

# Asia and the Pacific

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## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In 1984, the grave consequences of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Kampuchea remained the overriding concern of the ICRC in this region of the globe.

Whilst extending its medical activities on behalf of those Afghan war wounded managing to reach Pakistan, the ICRC continued its approaches to the parties involved in the Afghan conflict in order to obtain authorization to perform its protection and assistance activities for all victims. Considering the scale and the intensity of the fighting, the ICRC regards it as quite intolerable that it is denied the possibility of carrying out its humanitarian work in this region.

The fate of 230,000 Khmer civilians stranded at the Khmer-Thai border became more critical than ever in 1984, owing to the violence and the proximity of the fighting. Through its delegation in Thailand, the ICRC continued providing these people with medical assistance and endeavoured to develop its protective activities, not only for these civilians but also for detainees. At Phnom-Penh also, the ICRC did everything in its power to extend its radius of action, especially protection and assistance to the victims in the areas affected by the fighting.

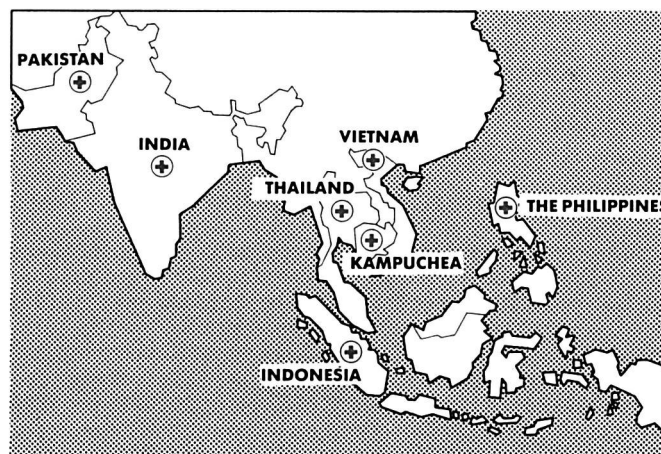
The plight of the Vietnamese refugees, both those trapped along the Khmer-Thai border and the "boat people", still victims of numerous acts of piracy, remained a major cause of concern to the ICRC which continued to co-ordinate tracing activities, in close co-operation with the Tracing and Mailing Services network set up by five National Societies in South-East Asia (see the section on "Refugees in South-East Asia").

In East Timor, the ICRC resumed its visits to persons detained on account of the events, in a number of places of detention. In conjunction with the Indonesian Red Cross, the ICRC also continued its assistance programme for the displaced persons on the island of Atauro: it was not able, however, to resume its assistance programme on the main island.

In the Philippines, there was a considerable increase in assistance and protection activities. For one thing, a tour of all places of detention in the country started in July. For another, the food aid programme—conducted in collaboration with the National Society for people displaced on account of the troubles, mainly on the islands of Mindanao and Samar—was completely revised with a view to extending it.

Special appeals were launched to finance these operations whilst regional activities by the delegations based in New Delhi, Djakarta, Hanoi and Manila were funded by the regular budget.

The number of delegates (including medical and administrative personnel) working in Asia slightly increased in 1984, from 100 at the beginning of the year to 120 in December.



### Conflict in Afghanistan

In 1984, as in previous years, the ICRC continued to seek permission from the various parties to the conflict to carry out its protective and assistance activities for all victims of the conflict, civilian and military, in accordance with the mandate conferred on it by the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the International Red Cross.

The ICRC is particularly anxious to fulfil its duty to protect all persons taken prisoner during the fighting or arrested on account of the conflict situation, both those detained by the Afghan authorities and those captured by the opposition movements. In the absence of any tangible progress, the ICRC decided to publicly communicate its concern to the international community. On 20 May 1984, the ICRC therefore issued a press release stating that, in spite of its repeated offers to the Afghan Government and approaches to the Russian Government, it has only been authorized to carry out two brief missions inside the country, in 1980 and 1982. After outlining its activities in Pakistan, and those for Soviet soldiers captured by the opposition movements and interned in a neutral country—in this case, Switzerland—the ICRC emphasized the intolerable restrictions that are placed on its humanitarian activities, even though this conflict has been going on for over four years. Once again, it notified all the parties to the conflict that it looked to them to give it every facility to protect and assist all victims, wherever they may be, in full accordance with international humanitarian principles.

and law. By the end of the year, the ICRC had still not received authorization to take any action in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

In Pakistan, the Peshawar delegation and the sub-delegation in Quetta, in the province of Baluchistan, continued their activities, mainly surgical assistance for Afghan victims of the armed clashes within their country.

To cover all its activities from 1 January to 31 December 1984, the ICRC launched an appeal at the beginning of the year for 14,188,000 Swiss francs. The budget estimates actually amounted to 15,089,197 francs but a balance in hand of 901,255 francs enabled the appeal figure to be reduced accordingly.

#### **Internment of Soviet soldiers in Switzerland**

Since 1982, agreements signed between the parties concerned have made it possible for Soviet prisoners captured by Afghan opposition movements to be interned in a neutral country, Switzerland, under the responsibility of the authorities of that country. In 1982 and 1983, nine Soviet nationals were transferred to Switzerland and, in 1984, they were joined by two others, one in February and the other in April. The parties concerned having agreed on a duration of internment of two years, seven of the Soviet soldiers reached the end of their term of internment in 1984. Five of these adhered to their wish to be repatriated and therefore returned to the USSR on 20 May, 8 August and 23 November. The two others expressed the wish to remain in Switzerland. At the end of the year, three Soviet soldiers remained interned in Switzerland, one having escaped on 8 July 1983 to the Federal Republic of Germany where he asked for political asylum (see Annual Report 1983, page 39).

The ICRC kept a regular check on conditions of internment in Switzerland. In 1984, delegates carried out nine visits at approximately 6-week intervals, in accordance with the usual ICRC procedures.

#### **Activities in Pakistan**

The ICRC delegation in Peshawar and the sub-delegation in Quetta expanded their assistance activities, chiefly medical, for victims of the Afghan conflict. They also kept in contact with various Afghan opposition movements concerning the prisoners they held.

The ICRC delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific went to Pakistan twice, in February and in December, to discuss various aspects of ICRC activities with the Pakistan authorities and representatives of the Afghan opposition movements, in particular matters connected with the detention of prisoners by these movements. Another purpose of these missions was to define the aims and the programmes of ICRC activities with senior members of the delegation and sub-delegation.

Following the expansion of medical activities, the number of staff increased during the year. From 439 persons (including 404 local employees) at the beginning of the year, personnel at the delegation and sub-delegation grew to 569 at the end of 1984, 531 of these having been recruited locally.

#### **Medical assistance**

Medical activities in Pakistan during 1984 were on a very large scale. The medical relief provided by the ICRC alone amounted to 1,669,324 Swiss francs. In order to accomplish all the activities described below, the medical and paramedical personnel recruited directly by the ICRC were helped by 44 doctors and nurses placed at its disposal by the Australian, Danish, Finnish, German (FRG), Italian, New Zealand, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies.

In order to follow up the medical programme it had initiated, the ICRC medical division made two missions to Pakistan. The first, at the beginning of May, was to reappraise the situation, the capacity of the ICRC hospitals at Peshawar and Quetta, and the work of the ambulance teams stationed on the Afghan frontier. The second mission, by the specialist on orthopaedic matters, took place at the end of March and included a complete study of the various activities linked to the rehabilitation programme (centre for paraplegics, orthopaedic workshop and re-education centre for amputees).

The multiple facets of ICRC medical activity in Pakistan:

##### ***PESHAWAR EMERGENCY SURGICAL HOSPITAL.***

— The ICRC hospital has worked non-stop since it was opened in June 1981. As in the previous year, two surgical teams, one from the ICRC and the other provided by a National Society, each made up of a surgeon, an anaesthetist and a nurse, looked after the wounded in co-operation with an ICRC head nurse and her assistant who were responsible for running the hospital. Equipped with two operating theatres, an X-ray unit, a laboratory and a polyclinic, this hospital with its capacity of 110 beds (which can be extended to 150 beds when necessary) had an average occupancy rate of 90% in 1984 with peak periods in March (111 patients) and September (108 patients). In 1984, 1,746 patients, all war wounded, were admitted and 2,730 operations performed. The ICRC hospital has an out-patient department which gave 10,147 consultations this year. In addition, the training programme for local personnel was continued.

##### ***EMERGENCY SURGICAL HOSPITAL AT QUETTA.***

— Opened in July 1983 to treat the war wounded from the south-east of Afghanistan, this ICRC surgical hospital was full throughout 1984. At the beginning of the year, its capacity was increased from 40 to 60 beds and the surgical team provided by the Italian Red Cross which originally consisted, as in Peshawar, of a surgeon, an anaesthetist and a nurse was supplemented by a second surgeon from May onwards. A total of 766 patients were admitted during the course of the year and 1,619 operations performed. In addition, 3,370 consultations were given to out-patients. As in

Peshawar, training programmes for local personnel were continued: an ICRC physiotherapist trained a team of three assistants while the radiology department and the laboratory were run by local personnel.

**BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTRE.** — Since 1982 the Red Cross Society of the FRG had been supplying blood twice monthly to Peshawar. In order to make the emergency surgical hospital self-sufficient in blood supply, a collection and transfusion centre was set up in co-operation with the Norwegian Red Cross. This centre started functioning in May 1984 and by means of a campaign to increase public awareness of the need to donate blood, chiefly among families of hospital patients and students in first aid courses, became from November 1984 independent of blood deliveries from outside.

**ASSISTANCE FOR PARAPLEGICS.** — A centre for paraplegics had been set up in December 1981. Following consultations with the Pakistan authorities, the ICRC decided to create a specialized centre in Peshawar for both Afghan and Pakistani paraplegics (on the understanding that the Afghans were entitled to 50% of the available beds), the idea being that the service and techniques hitherto available only to Afghan patients could also benefit Pakistani victims of accidents. A new centre with a capacity of 100 beds was therefore built to this end during 1983 and patients were admitted on 6 February 1984. The official inauguration took place on 7 July, in the presence of representatives of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) authorities and leading members of the Pakistan Red Crescent. On 2 October, an agreement was signed by the ICRC and the NWFP branch of the Pakistan Red Crescent, under which the Pakistan Red Crescent would gradually take over the running of this centre in four successive stages, extending over a period of three years. This project should, therefore, continue even after the ICRC leaves Pakistan.

In 1984, 152 paraplegics were admitted to the centre whilst 144 were able to leave. On 31 December 1984, 87 patients were receiving treatment, 45 of these being Afghan war wounded and 42 Pakistani. Since the first centre was opened, 336 paraplegics have been admitted to the centres and 249 have been discharged.

**ASSISTANCE FOR AMPUTEES.** — The orthopaedic workshop in Peshawar, set up in November 1981, continued to supply prostheses to patients at the surgical hospitals of Peshawar and Quetta, and to other Afghan war wounded. In 1984, locally recruited and trained craftsmen made prostheses or appliances for 572 patients under the supervision of an ICRC specialist. The ICRC orthopaedic workshop also started producing rubber feet from October onwards; until then, prostheses of this kind were imported from Jaipur in India. When the paraplegics were moved to the new centre (see above), the ICRC made use of the old premises to install a re-education centre with a capacity of 30 beds, for patients needing to try out or learn to use prostheses made for them.



*The ICRC paraplegic centre in Peshawar. (Photo ICRC — Pascal Gondrand)*

**EVACUATION OF WAR WOUNDED.** — The five ambulance teams which began operating in 1982 in the North West Frontier Province (at Parachinar, Miram Shah and Wana) and in the province of Baluchistan (at Badini and Chaman), each comprising a doctor, a medical orderly and a driver from the Pakistan Red Crescent, gave first aid to the wounded Afghans arriving at the Pakistan frontier. They transported those in need of hospital treatment to Peshawar and Quetta throughout the year (except for the Badini post which was closed from January to April on account of climatic conditions). Delegates, accompanied by doctors, made two visits to the NWFP, in March and September, to see the ambulance teams at work and re-assess their needs. Following these missions, the teams at Parachinar and Miram Shah received a second ambulance and, in November, a unit from the Parachinar team was transferred to Alizai. In the province of Baluchistan, delegates visited the ambulance teams at Badini and Chaman several times to re-assess their needs.



Other missions of assessment were conducted in the NWFP, in the region of Chitral in May and in the regions of Dir and Bajaur in August. Another was made in Baluchistan, in the district of Chagai (where delegates were accompanied by the head of the Pakistan Red Crescent in the province) in June. As a result of these assessments, it was decided that there was no need of further mobile teams in the immediate future.

In 1984, these ambulance teams conveyed 718 wounded Afghans from the frontier to the hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta, representing 23% and 41% respectively of the total admissions to these hospitals.

#### *FIRST AID COURSES AND SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT.*

— The ICRC continued giving first aid courses to Afghan nationals, with the aim of training them to administer first aid and prepare the wounded for their journey from the scene of the fighting to the frontier where the mobile teams take charge of them. Nine four-week courses, including a week's practice at the Peshawar hospital, were each attended by about 15 people. A total of 111 first-aid workers were trained in 1984. Since March 1982 when these courses first began, 456 people obtained their first aid diplomas after attending these courses.

In 1984, another series of courses was started in parallel. These "Red Cross" courses taught Afghans the rudiments of first aid in two days. Begun in March at Peshawar and in July at Quetta, these courses were attended by 1,216 and 131 persons respectively. At the end of these first aid courses, the ICRC gave those passing the final examination parcels of medical supplies (essentially bandages and dressings). It also continued providing medical supplies to Afghan doctors going to Afghanistan to help the victims of the fighting. The cost of this medical assistance was about 236,000 Swiss francs.

#### *FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE HEALTH CENTRE OF THE ADESAI CAMP.*

— The ICRC continued financing the public health care given by the Pakistan Red Crescent in the Afghan refugee camp at Adesai. In 1984, this aid amounted to 113,631 Swiss francs.

#### **Protection and tracing activities**

In 1984, delegates had interviews without witnesses with several Soviet prisoners held by Afghan opposition movements. They arranged for two of them to be transferred from the Afghan-Pakistan border to Switzerland (see above). ICRC delegates also maintained regular contact with the leaders of Afghan opposition movements concerning the prisoners in their hands (Soviets, members of the Afghan regular army, civilians): they started negotiations with a view to setting up a system for the exchange of family messages on behalf of these prisoners. As in previous years, delegates gave these prisoners material aid whenever this was possible.

#### **Dissemination and information**

The ICRC delegation in Pakistan increased its efforts to make the Afghans aware of the principles of the Red Cross and the basic rules of international humanitarian law protecting wounded or captured civilians and combatants. Lectures were given to various groups of people, such as combatants, hospital patients and their families. The first aid courses given to Afghans (see above) provided an excellent opportunity to get the Red Cross message across: the four-week courses therefore included six hours on such rules and principles, while the two-day "Red Cross" courses included two hours on this subject. This teaching programme was facilitated by material in the Farsi language which was either used during the courses (in the form of films and posters) or handed out to those taking part (cartoon strips, combatant cards, etc.).

The Geneva-based delegate responsible for dissemination in Asia visited Pakistan in November to ensure the efficient co-ordination of the various dissemination activities.

### **India**

The New Delhi ICRC regional delegation, which was reopened in 1982, continued its activities both in India and in the countries it covers, i.e. Bangladesh, Burma, Bhutan, the Maldives and Nepal.

The Vice-President of the Indian Republic, Mr. Hidayatullah, who is also President of the Indian Red Cross, visited ICRC headquarters on 30 April.

At the end of November, the deputy delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific visited New Delhi. He met the Chairman and the Secretary General of the Indian Red Cross and reminded them of the availability of the ICRC for any technical assistance, particularly in connection with matters concerning the Tracing Agency, a field in which the National Society would like to expand its activities.

Following the events brought about by the death of the Indian Prime Minister, the ICRC provided aid to the National Society in the form of blood transfusion material, twenty sets of medical supplies for dispensaries (309,157 Swiss francs) and 13,000 blankets (100,820 Swiss francs). The delegates also visited some of the camps for displaced persons in the region of New Delhi.

Throughout the year, ICRC delegates and the National Society remained in touch to co-ordinate their efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law.

### **Sri Lanka**

In 1984, the ICRC remained in close contact with the Sri Lanka authorities and senior members of the National Society. The ICRC delegate-general for Asia, accompanied by a delegate, went to Colombo at the beginning of May. During

this visit, he had talks with the Minister of National Security and with senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice, as well as with the Chairman of the National Society. They discussed the current situation in the country, and the role the ICRC could play in this context, both in the realm of material and medical assistance and in protection work. The delegate accompanying the delegate-general then went on to Jaffna in the north-east of the country where he visited a camp for displaced persons. This delegate also met the authorities and various local bodies, including the branch of the Sri Lanka Red Cross.

The ICRC subsequently offered its services in the way of assistance and protection (visits to the places of detention); the Sri Lanka authorities gave their agreement in principle but, at the end of the year, the relevant procedures had still not been worked out.

On 19 June, the ICRC President received a visit at headquarters from Mr. Abeyesakara, the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Red Cross.

## **Conflict in Kampuchea**

In 1984, the ICRC delegates in Thailand and Phnom Penh continued their activities of protection, tracing and medical assistance on behalf of the victims of the conflict in Kampuchea. There were still almost 230,000 displaced persons living along the Khmer-Thai border in extremely hazardous conditions, sometimes forced to flee the camps and find temporary refuge on Thai territory because of the proximity of the fighting. ICRC medical personnel based in Thailand, reinforced in 1983, were able to cope with the situation and evacuated the war wounded to the two ICRC hospitals at Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherg. From August onwards, the ICRC was able to increase its assistance activities to hospitals in some provinces of Kampuchea, but it was not authorized to make regular visits to the areas most affected by the fighting, in the west of the country.

### **Missions and contacts**

The necessity for periodic reassessments of the aid programmes, according either to emergency criteria or to the degree of danger in the assisted regions, and for discussion with the authorities concerned of the progress of ICRC activities led to various ICRC staff members' going to the region in 1984.

During the second half of January, Mr. Hocké, the ICRC Director for Operational Activities, visited Bangkok, Phnom Penh and Hanoi. Apart from discussions with delegations to review the situation, he had talks with representatives of the authorities in all three countries. In Thailand, he met Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, Secretary General of the National Security Council; he also went to the Khmer-Thai border region. In Phnom Penh, the Director for Operational

Activities had talks with Mr. Hun Sen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nouth Savoeun, Deputy Minister of Health, and Dr. My Samedy, Secretary General of the Red Cross Society (for details of Mr. Hocké's mission to Hanoi, see the section on Vietnam).

In June and again in September, the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific visited Bangkok and the Khmer-Thai border where he reassessed the ICRC's programmes and objectives, both in the border region and inside Kampuchea, with the delegates based in Thailand, Phnom Penh and Hanoi. During these missions, the delegate-general also had interviews with the Thai authorities and representatives of international organizations in Bangkok.

On his return from Korea, at the beginning of November, Mr. Aubert, the Vice-President of the ICRC, stopped off in Thailand to have talks with the ICRC delegation in Bangkok. He also visited the frontier region, the ICRC sub-delegation at Aranyaprathet, and various refugee camps. In Bangkok, he visited the Honorary Secretary General of the Thai Red Cross, Mr. Kashetra Snidvongs.

Several high-ranking officials visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva during 1984. Mr. Nouth Savoeun, the Deputy Minister of Health from Phnom Penh, was received in May and Dr. Samedy, Secretary General of the Red Cross, in October. On 18 October, Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, accompanied by other representatives of the Thai government, was received in Geneva by the ICRC President. Apart from the ICRC's activities in Thailand, the problem of Vietnamese refugees (particularly the "land people") was again discussed on this occasion.

In connection with the negotiations started by the ICRC with a view to extending its protection activities (see below), delegates met Prince Sihanouk, Mr. Khieu Samphan and Mr. Son Sann, the President, Vice President and Prime Minister of the coalition government in Kampuchea. The Prime Minister also visited headquarters on 26 April.

In Thailand in October, delegates met the new chief of staff of the royal armed forces, General Pathom, with whom they brought up various questions regarding protection.

### **Financing the action**

In January 1984, the ICRC launched an appeal to donors for 19,247,000 Swiss francs to finance its assistance and protection activities in the Kampuchean conflict. The ICRC regularly attended the meetings of donor countries in New York, held under the auspices of the United Nations. It published various reports informing representatives of the countries concerned of the development of its activities.

### **Personnel**

The number of personnel based in Thailand, Bangkok and on the Khmer-Thai border had already substantially increased in 1983. It rose considerably higher in 1984 by local

recruitment: at the end of the year, 200 persons recruited locally were working for the ICRC (as compared to 132 at the beginning of the year), together with 21 delegates from the ICRC and 30 staff supplied by National Societies. At Phnom Penh, the delegation still consisted of four people.

## Activities in Kampuchea

### Medical assistance

In 1984 the ICRC continued its medical assistance to the main hospitals in Phnom Penh (the "17 April" surgical hospital, and the "7 January", "2 December" and "The Revolution" hospitals) and to the Takhmao hospital in the province of Kandal. An ICRC nurse regularly reassessed the needs of these hospitals and supplied them with emergency medicaments, surgical and X-ray equipment, and with apparatus for making perfusions and for distilling water. The ICRC also helped the Red Cross blood bank at Phnom Penh.

In the course of 1984 the ICRC made several offers to visit the worst affected provinces in order to assess their needs and to supply medical assistance to the hospitals. From August onwards, delegates were authorized to make several visits to the provinces of Kandal, Kampot and Kompong Speu. They went less regularly to the province of Battambang. On these visits, they were able to visit hospitals, size up the situation and provide medical relief.

As in the previous year, the ICRC provided logistic and administrative support for the surgical teams of the Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies, based respectively at the hospitals of Kompong Chnang and Kompong Cham, and for the French Red Cross team which is continuing its anti-tuberculosis campaign in the capital and in the provinces of Kandal, Prey Veng and Takeo. In 1984, the ICRC pharmaceutical department supplied these three teams with medicaments and medical equipment to the value of 427,000 Swiss francs.

From August onwards, delegates were able to visit Kompong Chnang and Kompong Cham on two occasions, in order to assess the needs of the Swedish and Swiss surgical teams.

During his mission to Phnom Penh in January 1984 (see above), the ICRC Director for Operational Activities suggested to the Kampuchean authorities stationing one or several teams specializing in surgery and emergency medical care in the worst affected provinces of Kampuchea. By the end of the year, there had still been no response to this proposal.

### Material assistance and logistic support

*ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME IN ORPHANAGES.*—The relief programme set up in 1981 for the neediest orphans had to be suspended in 1984 because of the impossibility for ICRC delegates to visit the provinces. From August onwards,

delegates were able to conduct assessments at orphanages in the chief towns of the provinces of Kompong Chnang, Kompong Cham, Kompong Speu and Kampot and set up a new programme for the distribution of relief, due to start at the beginning of 1985.

*BANGKOK-HO CHI MINH CITY-PHOM PENH AIR-LIFT.*—As in previous years, there was a weekly airline service from Bangkok to Ho Chi Minh City, from where a semi-commercial aircraft belonging to Air Viet Nam, and chartered by the ICRC and UNICEF, went on to Phnom Penh. Besides passengers, these flights conveyed emergency relief and medicaments, both for the ICRC (28.4 tonnes) and for other humanitarian organizations.

### Protection

Since 1981, the ICRC has been trying to obtain permission to visit certain categories of prisoners in Kampuchea (persons captured while carrying arms, civilians arrested in connection with the events and foreign nationals having no diplomatic protection). During his mission to Phnom Penh in January 1984, the ICRC Director for Operational Activities reiterated the ICRC's request to Mr. Hun Sen, then Minister of Foreign Affairs. At that time, Mr. Sen gave his assurance that the ICRC would have access to foreigners without the benefit of diplomatic protection. In May 1984, press reports of the capture of 22 Thai citizens provided an opportunity to resume negotiations on this subject but, despite repeated approaches, the ICRC had still obtained no definite answer by the end of the year. The ICRC also endeavoured to arrange for the exchange of Red Cross family messages between these people and their families, unfortunately without success.

At the time when fighting along the Khmer-Thai border was at its worst, at the beginning and at the end of the year, the ICRC reminded the authorities in Kampuchea that civilians living in this region should be protected and should not be the target for attacks; the same applied to the medical teams and first-aid posts and field hospitals working on the frontier.

### Dissemination

In November 1984, the authorities in Kampuchea gave their agreement to the publication and distribution of a textbook on the principles of the Red Cross, together with a teacher's manual. Of the former 30,000 copies, and of the latter 2,000 copies, were ready for distribution at the beginning of 1985.

## Activities in Thailand

While continuing to support the National Society's assistance programme for the Thai people affected by the events in Kampuchea, the ICRC maintained an essential programme of

emergency assistance along the Khmer-Thai border for Khmer and Vietnamese victims and also pursued its protection activities, endeavouring to extend them.

## Protection

Since 1981, one of the main concerns of the ICRC has been the protection of Khmer civilians concentrated along the border, and their evacuation from the danger zones when fighting breaks out, and the safety of refugees of Vietnamese origin stranded at the Thai border after crossing Kampuchea. In 1984, in order to extend its protection activities, the ICRC endeavoured to obtain routine access to persons deprived of their liberty (prisoners of war, combatants captured while carrying arms and civilians arrested on security grounds) by factions of the democratic coalition government of Kampuchea and by the Thai authorities.

**CIVILIANS.**—The United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) and the Thai authorities, in co-operation with the ICRC, decided on evacuation sites and drew up emergency plans for the rapid evacuation of civilians living in the fighting zones. The Thai authorities having expressed their willingness to allow endangered civilians to be transferred temporarily to their territory, full use was made of this facility in 1984: the first evacuation, carried out with the help of UNBRO and the Thai authorities, took place in April when fighting all along the frontier necessitated the rapid evacuation of some 80,000 persons: the majority of these had to return to their original camp in Ampil during the rainy season in July. Renewed fighting on a large scale from mid-November onwards again led to several evacuations, especially from Nong Chan. The offensive at the end of December further aggravated the situation (at Nong Samet) with the result that, by the end of the year, almost 130,000 persons had fled the camps and found temporary refuge in the evacuation sites on Thai territory. The civilians remaining in their camps later found themselves involved in the fighting and also had to be evacuated.

Apart from its activities during evacuations (conveying the wounded to hospitals, protecting vulnerable groups of people) the ICRC made numerous approaches throughout the year to the parties concerned, reminding them of the existence of these 230,000 persons endangered by the military activities.

As in previous years, the ICRC was especially concerned with the plight of a group of particularly vulnerable persons: the Vietnamese refugees stranded at the border. In 1984, the ICRC therefore continued to give food and other material and medical relief to these Vietnamese who, since September 1983, had mainly gathered in the Dongrek "platform" camp. The ICRC also took charge of transferring refugees newly arrived at the frontier to this camp. But the ICRC's chief priority was to continue its approaches, begun in 1983, to the Thai authorities and, in collaboration with the HCR and the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM), to the government representatives of countries who might give these refugees permanent asylum. Numerous meetings held during the first half of the year resulted in the drawing up of

procedures for the examination of individual cases. The Thai authorities having given their agreement to the proposed plan, the refugee selection process by government representatives started at the beginning of November. The intensified fighting in December interrupted proceedings, but did not affect the basic issue. At the end of the year, 492 Vietnamese from Dongrek had been accepted by eight host countries. The ICRC's role at this stage was to act as co-ordinator between the Thai authorities and the embassies, to transfer the refugees from Dongrek to the selection site, and then to convey those refugees who had been accepted by a host country to Panat Nikom. It should be pointed out that refugees were continually arriving at the frontier: from 1,332 at the beginning of the year, the number of Vietnamese at Dongrek had risen to 4,326 at the end of 1984.

**ARRESTED PERSONS.**—Until 1984, ICRC delegates had visited several places of detention in various Khmer camps at the border. However, these visits consisted only of a general inspection of the conditions of detention, a medical check-up and the provision of some material and medical relief, but could scarcely be considered as standard ICRC visits, since permission to talk to the detainees without witnesses was not granted. Since repeated approaches over the years had had no results, the ICRC decided to send a memorandum to the factions of the Coalition government, again explaining the need for the ICRC to be able to carry out its protection activities in full, including the registration of prisoners and interviews without witnesses with each prisoner coming under one of the categories specified in the ICRC mandate (captured Vietnamese and Kampuchean soldiers, Khmer security detainees). This memorandum was sent to Prince Sihanouk, President of the coalition government, in August, and then to Mr. Son Sann, Prime Minister, and Mr. Khieu Samphan, Vice-President of the coalition. At the end of August and in October, Khmer and Vietnamese prisoners at Ampil, Tatum and Nong Chan in the hands of the FUNCINPEK and the FNLPK were visited in accordance with the customary ICRC procedures (the renewed outbreak of fighting subsequently interrupted visits to the camps). Regular access to certain prisoners was not, however, granted. Furthermore, by the end of the year, nobody detained by the "Red Khmer" faction had been visited.

Similarly, until 1984, the ICRC made weekly visits to the "illegal immigrants" held by the Thai authorities in the military prison of Aranyaprathet, but these visits did not include interviews without witnesses despite repeated requests by the ICRC. Moreover, the ICRC had no access to Vietnamese soldiers taken prisoner during clashes at the border and held in Thai hands. A formal request for access to these prisoners, delivered to the Thai authorities in May, having had no result, the ICRC then sent them a memorandum quoting the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the International Red Cross and requesting permission to visit all persons detained on account of the events along the Khmer-Thai border. Negotiations were still in progress at the end of the year.



## Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency at the Bangkok delegation was mainly concerned with the civilians gathered in the camps along the frontier and inside Thailand. Among these displaced persons, principally Khmer, were some Vietnamese "land people". The problem of the Vietnamese "boat people", handled by the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva in close collaboration with the Tracing and Mailing Services network, set up by the National Societies of the countries of first asylum, is dealt with in the section of this report entitled "Refugees in South-East Asia".

During the year, the following services were provided by the Bangkok Tracing Agency for the benefit of these different categories of victims:

- 7,791 persons, mostly of Khmer origin, were the subject of tracing requests made by members of their families; 2,216 persons, mostly Khmer, asked for transfer or to be reunited with their families;
- 3,326 persons, Khmer and Vietnamese, were transferred from one camp to another, or to the transit centre of Panat Nikom with a view to resettlement in a host country;
- 173 persons of Khmer origin were reunited with their families in camps inside Thailand or in the frontier zone;
- 21,303 letters were exchanged between refugees at the border and their families living either in other border camps or in other countries;
- 3,285 Vietnamese "land people" gathered at Dongrek were registered by the Tracing Agency;
- during visits to places of detention along the border, the Tracing Agency handled the registration of detainees, principally at the military prison of Aranyaprathet;
- 57 travel documents were issued for refugees of various nationalities;
- in collaboration with the ICRC delegation at Hanoi, the Bangkok Tracing Agency also took part in the transfer, via Bangkok, of 169 persons of Chinese origin to Taiwan.

## Medical and food assistance

In view of the tense and unsettled situation, the ICRC maintained its medical activities along the Khmer-Thai border in 1984. It is the only agency in this region taking charge of emergency surgery and the war wounded in its hospitals at Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng, evacuating the wounded from the camps along the border to these hospitals by means of its fleet of ambulances.

The Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng surgical hospitals were run by four surgical teams provided by National Societies, each consisting of a surgeon, an anaesthetist and two nurses and each being replaced after a period of three to six months, together with a medical co-ordinator and six nurses (including four from the ICRC). In 1984 a total of 95 specialists were made available in this way to the ICRC by the Australian, Belgian, British, Canadian, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German (FRG), Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, New Zealand, Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies. With the

help of locally recruited Thai or Khmer medical personnel which brought their total numbers up to over 100, the staff of these hospitals were able throughout the year to meet the medical needs created by the numerous military operations taking place near the frontier.

In 1984 the ICRC provided medical equipment and medicaments worth 1,392,062 Swiss francs.

**KHAO-I-DANG HOSPITAL.**—Opened in 1980, this emergency surgical hospital with its capacity of 100 beds received 2,513 patients in 1984, 1,039 of these being war wounded. The beginning and the end of the year were the busiest periods because of military operations. In December alone, 313 wounded were admitted. As the situation seriously deteriorated with the intensified military operations at the end of the year, the ICRC appealed to the Thai Red Cross which immediately supplied an extra surgical team; the team began work on 30 December.

Thanks to consignments by the Australian and Japanese Red Cross Societies and the support of the Thai Red Cross, the ICRC was able throughout the year to maintain supplies of fresh blood to its own two hospitals and to provide for the needs of voluntary agencies working along the frontier under the aegis of UNBRO. The blood bank, installed in the Khao-I-Dang hospital, received about 7,000 units of blood in 1984, including a contribution from the New Zealand Red Cross Society in December. To diminish its hospitals' dependence on outside supplies, the ICRC initiated a campaign for the collection of blood first at Khao-I-Dang and then, from October, in several camps near the border, where the delegation had made civilians aware of this problem. Renewed fighting at the end of the year temporarily halted this campaign.

**KAB CHERNG HOSPITAL.**—Opened in 1983, this second emergency surgical hospital with a capacity of 60 beds treated 1,158 patients in 1984, 192 of these being war wounded. Because of the small percentage of war wounded, the ICRC envisaged temporarily closing part of this hospital. However, the military events at the end of the year postponed this eventuality.

**ACTIVITIES ALONG THE BORDER.**—Until 31 March 1984, the ICRC mobile medical team, made up of a doctor and three nurses, gave medical attention to the displaced civilians along the border, mainly in the hospitals at Nong Pru and Taprik and in the dispensaries of O'Sralau and Chrey, to the south of Aranyaprathet. During military operations, it took part in sorting out the wounded, giving first aid and evacuated serious cases to the hospitals.

The ICRC also continued to evacuate emergency cases and war wounded from the frontier to its hospitals at Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng, by means of its fleet of eleven ambulances. In 1984, 3,201 patients were evacuated by the ICRC in this way.

From April, the mobile medical team also concentrated on the dispensary at Dongrek which is run by Vietnamese



refugees: this place of consultation benefited from the attendance six days a week of an ICRC nurse, and from regular visits by one of the doctors at the delegation. The ICRC had taken charge of the dispensary for Vietnamese refugees shortly after their transfer from Nong Samet to Dongrek in September 1983.

The mobile medical team also took part in visits to detainees in the military prison at Aranyaprathet and in the camps along the border.

**DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICAL AND FOOD RELIEF.**—An emergency programme of medical and nutritional aid which was started in June 1983 for some 15,000 Khmer civilians displaced from the site of "Red Hill", on account of the fighting, to the south of Aranyaprathet, came to an end in late March 1984. Assessments had shown that the nutritional standards of these civilians had improved and that the help of the ICRC was consequently no longer necessary. During the first three months of the year, 30 tonnes of food relief was provided to complete this nutritional programme. UNBRO subsequently took over this task from the ICRC.

The ICRC continued to provide relief (medical and paramedical supplies, and food) to the most destitute groups of the population, particularly Vietnamese refugees and detainees, in the camps along the border and in the prison at Aranyaprathet. Some 766 tonnes of relief were distributed, representing a total value of 669,637 Swiss francs.

#### **Dissemination and information**

In 1984, following the example of what had been achieved in Pakistan (see above), the ICRC stepped up its efforts to disseminate international humanitarian law along the frontier, both among refugees in the camps and among Khmer combatants. A delegate specializing in dissemination matters went to Thailand in November and laid the foundations for this new activity, despite the difficulties created by the renewed outbreak of fighting at the end of the year.

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND**

The ICRC delegation in Bangkok also concerned itself with humanitarian questions unconnected with the conflict in Kampuchea.

For instance, after skirmishes between the Burmese armed forces and the opposition movement of the Karens had resulted in the arrival of Karen refugees on Thai territory at the beginning of the year, the head of the ICRC delegation went to see them in April. In June, a mainly medical survey was conducted jointly by the ICRC and the Thai Red Cross to ascertain if an aid programme was needed. This proved not to be the case.

Moreover, the ICRC continued its approaches to the Thai Ministry of the Interior (Department of Punishment) with a view to being able to visit security detainees, as they had done

in 1982. At that time, the ICRC had had access to about a dozen rehabilitation centres under the authority of the Internal Security Operations Command. In 1984, these approaches had no result.

### **Viet Nam**

In 1984, the ICRC maintained its regional delegation in Viet Nam, which also covers activities in Laos.

At the end of January, the ICRC Director for Operational Activities visited Hanoi where he met Mr. Ha Van Lau, the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as the leaders of the National Society. They discussed various humanitarian questions of mutual interest, particularly those relating to the conflict in Kampuchea.

The delegate based in Hanoi kept in contact with the authorities and met, amongst others, Mr. Pham Hien, the Minister of Justice.

In Geneva, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Le Mai, was received at ICRC headquarters by President Hay on 3 October.

Extremely concerned by the plight of some 230,000 civilians living along the Khmer-Thai border, who were directly affected by the fighting taking place in March and April, the ICRC made approaches to the Hanoi authorities concerned, reminding them that these civilians, as well as all medical personnel and installations in the area, were entitled to live in safety.

Moreover, as chashes were taking place along the Chinese border, leading to the capture of prisoners on both sides, the ICRC wrote to the Vietnamese and Chinese authorities in April, reminding them of the offers it had previously made both for tracing and protection work (visiting places of detention, registering prisoners of war, exchange of family messages, etc.). By the end of the year, this approach had not produced any result.

After Taiwan boats ran aground or were lost off the Vietnamese coast or in Vietnamese territorial waters, the ICRC, in the absence of diplomatic relations, provided its services as a neutral intermediary and acted as a substitute for the consular authorities in the tracing of the boats and their crews, and arranging for their repatriation.

#### **Repatriation of residents of Chinese origin**

Since 1975 the ICRC had been handling the repatriation of foreign residents without diplomatic representation in Viet Nam. On 16 August 1984, a repatriation flight was organized under its auspices, enabling 169 people of Chinese origin to return to Taiwan, via Bangkok. Since the first such flight on 14 September 1976, the ICRC has repatriated 5,203 persons. The delegate based in Hanoi made several visits to Ho Chi Minh City during the course of the year in order to make a selection of new candidates for repatriation.

## Medical assistance

Continuing the liquidation of the funds allocated to the INDSEC programme (formerly the "Indo-China Bureau"), three programmes of medical aid were launched in 1984 by the Vietnamese Red Cross and implemented by the Pediatric Centre in Ho Chi Minh City, with the financial help of the ICRC. This centre conducted a series of vaccinations for almost 48,000 pregnant women to prevent umbilical tetanus in infants; a vaccination programme for children born during the year began in November 1984 and resulted in the vaccination of 529 children by the end of the year. Finally, 1,250 children between the ages of 4 months and 5 years were examined and those suffering from nutritional anaemia were given treatment. The cost of this medical assistance amounted to 175,943 Swiss francs in 1984.

## Refugees in South-East Asia

It was mainly through its Central Tracing Agency (CTA) that the ICRC continued its assistance for the Vietnamese "boat people". It also continued to support the HCR in its efforts to deal with the scourge of piracy of which the "boat people" are victims.

The work of the CTA on behalf of these "boat people", which began in 1979, was carried on in 1984, as in previous years, in close collaboration with the Tracing and Mailing Services network set up among the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in South-East Asia. As had been decided during the seminar held in Kuala Lumpur in September 1983, the Tracing and Mailing Services of Singapore and Macao withdrew from the network in 1984 because of the marked decline in their activities. In 1984, this network therefore included only the National Societies of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and the branch of the British Red Cross in Hong Kong. This system continued to prove its usefulness: in the course of the year, it enabled the exchange of 195,868 letters and also received 3,061 tracing requests.

The Central Tracing Agency in Geneva continued to co-ordinate all tracing activities. The head of the CTA Asia division visited Bangkok, Manila, Hong Kong and Macao from 29 March to 10 April on a co-ordination mission. The delegate at ICRC headquarters in charge of activities for the "boat people" carried out a mission to Hong Kong, Malaysia and Indonesia from 12 October to 5 November in order to train new staff for the Tracing and Mailing Services in the National Societies in those countries. She also conducted a technical analysis of the operation of those services and the methods used. During this mission, the delegate visited four camps for "boat people": Sungei Besi in Malaysia, Galang in Indonesia, Kai Tak North and Chi Ma Waw in Hong Kong.

## Piracy

Although it is primarily the responsibility of governments to suppress the piracy to which the "boat people" are still prey, the ICRC continued to concern itself with this grave problem in 1984. It therefore took part in meetings organized by the HCR in Geneva and elsewhere which had as their objectives both to inform the representatives of donor countries on the work carried out in the anti-piracy programme drawn up by the HCR, and to guarantee its financing. The HCR budget, which was 2,500,000 dollars for the year from July 1983 to June 1984, was substantially increased for the following twelve month period in order to improve the efficiency of the measures adopted (enlargement of the patrol fleet, support and reinforcement of the Thai police department). For the period from July 1984 to June 1985, the budget is 6,555,400 dollars.

## Malaysia

The ICRC's activities in Malaysia, which used to be handled by the regional delegate based in Manila, were taken over by the regional delegate in Jakarta from May 1984. Several missions were carried out this year to Kuala Lumpur, mainly to take up with the authorities the problems relating to the ICRC's protection work. A series of visits to persons arrested under the Internal Security Act, started in April 1983, had been halted because of the refusal of the authorities to grant access to one place of detention. From 21 February to 13 March 1984, the regional delegate based in Manila was in Kuala Lumpur where he had talks with representatives from the Ministries of the Interior and Foreign Affairs, and with leaders of the National Society; the same delegate returned to Malaysia at the beginning of May, accompanied by the regional delegate from Jakarta, in order to introduce him to the authorities.

In September, the delegate-general for Asia went to Malaysia, together with the regional delegate based in Jakarta. During this mission, he had talks with the Minister of the Interior and the Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Musa Hitam. He brought up the question of the resumption of ICRC visits to persons detained under the Internal Security Act in accordance with usual ICRC procedures, with access to all detainees within this category. At the end of the year, no response had reached the ICRC.

A delegate specializing in dissemination, based in Manila, took part on 12 May in a seminar organized by the Sarawak branch of the Malaysian Red Crescent: he gave a lecture on international humanitarian law to an audience made up of members of the National Society and representatives of the local authorities.

## Indonesia and East Timor

In 1984, the ICRC maintained its regional delegation in Jakarta which, in addition to its protection and assistance work in East Timor and Indonesia, also covers Australia, Brunei, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea, Singapore and the states and territories of the Pacific.

### Indonesia

On the invitation of the Indonesian Red Cross, Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, a member of the Committee, visited Indonesia from 4 to 20 February, accompanied by Mr. Harald Huber, honorary member of the Committee, and Mr. Henrik Beer, emeritus Secretary General of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. During their stay, they visited various branches of the Indonesian Red Cross, as well as the ICRC delegation in Jakarta.

At the end of March, the ICRC President met Mr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in Geneva. They discussed questions relating to the activities of the ICRC in Indonesia and East Timor.

The same matters were also discussed by the Director for Operational Activities and the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Jakarta in November while they were both attending the joint League/ICRC Working Group on the revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross (for details of this meeting, see the section entitled "Co-operation within the Red Cross movement").

### Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

From 20 to 23 May 1984, the ICRC regional delegate took part in a seminar on international humanitarian law which was organized by the Indonesian Red Cross for its members.

### East Timor

In 1984, the ICRC was able to resume its protection activities in East Timor and continue its assistance programme on the island of Atauro off Dili. On the other hand, it was not authorized to travel on the main island in order to assess the needs for medical or material relief. Unable to gain access to all the persons concerned, or to work in accordance with its customary procedures, the ICRC could not resume its programme of assistance, which has been suspended since July 1983, on the main island of East Timor.

During 1984, the ICRC was able to finance its activities without launching a new appeal to governments and National Societies, thanks to the balance remaining from 1983 and to unsolicited contributions.

### Protection

During the visit of the delegate-general for Asia to Jakarta in December 1983, the Indonesian authorities had agreed that the ICRC should progressively resume its protection activities on the main island, one region after another and with repeated visits.

The first stage of this programme began in March 1984 when ICRC delegates visited 122 persons held in the La Comarca prison in Dili on account of the events, and seven others in the military hospital there. During this same stage of the programme delegates went to the island of Atauro where they saw some 2,000 displaced persons. During the second stage in June, delegates visited 187 detainees held in four places of detention (two in Jakarta and, in East Timor, one at Kupang and the Comarca in Dili). During the third stage, delegates visited 328 detainees in the two places of detention near Jakarta, the Comarca prison in Dili, and three places of detention under the authority of the "Kodim", at Baucau, Los Palos and Viqueque. There was another follow-up visit to the Comarca prison in December. In all, 336 detainees were visited, once or several times, in 1984. All visits were conducted in accordance with usual ICRC procedures including interviews without witnesses. An ICRC doctor from Geneva took part in these visits, at the end of which detainees were given material and medical relief. This assistance amounted to 24,800 Swiss francs.

### Food and medical assistance

The restrictions imposed on the ICRC delegates' movements on the main island, except to visit places of detention, prevented the resumption of the assistance programme in this region. The ICRC made repeated approaches to the authorities, along the lines of its memorandum of September 1983. It also asked permission to visit those persons taken from Atauro to the main island, with a view to assessing their situation and helping them if necessary, but it was only at the beginning of 1985 that permission in principle was granted.

On the other hand, the ICRC, in collaboration with the Indonesian Red Cross, continued an uninterrupted assistance programme on the island of Atauro where several thousand persons have been displaced since the end of 1981. Numbering 2,119 at the beginning of 1984, there were only 1,267 at the end of December, the others having returned to the main island. Under the assistance programme on Atauro all displaced persons over the age of six received monthly distributions of food. In 1984, 485.5 tonnes of food (maize, beans, butteroil and tinned meat) were distributed. Nutritional centres for children, pregnant women, nursing mothers and old people supplied daily to an average of 450 people supplementary food rations amounting to 58 tonnes in 1984. As well as food, there were distributions of various items of relief material (clothing, soap, etc.) and medicines. The resident population of Atauro, some 3,700 people, also benefited from food assistance (44.5 tonnes of maize in 1984).

This programme was regularly supervised by a nurse-nutritionist from the ICRC, who spent two to three weeks per month in Dili and on Atauro, and implemented by several dozen members of the Indonesian Red Cross including a doctor. An ICRC doctor from headquarters in Geneva also made two missions to Atauro.

### Tracing Agency

The procedure for the exchange of family news by Red Cross messages, set up by the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross, continued to operate throughout the year. The detainees visited by the ICRC, and the displaced persons on Atauro, were among those who made full use of this service.

In addition, the ICRC continued to reunite families and organize repatriations to Portugal and Australia for humanitarian reasons. In 1984, 165 persons left East Timor for Portugal and 24 for Australia, under the auspices of the ICRC.

In accordance with the agreement reached with the Indonesian authorities in 1983, the ICRC submitted to them eight cases of missing persons, based on information provided by their families. News of these persons was expected at the beginning of 1985.

## Philippines

In 1984, the ICRC regional delegation based in Manila carried on its activities in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

In the Philippines, in co-operation with the National Society, the ICRC delegation developed its protection and assistance work and its programme for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.

In June, the delegate-general for Asia visited Manila where he had talks with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and his advisers, and with the Deputy Minister of Defence. The various aspects of ICRC activities and the way they were developing were discussed with the authorities. The delegate-general also reviewed the situation with the delegation.

### Protection

During the first half of 1984, the Philippine authorities gave their agreement to a new procedure for visits allowing the ICRC access to all places of detention throughout the country administered by the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice or the provincial civil authorities.

A new series of visits therefore began in July. After visiting the prison at Muntinlupa, under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, where they saw 120 persons detained for violating public order, the delegates split into two teams, each consisting of three delegates, a doctor and an interpreter. They then

proceeded to visit six of the country's twelve regions (regions 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11), as well as several places of detention in the vicinity of the capital. These visits continued until December. In this way, they saw 552 persons detained for violating public order, in 59 places of detention and one hospital. These visits were conducted in accordance with usual ICRC procedures, including interviews without witnesses. The visits were due to continue in 1985, in order to cover all places of detention throughout the country.

During these visits, delegates distributed a tonne of relief material to those detainees most in need.

### Assistance

In collaboration with the National Society, the ICRC carried on with its assistance programme for persons displaced as a result of the disturbances affecting mainly the islands of Mindanao and Samar. Early in 1984, an assessment conducted by ICRC specialists and the National Society in nine provinces and towns having the status of province on the island of Mindanao revealed the need to readjust the assistance programme by increasing, for a limited period, the basic relief rations for displaced families, and by improving the quality of the supplementary food provided in nutritional centres. Since this reorganization necessitated an increase in staff and resources, as well as in the quantity and quality of relief distributed, the ICRC decided to launch a special appeal for this assistance programme, the other activities of the regional delegation (protection, dissemination, etc.) still being covered by the ordinary budget. The extraordinary budget for the aid programme was 7,623,070 Swiss francs for 1984 and an appeal to donors was launched in June.

In order to reinforce and help with this reorganization, an ICRC medical delegate and a relief delegate were regularly present on the island of Mindanao during the second half of the year, especially in the provinces of Maguindanac and Davao.

In the course of the year, branches of the Philippine Red Cross in Mindanao and Samar distributed 1,386 tonnes of food relief (1,072 tonnes of rice, 241 tonnes of milk, 53 tonnes of rolled oats and 20 tonnes of edible fats). During the distributions of food, medical care was also provided: to this end, the ICRC supplied the medical personnel of the National Society with basic medicines and equipment, such as scales and laboratory instruments.

In order to extend its activities in accordance with the findings of various assessments, the ICRC undertook the training of nine nutritionist-nurses from the National Society. Vehicles were also supplied by the ICRC to improve the National Society's operational capacity in line with its increased activities.

### Dissemination and information

In 1982, the ICRC and the National Society had planned to launch a campaign to disseminate knowledge of humanitarian



principles and the activities of the Red Cross movement in areas where the assistance programme was being carried out. A series of six short stories, in the form of cartoon strips in the English language, was prepared for school pupils, together with a teacher's guide. From June 1984, in agreement with the Minister of Education, Culture and Sports, a dissemination campaign using this material was begun in 1,600 schools in seven provinces of Mindanao and Samar. To assess the impact of this programme on the children, a drawing competition was organized, in which pupils were invited to submit illustrations of any Red Cross activity of their choice. Entries to this competition were so encouraging that it was decided to prolong this campaign in 1985.

### **Tracing Agency**

At the beginning of April, the head of the Asian division of the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva carried out a mission to Manila, mainly to make a detailed analysis of the decentralized data-processing system installed in this delegation to help with protection work. This mission also provided an opportunity to examine various technical questions relating to the activities of the Tracing and Mailing Services of the National Society on behalf of the Vietnamese "boat people" (see the section in this report entitled "Refugees in South-East Asia").

## **People's Republic of China**

The visit to ICRC headquarters on 11 July of Mr. Gong Dafei, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, provided the opportunity to discuss humanitarian questions of common interest, and to express the ICRC's appreciation of his country's accession to the 1977 Protocols, China having become the first permanent member of the United Nations Security Council to be party to the Protocols.

The ICRC delegate-general for Asia visited Peking from 3 to 9 November when he had working sessions with the leaders of the Chinese Red Cross. During this mission, he met Mrs. Yang Chun, Vice President of the National Society. Apart from humanitarian questions, they also discussed the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law. The delegate-general was also received at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he brought up the problems relating to the situation at the Sino-Vietnamese frontier. In April 1984, the ICRC had made an offer of services to the People's Republic of China, requesting access to people who might be captured in this region.

## **Republic of Korea**

Contact was maintained throughout 1984 with the authorities and the National Society of the Republic of Korea, concerning various questions, especially that of Korean families who have been separated in the North and South ever since the Korean war. The ICRC also encouraged the resumption of talks between the National Societies of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with a view to resolving various humanitarian problems.

Mr. Aubert, Vice President of the ICRC, and the delegate-general for Asia, visited Seoul from 25 October to 3 November. They were received by the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Reunification.

## **The Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

On 6 April, Mr. Som Song Pil, President of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Vice President of the People's Assembly, and Mr. Paek Yong Ho, Deputy Secretary General of the National Society, were received at ICRC headquarters by President Hay. During this visit, they reviewed the activities of the ICRC and discussed humanitarian problems of mutual interest, particularly the question of families separated since the Korean war.

### **Other countries**

— On 6 August, Mr. Hayden, Minister for Foreign Affairs of **Australia**, heading a small delegation, was received at ICRC headquarters by President Hay and Vice President Aubert. They discussed the financing of the ICRC, to which Australia generously contributes, various ICRC fields of activity, particularly in the Asian continent and the Middle East, and ratification by Australia of the 1977 Protocols which the ICRC hopes will soon take place.

— In **Bangladesh**, close contact was maintained throughout 1984, both with the authorities and with the leaders of the National Society. On 28 June, Mr. Qazi Azher Ali, Secretary at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Deputy Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, was received at the Geneva headquarters by the ICRC President. In addition, an ICRC delegate attached to the regional delegation of New Delhi carried out a mission to Bangladesh during which he held discussions with the leaders of the Bangladesh Red Cross, and with officials from the Ministries of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Defence and "Rehabilitation". In November, the deputy delegate-general, accompanied by the regional delegate based in New Delhi, went to Dacca where he had talks with the President and Secretary General of the National



Society, with officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, Education and Justice and with the director of the medical services of the armed forces. Discussions were mainly concerned with the implementation, in collaboration with the National Society, of a programme for the dissemination of knowledge of the basic rules of international humanitarian law among the armed forces in Bangladesh. Finally, at the end of December, an ICRC delegate based in New Delhi carried out another mission to Bangladesh to continue discussions with the authorities, and to outline the ICRC's assistance and protection activities.

— The two ICRC delegates attached to the regional delegation in New Delhi made a mission to **Burma** from 29 February to 8 March, in order to review with the authorities and leaders of the National Red Cross Society the work of the ICRC in providing protection and assistance, and the possibility of Burma's ratification of the 1949 Geneva Conventions (Burma being so far bound only by the 1929 Geneva Conventions). They also broached the question of the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross. During this mission, the ICRC delegates visited a hospital specializing in orthopaedics and prostheses.

— The delegate-general for Asia went to **Japan** at the beginning of November. During the talks he had with leaders of the National Red Cross Society and with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, various matters were raised, particularly the teaching of international humanitarian law, ratification of the 1977 Protocols and the activities of the ICRC in Asia. The ICRC delegate also thanked the National Society and the Japanese authorities for their contributions to the ordinary and extraordinary budgets of the ICRC.

— From 6 to 15 November, the head of the ICRC regional delegation in Manila, accompanied by the delegate responsible for matters of information and dissemination of international humanitarian law, visited **Macao** and **Hong Kong**. The purposes of this mission were to make contact with the local authorities and branches of the Portuguese and British Red Cross Societies, to review the dissemination activities of these two National Societies and ways and means of co-operating with them in this field. During their stay in Hong Kong, the two ICRC delegates took part in the second course on "Principles and Law" organized by the National Society for its staff and voluntary workers in charge of the Youth section. The head of the Asian section of the Central Tracing Agency in

Geneva also visited these two countries in April to meet the heads of the Tracing and Mailing Services of the Portuguese and British National Societies (the Macao service suspended its activities in 1984; see the section entitled "Refugees in South-East Asia").

— The ICRC regional delegate based in Hanoi visited **Laos** twice in 1984, from 6 to 16 February and from 27 October to 3 November. He met representatives from the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs, notably the Minister and Deputy Minister of Health, Mr. Khamlieng Phoisen—who is also President of the Central Committee of the National Society—and Mr. Vanareth Raspo, as well as the leaders of the National Red Cross Society. During his second mission, the delegate gave a talk on the ICRC to an audience of about 50 school children, members of the Junior Red Cross.

— The two ICRC delegates attached to the regional delegation in New Delhi made two visits to **Nepal**, in February and at the beginning of November. During their first mission, they attended the annual Conference of the National Society, in the course of which they gave talks and projected a film on the Red Cross. The ICRC delegates were also received by the President of the Nepalese Red Cross, Princess Helen Shah, and met representatives from the Ministries of Defence, Justice and Education. During the second mission, the delegates had talks with representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Justice, as well as with leaders of the National Society. The aims of this mission were to encourage the Nepalese authorities to ratify the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, and also to enlist the support of the National Society to undertake a campaign for the dissemination of knowledge of the basic rules of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles in schools, universities and among the armed forces.

— The ICRC regional delegate based in Jakarta went on a mission to **Papua-New Guinea** from 16 to 28 July 1984 and made contact with officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Defence. He also met the leaders of the National Society on several occasions. They discussed the activities of the National Red Cross, accession of Papua-New Guinea to the 1977 Protocols, and the situation of displaced persons from Irian Jaya. The regional delegate met representatives from the HCR and visited three camps for displaced persons from Irian Jaya near the frontier.

— On 29 November, the ICRC regional delegate based in Jakarta went to **Singapore** where he met the Secretary General and other leaders of the National Red Cross Society.

# RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1984

## ASIA

Country	Beneficiaries	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnage	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
East Timor . . . . .	Displaced civilians, detainees	682	951,632	14,569	966,201
India . . . . .	Displaced civilians, National Society	16	100,820	309,157	409,977
Kampuchea . . . . .	Civilians, hospitals	7	28,101	592,624	620,725
Pakistan (Afghan conflict) . . . . .	Refugees, hospitals	130	650,296	1,669,324	2,319,620
Philippines . . . . .	Displaced civilians through National Society, detainees and their families	1,387	2,436,756	45,245	2,482,001
Thailand (Kampuchea conflict) . . . . .	Displaced civilians, refugees, detainees	766	669,637	1,392,062	2,061,699
Vietnam . . . . .	Hospital	—	—	175,943	175,943
TOTAL . . . . .		2,988	4,837,242	4,198,924	9,036,166