

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1996)

Titelseiten

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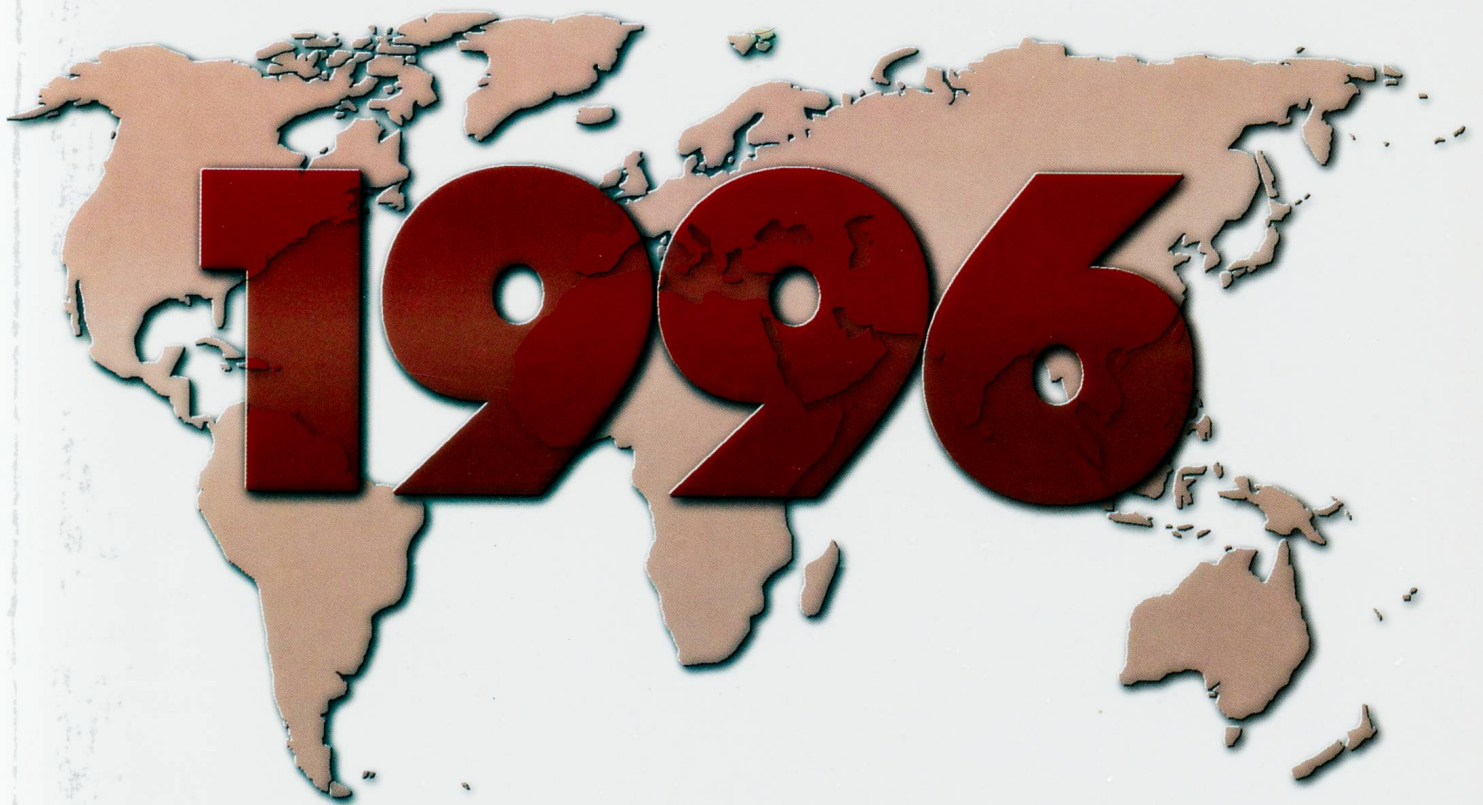
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Vol. Int. 9/5

ICRC

ANNUAL REPORT



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

This report is primarily an account of the ICRC's work in the field and its activities to promote international humanitarian law. Mention is made of some of the negotiations entered into with a view to bringing protection and assistance to the victims of international and civil wars and internal disturbances and tension. Other negotiations are not mentioned, since the ICRC feels that any publicity would not be in the interest of the victims. Thus, this report cannot be regarded as covering all the institution's efforts worldwide to come to the aid of the victims of conflict.

Moreover, the length of the text devoted to a given country or situation is not necessarily proportional to the magnitude of the problems observed and tackled by the institution. Indeed, there are cases which are a source of grave humanitarian concern but on which the ICRC is not in a position to report because it has been denied permission to take action. By the same token, the description of operations in which the ICRC has great freedom of action takes up considerable space, regardless of the scale of the problems involved.

Maps in this report have no political significance.

All figures in this report are in Swiss francs (Sfr). On 31 December 1996, the average exchange rate was approximately: Sfr 1.23 to US\$ 1.

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Original: English
Printed in Switzerland, on chlorine-free paper
0682/002 5/97 6,200

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