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LATIN AMERICA

It was in Central America—El Salvador and Nicaragua—that the ICRC was most heavily involved in protection and assistance activities in the western hemisphere in 1984. In the other countries of the Latin-American continent, the ICRC chiefly concentrated on continuing its visits to security detainees in Chile, Colombia, Grenada, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

In October, the President of the ICRC carried out a mission to Nicaragua, in order to discuss the work of the ICRC in this country with the authorities and the National Red Cross (see the section on Nicaragua). In June, Mr. Athos Gallino, member of the Committee, went to Brazil to take part in the session of the Inter-American Regional Committee. He then attended the Meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminar of the National Societies of South America (see the section on co-operation with the National Societies). Mr. Gallino subsequently went on to Peru where he met the highest authorities in order to take stock of the ICRC activities in that country.

To carry out its various activities, the ICRC maintained approximately 60 delegates and administrative personnel in delegations in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Peru, and three regional delegations in Argentina, Colombia and Costa Rica. The staff in the delegation of El Salvador (one delegation in the capital and a sub-delegation at San Miguel to the east of the country) was the largest: at the end of the year it comprised 32 delegates, assisted by 93 local employees. At the same date, the personnel in the Managua delegation included 15 delegates and 21 local employees while the delegation opened in Peru at the beginning of the year had five delegates. The regional delegation of San José covered, apart from Costa Rica, Belize, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Panama, while the regional delegation in Buenos Aires covered Argentina, Chile (until the end of 1984), Paraguay and Uruguay. Activities in Bolivia, Colombia and Grenada were conducted from the regional delegation in Bogota, which covers the Andean countries, Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica and the countries in the region of the Lesser Antilles.

To finance ICRC activities in El Salvador, Nicaragua and the other countries of Central America covered by the regional delegation of Costa Rica (apart from the Caribbean islands) was the purpose of a global appeal for funds for Central America for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1984. Taking into account the balance available and promised contributions in kind, the appeal amounted to 25 million Swiss francs, although the overall budget had been estimated at 40 million francs. ICRC activities in the other Latin American countries were financed by the regular budget of the ICRC.



The ICRC took part as an observer in the 14th ordinary session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), which was held in Brasilia in November.

The ICRC concerned itself with the problem of refugees which faces several countries in Central America. The chief medical officer of the ICRC took part in a seminar organized by the Pan American Health Organization on the administration of medical care in the refugee camps in Central America. This seminar took place in Merida (Mexico) from 27 February to 1 March and was attended by representatives of Central American States and National Societies. The ICRC was also represented at a Round Table on the question of refugees and displaced persons organized by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, in co-operation with the HCR, in Costa Rica from 24 to 26 November. During these meetings, the ICRC took the opportunity of outlining its activities on behalf of persons displaced as a result of conflicts, both from a general point of view and in the specific context of Central America (Nicaragua and El Salvador).

Central America and the Caribbean

El Salvador

In accordance with Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and with Additional Protocol II, the ICRC continued its protection and assistance activities for detainees and for civilians displaced as a result of the internal conflict raging in El Salvador.

Apart from helping the victims, the ICRC made every effort to promulgate the basic principles of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law with a view to promoting adherence to these principles and to persuading both the governmental armed forces and the fighters of the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN) that the work of the Red Cross, based on the principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality, should be facilitated under all circumstances. This programme was unfortunately marred by the death of two voluntary workers from the Salvadoran Red Cross, Mr. Rafael de los Angeles Cornejo and Mr. Joaquin Arnoldo Perez Salinas, on 6 March, when the ambulance in which they were going to the help of the wounded was caught in gunfire near the locality of Guadalupe in the province of San Vicente.

Finally, at the request of the Salvadoran authorities and the FMLN, the ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary to organize and make practical arrangements for the meetings at La Palma on 15 October and at Ayagualo on 30 November between the government and the Front. The ICRC conducted representatives of the Front to the places where the meetings were held, under the protection of the Red Cross emblem. In addition, since these meetings attracted large crowds, the Salvadoran Red Cross and the ICRC set up first aid posts and a system of radio communication.

The ICRC delegation in El Salvador kept in constant touch with the national authorities, reporting on its activities and the problems encountered. In June and July the head of the delegation had occasion to review the work of the ICRC with President José Napoleon Duarte and the new ministers appointed after the presidential elections held in May, namely Mr. Castillo Claramount, Vice-President and Minister of the Interior; Dr. Tenorio, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Cardona Herrera, Minister of Justice; Dr. Valdez, Minister of Health; Mr. Ricardo J. Lopez, Minister of Finance; and others. In the course of the year, several discussions were held with senior military authorities, notably with General Vides Casanova, Minister of Defence, with the Joint Chief of Staff of the armed forces and with the Deputy Minister of Public Security.

The delegate-general for Latin America visited El Salvador in May and October and his deputy also made two visits to the country, in March and September. During the March mission, the deputy delegate-general had talks with President Magana and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Chavaz Mena. In October, the delegate-general had discussions with the Ministers of Defence and Finance, with the Deputy

Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Public Security, with the Joint Chief of Staff of the armed forces and with the head of the National Police. The missions in May and September were primarily devoted to thorough and far-ranging discussions with the delegation.

To ensure that its humanitarian activities could be carried out smoothly and efficiently, the ICRC also maintained contact with the FDR/FMLN. In March, Mr. Guillermo Ungo, President of the "Revolutionary Democratic Front", paid a visit to the ICRC offices.

Protection

PERSONS DETAINED BY THE SALVADORAN AUTHORITIES.—Throughout the year, the ICRC continued its protection activities on behalf of people detained on account of the situation prevailing in El Salvador. ICRC delegates made 1,866 visits to 254 places of detention and five hospitals, both in San Salvador and in the provinces. These centres were under the jurisdiction of either the Ministry of Defence and Public Security (military barracks, Security Corps, National Guard, National Police and *Policia de Hacienda*), or the Ministry of Justice (penitentiaries, municipal prisons, juvenile detention centres). In 1984, during the course of its visits, the ICRC registered 1,394 new detainees, endeavouring to gain access to them as soon as possible after their arrest. Temporary places of detention, under the control of the army and Security Corps, received the greatest number of visits. In accordance with the procedures approved by the government, the ICRC was granted access to the detainees from the eighth day following their capture and could speak freely with them. In 1984, most temporary places of detention kept a record of arrests made and informed the ICRC of each person arrested on grounds of security; this procedure had been requested by the ICRC as long ago as 1982.

The ICRC delegates' findings during their visits were regularly discussed with the highest governmental authorities, to whom quarterly summary reports were submitted.

In October, after the Salvadoran authorities had released nine trade unionists held since 1980, the ICRC conducted them to the airport under its protection, these people having expressed the desire to leave the country with their families.

PERSONS DETAINED BY THE FMLN.—Despite repeated assurances from representatives of the FMLN, the ICRC was not granted the necessary facilities to visit officers of the Salvadoran army who had been detained for a considerable time by the Front. On the other hand, the FMLN maintained its policy of releasing soldiers shortly after their capture: it freed several groups, some of these being handed over to ICRC delegates who escorted them back to their barracks. In January, and subsequently in December, 179 Salvadoran soldiers were released in this way. In July, a civilian was also handed over to the ICRC.

In 1984, the Salvadoran authorities and the FMLN agreed to simultaneously evacuate to other countries 60 seriously wounded or disabled FMLN fighters and to release four

officers detained for several months by the FMLN. The ICRC, whose help had been requested by both parties, took charge of the practical arrangements for this operation, which was carried out in four stages between 29 August and 10 October. On each occasion, 15 wounded were conveyed by ICRC delegates from the fighting areas to the international airport of San Salvador. To do this, the ICRC had obtained safe conducts from the governmental military authorities. From San Salvador airport the wounded were flown to Mexico aboard aircraft chartered by the ICRC and subsequently continued their journey to the various countries receiving them. During the stopovers in Mexico, the Mexican Red Cross took charge of the transport and medical care of the wounded men.

As had also been agreed by the Salvadoran government and the FMLN, the ICRC took an active part in the simultaneous release of four other army officers and four Front members detained by the government's security forces. This operation took place on 27 September under the auspices of the ICRC.

Finally, the ICRC was twice called upon to help civilians taken hostage. On 11 May, acting as a neutral intermediary, ICRC delegates obtained the release of 35 people, mostly women and children, taken hostage, during an armed attack on a supermarket in San Salvador, by five guerrillas claiming to be from the "Clara Elisabeth Ramirez Front". On 2 August, another group of four guerrillas took about 50 civilians hostage during an attack on a bank in Soyapango, a district near the capital. The ICRC was again asked to intervene and, after two days' negotiations, it succeeded in obtaining the release of all the hostages.

CIVILIAN POPULATION.—The ICRC was concerned also by the situation of civilians in areas affected by the conflict and by their need of protection against the effects of hostilities (fighting, bombardments, reprisals, forced recruitment). The scale of its assistance activities (see below) was such that the ICRC was present in these regions and could thus provide some measure of protection to civilians. In addition, the respect due to the civilian population under international humanitarian law was repeatedly brought up in discussions with both the Salvadoran authorities and the FMLN.

Tracing Agency

Co-ordinating its work with the visits made to places of detention, the ICRC Tracing Agency in El Salvador systematically registered all new detainees and kept an up-to-date list of transfers and releases. It arranged for the exchange of 148 messages between people detained—by both the Salvadoran authorities and the FMLN—and their families and, on request, it issued certificates of detention.

In 1984, the Agency recorded 2,079 new tracing requests made by families concerning persons missing or presumed detained; 1,362 of these cases were settled.

The Agency also arranged for the transmission of family news between El Salvador and foreign countries.

Apart from the San Salvador office, two regional offices were maintained, one at Santa Ana (in the west of the country)

and the other at San Miguel (in the east) so that the Agency's services were available to the greatest possible number of people.

Relief

CIVILIAN POPULATION.—The ICRC and the Salvadoran Red Cross jointly continued their food assistance programme for displaced persons and the needy population of regions affected by the fighting. Co-ordinating their activities with the other governmental and non-governmental bodies engaged in helping displaced persons, the ICRC and the Salvadoran Red Cross concentrated their assistance programme in those regions to which they alone had access. Nevertheless, they also intervened, to a lesser extent, to help displaced persons in other parts of the country without adequate assistance. Working in close co-operation with relief workers from the National Society, ICRC delegates distributed foodstuffs (maize, beans, rice, oil, sugar and salt) in some fifty villages in the provinces of Cabañas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, La Libertad, la Unión, Morazán, San Miguel, San Salvador, San Vicente and Usulután. This programme was evaluated at regular intervals to ensure it remained in line with current needs, depending on the evolution of the conflict situation.

Calculated on the basis of 100,000 possible beneficiaries per month, the relief programme actually reached, on average, 75,000 people monthly; it was increased during the second half of the year. The programme was, however, hampered on several occasions for prolonged periods when either the Salvadoran military authorities or leaders of the FMLN refused ICRC personnel and convoys access to certain villages, especially in the north and east of the country.

In 1984, 7,371 tonnes of foodstuffs was distributed, to a value of 9,065,700 Swiss francs.

In the eastern regions of El Salvador, the ICRC also supplied building materials to persons recently displaced so that they could build temporary shelters. Blankets and mattresses were also distributed.

In addition, foodstuffs and medical treatment were provided for groups of Salvadoran refugees returning from Honduras.

DETAINEES.—At Christmas time, parcels containing blankets, toiletries and cigarettes were distributed to all inmates of the penitentiary centres visited.

Medical assistance

Two medical teams were maintained, one in San Salvador (for the provinces of San Salvador, San Vicente, La Libertad, Cuscatlán, Cabañas, Chalatenango, Santa Ana) and the other in San Miguel (for the provinces of San Miguel, Morazán, La Unión and Usulután). Each team consisted of ICRC delegates (one doctor and three or four nurses) and locally recruited personnel (doctors, dentists, public health workers, pharmacists and first-aid workers). As well as treating the civilian

population, the medical personnel of the ICRC took part in visits to places of detention.

In March, the chief medical officer of the ICRC carried out a mission to El Salvador to review the situation at first hand.

The total value of medicines and medical material distributed amounted to over 500,000 Swiss francs.

CIVILIAN POPULATION.—The civilian population of areas affected by the fighting received medical and dental care. The ICRC medical teams travelled around the provinces giving consultations to an average of 6,400 people per month. The medical teams also arranged for some of the seriously sick and wounded to be moved into hospital if they could not be treated adequately on the spot. As far as preventive medicine was concerned, the medical teams conducted regular assessments of the medical and nutritional situation of children under the age of six: as well as distributing protein-enriched food, the medical teams gave the mothers of children suffering from malnutrition basic information concerning nutrition. In addition, they taught the population the elementary rules of hygiene: talks were given during relief distributions and medical consultations, and also in schools; ICRC medical personnel also made visits to people's homes for this purpose. Some relief workers from the Salvadoran Red Cross were given special training in hygiene by the ICRC and were then able to take an active part in the presentation of the talks. To improve standards of hygiene among the population receiving assistance, the ICRC provided soap and equipment for installing latrines, septic tanks and cisterns.

Finally, the ICRC provided medicines and medical material (worth 137,000 Swiss francs) to various medical centres, civilian hospitals and schools situated in the regions affected by the conflict.

As for relief operations, so for medical assistance activities; they too were considerably hampered because the ICRC teams were not always granted access to villages.

DETAINEES.—ICRC medical personnel also gave consultations in the prisons and, when necessary, supplied medicines and medical material to the dispensaries of prisons administered by the Ministry of Justice. In addition, the ICRC gave its attention to hygiene in the places of detention and distributed various items to improve it.

Dissemination and Information

The joint efforts of the ICRC and the Salvadoran Red Cross with a view to disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law were chiefly concentrated on the Salvadoran armed forces and Security Corps. During the year 93 lectures were given, sometimes as part of the training courses provided by the army. These lectures, which were followed by discussions, were attended by nearly 20,000 participants. Their aim was to make known the basic rules of international humanitarian law concerning the protection of persons not, or no longer, taking part in the fighting:

prisoners, the wounded and sick, and civilians. They were also intended to draw attention to the humanitarian work of the Red Cross and the principles inspiring it, in order to promote better understanding and thereby ensure a greater degree of safety for Red Cross personnel. Apart from these lectures, ICRC delegates had regular discussions with the Salvadoran military authorities.

While travelling around the fighting areas, ICRC delegates also endeavoured to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross movement among FMLN fighters to whom copies of the "Soldier's Manual" were distributed.

A score of lectures were given in local sections of the Salvadoran Red Cross to some 800 voluntary workers, in order to teach them more about the Red Cross. Informative literature was left with the National Society's Information and Dissemination Department.

The ICRC also made itself known to the general public by means of a dissemination campaign on the radio and in local newspapers. Together with the Salvadoran Red Cross, it exhibited at the Eleventh International Exhibition in San Salvador, which was held in November.

Support for the activities of the National Society

The ICRC continued to finance the blood collection centre administered and run by the Salvadoran Red Cross. It also continued its financial support to the National Society (approximately 120,000 Swiss francs monthly) to maintain its ambulance service, dispensaries, and training programme for first-aid workers. It made a gift of three ambulances to the Salvadoran Red Cross.

Nicaragua

As in the previous year, the main activities of the ICRC in this country centred on protecting detainees and providing assistance to displaced persons and civilians living in areas affected by the armed clashes between government forces and counter-revolutionary organizations. In addition, an assistance programme for the war disabled was started.

The ICRC President, accompanied by the Director for Operational Activities and the delegate-general for Latin America, carried out a mission to Managua from 11 to 13 October. He had talks with Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, co-ordinator of the governing Junta, with Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, with Mrs. Léa Guido, Minister of Health and with Mr. R. A. Tefel, Minister of INSBI (Social Affairs). He was received also by the President and leading members of the Nicaraguan Red Cross. During discussions with the authorities, views were exchanged on the situation in Nicaragua and the work of the ICRC in the country, particularly the protection of detainees.

Two other missions were made from Geneva to the delegation in Managua: one in March by the deputy delegate-general for Latin America and the chief medical officer of the ICRC, the other in May by the delegate-general, who also had talks with the President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, Dr. Gonzalo Ramirez Morales.

Protection

At the end of January, after explaining its visiting procedures to the Nicaraguan authorities, the ICRC resumed its protection activities for detainees, which had been suspended since 26 August 1983. From January, visits by the ICRC have been carried out in accordance with standard Red Cross procedure.

As in the past, the protection work of the ICRC in Nicaragua benefited members of the National Guard taken prisoner on the fall of the Somoza régime, civilians who had collaborated with the previous government, and people arrested after the installation of the new government and accused of counter-revolutionary activities or of activities prejudicial to State security, including people captured during military operations. In 1984, protection activities were extended to 3,263 detainees. ICRC delegates visited places of detention under the authority of the National Penitentiary Service (SPN): in the capital, they visited the "Tipitapa" prison four times (in February, May, August and November) and the "Zona Franca" prison three times (in March, June and October). In addition, they visited six places of detention in Bluefields, Chinandega, Esteli, Granada, Juigalpa and Matagalpa, some on several occasions. Hospitalized detainees were also visited.

ICRC delegates regularly discussed with the director of the SPN the visits they had made. Protection activities for detainees were, moreover, one of the main points brought up by the ICRC President during his visit to Managua.

It should be mentioned that the visits made by ICRC delegates were confined to places under the authority of the SPN, the ICRC not being allowed to visit persons held, during the initial phase of their detention, in interrogation centres controlled by State security services.

Tracing Agency

As part of the protection activities, the Tracing Agency in Managua continued to register new detainees and to process all the information concerning people visited. It also arranged for the exchange of 1,898 messages between detainees and their families.

The Agency continued to transmit family news between the Miskitos in Nicaragua and their relatives who had taken refuge in Honduras. With the agreement of the Nicaraguan authorities, it extended this service to all Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras. A total of 2,098 messages were thus exchanged.

Lastly, the Agency handled 161 new requests from families to trace persons either missing or presumed to be in detention. Fifty-eight of these cases were resolved.

Relief

FOR DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES.—In addition to its protection work, the ICRC distributed to all detainees monthly food parcels, and articles for personal hygiene and leisure activities. The ICRC also helped detainees' families in financial difficulties; about a thousand families received provisions each month, representing 13,055 food rations in 1984. The ICRC paid the travelling expenses for some impoverished families so that they could visit relatives detained in the capital.

The cost of this assistance amounted to about 900,000 Swiss francs.

FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.—In September 1983, in close co-operation with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the ICRC started an emergency aid programme for the civilian population affected by the situation resulting from armed clashes between government armed forces and counter-revolutionary organizations.

Originally planned to help some 3,000 persons, this emergency aid programme was greatly expanded in 1984. It was primarily concentrated on the Atlantic coast, where the civilian population found itself cut off from its sources of supply due to the fighting. From May onwards, regular distributions of relief supplies were therefore started in nine villages in the region of Puerto Cabezas (Zelaya Norte), then in the region of Bluefields (Zelaya Sur). The aid programme was consequently revised and adapted in mid-year to cover the needs of approximately 10,000 persons each month. The ICRC hired two boats, one for Puerto Cabezas and the other for Bluefields, their geographical situation making it impossible to convey relief supplies there in any other way. Subsequently, the ICRC bought three boats to enable the joint aid programme in this region to continue. This aid consisted in the regular distribution of foodstuffs and, to a lesser extent, of various household articles and utensils: it also included medical aid (see below). A group of displaced people in the Rio San Juan province in the south of the country also received aid.

Moreover, the ICRC maintained sufficient stocks of food and medical supplies to ensure the subsistence of 10,000 additional persons for one month, in case of an emergency. Provisions were supplied to branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross in various regions in the north and centre of the country (Jinotega, Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Matagalpa, Chinandega, Chontales).

The joint aid programme by the ICRC and the Nicaraguan Red Cross was carried out in co-ordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and, for the medical side, with the Ministry of Health. It involved 458 tonnes of relief supplies (including 426 tonnes of foodstuffs) amounting to 994,000 Swiss francs.

Medical Assistance

The ICRC maintained a permanent medical team in Nicaragua. Consisting of one doctor and two nurses, this team

was chiefly concerned with detainees. In November, two prosthetists were assigned to the Managua delegation.

In March, the chief medical officer of the ICRC carried out a mission to Nicaragua and discussed the medical activities of the ICRC with the Minister of Health. He also took part in a visit to the "Zona Franca" prison.

FOR DETAINEES.—The ICRC medical team took part in visits to prisons and gave consultations to sick detainees in the dispensaries of the places of detention. The ICRC provided these dispensaries with medicines and equipment for dental care: it also paid for spectacles for those detainees needing them. This aid amounted to 48,886 Swiss francs.

FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.—The ICRC medical team also assessed the medical and nutritional situation of the civilian population in the conflict zones. Medicines and medical material were distributed to hospitals and dispensaries of the Ministry of Health and the Nicaraguan Red Cross in these areas. The cost of this aid totalled 117,000 Swiss francs.

FOR THE WAR DISABLED.—In 1984, the ICRC started an orthopaedic programme for civilian and military war disabled. This programme was based on a simple technique, adapted to local conditions.

Following a visit by the ICRC chief medical officer in March to the government centre for the rehabilitation of the disabled at the Aldo Chavarria hospital in Managua, and a mission of assessment conducted in August by the orthopaedic specialist of the ICRC, an agreement was signed on 12 October by the Nicaraguan Minister of Health and the ICRC during President Hay's visit to Managua. To implement this programme for making prostheses, the ICRC undertook to finance the purchase of the necessary machines and equipment and to provide the centre with specialist staff responsible for developing a new technology and for training local personnel. From the middle of November, two orthopaedic technicians have been working at the Aldo Chavarria centre and the first consignment of equipment has been made.

Dissemination and Information

At the beginning of April, two ICRC delegates lectured on the activities of the institution, international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross movement at a seminar attended by members of the new national council of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, and by the heads of various departments and local branches of that Society. The leaders of the Nicaraguan Red Cross then gave their agreement to a joint programme for the dissemination of knowledge of the principles of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law to senior members and other personnel of local branches. This programme continued until the end of May. To encourage the Nicaraguan Red Cross to help in its dissemina-

tion activities, the delegation in Managua organized a training course on the subject. This took place in June and was attended by a score of participants.

A programme of lectures to branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross situated in the conflict zones began in December.

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the ICRC and the National Society jointly organized an exhibition in September.

The ICRC also broached the question of dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law with the Ministry of Defence.

Development of the National Society

With a view to increasing the operational capacity of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the ICRC provided support to maintain its ambulance service, its fleet of vehicles and its communication network, all of which had been called upon to work at full capacity during the joint programme of assistance for displaced persons. In 1984, the ICRC purchased for the Nicaraguan Red Cross 18 ambulances, nine cross-country vehicles and spare parts for their maintenance.

Costa Rica

The ICRC has had a regional delegation in San José since May 1982. On 24 August 1983, it signed a delegation agreement with the Government of Costa Rica; this agreement was ratified by the Legislative Assembly in December 1984, thus officially recognizing the presence of the ICRC in this country.

The two delegates based in San José have been working to maintain and develop relations with the authorities and the National Societies of the countries covered by the regional delegation; they are also responsible for providing logistic support to the delegations in Managua and San Salvador. In Costa Rica itself they have continued their efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and to develop the operational capacity of the National Society.

The ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, together with his deputy, visited Costa Rica several times (in March, May and September) for discussions with the regional delegation and with the National Society.

On 12 June, Mr. Luis Alberto Monge, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, on an official visit to Europe, was received at ICRC headquarters by President Hay, Mrs. Bovée-Rothenbach, Mr. Huguenin and Mr. Keller, members of the Committee, and by the Directorate of the ICRC. Those accompanying the President of Costa Rica included Mr. Munoz, Minister of Justice, and Mr. Sandoval, Minister of Labour. The main subject under discussion was the activity of the ICRC in Central America.

Development of the National Society

The Costa Rican Red Cross helped Nicaraguan civilians and wounded entering Costa Rica on account of the fighting going on in Nicaragua. It asked for help from the ICRC and the League who together worked out a plan for strengthening the operational capacity of the National Society, after an on-the-spot assessment of what was needed. This plan was drawn up for eight branches in the north of the country. For its part, the ICRC undertook to promote dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, to ensure observance of the rules in force on the use of the emblem, and to work out rules of conduct and safety for personnel of the National Society during its activities in regions near the fighting zones. At the end of October, an ICRC delegate started visiting each branch concerned, to talk to first-aid workers. As part of this programme, the ICRC also financed the purchase of four fully equipped mobile first-aid posts, two vehicles and radio equipment. The ICRC invested some 160,000 Swiss francs for this purpose. Meanwhile, the League took charge of promoting recruitment and training of personnel for local branches, and provided additional logistic resources.

Dissemination and Information

On the invitation of the national University of Costa Rica, an ICRC legal expert conducted in November a seminar on international humanitarian law for students in international law.

Cuba

The ICRC Director for Operational Activities and the delegate-general for Latin America carried out a mission to Cuba from 14 to 17 May. The previous meeting with the Cuban authorities had been at the end of 1983, in connection with the events in Grenada.

The ICRC representatives had talks with President Fidel Castro, with Dr. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Vice-President of the Council of State and Cabinet, and with the Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Health. They discussed the activities of the ICRC in Latin America, especially in Central America, and in certain African countries; in particular, they informed the authorities of the steps taken by the ICRC to help the Cuban prisoner of war detained in Somalia since 1978. They also discussed the question of persons detained in Cuba for counter-revolutionary activities.

In addition, talks were held with the Secretary-General of the Cuban Red Cross and his senior staff. These discussions paved the way for co-operation in the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and in medical assistance (the Cuban National Society making medical teams

available to the ICRC). During this mission, ICRC representatives visited various branches of the National Society in the province of Matanzas.

The delegate-general returned to Havana in November to take part in the meeting of the Presidents and the technical seminar of the Caribbean Red Cross Societies (see the section on co-operation with National Societies). He had further talks with Dr. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and the Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Health.

Grenada

The ICRC regional delegate, based in Colombia, twice visited persons arrested in Grenada because of the October 1983 events there. These persons were detained under the Preventive Detention Ordinance of 15 November 1983. In January, the first of these visits was made to the Richmond Hill prison where 39 people were detained. Since the previous visit in November, seven detainees had been committed and a score had been released. In the course of a second mission to Grenada from 27 June to 3 July, this prison was again visited: at that time, there were only 30 detainees, all of whom had been charged.

During these two missions, talks were held with the Governor General, the chief of the interim government and the Commander of the regional intervention forces.

Guatemala

The ICRC remained very concerned about the internal unrest in Guatemala and anxious to provide protection and assistance to the victims. Although it had received a negative response to the offer of services it had made to the Guatemalan government in 1983 regarding the protection of detainees and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces, the ICRC nevertheless persisted with its efforts in this direction.

The regional delegate of the ICRC based in Costa Rica carried out a mission to Guatemala from 20 to 31 March. In discussions with the Minister of the Interior, senior staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the police and the armed forces, he explained in detail the terms of the ICRC offer and added that the ICRC was also prepared to help the civilian population.

A second mission to Guatemala, scheduled for May, was cancelled after the Guatemalan authorities had said that their stance in 1983 had remained unaltered. At the end of the year, the situation was unchanged.

Haiti

The ICRC regional delegate based in Costa Rica went to Port-au-Prince at the end of April to renew contact with the authorities and the Haitian Red Cross (the last mission to this country was in 1981). Discussions were concerned with a new series of visits to security detainees in accordance with the agreement in principle given by President Duvalier in 1981. They also provided an opportunity to remind those concerned of the importance of the Additional Protocols and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

Between 20 and 27 June, the ICRC delegate visited the three main detention centres in the capital, which had all been visited in 1981. He had access to the national penitentiary in Port-au-Prince, to the Dessalines barracks and the Fort-Dimanche prison: the first two held 16 security detainees—nine of whom had been seen on the previous visit—and Fort-Dimanche, six.

To re-establish links between detainees and their families, the ICRC delegate visited several families and transmitted several messages.

Articles for personal hygiene and leisure, and clothing, were distributed to detainees in the national penitentiary.

During this second mission to Haiti, the ICRC delegate had talks with Mr. Estime, Minister of Foreign Affairs, with Mr. Lafontant, Minister of the Interior, and Mr. Vandal, Minister of Justice. He also met the leaders of the Haitian Red Cross.

The ICRC delegate returned to Haiti a third time, in October when he gave Mr. Jean-Claude Duvalier, President of the Republic, an account of the June prison visits and a confidential report. The President granted the ICRC permission to continue its protection work.

Honduras

In Honduras, the ICRC maintained a permanent delegate, detached from the regional delegation in Costa Rica. The main activities of the ICRC in this country consisted of disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law, arranging for the exchange of family news between Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras and their families in Nicaragua, and continuing its programme of support to the National Society. The ICRC also studied the question of Salvadoran refugees.

During a mission to Honduras in March, the ICRC deputy delegate-general for Latin America talked about ICRC activities to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Tracing Agency

The ICRC delegate made regular visits to the Nicaraguan refugee camps, including those of the Miskito Indians, to distribute family messages from relatives living in Nicaragua and to collect replies; in this, he was helped by the Honduran

Red Cross. The ICRC obtained permission for the Miskitos to write their messages in their own language. In 1984, 2,098 family messages were transmitted between Nicaragua and Honduras through the ICRC Tracing Agencies in both countries.

Dissemination and Information

The ICRC continued its campaign for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross movement to the National Society. At the beginning of April, it organized a seminar for several departmental heads of the Honduran Red Cross with the aim of training them for dissemination work, so that they join in the ICRC efforts to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law. Following this seminar, various talks on law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross were given between April and November in different towns of the country to members of the National Council of the Honduran Red Cross, to leaders of its branches, and to several groups of first-aid workers.

In 1984, the campaign for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law was extended to the Honduran armed forces. In February, specialists from ICRC headquarters lectured on international humanitarian law, its development and its field of application to a group of legal experts of the armed forces. They also addressed Army Staff members. The ICRC was subsequently authorized to conduct a dissemination campaign: seven talks were given by the ICRC delegate in three military schools to some 250 trainee officers. In addition, a legal expert from the ICRC went to Tegucigalpa in November where he gave a course on international humanitarian law and internationalized non-international armed conflicts to staff officers of the Honduran armed forces.

During special missions from Geneva, talks were also given at the university and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Lastly, in the various discussions they had with the authorities, ICRC delegates reminded them of the importance of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions, to which Honduras had not yet acceded.

Development of the National Society

The ICRC continued carrying out its programme for strengthening the operational capacity of the Honduran Red Cross; it had drawn up and started the programme in 1983, primarily for those branches of the Society situated in the south of the country, near the frontier with Nicaragua.

This programme consisted of the following:

- a gift of eight ambulances (six for the branches and two for Tegucigalpa), some already having been delivered in 1983;
- a gift of equipment for voluntary workers of the National Society;

- the setting up of a radio communication network to link eight branches of the National Society, and for installation in ambulances and first-aid posts;
- the assembly of four mobile first-aid posts which the ICRC makes available to the Honduran Red Cross; each first-aid post comprises a tent for ten wounded, a tent for the medical staff, another for the kitchen, a dispensary and a radio communication system;
- the constitution of a stock of relief supplies (blankets and kitchen utensils) which the ICRC reserves for the use of the Honduran Red Cross.

This programme should enable the Honduran Red Cross to provide assistance to the wounded and civilians in the event of the situation deteriorating in the border region between Honduras and Nicaragua. In 1984, the ICRC invested 48,000 Swiss francs in this programme, the major part of which was already covered by contributions received in 1983.

Other countries

— From 5 to 9 August, a mission was carried out to **Barbados** for talks with the leaders of the local Society of the Red Cross, which had made a request for recognition by the ICRC on 16 June. This recognition was formally pronounced on 30 August (see section on co-operation with National Societies).

This mission also provided an opportunity to bring up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the question of the accession of Barbados to the Additional Protocols, and the subject of the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

— Two missions were carried out to **Belize**. The ICRC regional delegate in Costa Rica went there in February, together with a representative from the League, to contact the local Red Cross which had asked to be admitted to the international Red Cross movement. The recognition of this Red Cross Society by the ICRC was pronounced shortly afterwards, on 15 March (see section on co-operation with National Societies). During this mission, the importance of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and the duty of each government to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law, were discussed with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of the Interior. In June, Belize acceded to the Conventions and the Protocols (see section on international humanitarian law). In this connection, it should be pointed out that the Geneva Conventions have been in force in Belize since 1982, under the terms of a declaration of provisional application of the treaties, this making it possible for the National Society to be officially recognized in March.

In December, a delegate from the League and the regional delegate of the ICRC took part in the national seminar of the Belize Red Cross, during which a plan for the development of

this Society for the period 1985-1987 was drawn up: in particular, this plan provides for ICRC support in disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Red Cross.

— Two missions were made to the **Dominican Republic**, in April and October, with the chief aim of renewing contact with the authorities and the National Society; there was also a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of the Catholic university.

During these missions, the questions raised were: how far the Dominican Republic had progressed with the procedure for acceding to the Additional Protocols, and how knowledge of international humanitarian law could be promoted within National Society, government and university circles.

— In **Mexico**, ICRC representatives attended the special dissemination week for international humanitarian law organized by the Mexican Red Cross from 29 October to 5 November: some 250 participants (academics, representatives of the government, the armed forces, the Red Cross, the media, etc.) attended the lectures and debates. An ICRC delegate also took part in the national convention of the Mexican Red Cross in Mazatlán at the end of November.

— In February, the ICRC regional delegation in Costa Rica sent participants to the training course organized in **Panama** by the Panamanian Red Cross for teachers of junior sections of the National Societies of Central America (see section on dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law).

A specialist in the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces had talks with the Panamanian military authorities regarding a possible dissemination programme for soldiers.

South America

Argentina

The activities of the ICRC in Argentina decreased considerably in 1984. Almost all the 122 persons imprisoned for offences against State security, who were still detained at the end of the previous year, were gradually released; of the people arrested before the civilian government came into power, following the elections in October 1983, only about 15 were still in prison by the end of 1984. In view of this, only a few visits were made to places of detention: at the end of February, two delegates visited the Villa Devoto prison in Buenos Aires where there were 90 security detainees; in June, four detainees were visited at the women's prison at Ezeiza. Some relief supplies were distributed to the detainees.

In the middle of February, the delegate-general for Latin America went to Buenos Aires where he had talks with Dr. Troccoli, Minister of the Interior, with a representative of

the National Commission on Missing Persons, and with leaders of the Argentine Red Cross. The delegate-general reminded them of what the ICRC had done under the different military governments which had held office since 1976 (consisting chiefly of protection work on behalf of persons detained on security grounds) and the position of the ICRC regarding the problem of missing persons (see 1983 Annual Report, page 35).

On 24 April, at the invitation of the Argentine authorities, the ICRC regional delegate in Buenos Aires gave a talk to the National Commission on Missing Persons. The ICRC later gave this Commission a copy of the lists of missing persons which it had sent the Argentine military authorities since 1977.

In June, an ICRC legal specialist raised with the authorities of this country the question of the possible accession by Argentina to the Additional Protocols.

The Tracing Agency office of the regional delegation in Buenos Aires was mainly occupied in processing information concerning detainees visited in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Bolivia

Three missions were made to Bolivia from the regional delegation in Bogota, from 28 May to 2 June, from 11 to 18 July, and from 11 to 19 November. Their aim was to renew contact with the Bolivian authorities and with leaders of the Red Cross in this country, which had not been visited by any representative of the ICRC since August 1982.

Protection

The purpose of the July mission was to present Dr. Alvarez Plata, the Minister of the Interior, with an offer to visit persons detained following the attempted coup d'état of 30 June. This offer was accepted and visits started straight away to seven persons detained in the premises of the Ministry of the Interior and six others in the main prison in La Paz, the *Panóptico Nacional*; all the other persons arrested during the disturbances at the end of June had already been released. Mattresses, blankets and some medicines were distributed to the detainees. The ICRC delegate also inquired of General Sejas Tordoya, Army Commander-in-Chief, about the situation of possible military detainees, but no protection work proved necessary. Later on, the persons visited in the premises of the Ministry of the Interior were released; those in the *Panóptico Nacional* were handed over to the Ministry of Justice.

Dissemination and Information

One of the main objectives of the mission made in May was to take part in a seminar on international humanitarian law organized by the Executive Council of the Bolivian University

and the Bolivian Red Cross with the support of the ICRC. Intended for professors of international law, this seminar aimed to encourage the introduction of international humanitarian law in the syllabuses of several Bolivian universities. It also provided an opportunity to raise the question of adapting internal legislation to the Additional Protocols, to which Bolivia had acceded in December 1983.

In August, a lecture on international humanitarian law was given at the School of National Higher Studies in La Paz.

In November, the ICRC took part in the training course for personnel responsible for dissemination within the National Societies of South America (see section on dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law).

Chile

As in the past, ICRC activities in Chile consisted of protection work on behalf of persons arrested on security grounds, i.e. offences against the law on the internal security of the State (No. 12 927) and on arms control (No. 17 798), and detained in prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. During the year, the ICRC obtained permission to visit temporary places of detention under the control of the security forces and the police.

ICRC activities in Chile were conducted from the regional delegation in Buenos Aires. In view of the internal situation in Chile, however, the ICRC maintained two permanent delegates in Santiago from 6 November onwards, when the state of siege was resumed.

Protection

Between 18 January and 7 February, three ICRC delegates, including a doctor, carried out another series of visits to Chilean places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice: in accordance with Red Cross procedure, they visited 22 centres in Santiago and the provinces, housing a total of 158 security detainees. Before this series of visits, the ICRC delegates had a meeting with the Minister of Justice to discuss and review the previous visits carried out in July 1983.

After the anti-government demonstrations in several towns at the end of March, a delegate again went to the Chilean capital where he visited people who had just been arrested.

The second series of visits took place in May; its chief purpose was to gain access to persons who had been recently arrested and to visit various sick detainees. From 16 to 31 May, three delegates visited 15 centres throughout the country where 176 detainees were held, 63 of them having only recently arrived. During these visits, ICRC delegates had talks with Chilean authorities, both civilian and military, to review the protection work. They met Mr. Jarpa Reyes, Minister of the Interior, Mr. Rosende Subiare, Minister of Justice, Mr. Del Valle, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vice-Admiral Carvajal, Minister of Defence, and senior members of the

security forces: General Gordon, Director General of the *Central Nacional de Informaciones* (CNI), and General Paredes Pizarro, Director General of the *Policia de Investigaciones*; they also met officers from the corps of *Carabineros*. Most of these Ministers and officials were seen again in September when the regional delegate based in Buenos Aires went to Chile to submit to the authorities reports on the visits carried out in May.

During the discussions in May and September, the ICRC obtained permission to extend its protection activities to the temporary places of detention under the control of the CNI. Its third series of visits in Chile, between 26 September and 12 October, was therefore not confined to 17 detention centres under the control of the Ministry of Justice, where there were 223 security detainees, including 67 new arrivals, but also took in eight CNI centres in various districts.

One month later, a delegate who was soon joined by a doctor again went to Santiago to talk to the Chilean authorities after the state of siege had been declared throughout the country on 6 November, following fresh anti-government demonstrations. The ICRC was anxious to carry out its protection work on behalf of newly arrested persons, whether they were detained or relegated under an administrative warrant. ICRC delegates were authorized to see the places of detention that were usually visited, those of the CNI and, for the first time, places under the authority of the *Policia de Investigaciones* and the corps of *Carabineros*. This authorization also included the Pisagua camp in the north of the country where 426 relegated persons were held. The delegates actually visited three of the principal prisons in the capital, a detention centre under the control of the *Policia de Investigaciones* in Santiago and another controlled by the CNI at Iquique, as well as the Pisagua camp.

When the reports concerning the visits made in October were submitted, there were further discussions with senior Chilean authorities.

Assistance

In addition to its protection work, the ICRC also provided detainees with assistance, primarily medical. It also gave food aid to some 1,700 families of detainees, former detainees and relegated persons in need of help. This assistance amounted to 120,397 Swiss francs. In addition, the ICRC paid the travelling expenses for families wishing to visit a relegated relative.

Lastly, more than ninety tonnes of milk and cheese (gifts from the EEC and the Swiss government) were sent to the National Society for its assistance programmes.

Colombia

Protection

ICRC delegates visited persons detained on security grounds in places of detention administered by the Ministry of Justice. Two series of visits were made in 1984.

The first was conducted after the state of siege had been declared in various regions of the country. It took place from 28 March to 7 May, both in the capital and in the provinces, and involved eight centres housing 54 security detainees, including 30 new arrivals. These visits were the main subject of talks held on 23 May with the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Colombia.

The second series of visits, in Bogota and other parts of the country, in October, concerned seven places of detention, where 87 security detainees were seen, almost half of them having only recently arrived.

Dissemination and Information

Both in Bogota and in the provinces, ICRC delegates gave talks on the Red Cross movement and international humanitarian law to senior members of the Colombian Red Cross, including those responsible for dissemination of knowledge of this law and of the principles of the Red Cross. In addition, a specialist in dissemination from ICRC headquarters took part in the dissemination training course organized by the Colombian Red Cross at Medellin in August for the benefit of local branches.

Paraguay

Protection

Four series of visits to security detainees were carried out in 1984 (in January, June, September and December) by the regional delegation of Buenos Aires. In accordance with standard Red Cross procedures, ICRC delegates visited two places of detention administered by the Ministry of Justice, the *Casa del Buen Pastor* and the *Penitenciaría de Tacumbú*, and two places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior, the *Guardia de seguridad de Tacumbú* and the *Departamento de Asuntos técnicos*. During these four series of visits, ICRC delegates had access respectively to 42, 31, 23 and 16 detainees, others having been released during the year. A medical delegate took part in the visits of January and June.

The purpose of the January visit was also to ascertain the state of health of six detainees who had been on hunger strike for a prolonged period: four of them were visited in hospital. One of these detainees, to whom an emergency visit had been paid in December (see 1983 Annual Report, page 36) and for whose release the ICRC had repeatedly asked on humanitarian grounds, was set free on 21 May. The five other men on hunger strike were also released.

Confidential reports on the four series of visits were sent to General Stroessner, President of the Republic, and to the Minister of the Interior with whom ICRC delegates had several discussions.

In addition, the ICRC repeated its request for the release of a security detainee on health grounds. At the end of 1984, the Paraguayan authorities had still not complied with this request.

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During each mission to Paraguay discussions were held with the President and senior members of the country's Red Cross. The ICRC and the Paraguayan Red Cross studied the question of the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces and in university circles.

The ICRC supported the aid programmes of the Paraguayan Red Cross, supplying it with 30 tonnes of dried milk, a gift from the Swiss government.

Peru

Following the agreement it had obtained from the Peruvian government in October 1982, the ICRC continued its visits to persons detained under the decree 046 of March 1981 (antiterrorist law). Together with the Peruvian Red Cross, it also began to formulate an aid programme for the most needy categories of the civilian population in regions particularly affected by the internal disturbances. The ICRC remained in the country throughout the year, having received the government's authorization to set up a delegation there.

Mr. Athos Gallino, a member of the Committee, accompanied by the delegate-general for Latin America, carried out a mission to this country from 18 to 21 June. He met Dr. Fernando Schwalb López Aldana, First Vice-President of the Republic, Dr. Luis Pércovich Roca, Minister of the Interior, Dr. Max Arias Schreiber, Minister of Justice, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Chief of Staff of the Joint Command of the armed forces and the Army Chief of Staff. These discussions provided an opportunity to review ICRC activities in the prisons and to request access to civilian and military places of detention in areas where the state of emergency had been declared and which were administered by the military authorities. During this mission, Mr. Gallino also had talks with the leaders of the Peruvian Red Cross.

The delegate-general for Latin America was again in Peru from 2 to 5 December to resume talks with the authorities. He had discussions with Dr. Pércovich Roca, who had become Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, with General Oscar Brush Noel, new Minister of the Interior, and with the Minister of Justice. As was the case in previous meetings, the two main subjects under review were the activities of the ICRC in places of detention and the extension of these activities to places in regions under the state of emergency. The delegate-general confirmed the readiness of the ICRC to undertake an aid programme for the civilian population in these regions.

Protection

The ICRC visited persons detained under the decree 046 of March 1981. As in 1983, it only had access to detention centres outside those regions which had been placed under the state of emergency, despite several approaches having been made to the Peruvian authorities, particularly during the two missions from Geneva. This restriction considerably limited ICRC activities in 1984.

Begun at the end of January, visits to detainees in prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, in temporary detention centres and the interrogation centres of the *Policía de investigaciones del Peru* (PIP) under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior, were made regularly until the end of the year. Several confidential summary reports concerning these visits were submitted to the authorities.

The visits were conducted in accordance with standard ICRC procedure and with a medical delegate in attendance. Altogether, 1,259 security detainees were seen, 1,119 of them for the first time. Most of the detainees were imprisoned in Lima (855 in prisons under the control of the Ministry of Justice and 274 in the police interrogation centre, *Dirección contra el terrorismo*, DIRCOTE). The seven penitentiaries in the capital (Lurigancho, El Fronton, Callao, Sexto, Chorillos, San Jorge and the premises in the Law Courts) and the DIRCOTE were therefore visited regularly. The delegates also had access to two centres for juvenile detainees in Lima. In the provinces, they visited detainees in about 15 districts in the regions of Arequipa, Cajamarca, Cusco, Ica, Junin, Lambayeque, Libertad and Puno. In addition, they frequently visited hospitals where detainees registered by the ICRC were undergoing medical treatment. In 1984, the ICRC carried out 99 visits (including 64 in Lima) to 39 places of detention and two hospitals.

Assistance

To back up its protection work, the ICRC distributed relief supplies to the detainees: foodstuffs, articles for personal hygiene and leisure activities, various utensils, medicines, and spectacles to those who needed them. This assistance amounted to 77,841 Swiss francs. The ICRC made it known that it was willing to take part, in co-operation with the authorities, in an anti-tuberculosis campaign in the prison at Lurigancho (providing medical training, medicines and distributions of milk). A programme was being worked out at the end of the year.

In the last few months of the year, the ICRC started helping some of the families of detainees living a long way from the capital, by paying their travelling expenses so that they could visit their relatives in detention.

Dissemination and Information

At the end of May, a dissemination programme (general information on the Red Cross movement and knowledge of international humanitarian law) was started for the benefit of

the Peruvian Red Cross. ICRC delegates gave several talks to members of the Central Committee of the National Society and to various sections of this Society.

Uruguay

The ICRC delegate-general for Latin America went to Montevideo where, on 14 and 15 February, he had talks with President Alvarez, the Head of State, with Rear-Admiral Laborde, chief of the Joint General Staff, with Lieutenant-General Aranco, Army Chief, with Colonel Silva Ledesma, President of the Supreme Military Tribunal, and with Mr. Maeso, Minister of Foreign Affairs. These discussions made it possible to take stock of the protection work carried out in the previous year by the ICRC for persons detained on security grounds, and also to submit and comment on the report drawn up following the visits made to prisons in November and December 1983. The ICRC representative also submitted a request for the release of 12 sick detainees (five of these were subsequently freed). Finally, he raised the question of the future protection activities of the ICRC in Uruguay and, more specifically, the matter of the nine detainees whom the ICRC had still not been authorized to see in accordance with standard procedure and who had therefore not been visited (see 1983 Annual Report, page 39). Without definitely committing themselves on this latter point, the Uruguayan authorities declared themselves favourable to the continuation of the protection work of the ICRC.

Protection

From 12 March to 10 April, a team of delegates, including two doctors, visited eleven Uruguayan places of detention, including the *Libertad* (EMR 1) prison, the *Punta de Rieles* (EMR 2) prison for women, and other places of detention under the armed forces and the police, and a hospital. In all,

776 security detainees were thus seen in accordance with the standard procedures. Following these visits, the ICRC asked the Uruguayan authorities to release 13 detainees for health reasons (the release of seven of these had already been requested in February); only one of them was set free.

During these visits, the ICRC was still not granted access to the nine detainees mentioned above. However, this restriction was lifted shortly afterwards and, on 7 June, the Uruguayan authorities and the ICRC signed a new agreement for three further series of visits to all security detainees.

During the two series of visits which subsequently took place in 1984 (from 9 July to 2 August and from 5 to 23 November), ICRC delegates were, in fact, able to talk without witnesses to each of these nine persons: eight had been transferred to the *Libertad* and the ninth was hospitalized.

The visits during July were to nine places of detention and one hospital, between them housing a total of 735 security detainees. The November visits involved six places of detention and two hospitals where there were 517 detainees in all, some releases having been made since the previous visits. ICRC doctors took part in these visits.

Following the visits in July, the ICRC renewed its requests for the early release of sick detainees and submitted two new cases, to which two further cases were added in November. Only four persons were set free.

Some of the neediest detainees were helped by the ICRC, which provided them with a small sum of money enabling them to buy a few necessities.

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As in the past, the ICRC supported the relief programmes of the Uruguayan Red Cross, this time supplying it with 180 tonnes of food products, gifts from the EEC and the Swiss government.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1984

LATIN AMERICA

Country	Beneficiaries	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnage	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
Argentina	Detainees	—	891	3,860	4,751
Chile	Detainees and their families, National Society	126	335,313	12,893	348,206
Colombia	Detainees	1	6,661	—	6,661
Costa-Rica	National Society	3	36,950	—	36,950
El Salvador	Displaced civilians, de- tainees, National Society	7,829	9,501,779	540,287	10,042,066
Haiti	Detainees	—	2,510	—	2,510
Honduras	National Society	2	48,377	—	48,377
Nicaragua	Displaced civilians, de- tainees, National Society	921	2,148,138	200,953	2,349,091
Paraguay	National Society	30	311,825	—	311,825
Peru	Detainees, National Society	16	81,804	6,767	88,571
Uruguay	National Society	180	606,489	—	606,489
TOTAL		9,108	13,080,737	764,760	13,845,497