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The ICRC visited a number of detainees held in connection with the crisis in Chiapas, including those held at Cerro Hueco prison in Tuxtla Gutierrez, according to its standard procedures.

ICRC/E.Thibaut

## Latin America

### ICRC delegations or missions:

Colombia

Haiti

Mexico

Peru

### ICRC regional delegations:

Brasilia

Buenos Aires

Guatemala City

### Staff

ICRC expatriates<sup>1</sup> : 66

National Societies<sup>1</sup>: 1

Local employees<sup>2</sup> : 145

### Total expenditure

Sfr 20,645,965

Expenditure breakdown	Sfr
Protection/tracing:	8,799,542
Relief:	2,879,626
Medical assistance:	2,620,479
Cooperation with National Societies:	253,018
Dissemination:	1,290,030
Operational support:	3,555,627
Overheads:	1,247,643



ICRC / AR 12.94

● ICRC regional delegation    ● ICRC delegation or mission

Scarcenia where there were a number of armed clashes and summary executions in February, and where late in the year dozens of young women who were assumed to be related to or friends of policemen received death threats (at least five were killed). The sub-delegation in Montería was temporarily closed for security reasons at the beginning of the year, it reopened in March.

The year saw an increase in many of the ICRC's activities. The number of visits to places of detention rose to over 600 and the number of places visited to 272 (as against 443 and 175 respectively in 1993). Dissemination of humanitarian law continued for the police and armed forces and, for the first time, the DIAS<sup>3</sup> and the DIJIN<sup>4</sup> requested and were given ICRC dissemination

<sup>1</sup> Average figures calculated on an annual basis.

<sup>2</sup> Under ICRC contract, as at December 1994.

# LATIN AMERICA

Once again in 1994, the ICRC placed preventive measures aimed at limiting the suffering of conflict victims high on its agenda in Latin America. One way of doing this is to increase the emergency preparedness of National Societies. During the year the ICRC worked closely with two National Societies facing new conflict-related challenges. The Mexican Red Cross was active from the very beginning of the insurrection in Chiapas, working hand in hand with the ICRC throughout the year to ensure the neutrality of protected areas, to provide medical care for people in the affected region and to distribute relief assistance to needy displaced people. In Haiti too the ICRC worked closely with the National Society, ensuring that its ambulance service and staff were prepared to act in case of need.

The protection of civilians and detainees affected by the internal violence in Colombia and Peru remained the major thrust of the ICRC's two largest operations in the region. With conflict-related needs in Peru changing in 1994, the ICRC shifted the focus of its activities to the growing number of detainees. In Colombia, the efforts of past years began to show results as the ICRC gained the confidence of a greater proportion of conflict victims. The delegation in Colombia was thus able to extend its activities in 1994, opening an office in the Uraba region and another east of Bucaramanga.

As in the past, spreading knowledge of humanitarian law was an important aspect of the ICRC's work. In March the ICRC's dissemination delegate in Colombia, with the help of the delegate for dissemination to the armed forces and the regional delegate based in Buenos Aires, organized a course for 20 military instructors from nine countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela) at the military club in Bogotá. In addition, major dissemination efforts continued in Colombia and Peru, where the ICRC had its largest operations, and the regional delegations in Buenos Aires, Brasilia and Guatemala City continued to disseminate and promote humanitarian law throughout the continent.

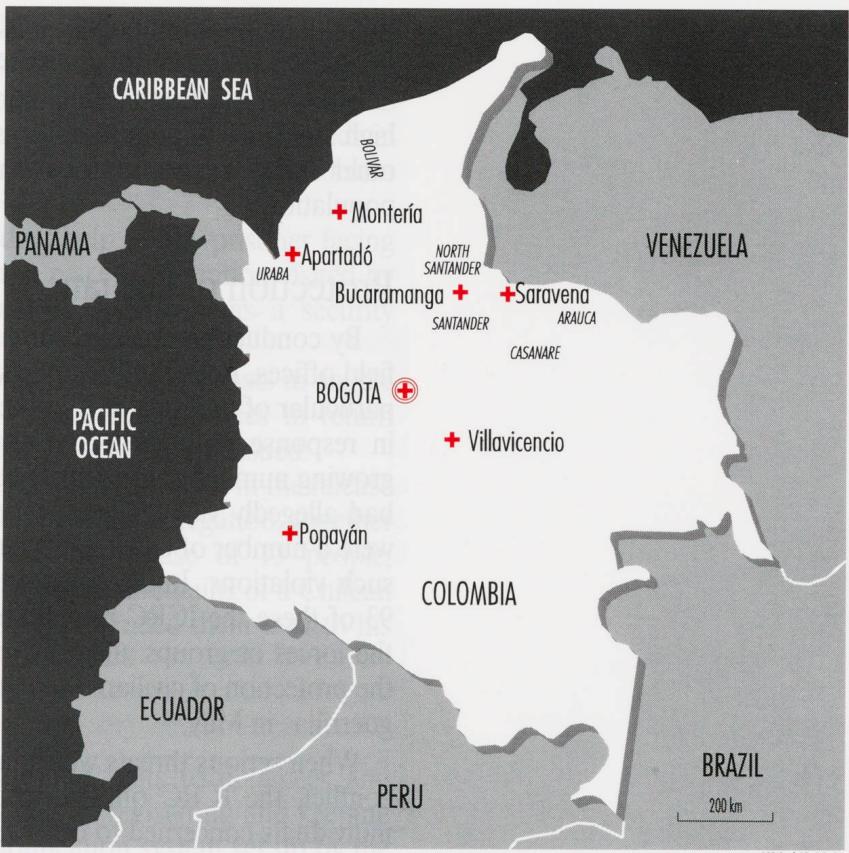
## COLOMBIA

The inauguration of the new President on 7 August led to fresh calls for peace talks with the main armed opposition groups. One of the major points of the new government's programme was the promotion of human rights and international humanitarian law. The ICRC took an active part in the discussions surrounding Colombia's accession to Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions and provided information to the authorities, the press and the public concerning its provisions. The Colombian Constitutional Court was still examining the constitutionality of the country's accession to Protocol II at the end of the year.

Other government initiatives which affected the ICRC's activities included the training of members of the armed forces in international humanitarian law and the decision to increase the level of assistance provided to victims of the conflict through the REDES (the Solidarity Network).

The ICRC's presence in the country was once again extended, enabling the delegation to increase its efforts to protect civilians. The delegation opened an office in Apartadó following a spate of political killings there, and another in Saravena, where there were a number of armed clashes and summary executions in February, and where late in the year dozens of young women who were assumed to be related to or friends of policemen received death threats (at least five were killed). The sub-delegation in Montería was temporarily closed for security reasons at the beginning of the year; it reopened in March.

The year saw an increase in many of the ICRC's activities. The number of visits to places of detention rose to over 600 and the number of places visited to 272 (as against 443 and 175 respectively in 1993); dissemination of humanitarian law continued for the police and armed forces and, for the first time, the DAS\* and the DIJIN\* requested and were given ICRC dissemination



ICRC / AR 12.94

● ICRC delegation

● ICRC presence

### IN 1994 THE ICRC:

- visited 2,063 detainees, including 1,018 for the first time, in 272 places of detention;
- assisted in the production of 354 prostheses and 660 orthoses at the CIREC;
- held some 300 dissemination sessions, reaching over 16,500 people.

\* DAS: Administrative Department of Security

\* DIJIN: Judicial Police

sessions on humanitarian law, in November and December respectively. Protection activities also increased for civilians.

The overall situation in Colombia at the end of 1994 was still marked by a high incidence of political killings, extra-judicial executions, hostage-taking and other serious violations of humanitarian law, primarily affecting the civilian population.

## Protection of civilians

By conducting repeated missions from the delegation, sub-delegations and field offices, ICRC staff succeeded in gaining the confidence of civilians and in particular of many victims of the internal violence. During missions carried out in response to reports of abuses, tension or clashes, delegates recorded a growing number of incidents where the armed opposition or government forces had allegedly violated the provisions of humanitarian law. In addition, there were a number of cases in which paramilitary groups were held responsible for such violations. In all, cases concerning some 400 civilians were handled. In 93 of these the ICRC was authorized to pass on the information in detail to the forces or groups allegedly responsible for violations. Summary reports on the protection of civilians were submitted to the government in April and to the guerrillas in May.

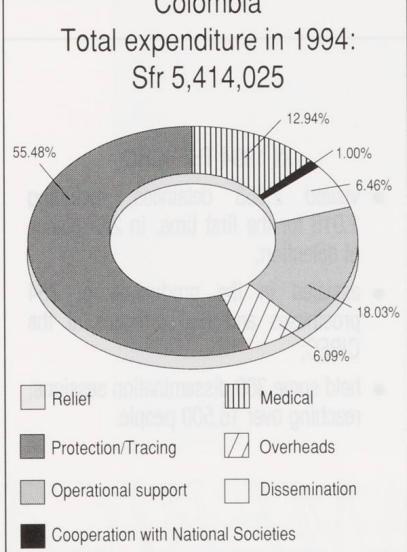
When serious threats were made against civilians by one of the parties to the conflict, the ICRC offered, when necessary, to pay for the transport of the individuals concerned to other regions to ensure their safety. Some 450 people received such assistance in 1994.

## Activities for detainees

In August the ICRC handed over to the new authorities a summary report on treatment of detainees during arrest and interrogation, and on the conditions of detention in Colombian prisons. It was presented to the Presidency, the *Fiscalía General de la Nación* (an autonomous body established as part of the judicial branch under the 1991 Constitution), the Ministry of Defence and the heads of the DAS and the police.

In 1994 ICRC delegates and medical staff carried out 602 visits to 272 places of detention under the authority of the Ministries of Justice and Defence and the DAS, and to six hospitals. Many of the detainees visited were under interrogation (detainees are generally supposed to be held under interrogation for less than 36 hours before being transferred to a prison).

In the course of the year there was an improvement in the notification to the ICRC of arrests made by the Colombian authorities.



During visits to prisons, military bases and police stations the ICRC supplied toiletries, recreational items and clothing to inmates, and paid for medical, dental or ophthalmological treatment for 202 detainees. The ICRC noted improvements in living conditions and in the functioning of the medical services, and efforts were made by the prison authorities to solve the problem of overcrowding.

Starting in mid-year the ICRC began providing help to any prisoner facing financial difficulties and requiring assistance at a place of detention visited by delegates, regardless of whether the individual in question was a security detainee.

For security detainees, the delegation also paid the transport costs to enable family members to visit their relatives in prison and for detainees to return home after their release. A total of 5,509 transport vouchers were issued.

As in previous years, the ICRC delegation stood ready to assist in the release of people captured by the armed opposition. In 1994 the delegation, together with representatives of the church, assisted in the release of 13 people, including one foreign national. It also retrieved the mortal remains of a Chilean engineer who had been killed in December 1992 and handed them over to his family.

## Tracing activities

The delegation's tracing activities centred around visits to detainees and cases relating to the protection of civilians. As well as registering and keeping track of prisoners and checking on the arrest notification system set up by the authorities, the tracing agency handled information regarding people who had disappeared. A total of 88 tracing cases were opened and 87 closed. At the end of the year 21 cases remained pending. In addition, the ICRC provided training in tracing methods for staff of the Colombian Red Cross Society.

## Medical activities

The ICRC continued to pay for the medical treatment of people injured as a result of the conflict. All told, more than 65 such cases were handled. The delegation also distributed medical supplies to health posts and other facilities in the field when their stocks were depleted owing to armed clashes.

ICRC cooperation with the CIREC\* drew to a close at the end of 1994. In the three years of cooperation with the ICRC, the centre introduced the use of polypropylene technology for the production of artificial limbs and produced

\* CIREC: Centre for Rehabilitation Surgery

1,081 prostheses and 1,863 orthoses. The average cost of a prosthesis was almost halved in this period, largely thanks to the introduction of the new production technique.

## Dissemination

The new President's policies led to growing interest in humanitarian law among various government authorities. The establishment in each military unit and in local government and other services of offices responsible for promoting human rights and related issues greatly facilitated the access of ICRC disseminators to various target audiences, including army officers, DAS and DIJIN personnel, and local authorities. As in previous years, the ICRC's staff in the field continued to spread knowledge of humanitarian law and of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement among the police, soldiers, prison guards, the civilian authorities, students, journalists, health specialists and members of the National Red Cross Society, as well as to members of the armed opposition whenever conditions permitted.

In the second half of 1994 the ICRC continued to develop its activities for officers of the armed forces. Beginning in July the ICRC, in cooperation with the Colombian Red Cross Society, gave four one-week courses for naval officers and later for the marines. Following a first course for army officers in late 1993, a second course was held in November 1994 and attended by 25 commanding field officers. Dissemination to the police continued as well; by the end of the year the ICRC presentation was considered a routine part of the three-month training programme.

Activities at the national level were conducted in close cooperation with the dissemination services of the Colombian Red Cross. These included a seminar for the national press in January and a series of lectures and events for students, professors and lawyers. The ICRC also continued to support a number of National Society dissemination sessions by providing matching funds for such activities.

## HAITI

The ICRC maintained close cooperation with the Haitian National Red Cross Society during the time of the United Nations embargo, when the army was still in power. The delegation in Guatemala City, which covered Haiti until September 1994, kept one delegate in Haiti throughout the early months of the year. During this period the ICRC continued, as it had in 1993, to provide financial support for the upkeep of the National Society's ambulance service and radio network. Up to mid-April it also carried out visits to places of

detention (mainly in the southern part of the country), registering eight security detainees.

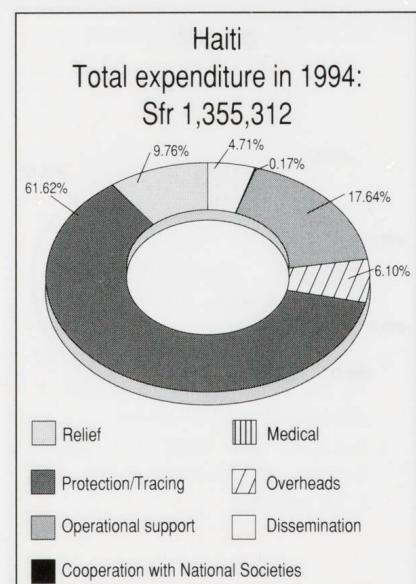
On 20 April, on the basis of an assessment of the situation carried out by the delegate in Haiti, the ICRC issued a *note verbale* to the military authorities, pointing out that the institution's activities in Haiti were based on its humanitarian right of initiative. The note proposed in particular the development of dissemination activities on a more systematic basis, visits to detainees, and measures for the protection of civilians. The Minister of Justice of the government in Port-au-Prince received a copy on 14 June.

Unfortunately, the authorities did not respond favourably to this note until 3 October, well after the political situation in the country had changed dramatically. Visits to detainees were suspended in the middle of the year. The ICRC's activities were limited to building up the emergency preparedness of the Haitian Red Cross (from June the National Society had a reserve of fuel, a fleet of vehicles and a team of relief workers at the ready) and to conducting dissemination sessions for members of the armed forces, police units and customs officials in Port-au-Prince and in all major towns.

Following the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 940, which authorized the creation of a multinational force to restore the elected government of Haiti and to apply the Governor's Island agreement, the ICRC issued a memorandum on 4 August calling attention to the basic obligations of humanitarian law. The memorandum was given to the military authorities of Haiti, the President in exile, the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the United States government (which was acting under the United Nations Security Council resolution). Later in August and in early September the ICRC sent in additional staff and carried out surveys of facilities throughout Haiti that were likely to receive casualties in the event of a military intervention.

With tension rising quickly in the first half of September the ICRC coordinated with the World Health Organization in building up stocks of medical supplies, explained the neutral status of medical facilities to hospital staff, and distributed protective Red Cross flags and markers and signs banning weapons from hospitals.

After the intervention of international forces on 19 September and the subsequent return of the exiled President of Haiti, the ICRC conducted a wide range of activities. Throughout the violent incidents which marked the end of September and beginning of October it maintained contacts with all sides, Haitian and foreign; in particular, the delegation helped the Haitian Red Cross carry out hundreds of emergency evacuations of the injured, and radio spots were broadcast calling on the population to let the Red Cross work unhindered.



At the end of the year the situation in Haiti was marked by a high degree of uncertainty, as the United States drastically reduced the number of troops it had based in the country and the International Police Monitors began operating. The Haitian authorities and national police were not yet functioning effectively. A number of people were killed or injured when they were accused publicly of being former or current members of various organizations associated with the former regime, including the *attachés* and the FRAPH\*. Many members of these groups were still armed and their behaviour, especially following the departure of the United States forces, could not be predicted.

## Activities for detainees

The ICRC visited two groups of security detainees in 1994. As mentioned above, until April delegates visited people detained by the Haitian authorities, and registered eight security detainees. After the armed intervention the delegation visited Haitians detained by the international forces in Haiti. Delegates continued visiting such detainees held at the Joint Detention Facility run by the United States forces in Port-au-Prince up to the end of the year. All told, some 120 people detained by the United States forces were registered. Within two weeks of the initial intervention the United States military had established a system to notify the ICRC of any detainees held by them; over 200 cases were notified by the end of the year. Many detainees were released shortly after arrest, so were not registered during visits by delegates.

In a letter dated 3 October the ICRC was at last given authorization by the outgoing Haitian authorities to visit people detained at facilities run by the government. In the first month and a half of these visits ICRC delegates assessed the situation during some 60 visits to 40 places of detention, including all 14 major prisons in the country. From these visits the delegation concluded that prisoners in Haiti were a vulnerable group which required humanitarian assistance. The delegation discussed its findings with the Haitian authorities, and began extensive sanitation work in some of the facilities. It also began distributing relief (including food, mats, buckets and recreational items) and medical supplies.

Towards the end of the year the ICRC delegation played an active part in facilitating contacts between non-governmental organizations, international agencies and the Haitian authorities, with a view to improving living conditions in the country's prisons.

\* FRAPH: Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti

## Dissemination

In the climate of uncertainty which prevailed at the end of the year, the ICRC delegation attempted to maintain contacts with all groups and to make all parties present aware of the basic rules of humanitarian law. This task was particularly complicated because there were thousands of International Police Monitors from various countries training the Haitian police and helping to maintain public order at the end of the year, together with the thousands of foreign troops still based in the country. In December the ICRC therefore sent in a team of delegates specialized in dissemination activities for the armed forces and for the public, in an attempt to reach as many target audiences as possible. One of their main tasks was to ensure that proper instruction in humanitarian law was given to the Haitian police and armed forces as part of their training in 1995.

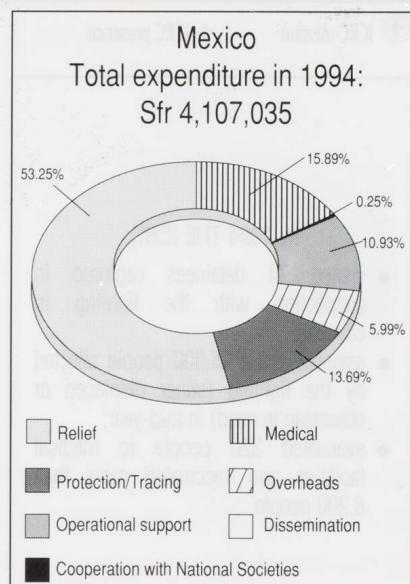
## MEXICO

When the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) launched an offensive in the southern state of Chiapas at the beginning of 1994, the Mexican Red Cross and the ICRC took immediate action. The rebellion in the south was one of the major factors marking the political scene in Mexico in 1994; it was followed by political upheaval marked by assassinations and mounting tension (notably between farmers and land-holders in the south) prior to the August elections. In Chiapas tension rose again significantly at the beginning of December as the armed opposition declared that the eleven-month-old cease-fire had come to an end following the inauguration of the new state governor. The situation calmed down in the last two weeks of the year.

In response to the uprising in Chiapas, the National Society at once began to evacuate the wounded to hospitals, sometimes at great risk (three Red Cross workers were wounded when two ambulances were caught in cross-fire on 5 January), and quickly issued an appeal for respect for humanitarian law. The ICRC's regional delegate based in Guatemala City arrived in Chiapas on 5 January.

The government announced a unilateral cease-fire on 12 January. The ICRC submitted an offer of services to the Mexican Ministry of External Relations in Mexico City, proposing protection and assistance activities for people affected by the conflict, including visits to those detained in connection with the fighting. On 17 January the Mexican government accepted the offer.

After the cease-fire was declared by the government, the EZLN remained in the mountains of the south-east and the Lacandona forest regions in the





ICRC mission

ICRC presence

ICRC 12.94

#### IN 1994 THE ICRC:

- visited 74 detainees captured in connection with the fighting in Chiapas;
- assisted about 25,000 people affected by the fighting (either displaced or otherwise in need) in mid-year;
- evacuated 320 people to medical facilities and vaccinated more than 6,200 people.

eastern part of Chiapas, and the army stayed outside this area. This left much of the eastern section of the state off-limits to government representatives and certain government-provided services, including medical care.

There were a number of concerns shared by the two sides, but contact between the government and the armed opposition was difficult to establish because of the high level of suspicion that prevailed after nearly two weeks of fighting. First and foremost they both wanted to ensure that the ceasefire held, and that talks could begin so as to avoid future clashes. Another concern was the provision, as quickly as possible, of medical services in the affected area.

At the request of the government and the EZLN, the ICRC began to play a role in solving these problems. The two sides requested the ICRC's help in initiating talks between them. To set up the talks, the ICRC guaranteed the neutrality of the site of the negotiations — the cathedral in San Cristóbal de las Casas — and provided transport under the protection of

the Red Cross for the EZLN delegates as they crossed into government-controlled territory. ICRC staff remained in contact with the church mediator (the Bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas), the Commissioner for Peace, and representatives of the EZLN in Chiapas, and with representatives of the Ministry of External Relations and other government officials in Mexico City throughout the year.

With the agreement of the parties, two neutral zones were set up in February, in Guadalupe Tepeyac and in San Miguel, both to the east of San Cristóbal de las Casas. This made it possible for the ICRC, together with the Mexican Red Cross and the Mexican Ministry of Health, to provide medical assistance in these regions, to evacuate seriously ill patients to hospitals in government-held towns and to restore medical facilities. The ICRC also established a neutral presence during the elections in August. ICRC delegates ensured that ballot boxes and staff of the Federal Election Board could cross

lines into territory where the EZLN was present, thus enabling thousands of people to vote.

On 12 June the EZLN leadership announced that, after consulting its membership, it could not accept the proposals made during the February negotiations. This heightened tension in Chiapas and prompted thousands more people to move into government-held areas. The number of displaced people rose through the year, reaching about 20,000 in December.

As early as April it became obvious that the conflict was going to have a lasting effect on thousands of displaced people and people living in or near the neutral areas. The ICRC and the Mexican Red Cross therefore jointly initiated a relief programme in mid-year for displaced people and others affected by the fighting. In September a member of the Committee, the ICRC's governing body, visited Mexico and discussed joint programmes with the leadership of the National Society. On 22 November the two institutions concluded an agreement on further cooperation in the field of relief, and they later began dissemination activities together. At the end of the year, the Mexican Red Cross provided medical staff for the facilities in the neutral areas.

## Activities for detainees

In the initial fighting in the first two weeks of the year, the Mexican authorities captured over 100 people accused of taking part in the armed insurrection, many of whom were released soon after. The EZLN took one prisoner (the former governor of Chiapas), who was captured on 2 January, the day after the insurrection broke out. ICRC delegates first began visiting detainees held by the authorities on 19 January, when they registered 70 people at Cerro Hueco prison in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, the capital of Chiapas. The detainees were gradually released by the government in small groups until 11 July when the last three were set free. The ICRC visited them a total of 15 times, and regularly submitted reports on the visits to the Mexican authorities.

As for the prisoner held by the EZLN, ICRC delegates visited him twice within a few days of their initial contact with the guerrilla group, on 11 and 13 February, and arranged for his release on 16 February.

## Health activities

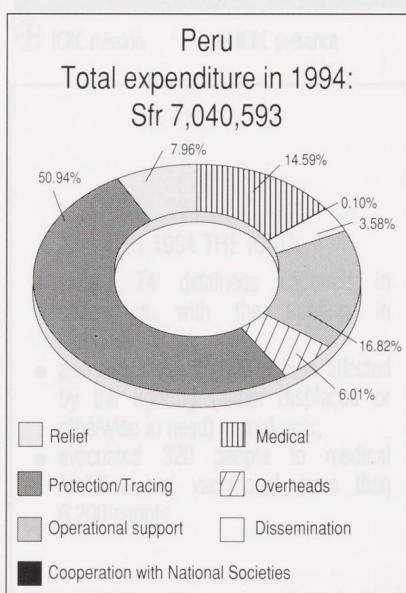
As well as ensuring the neutral status of the medical personnel and facilities in Guadalupe Tepeyac and San Miguel, the ICRC provided staff for these facilities and evacuated the sick and wounded to hospitals. The ICRC also

assisted with vaccinations and medical consultations and carried out work in the affected region, helping to restore the water supply system at the Ministry of Health's hospital in Guadalupe Tepeyac. In June the ICRC submitted a report on medical facilities and the population's health needs to the Vice-Minister of Health.

The ICRC maintained a presence and continued its medical activities in the two neutral zones throughout the year.

## Activities for the civilian population

The initial fighting led to the displacement in January of about 25,000 people from areas not under the control of the government. Many of these displaced people returned after the cease-fire. In March and April the ICRC anticipated that, since they were cut off from their main source of income, the situation of the remaining 5,000 displaced people would soon begin to deteriorate. At the same time conditions also worsened in the regions not under government control. Communications were interrupted because of roadblocks, and this adversely affected trade and commerce in the region, making it impossible to stock food or sell produce as normal. The Mexican Red Cross, with financial assistance from the ICRC, implemented a relief programme in May, June and July for about 5,000 displaced people and for 20,000 people remaining in the regions which were not under government control.



## PERU

The advances made in 1994 and in previous years by government forces reduced the overall intensity of the fighting and led to the arrest of thousands of people accused of belonging to or supporting the two armed opposition groups. By the end of the year calm had returned to large portions of Peruvian territory, and in response the ICRC decided to scale down its presence in certain regions. Nonetheless, in 1994 there were still many violent incidents in the upper Huallaga valley and the Ucayali region, as well as in the jungle region of Junín department. The ICRC maintained its presence in these regions, as in others, throughout the year.

The focus of ICRC activities in Peru shifted significantly in 1994. More emphasis was placed on the protection of detainees and less on relief and medical assistance for civilians. Although there was a quantitative drop in the number of cases involving the protection of civilians, this work still played an important part in the delegation's activities, especially in the regions where fighting persisted. The delegation continued to conduct dissemination activities

for the military, the national police, self-defence committees, university staff and students, teachers and other groups.

One of the reasons for the large number of arrests in 1994 was the adoption by the government of a Law of Repentance, which temporarily had the effect of encouraging people involved in the armed insurrection to turn themselves in and to denounce other members of the armed opposition groups. The provisions of this law remained in force until the beginning of November. The increase in arrests accentuated the need for ICRC protection and assistance activities for detainees and highlighted the importance of the delegation's efforts to ensure that prisoners were treated humanely.

As regards the protection of both detainees and civilians, the delegation maintained contacts with the authorities at all levels with a view to ensuring the observance by the armed forces, the police and self-defence committees of the provisions of humanitarian law. The Delegate General for Latin America visited

Peru at the end of May and met the President of the Republic, to whom he submitted three summary reports on the treatment of security detainees, conditions of detention at police stations and prisons and the behaviour of the armed forces with respect to civilians and detainees. In addition, another summary report, on respect for judicial guarantees, was submitted to the highest authorities in October. In November the Vice-President of the ICRC and the Delegate General for Latin America met the Peruvian Minister of Justice at ICRC headquarters in Geneva to discuss the conditions of detention of security detainees.

At the request of the Peruvian Red Cross, the ICRC also assisted, with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in the restructuring of the National Society, notably by supplying technical assistance and by conducting joint missions with Federation representatives with a view to revising the National Society's statutes. As a result the Peruvian Red Cross began to implement a nationwide development plan aimed at recruiting and



ICRC / AR 12.94

IN 1994 THE ICRC:

- visited 6,611 detainees, 3,024 of them for the first time, in 1,532 visits to 365 places of detention;
- covered the cost of medical care for more than 250 victims of the conflict;
- provided medical supplies during visits to hospitals, dispensaries and first-aid posts in the field;
- evacuated 57 people to health facilities in main towns;
- held 335 dissemination sessions, reaching over 25,500 people.

training volunteers, strengthening its activities and introducing new decision-making structures based on grass-roots participation.

On 25 February two ICRC employees flying to Lima were killed when the plane on which they were travelling crashed after taking off from Tingo María.

## Activities for detainees

Throughout the year the ICRC had free access to places of detention run by the Ministries of Justice, the Interior and Defence (including the DINCOTE\*). Delegates were allowed to visit people detained for "terrorism" or "treason" in all stages of detention, including interrogation, transfer and final incarceration. They also visited people accused of taking part in the abortive coup d'état of 1992.

The ICRC also provided material assistance, mainly consisting of cleaning materials, recreational and educational items, blankets and some medicines to detainees and prison authorities during these visits. In addition the delegation paid the travel expenses of family members visiting security detainees. Approximately 2,100 travel vouchers were issued each month.

## Activities for the civilian population

During their field missions, delegates continued to note allegations of violations of humanitarian law, although there were fewer cases than in previous years. When these allegations concerned government forces the delegation mentioned them in its regular confidential reports and discussions with government and military officials. When they concerned the armed opposition, they were reported during visits to prisons to the representatives of these movements who were held in detention. In 1994 the lack of contact with the armed opposition in the field precluded any other approaches to representatives of the guerrilla movements.

The ICRC provided material assistance (food, blankets, clothing, tools and kitchen utensils) to over 4,430 civilians (about 900 families) directly affected by the internal violence, including widows, orphans and displaced people. In addition, the delegation supported a school canteen which provided one hot meal daily to 350 orphans or children from displaced families in Ayacucho. A total of 54 tonnes of relief supplies were distributed.

\* DINCOTE: Dirección Nacional contra el Terrorismo

## Medical activities

The ICRC paid for the treatment of some 260 people who had been wounded as a result of the internal violence and hospitalized in medical facilities run by the Ministry of Health. The delegation also provided support for hospitals and health posts, providing X-ray equipment to the Dos de Mayo hospital in Lima and distributing medical supplies to smaller facilities in conflict areas. Delegates evacuated 57 wounded or sick people from remote health posts to larger facilities for specialized treatment. The ICRC assisted in the transport of amputees to the National Rehabilitation Institute in Lima for fitting with prostheses, and funded the treatment of 20 amputees at the Institute.

ICRC medical staff also participated in visits to places of detention.

The ICRC again reminded the authorities on numerous occasions of the need to respect the neutral status of medical personnel and to recognize the obligation of such personnel to treat the wounded and sick without discrimination.

## Tracing activities

The ICRC's tracing offices in Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Chiclayo, Cuzco, Huancavelica, Huancayo, Juliaca, La Merced, Lima, Tarapoto, Tocache and Tingo María kept track of detainees whose arrest had been notified by the authorities and who were visited by the delegation, issued travel vouchers for family visits and maintained contact between detainees and their families. The delegation opened files regarding 100 tracing requests from families of people who had disappeared, and resolved 35 cases (i.e., the subject was found, either in detention or otherwise, or it was ascertained that he or she had died). Some 65 cases were still pending at the end of the year.

## Dissemination

The dissemination of humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles was one of the delegation's main priorities and an integral part of its activities to protect detainees and civilians against violations of humanitarian law. Every month, the delegation held an average of 30 dissemination sessions. These reached over 25,500 people, including 13,400 members of the military and the police and 500 members of self-defence committees.

In addition, the delegation held a number of special courses for high-ranking army officers in May and October, and gave special courses at the naval and air force academies in August.

## BRASILIA Regional delegation (Brazil, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela)

### BRAZIL

The ICRC regional delegation maintained contacts with various government officials, including the Ministers of External Affairs and Justice, the Minister of the Army and the Armed Forces' Joint Command, and with non-governmental organizations active in the country. It concentrated its activities on the dissemination of humanitarian law. The delegation worked closely with the armed forces to establish a regular programme in the army, air force and navy for instruction of officers and soldiers in the provisions of the law. Seminars, presentations and debates were organized for the army, air force and navy at various training institutes and military facilities in the states of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and the federal district of Brasilia. Police forces were also included in dissemination activities. A special course on humanitarian law and human rights was given at the military police academy in São Paulo, and civilian police officials in the federal and state police forces also attended dissemination sessions. In addition, the ICRC held dissemination sessions for Brazilian troops about to be sent on United Nations peace-keeping missions in southern Africa. Libraries and comprehensive documentation on humanitarian law were often provided to the facilities where the programmes took place. All told, about 1,500 military officers and over 500 non-commissioned officers took part in these courses.

University students and faculty at the University of Brasilia, the University of São Paulo and those attending the OAS\* international law course in Rio de Janeiro also were given numerous talks on humanitarian law.

Dissemination activities were conducted for groups attending events held by other bodies (such as UNHCR and the government of the state of Ceará) on subjects related to the ICRC's work.

The ICRC also promoted the adoption of measures to strengthen humanitarian law, for instance by urging the federal government to ratify the 1980 United Nations Weapons Convention. By the end of the year the government had sent the Convention to the Congress for consideration.

\* OAS: Organization of American States

## ECUADOR

In March the ICRC organized a one-week course for high-ranking officials of the army, navy, air force and police at the National War Institute. The programme was later integrated into the Institute's syllabus, and a second course was given in October, with the participation of the ICRC and the Ecuadorean Red Cross.

The National Society conducted dissemination activities for military and police units, university staff and students, the media and local Red Cross staff throughout the year, and the ICRC provided support for these activities.

In February the ICRC submitted a confidential report to the Minister of Defence on the treatment of 11 people captured at the end of 1993 along the Colombian border and accused of facilitating or participating in attacks by the FARC\* in Ecuador. They had been visited by delegates in December 1993 and January 1994. In May the ICRC sent a team to Ecuador to visit 13 security detainees held in the capital and in Guayaquil. Material and medical assistance were provided.

## SURINAME

In November the ICRC's regional delegate based in Brasilia went to Suriname to hold talks with the Minister of Justice and Police, the acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Defence, the Commander-in-Chief of the army, and officials of the National Society. The main topics of discussion were the adoption of legislation for the application of humanitarian law and dissemination of the law to the armed forces. These discussions led to a dissemination session held by the National Society's legal adviser for members of the armed forces leaving on a United Nations peace-keeping mission in Haiti.

## VENEZUELA

The election of a new government at the end of 1993 led to the release in 1994 of all the security detainees who had been held since the two abortive coups of 1992. They had been visited regularly by the ICRC in 1992 and 1993.

ICRC activities in 1994 centred around the dissemination of humanitarian law and information about the Red Cross. In November the delegation held, for the first time, a one-week course at the National Defence Study Institute on the law of war. Thirty high-ranking officers of the army, navy, air force and

\* FARC: Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces

National Guard attended the course, which was opened by the Minister of Defence. Other debates and talks on humanitarian law were organized for military officers, foreign and local diplomats and students of diplomacy, and university students throughout the year.

The ICRC kept up its close cooperation with the Venezuelan Red Cross in the field of dissemination. The regional delegate gave a presentation to students enrolled in a Masters course on humanitarian law which the National Society helped to set up at the University of Santa María in Caracas.

The ICRC sent its regional delegate to Caracas in March shortly after the inauguration of the new President, and the Delegate General for Latin America visited Venezuela in June. They held meetings with the Ministers of Defence, the Interior, Foreign Relations and the Presidency, the President of the Congress and the head of the National Guard, and discussed among other things the ratification by Venezuela of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, dissemination to the armed forces and the situation of detainees in the country.

## BUENOS AIRES

### Regional delegation (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay)

The dissemination and promotion of humanitarian law again played an important part in the ICRC's activities in the region, which were conducted mainly at the national level. The ICRC's regional delegate based in Buenos Aires took part in various regional events in Bogotá and elsewhere, and at the end of November the ICRC's delegate for dissemination to the armed forces held a three-day introductory course in Buenos Aires for 22 officers from Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil. The aim was to present new educational materials developed by the ICRC for the training of military officers.

Other dissemination activities for the armed forces were held for about 60 soldiers from Argentina, Peru, the United States and the Republic of Korea during the "Juno II" peace-keeping exercise held in August at the War College in Buenos Aires. In addition, the ICRC held a seminar on the use of force and humanitarian law in Santiago for about 100 members of the armed forces and representatives of the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay, as well as for university students.

In September the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held a regional seminar in Santiago on communications and dissemination strategies, for representatives of the National

Societies of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.

## ARGENTINA

The ICRC organized a number of dissemination sessions for members of the armed forces and police at various military academies and institutes, reaching hundreds of soldiers and officers. Several dissemination sessions were held for Argentine soldiers and policemen leaving on United Nations peace-keeping missions in Croatia and Mozambique. In addition, the delegation gave presentations and held debates on humanitarian law for students and teachers at numerous universities and institutes throughout the country.

The delegation continued to urge the Argentine Congress to ratify the 1980 United Nations Weapons Convention and to recognize the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission established pursuant to Article 90 of Additional Protocol I. The ICRC also assisted the government in setting up an interministerial commission for the implementation of humanitarian law. The Commission was inaugurated on 29 December 1994.

In October the delegation held a seminar on the Red Cross principles and humanitarian law in Tucumán, for representatives of branches of the Argentine Red Cross located in the country's north-western region.

In November a member of the Committee, the ICRC's governing body, went to Argentina and held talks with representatives of the National Society.

## BOLIVIA

In March the ICRC's delegate for dissemination to the armed forces held a three-day intensive course on the law of war for some 40 majors and captains at the Bolivian Air Force Academy in La Paz, and also gave a presentation to about 200 high-ranking military officers at the La Paz aeronautical club. In October the regional delegation held a seminar for 25 captains and lieutenants of the army, navy and air force.

The ICRC's Delegate General for Latin America visited Bolivia in March and met the Vice-President of the Republic, the Deputy Foreign Minister, the Ministers of Defence and Justice and the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. They discussed the ICRC's activities in Latin America and its efforts to promote humanitarian law. During these and other missions, dissemination sessions were held at various educational institutions, including the Diplomatic Academy and the University of San Andres.

In December the regional delegation held a training course in humanitarian law for professors of international law from eight universities located throughout Bolivia.

## CHILE

The regional delegation maintained its efforts to strengthen humanitarian law, notably by encouraging the newly elected government to ratify the 1980 United Nations Weapons Convention and by urging it to establish an interministerial commission for the implementation of humanitarian law. The Commission was established by a presidential decree on 31 August 1994.

Throughout the year the ICRC, in cooperation with the Chilean Red Cross, conducted dissemination activities for the armed forces, police, students and teachers at universities, and members of the National Society.

The ICRC also continued to visit security detainees. In late January and early February delegates visited 154 prisoners, 41 of whom were seen for the first time, in 17 places of detention, including one hospital. In March and April the regional delegate saw 44 security detainees held at a new high-security prison.

In November a member of the Committee, the ICRC's governing body, went to Chile to hold talks with representatives of the Chilean Red Cross.

## PARAGUAY

Early in the year there was tension in rural areas because of disputes relating to the distribution of land. The regional delegate travelled to Paraguay in April and June to follow the situation and to visit the areas affected by these disturbances.

During the year the regional delegate met various officials, including the President of the Republic and the Commander-in-Chief of the army, who welcomed the ICRC's efforts to disseminate humanitarian law among the Paraguayan military. A number of courses and seminars were held by the ICRC for military officers and civilians (including members of parliament and government officials), and for magistrates and attorneys. The President and other government officials discussed with the ICRC's regional delegate the possibility of establishing an interministerial commission for the implementation of humanitarian law, ratification of the 1980 United Nations Weapons Convention and recognition by the Paraguayan government of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission established pursuant to Article 90 of Additional Protocol I.

## URUGUAY

The ICRC's regional delegate based in Buenos Aires attended the first meetings of the Uruguayan government's interministerial commission for the implementation of humanitarian law, held in late March and early April. He contributed to the discussion on the Commission's priorities, which addressed

the legal and administrative aspects of the dissemination and application of humanitarian law. During meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence the regional delegate explained the need to revise the 1980 United Nations Weapons Convention. The Convention was ratified by the Uruguayan Congress on 24 June 1994.

The ICRC, together with the Catholic University of Montevideo and the Uruguayan Red Cross, also held various dissemination sessions for future diplomats, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the National Police and lawyers, and organized a course for National Society dissemination specialists in October.

## GUATEMALA CITY

### Regional delegation

(Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and other countries in the Caribbean)

For an account of the ICRC's activities in Haiti and Mexico in 1994, which were initially coordinated from the Guatemala City regional delegation, please see the relevant chapters. As of February 1994 and September 1994 respectively these operations were coordinated by an *ad hoc* mission in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Mexico, and a delegation in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

## COSTA RICA

Two delegates from Geneva took part in the twelfth interdisciplinary course on human rights organized by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in San José. The course took place from 18 to 29 July and brought together 120 participants, including judges, jurists, members of non-governmental organizations, and church representatives from practically all the countries of the Americas.

## CUBA

During missions throughout the year ICRC delegates discussed with the Cuban authorities the possible resumption of ICRC visits to detainees (the last visits took place in 1989), Cuba's accession to Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions and the logistics involved in the opening of a centre for the dissemination of international humanitarian law in Havana. In October the future director of the centre came to ICRC headquarters in Geneva for talks

with specialists in dissemination and other ICRC staff. On 23 November the centre, the first of its kind in Latin America, was inaugurated by representatives of the armed forces, the Minister of Health (also President of the Cuban Red Cross), the Secretary-General and other officials of the Cuban Red Cross and three ICRC delegates sent from headquarters in Geneva and from the delegations in Guatemala City and Bogotá. The centre is to be run by the armed forces, together with the National Society and the ICRC.

## DOMINICA

On 21 and 22 July two ICRC delegates met the President and the Minister for External Affairs. They discussed Dominica's ratification of the Additional Protocols and the goals and activities of the ICRC.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On 26 May the Dominican Republic ratified the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. The ratification took effect on 26 November. In mid-September, as the crisis in Haiti came to a head, the ICRC temporarily stationed a relief coordinator in the Dominican Republic to provide any necessary support for its activities in Haiti.

## EL SALVADOR

The ICRC conducted dissemination sessions for officers of the armed forces at the military academy.

## GRENADA

The ICRC sent two delegates to Grenada at the end of July to inquire about the situation of people detained in connection with the international military intervention of 1983 and previously visited by the ICRC. They had talks with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and the Commissioner of Prisons before visiting 17 prisoners at Richmond Hill on 26 July. During this mission the delegates also held discussions with the President of the Red Cross Society of Grenada.

## GUATEMALA

The ICRC conducted dissemination activities for officers in training at the Military Studies Centre in Guatemala City. In October the ICRC renewed the offer of services it had made to the Guatemalan authorities in 1992 to undertake activities for security detainees held in connection with internal violence in the country.

## HONDURAS

On 20 August the Honduran Congress ratified the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

Dissemination sessions were held for officers in the military command's training academy.

## NICARAGUA

The ICRC conducted dissemination activities for army and police officers in their respective training academies.

## PANAMA

Two ICRC delegates went to Panama in early June to hold talks with the authorities and with representatives of the National Society. They submitted a report on the visits conducted by the ICRC in 1993 to people detained as a result of the United States military intervention of 1989.

In December the regional delegate returned to Panama to discuss the situation with the new authorities following the release of security detainees under an amnesty declared by the new government in September, and a dissemination delegate conducted the first part of a training programme on humanitarian law for high-ranking officers of the Police Academy.

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross  
Average figures calculated on air annual basis  
Under ICRC contract, as of December 1994.