of fighting.

The monsoon season forced the ICRC to modify its way of transporting relief by sea. Food had to be loaded from the ships onto heavy barges, then hauled onto beaches along the Somali coastline. In high seas such operations presented a number of risks: several ships were damaged and a tug was lost in June off Merca. On 1 August a system using ships and helicopters was introduced to overcome these difficulties. Some 3,000 tonnes of relief were picked up from the ships and flown to destinations such as Obbia and Harardhere.

In order to ensure some measure of safety for its activities, the ICRC had to hire armed guards to escort the trucks and to protect warehouses and other infrastructure from banditry. Security remained a major concern throughout the year.

### **Community kitchens**

In 1991 the ICRC was already supplying community kitchens in the southern sector of Mogadishu, which were run by local women's committees. In March 1992, the ICRC itself took up the idea and opened similar kitchens in Belet Huen to ensure that the most needy, often belonging to minority groups, received at least one meal a day. This system also meant that food did not have to be stored in vulnerable warehouses, since the kitchens could be supplied on a daily basis.

In May, community kitchens run by local committees and relief organizations, including the Somali Red Crescent, were opened in Mogadishu and existing ones

were supplied with food. By the end of June, 371 kitchens in Mogadishu and elsewhere were feeding some 500,000 people.

As more and more people had to leave their homes to escape the fighting and search for food, needs grew rapidly, as did signs of malnutrition. In July, the ICRC stepped up its activity to enable kitchens to provide two meals a day in the worst-affected areas, such as Baidoa. By the end of the year, over 900 kitchens were in operation throughout the country, including 285 in Mogadishu alone. Through this network around one and a half million people received at least one hot meal a day; for most of the beneficiaries this represented the difference between life and death.

In areas where security conditions were less hazardous, the ICRC was able to distribute dry rations on a monthly basis.

### **Water and sanitation**

Sanitation played an important part in the ICRC's activities in Somalia in 1992. The main priority was to provide water of acceptable quality in sufficient quantities for the community kitchens, which involved rehabilitating or digging new shallow wells, installing latrines and organizing the collection of refuse and cleaning of camps for displaced people. Water supply systems were constructed in Keysaney and Garoe hospitals, the distribution networks of two other health centres were repaired and further wells and latrines were constructed in areas where large numbers of displaced people had gathered. In the south-western area of Afmadu, the ICRC rehabilitated boreholes as part of its veterinary programmes.

In all, 192 wells were dug or put back into service, and another 70 were under construction at the end of the year; five

boreholes were dug; 923 pit latrines were built or repaired and 50 others were under construction at the end of 1992.

In addition, some 8,000 animal carcasses were buried in the southern townships of Tabta and Doble, with the help of Somali Red Crescent volunteers.

### **Medical assistance**

In January the ICRC completed the transformation of a disused prison in Keysaney into a Somali Red Crescent Society/ICRC surgical hospital serving North Mogadishu. The first patients were admitted on 2 February. Soon afterwards, the ICRC team had to be evacuated when heavy fighting broke out in the area, but two weeks later it was able to return.

Somali surgeons worked alongside ICRC staff throughout the year to treat the wounded, who numbered up to 275 at peak times. A total of 3,565 patients were admitted in 1992 and some 7,000 operations performed. In the first months of the fighting in Mogadishu, 27 private houses were used as makeshift hospitals by local doctors who received medical supplies from the ICRC. As soon as Keysaney hospital was opened, these houses were turned into nursing units for post-operative treatment.

A flying surgical team travelled around the country to respond to emergency needs, performing hundreds of operations and training local staff in war surgery techniques. For instance, when fighting broke out in Garoe and Bosaso in the third week of June, some 120 wounded were admitted Garoe hospital and the team performed 68 operations. It was the team's third mission to Garoe, where

working conditions had already improved under the ICRC's guidance and with its material assistance.

Mobile clinics were set up in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Belet Huen to reach remote areas. Mebendazole and vitamin A were distributed in the community kitchens and anti-scabies campaigns were organized in the camps.

Besides covering the needs in Keysaney hospital and its annexes, the ICRC regularly brought medical supplies to Digfer and Benadir hospitals and occasionally to Medina hospital in the southern sector of the capital. Owing to the heavy fighting which broke out in Mogadishu in November 1991, the Martini hospital was evacuated and medical activities were not resumed here in 1992.

The ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent set up some 150 health posts in the camps for displaced people in and around Mogadishu as well as in Belet Huen, Kismayo, Merca, Doble, Belet Hawo, Garoe and the Mudug/Galgadud region, and these posts received medical supplies throughout the year.

In Somaliland, support continued to be given to the ICRC/Somali Red Crescent hospital in Berbera and to other hospitals and health posts in the region. Renewed violence in Berbera and Burao brought a new influx of wounded to the hospital in Berbera at the beginning of the year. The number of patients reached an all-time record of 160.

#### **Agricultural and veterinary programmes**

In March the ICRC began a nationwide emergency veterinary programme to try to save some of the country's livestock, which was being decimated by disease and lack of water and fodder. Hundreds of thousands of pastoralists in

the southern and central regions were dependent on the herds for their livelihood. The ICRC therefore provided veterinary pharmaceuticals to treat around two million camels, cattle, sheep and goats for parasites. A large-scale vaccination campaign against rinderpest was carried out by 18 veterinary teams, covering 270,000 head of cattle by the end of the year.

In July and August two ICRC agronomists visited areas involved in a seed distribution programme conducted in April, to assess its impact. They estimated that the 400 tonnes of seed had yielded some 15,000 tonnes of staple food, but that the total food deficit for Somalia for the second half of 1992 would be 280,000 tonnes. A further distribution therefore went ahead for the second growing season, which started in September. As well as some 650 tonnes of cereal, cowpea and vegetable seed, expected to yield some 25,000 tonnes of food, the ICRC also provided 29,000 hoes.

#### **Activities for detainees and protection work**

ICRC delegates visited over 450 prisoners held by different factions in Galcaio, Bosaso, Belet Huen, Garoe and Mogadishu. The detainees were given medical and non-food assistance, and occasionally food.

As from April, detainees held in Mogadishu by the USC faction led by General Aidid were visited on a regular basis. In all, 387 people were registered. Between June and September the ICRC also visited 73 people held by the SSDF\* in Garoe, Galcaio and Bosaso. The local authorities gradually released most of these detainees and often asked the ICRC to arrange for their return home at the detainees' own request.

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\* Somali Salvation Democratic Front

In August, the ICRC organized the transfer of hundreds of people from Kismayo back to their home region in Garoe, with the full agreement of all parties concerned. One of the trucks marked with ICRC and Somali Red Crescent emblems and carrying 45 Somalis under ICRC protection was hijacked by armed men on its way to the airport in Kismayo. When the truck was returned to the delegation, 11 of the passengers were missing and later presumed executed. The 11 victims included two ICRC local staff, three Somali Red Crescent workers and six of their relatives.

### Tracing activities

The ICRC tracing service effectively took over as the country's national and international post office, as all other channels of communication had broken down. During the year the tracing network was expanded to 27 offices in Somalia run by joint ICRC/Somalia Red Crescent Society teams and ten others in Djibouti and Kenya, working with the respective National Societies. In addition to tracing missing persons and handling some 160,000 Red Cross messages, the tracing agency organized family reunifications and enabled 47 people to travel from Mogadishu to Nairobi, where arrangements were made for them to rejoin their families.

### Dissemination

Aware that a large-scale relief operation had to be backed up by a clear humanitarian message, the ICRC set up a plan of action for dissemination in Somalia. By the end of the year, posters, leaflets for distribution at check-points and booklets explaining international humanitarian law and Red Cross/Red Crescent principles had gone to press.

## SUDAN

There was no sign of an end to the nine-year conflict in 1992 and the civilian population affected by the situation was given no respite. For most of the year the ICRC was unable to fulfil its humanitarian mandate in southern Sudan. A flight ban was imposed by the Sudanese government at the end of February, and as from the end of April the ICRC was no longer allowed access to the area by road. Work to assist the many victims of the conflict in the south was thus effectively curtailed in May, and had not been resumed by the end of the year. Nevertheless, some activities were still able to go ahead, mainly at the ICRC's surgical hospital in Lokichokio (north-western Kenya), but also at the delegation in Khartoum, which provided support for the work of the Sudanese Red Crescent in the south.

In Khartoum and at headquarters in Geneva, no effort was spared to obtain a lifting of the ban in order to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population. On 19 May, the Director of Operations travelled to the Sudanese capital where he had talks with Mr Ahmad Sahlul, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Hussein Abu Saleh, the Minister for Social Affairs, Dr Abouaf, the Head of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, and Col El Ahmin Khalifa, Speaker of the transitional National Assembly and head of the government delegation at the Abuja (Nigeria) peace talks with the SPLA.\* In September the Director of Operations met President El Bechir in Jakarta where the Non-Aligned Conference was being held.

Towards the end of the year, there were other high-level contacts, notably with the

\* Sudanese People's Liberation Army



State Minister for Presidential Affairs, Mr Ghazi Salah Eddine, who asked the head of delegation in Khartoum to meet him on 22 December to initiate talks on the resumption of ICRC activities for victims of the conflict.

**Assistance for the civilian population**

In January and February, the Sudanese government relocated tens of thousands of displaced people to camps some 20 km from Khartoum. The ICRC put two water tankers at the disposal of the Sudanese Red Crescent to provide drinking water for one of the camps. Food and blankets were also handed over to the National So-

ciety for the most vulnerable groups living in the camps and for new arrivals.

In addition, relief supplies were distributed to civilians affected by the conflict, through local Red Crescent branches in Juba, Malakal, Wau and Raga.

During the first few months of the year, the ICRC continued to provide food for displaced people who were not receiving help from other humanitarian organizations. Among the beneficiaries were 100,000 returnees, including some 10,000 youngsters separated from their families, who had arrived in the Pochala area in 1991 on their return from exile in Ethiopia. Taking advantage of the dry season, the displaced people started to leave the camps and began their long journey back to their places of origin or to areas considered safer. The ICRC provided them with food, water and medical assistance at several points along the road from Pochala to Kapoeta and Narus, and on a smaller scale on the road to Bor.

At the end of May, when fighting broke out in the Kapoeta area, 20,000 displaced people left Narus and arrived at the Kenyan border. The ICRC supplied water, medicines and an ambulance service and other organizations provided food and shelter, until UNHCR could take over.

In previous years the ICRC had organized large-scale vaccination programmes to protect herds from rinderpest (some 350,000 head vaccinated in 1991). In 1992, the planned vaccinations could not be carried out for security reasons, and later because the ICRC was no longer allowed to work in southern Sudan.

**Medical assistance**

Medical and surgical assistance for the victims of the ongoing conflict in Sudan continued to be one of the ICRC's main activities within the country and in Liki-

chokio, just over the border in Kenya, where its field hospital was established in 1986.

In southern Sudan, field nurses and doctors continued to care for the displaced people in Pochala itself, and later along the roads to Bor and Kapoeta where first-aid posts had been opened by the ICRC. A lorry service was set up to transport the sick and wounded and unaccompanied children, mostly from Gorkuo. The latter were too weak to walk all the way to Narus, where they were to be settled and then assisted by the United Nations as from May.

In addition, an ICRC field nurse supervised rehabilitation work on the hospital in Bor. Medical supplies were sent to Pochala, Boma, Pakok, Leer, Yirrol, Kaya, Nasir, Bor, Kapoeta and Narus. As from the end of May, health facilities were set up in the Lokichokio transit camp for refugees.

At the beginning of the year, lack of flight clearance for ICRC planes meant that medical evacuations could be carried out only by road. When this was no longer allowed, war casualties still arrived at Lokichokio by their own means or were brought in by the United Nations. In all, ICRC teams treated 871 war-wounded and 300 sick people, and performed 3,374 major operations. They also continued to train local staff in war surgery and nursing. As the number of patients steadily rose during the year, the hospital's capacity had to be increased. As many as 252 patients were being treated at peak periods.

During the second half of the year wounded people arriving at the border between Sudan and Uganda were transferred by ICRC teams based in Kampala to an airfield close by and then flown to Lokichokio. In June for instance, when major confrontations occurred in and

around Juba, 198 war-wounded were taken to the ICRC hospital in this way. Delegates also handed over emergency medical supplies at the border to surgeons working in southern Sudan.

Meanwhile, in Juba, local ICRC staff and the Sudanese Red Crescent were assisting the victims, transporting hundreds of wounded to hospital and distributing medical supplies sent in by the ICRC.

The ICRC continued to support the orthopaedic centre in Khartoum and the workshop in Kassala in 1992. At the end of the year a new workshop was opened at Lokichokio. In all, 1,151 prostheses were produced and 1,320 patients were fitted with orthopaedic appliances.

### **Tracing activities**

Throughout the year, the exchange of Red Cross messages between Sudanese refugees in Central Africa, Uganda and Zaire and their families in Sudan continued. Some 12,000 messages were handled. In addition, ICRC delegates collected 377 messages from minors who wished to re-establish contacts with their relatives. Eighty-three families were successfully traced in Kordofan, while 184 cases remained to be solved. Some 150 youngsters accompanied by ICRC tracing delegates were flown from Nasir to Leer aboard United Nations aircraft to be reunited with their families.

### **Activities for detainees**

In January, the ICRC was able to visit 190 detainees held by the SPLA in southern Sudan. Sixty-seven of them had been registered before, while 123 were seen for the first time. Follow-up visits were carried out until the suspension of ICRC work in the area. No security detainees held by the Sudanese government were visited by the ICRC in 1992.

## UGANDA

The general security situation improved in Uganda in 1992. The civilian population in the eastern and the northern regions was no longer harassed by confrontations between opposition movements and the army. Apart from the presence of refugees, the border areas close to Rwanda and Zaire were not affected by the tension in those countries. The National Society, with ICRC support, continued to offer tracing services to these refugees and to those who had fled the conflict in Sudan.

Economic difficulties persisted, however, and the government had to make drastic cuts in public spending in various fields, including the army and the running of the country's prisons. In July plans were made to reduce the army's manpower by 40,000. The Ugandan authorities also launched a wide-ranging reform of the judicial and penitentiary system, which led to the release of several thousand detainees, many of whom were within the mandate of the ICRC.

In 1992 the ICRC's work in Uganda centred on visits to places of detention. Delegates were also involved, however, in arranging medical evacuations through the north of the country in connection with the conflict in neighbouring Sudan (see *Sudan*), and monitoring the situation in the border area close to Rwanda, where refugees were in the care of UNHCR. At the end of the year, the Kampala delegation started to organize the purchase and transport of relief supplies for displaced people in northern Rwanda (see *Rwanda*).

Two mobile dissemination units toured the country throughout the year giving talks on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and on international humani-

tarian law to various target groups, in particular local Red Cross branches. In addition, a national seminar on international humanitarian law was held in Kampala in January and was attended by 25 officers of the National Resistance Army.

### Activities for detainees

ICRC delegates continued their visits to people still held in connection with the fighting or for offences against State security. However, their numbers dropped sharply and only 385 such detainees were left in November. In all, 196 visits were carried out to 103 places of detention, both civilian and military, including police stations and military barracks. As in previous years, the ICRC was not allowed to carry out visits in accordance with its customary procedures to non-sentenced members of the armed forces held in army detention centres.

At the beginning of the year delegates visited more than 300 deserters held on prison farms in the south and south-west of the country. Rounds of visits were also made to several military divisions and police stations in the north and east.

In addition, the ICRC visited Soroti, Moroto and Luzira Upper prisons, as well as the central police station in Kampala. In August, a special feeding programme was carried out by the ICRC in Soroti prison for a group of prisoners suffering from malnutrition.

On 21 August, following a general amnesty, over 1,000 deserters and various groups of elderly or ailing detainees were released and the ICRC gave each of them some help towards making a new start in life. Similar assistance was handed over on several occasions when the govern-

ment pardoned or cleared from charges hundreds of prisoners held in Ugandan jails and camps.

Water and sanitation programmes continued, notably in Kumi prison.

## **NAIROBI** **Regional delegation**

**(Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania)**

The regional delegation's main tasks were the traditional ones of disseminating international humanitarian law and providing support for the National Societies in the countries it covered.

With regard to dissemination for the armed forces, seminars were organized in the Comoros in April and in Kenya in November. Both were attended by high-ranking officers. A talk on international humanitarian law was also given in Mauritius to members of the special mobile forces.

In addition, visits to security detainees were carried out in Djibouti and Madagascar (see below).

## **COMOROS**

Following the attempted *coup* in September, the ICRC approached the Comoros authorities with a view to obtaining permission to visit people arrested in connection with the event. No formal answer had been given by the end of the year.

## **DJIBOUTI**

Throughout 1992 clashes between the FRUD\* movement and the Djibouti

government armed forces in the north of the country continued to affect the civilian population.

The regional delegate based in Nairobi travelled to Djibouti on several occasions to have talks with the authorities and in February a headquarters agreement was signed. Among the matters raised during these meetings were ICRC visits to places of detention and surveys in the north of the country. Contacts were also made with FRUD leaders to discuss similar issues. An ICRC delegate was based in Djibouti for most of the year.

In January, delegates carried out their first survey in the north of the country. This was followed by further missions to visit detainees held by the opposition movement and on one occasion, in May, to bring back to the capital 53 people, mostly civil servants and their families, who wished to leave the troubled area. The ICRC visited 112 detainees held by the FRUD in 1992, offering tracing services and distributing toiletries.

In Djibouti town, delegates saw 28 security detainees, 19 for the first time, during a general visit to places of detention run by the government in May. Follow-up visits were carried out and newly arrested detainees were registered.

## **KENYA**

In 1992, the ICRC office in Nairobi became the headquarters for three different delegations: the regional delegation, the delegation for southern Sudan and the Somalia delegation, whose head had been withdrawn from Mogadishu for political and security reasons.

Special support was given to the Kenya Red Cross Society for its tracing work on behalf of Somali refugees, in particular in the camps along the Kenya/Somali border.

\* Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy

In addition, the ICRC and the Kenyan Red Cross carried out a survey in the drought-stricken north-east of the country, close to the Somali border. Five hundred tonnes of ICRC emergency food aid were distributed by the National Society and later the United Nations also used ICRC supplies until the World Food Programme could organize its own food stocks.

High-level talks were held in Nairobi and in Geneva, where the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Wilson Ndolo Ayah, was received by the ICRC Vice-President at headquarters on 10 April. Matters such as the Additional Protocols, the headquarters agreement between the ICRC and the Kenyan government and ICRC visits to security detainees were raised. This last issue was also discussed with the Kenyan Attorney-General, Mr Amos Wako, who received ICRC representatives in Nairobi a month later.

The ICRC unit based in Nairobi, which coordinates the institution's activities in southern Sudan, found its work considerably hampered by the restrictions imposed by the Sudanese government and, as from May, concentrated on medical assistance (see *Sudan*).

Serving as the vital logistics and administrative bases for ICRC operations in Somalia, the ICRC offices in Nairobi and Mombasa grew considerably to keep pace

with the rapidly increasing humanitarian needs. At peak times seven ships were carrying ICRC goods to Kismayo, Mogadishu and other smaller ports, and eight planes were chartered for the airlift. In all, some 180,000 tonnes of food and other relief supplies were handled in 1992.

In 1991 a logistics base was set up close to the Somali border, in Liboi. In March 1992, an additional base was opened in Mandera, followed by a further two in El Wak and Garissa, with warehouses and a fleet of trucks to take supplies into Somalia (see *Somalia*).

### MADAGASCAR

In Antananarivo on 25 August, the regional delegate visited 14 people detained for offences against State security. This was the ICRC's first-ever visit to security detainees in Madagascar. The ICRC also financed a first-aid course for Red Cross volunteers and the national police.

### SEYCHELLES

In 1992 the Seychelles Red Cross was formally recognized by the ICRC and admitted into the Federation. The Republic of Seychelles recognized the competence of the International Fact-finding Commission in accordance with Article 90 of Additional Protocol I.

**RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1992  
AFRICA**

Countries	Medical (CHF)	Relief		Total (CHF)
		(CHF)	(Tonnes)	
Angola .....	368,665	1,165,951	378.2	1,534,616
Burundi .....	9,721	16,150	5.1	25,871
Cameroon .....	4,644	10,547	5.0	15,191
Chad .....	51,764			51,764
Central African Republic .....		6,556	8.5	6,556
Côte d'Ivoire .....	1,498			1,498
Djibouti .....		2,615	0.6	2,615
Ethiopia .....	610,604	10,984,612	12,595.3	11,595,216
Kenya .....		299,081	640.1	299,081
Liberia .....	347,227	437,195	193.8	784,422
Madagascar .....	2,093			2,093
Malawi .....		28,889	7.6	28,889
Mali .....	45,910	493,751	706.3	539,661
Mozambique .....	370,001	5,825,589	6,999.2	6,195,590
Namibia .....		24,307	5.9	24,307
Nigeria .....	14,173	57,582	9.6	71,755
Rwanda .....	2,387	15,666,114	29,172.6	15,668,501
Senegal .....	775			775
Sierra Leone .....	37,522	833,437	1,037.0	870,959
Somalia .....	11,949,184	89,722,265	154,413.8	101,671,449
South Africa .....		1,020,378	373.3	1,020,378
Sudan .....	267,812	695,635	860.6	963,447
Sudan (conflict in south via Kenya) .....	881,251	1,575,355	1,604.4	2,456,606
Togo .....		1,542	0.4	1,542
Uganda .....	6,065	171,870	42.5	177,935
Zaire .....	30,228	152,660	152.8	182,888
Zambia .....		6,817	7.2	6,817
Zimbabwe .....		51,049	58.5	51,049
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>15,001,524</b>	<b>129,249,947</b>	<b>209,278.3</b>	<b>144,251,471</b>

