

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1983)

Rubrik: Asia

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

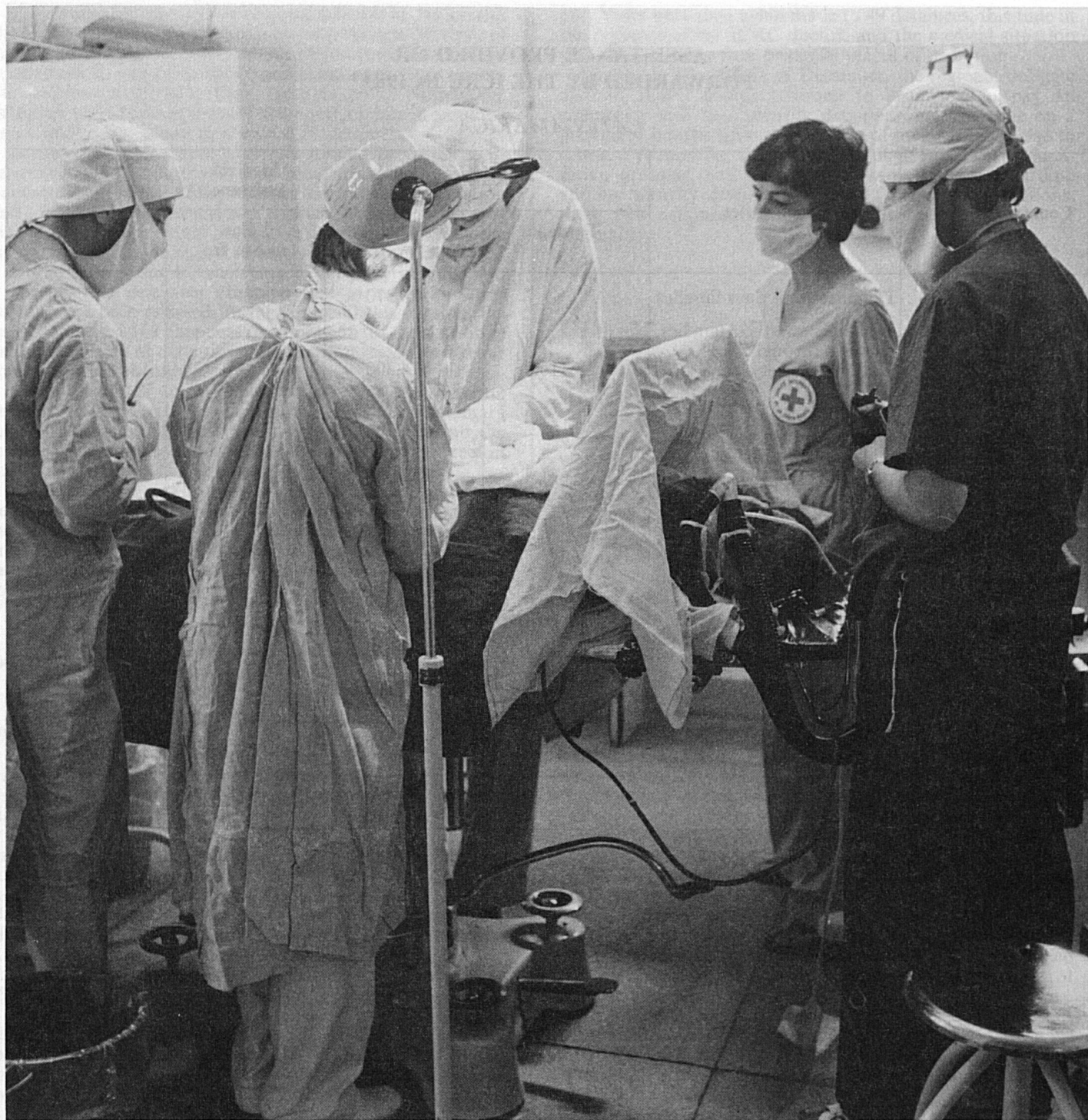
L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 03.07.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



A medical team operating on a wounded Afghan in the ICRC orthopaedic hospital in Peshawar (Pakistan) (Photo ICRC)

In Asia, the consequences of the situation prevailing in Afghanistan continued to be of major concern to the ICRC in 1983. Whilst developing its medical activities on behalf of the war wounded who managed to reach Pakistan, the ICRC continued its approaches to the various parties involved in the conflict, with a view to being able to fulfil its duty to protect and assist the victims of the conflict inside Afghanistan.

The fate of over 200,000 Khmer civilians stranded at the Khmer-Thai border in conditions which the proximity of the fighting made extremely precarious, and likewise that of the Vietnamese refugees restricted to camps along the border in the uncertain hope of refuge being found for them in a host country, also remained of constant concern to the ICRC, which maintained its delegations in Bangkok and Phnom Penh in 1983. For the Vietnamese 'boat people', on whom pirates continued to prey in 1983, the ICRC continued its role of co-ordinator of tracing work in close collaboration with the Tracing and Mailing Service network set up by seven South-East Asian National Societies.

In conjunction with the Indonesian Red Cross, the ICRC also continued its assistance programme on behalf of the displaced population in the camp on Atauro, a small island off Dili. The ICRC was only partially able to assist the displaced population on the main island of East Timor, and only during the first half of 1983. Besides supporting the ICRC's activities in East Timor, the Djakarta delegation continued to visit the G.30.S/PKI prisoners in Indonesia.

In the Philippines, in addition to its protection work, the Manila regional delegation continued to make food aid available to the National Society for people displaced on account of the troubles, which mainly affected the islands of Mindanao and Samar.

Following the intercommunity troubles which occurred in Sri Lanka in July, the ICRC offered its services, for both protecting and assisting the victims, but the Sri Lanka authorities declined this offer.

Finally, the ICRC delegation in Viet Nam continued its activities throughout 1983, as did the New Delhi regional delegation, from where the two delegates went to Colombo.

Conflict in Afghanistan

In 1983, the ICRC continued to seek permission from the various parties to the conflict to carry out its protective activities for all persons taken prisoner during the fighting, both those detained by the Afghan authorities and those captured by the opposition movements.

In Pakistan, the Peshawar delegation continued to develop its activities, which were centred mainly on surgical assistance for the Afghan victims of the armed clashes within their country. The wounded were still flocking into the delegation in 1983 and its infrastructure was reinforced with the opening of a sub-delegation and a second surgical hospital at Quetta, in the province of Baluchistan.

Internment of Soviet soldiers in Switzerland

In 1983, two Soviet prisoners captured by the Afghan opposition movements were handed over by the latter to the ICRC to be interned in Switzerland under the responsibility of the Swiss authorities. Between May 1982 and October 1983, nine Soviet nationals were thus transferred to Switzerland, through the intermediary of the ICRC. In conformity with the terms of the agreements signed between the ICRC and the parties concerned (Afghan opposition movements, Pakistan, USSR and Switzerland), these prisoners expressed the wish, before their transfer, in the presence of just an ICRC delegate and an interpreter, to be interned for two years in Switzerland before being repatriated to their own country. The ICRC kept a regular check on the conditions of internment in Switzerland. In 1983, eight visits were carried out by delegates, without witness, according to the ICRC's usual procedures. However, it should be mentioned that, on 8 July, one of the Soviet internees escaped from the internment centre and went to the Federal Republic of Germany where he asked for political asylum.

ICRC efforts to resume its activities in Afghanistan

Since the last mission by its delegates to Afghanistan (August-October 1982, see *Annual Report 1982*) and their departure on 8 October 1982, at the express wish of the Kabul authorities, the ICRC has maintained contact and continued trying to obtain permission to resume its activities in that country.

On 18 April 1983, the ICRC President received Mr. Dost, Minister for Foreign Affairs, at ICRC headquarters, to whom he gave a copy of the report, written by the delegates at the end of their visit between August and October 1982 to 338 prisoners detained in Block 1 of Puli Charki Prison in Kabul. He also reminded his visitor of the ICRC's offer of services, as it was anxious to resume and develop its protection work, both on behalf of those captured bearing arms and those arrested for reasons of internal security. The ICRC repeated its approach to the Afghan Government several times. It

requested to be received at Kabul, in order to resume negotiations on its protection work and assistance to the victims of the conflict. At the end of 1983, the ICRC was still awaiting a reply to this proposal.

Matters concerning the Afghan conflict and the internment of the Soviet soldiers in Switzerland were also brought up several times with the Soviet authorities, in particular during the ICRC President's mission to Moscow, from 16 to 19 March (see page 51).

Pakistan

In 1983, the ICRC delegation in Pakistan continued its assistance, chiefly medical, for victims of the Afghan conflict. During the second half of the year, a sub-delegation, administered by the Peshawar delegation, and a new surgical hospital were set up in Quetta, in the province of Baluchistan.

The delegation was also in regular contact with the representatives of various Afghan opposition movements concerning the prisoners they held. These matters were again taken up by the ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania during his visit to Pakistan in September.

Two members of the Committee, Dr. Athos Gallino and Mr. Rudolf Jäckli, went to Pakistan, at the end of February and in November respectively, in order to examine current operations with the delegation and to make contact both with the authorities and with the leaders of the Pakistan Red Crescent.

On 19 April, the ICRC President received Mr. Yacoub Khan, Pakistan Minister for Foreign Affairs, at headquarters.

An appeal for 8,900,000 Swiss francs for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1983 was made at the beginning of the year to donor countries and National Societies. In April, the initial budget was increased by 1,871,000 Swiss francs in order to finance the ICRC's projects in Quetta.

At the end of the year, the Peshawar delegation and the Quetta sub-delegation comprised a total of 439 persons, including 404 employees recruited locally.

Medical assistance

Medical relief provided by the ICRC amounted to 1,821,630 Swiss francs for 1983. In addition to the medical and paramedical personnel recruited directly by the ICRC, 19 persons (surgical teams, nurses) were placed at its disposal by the Australian, Danish, Finnish, German (FRG), Italian, New Zealand and British Red Cross Societies.

The medical operation was divided into several parts:

— PESHAWAR EMERGENCY SURGICAL HOSPITAL.

— The ICRC hospital, which opened in June 1981, continued to function throughout the year. Two expatriate surgical teams, two nurses and a physiotherapist, and about a hundred local employees, saw to it that the hospital was well run. The

training of local personnel made it possible to reduce the number of expatriate nurses from four to two. At the Peshawar hospital, equipped with two operating theatres (fresh blood being supplied regularly by the German Red Cross), an X-ray unit, a laboratory and a polyclinic, the occupancy rate fluctuated between 90% and 140% of capacity, reaching a record figure in September with 242 admissions. The following figures were registered in 1983: 1,670 hospitalizations, 2,521 surgical operations and 7,558 out-patient consultations.

— *ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHAN AMPUTEES AND PARAPLEGICS.* — Begun in November 1981, this operation continued in 1983. Between January and December, craftsmen at the Peshawar orthopaedic workshop, who were recruited and trained locally, made 450 prostheses or appliances under the supervision of an ICRC specialist.

Between its opening and the end of 1983, the paraplegic centre had taken charge of 152 patients. By the end of 1983, 75 of them had been able to leave the centre on the completion of their treatment and re-education.

In order to enable Pakistani paraplegics also to benefit from the service and techniques for Afghan patients, the ICRC had offered to the provincial authorities and the Pakistan Red Crescent in 1982 to set up a specialized centre in Peshawar for both Afghan and Pakistani paraplegics. With their agreement, the ICRC then started building a new centre, in the beginning of 1983, in the suburbs of Peshawar on a site made available by the authorities. Its opening should take place in February 1984. During the initial stage, this project should be run by the ICRC, and then be taken over progressively by the Pakistan Red Crescent, so as to continue after the ICRC's withdrawal from Peshawar.

— *NEW EMERGENCY SURGICAL HOSPITAL AT QUETTA.* — After the ICRC had examined the medical situation on the spot at regular intervals, it decided to set up a surgical hospital in Quetta, so as to be able to treat the wounded from southern Afghanistan. Opened on 15 July, this hospital had a capacity of forty beds, which could be doubled for short periods in case of emergencies. Its occupancy rate very quickly reached 100%, with 307 admissions, 342 operations and 1,052 consultations between mid-July and December 1983.

Also in Quetta, a start was made to the training of local personnel in radiology, laboratory tests and intensive care. A blood donor programme was set up in order that the hospital be less dependent on outside deliveries.

— *EVACUATION OF WAR WOUNDED.* — In 1982, two ambulance teams, each comprising a doctor, a medical orderly and a driver of the Pakistan Red Crescent, were stationed at Parachinar and Miram Shah in the North West Frontier Province. The work of these teams was to give first aid to the wounded Afghans arriving at the Pakistan border and transport them to the Peshawar hospital. In 1983, two more teams were assigned to the province of Baluchistan in order to evacuate the war wounded to Quetta. One was stationed at Chaman, as from September, and the other at Badini, in the

district of Zhob, as from November. In December, the ICRC was authorized to set up a fifth team at Wana, also in the North West Frontier Province. A total of 395 wounded, i.e. 20% of the admissions registered at the two ICRC hospitals at Peshawar and Quetta, were thus evacuated in 1983.

— **FIRST AID COURSE AND PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT.** — The ICRC continued to give first aid courses to Afghans arriving in Peshawar. From February 1982 to December 1983, 330 persons received this basic training. In addition, the ICRC supplied first aid equipment and basic medicaments to those following these courses and to several doctors and medical orderlies going to Afghanistan to aid the victims of the fighting.

Moreover, the ICRC continued financing, to the amount of 88,000 Swiss francs, the public health care given by the Pakistan Red Crescent to the 8,000 or so refugees in Adisai camp.

Protection and tracing activities

In 1983, delegates had interviews without witness with several Soviet prisoners held by the Afghan opposition movements and organized the transfer of two of them to Switzerland from the Afghan-Pakistan border (see above). In addition, ICRC delegates kept in regular contact with the leaders of these movements concerning the members of the Afghan regular army in their hands and, whenever possible, gave them aid for their prisoners.

The delegation's Tracing Agency work consisted in making out travel documents for refugees of various nationalities who arrived in Pakistan and for whom the UNHCR had found host countries.

Dissemination

The ICRC delegation in Pakistan continued disseminating among the Afghan opposition movements knowledge of the principles of the Red Cross and the basic rules of international humanitarian law protecting civilians and combatants, wounded or taken prisoner. Lectures were given to various audiences, such as hospital patients, their families and those taking part in the first aid courses. As an aid to this programme, dissemination material (pamphlets, films, posters, cartoon strips, etc.) was produced in the Farsi language.

New Delhi regional delegation

India

After its work had been suspended in 1978, the New Delhi ICRC regional delegation was reopened in 1982 (see *Annual Report 1982*).

In 1983, the regional delegate worked at renewing and developing contacts, both in India, with the government authorities and leaders of the National Society and its various branches, and in the other countries covered by the regional delegation, i.e. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Burma, Bhutan, the Maldives and Nepal.

Mr. Hidayatullah, the Vice-President of the Republic of India, who is also President of the Indian Red Cross, twice visited ICRC headquarters in 1983, on 25 February and 11 July.

In collaboration with headquarters and the National Society, the delegation drew up a programme for disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law and the basic principles of the Red Cross.

In collaboration with headquarters and the National Society, the delegation drew up a programme for disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law and the basic principles of the Red Cross.

The regional delegate and two staff members from Geneva took part as observers in the seventh summit of non-aligned countries, which was held in New Delhi, from 7 to 11 March.

Sri Lanka

The regional delegate based in New Delhi went to Colombo in April to resume contacts with government representatives and discuss with the National Red Cross the teaching of international humanitarian law.

Because of the intercommunity troubles which occurred in July, the ICRC sent its two delegates from New Delhi to Colombo as it was concerned about the protection and assistance of persons who had been displaced and interned. The delegates arrived in Colombo on 29 July and offered the ICRC's services to the Sri Lanka Government. They requested authorization to assess the needs of the displaced populations in the camps near Colombo, Kandy and Jaffna and to visit persons who had been arrested.

At the same time, between 29 July and 3 August, the ICRC sent out emergency relief (food and medicaments) by air, valued at 119,950 Swiss francs. This emergency aid was handed over to the Sri Lanka Red Cross whose staff members had been mobilized to aid the victims.

On 8 August, the Sri Lanka authorities informed the delegates, who were still in Colombo, that they declined the ICRC's offer of services and that, consequently, their presence was no longer necessary. In a communiqué issued on the same day in Geneva, the ICRC declared that it regretted this decision, which it hoped was only temporary, and repeated that its offer was aimed as a matter of priority at improving the protection of those in danger. The delegates left Sri Lanka on 9 August.

Bangladesh

From 5 to 12 April, the two ICRC delegates based in New Delhi went on mission to Bangladesh in order to resume

contacts with the authorities and to remind them that the ICRC was ready to carry out protection work. They also discussed with the leaders of the National Society the programmes for teaching international humanitarian law which they were in the process of setting up.

Burma

From 15 to 22 February, these same delegates went to Burma in order to take stock with the authorities of the ICRC's protection and assistance activities, and of the state of the ratification of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, as Burma only adheres at present to the 1929 Geneva Conventions. They also conferred with the leaders of the National Society on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

In addition, a French couple, Mr. and Mrs. Bossu, detained since 18 October by Karen rebels in Burma, were released and handed over to the ICRC delegates on 25 November. The ICRC, in its capacity as a neutral intermediary, negotiated the release of these persons for humanitarian reasons at the request of the French Government. The ICRC delegation in Bangkok arranged the couple's repatriation.

Conflict in Kampuchea

In 1983, the ICRC delegations in Thailand and Phnom Penh continued their activities, mainly of protection, tracing and medical assistance, in relation to the Kampuchea conflict.

There were still more than 200,000 displaced persons living along the Khmer-Thai border, endangered by proximity to the fighting, and during the first months of the year there were numerous victims among the civilian population as the hostilities became more severe. The ICRC, therefore, had to reinforce its medical personnel at the Thai border. On the other hand, ICRC delegates stationed at Phnom Penh were not authorized to go to the provinces in western Kampuchea which were particularly affected by the fighting in the border region.

Missions and contacts

Periodic reassessments of the aid programmes according either to emergency criteria or to danger in the assisted regions, and the financing problems involved, necessitated several missions by headquarters staff.

At the end of February, Dr. Gallino, a member of the Committee, went to Bangkok and to the Thai border, accompanied by Dr. Rémi Russbach, ICRC Chief Medical Officer, in order to re-examine the situation in the field with the medical teams, and to visit the new ICRC hospital at Kab Cherng, in the province of Surin.

The ICRC delegate-general twice went to Bangkok, in June and October, where he reassessed the ICRC's programmes and objectives, both in the border region and inside Kampuchea, with the ICRC delegates based in Thailand, at Phnom Penh and at Hanoi. During these missions, the delegate-general had interviews with the Thai authorities and representatives of international organizations in Bangkok (United Nations Border Relief Organization UNHCR, Voluntary Agencies).

On 12 October, Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, accompanied by other Thai Government representatives, was received in Geneva by the ICRC President. In addition to the ICRC's activities in Thailand, the problem of the Vietnamese 'land' and 'boat' people was again discussed on that occasion.

Financing the action

In February, the ICRC made an appeal to donors for 16,240,000 Swiss francs to finance its assistance and protection activities in relation to the Kampuchea conflict. On the occasion of the meetings of donor countries, held in New York under the auspices of the United Nations, the ICRC published reports informing the representatives of the countries concerned of the development of its activities.

Personnel

Whereas on 1 January the number of persons in the two ICRC delegations in Thailand and the People's Republic of Kampuchea was 153 (including 20 persons made available by National Societies and 110 local employees), at the end of 1983, it had risen to 179 (including 30 provided by National Societies and 132 local employees). Although the number had increased, ICRC expatriate personnel decreased in 1983, falling from 23 (including 3 in Phnom Penh) at the beginning of 1983, to 17 (including 4 in Phnom Penh) at the end of the year.

Kampuchea

Medical assistance

In March, the Kampuchea authorities authorized the ICRC to continue its medical assistance programme in the main Phnom Penh hospitals ('The Revolution', '7 January' and the surgical hospital of '17 April'). After reassessing their needs, the delegates supplied them with emergency medicaments, surgical and X-ray equipment and apparatus for making perfusions and distilled water.

During an epidemic of haemorrhagic fever among the children being treated in the paediatric section of the hospital of '17 April', in July and August, the ICRC delegation co-ordinated the work of voluntary agencies operating in

Kampuchea. The provision of suitable medicaments, combined with a rigorous cleaning programme, made it possible to clear the hospital of this epidemic within a few weeks.

In addition, throughout 1983, the ICRC continued to provide 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 working at the Phnom Penh Antituberculosis Institute and the Takmao hospital.

Towards the end of the year, ICRC medical personnel were able to carry out two surveys in the provinces of Kampot and Kompong Cham, but the delegation was still waiting, at the end of 1983, to be allowed to go to the provinces of western Kampuchea in order to assess the medical needs of the civilian population affected by the conflict.

Material assistance and logistic support

PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE TO ORPHANAGES.—This relief programme set up in 1981 for orphans was continued in 1982 and 1983. In May, the ICRC was authorized to assess the situation in the provinces of Pray Veng, Kandal and Pursat, where five particularly impoverished orphanages were selected. An assistance programme, financed by the Japanese Red Cross, was started for these five institutions. Emergency relief, such as mats, mosquito nets and blankets, was distributed, amounting to 66,000 Swiss francs.

BANGKOK-HO CHI MINH CITY-PHNOM PENH AIR-LIFT.—Throughout the year, there was a weekly airline service as far as Ho Chi Minh City, from where a DC-3 chartered by the ICRC went to Phnom Penh. Besides passengers, these flights conveyed emergency medicaments and relief, both for the ICRC (13,699 kg) and for other humanitarian organizations (12,512 kg).

Protection

Since 1981, the ICRC has been trying, without success, to obtain permission to visit certain categories of prisoners in Kampuchea (persons taken while bearing arms, civilians arrested in connection with the events and foreign nationals having no diplomatic protection).

Thailand

While continuing to support the National Society's assistance programme for the Thai people affected by the events in Kampuchea, the ICRC carried on its protection and tracing activities and kept up a programme of emergency assistance, along the Khmer-Thai border, for Khmer and Vietnamese victims.

Protection

Since 1981, one of the ICRC's main concerns was the safety of the civilian populations concentrated along the border, in the fighting zones, and especially the protection of the most vulnerable categories of persons, i.e. women, children, prisoners and the refugees of Vietnamese origin.

PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE NATIONALS.—While continuing its protection and assistance work for the Vietnamese refugees along the border, the ICRC had taken the initiative, in 1982, of increasing its approaches to the parties concerned in the hope of obtaining at least a partial solution to the problem of the transfer and resettlement in host countries of the Vietnamese civilian refugees in NW82 camp (the provisional Samet camp, opened on 1 January 1982 and closed by the Thai Government to new arrivals as from July 1982). In December 1982, the Thai Government had confirmed its consent to the transfer procedure proposed by the ICRC and, on 7 February 1983, NW82 was officially closed by the Thai authorities. Most of its 1,800 or so occupants were transferred, under the auspices of the ICRC, to the transit camp of Panat Nikom, with a view to being resettled in foreign countries. At the end of 1983, all but three of these refugees had been accepted by host countries. This operation was successfully carried out thanks to the support of the host countries and the collaboration of the UNHCR and the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM), which made the selection inside the camps.

In addition, the ICRC was still concerned, in 1983, about the fate of the new arrivals stranded in the camps along the border and to whom it regularly provided assistance. From August on, most of these refugees were progressively transferred to the new Dongrek camp, also on the border. At the end of 1983, 1,332 Vietnamese refugees were registered in these camps, still awaiting their transfer to inside Thailand and then resettlement in host countries. This situation induced the ICRC to continue its approaches to the Thai authorities and, in collaboration with the UNHCR and ICM, to the government representatives of the countries concerned.

VISIT TO PLACES OF DETENTION ALONG THE BORDER.—As far as possible, the delegates continued visiting and registering the prisoners in the places of detention along the border. They also paid weekly visits to the 'illegal immigrants' detained in the military prisons at the Aranyaprathet base. Miscellaneous relief (food, mosquito nets, mats, etc.) was distributed on these occasions.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency at the Bangkok delegation was mainly concerned with the civilians gathered in the camps either along the border or inside Thailand. Among these refugees, 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 Service network, set up by the National Societies of the countries concerned, is dealt with in the chapter 'Refugees in South-East Asia'.

During 1983, the following services were organized by the Bangkok Tracing Agency for the benefit of these various categories of victims:

- 4,569 persons, mostly of Khmer origin, were the subject of tracing requests made by members of their families, or of requests for transfers or family reuniting; 2,161 of them were either found, transferred or united with their families in 1983;
- 18,041 letters were transmitted between the border refugees and their families, either inside Thailand, or in other countries;
- during visits to the places of detention along the border, the Tracing Agency handled the registration of the detainees;
- various certificates were issued, e.g. 172 travel documents;
- in collaboration with the Hanoi ICRC delegation, the Bangkok Tracing Agency also took part in repatriating 141 Taiwanese, via Thailand.

Medical and food assistance

As the situation along the Khmer-Thai border remained tense and unsettled, the ICRC's medical activities there had to be reinforced in 1983. At the beginning of the year, the capacity of the new ICRC surgical hospital at Kab Cherng had to be quickly increased, because of the greater numbers of wounded due to the more intense fighting.

In addition to the medical teams recruited directly by the ICRC, a number of doctors, nurses and paramedical personnel, made available by the Australian, British, Canadian, Danish, Finnish, French, German (FRG), Icelandic, Irish, Italian, Japanese, New Zealand, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, saw to the running of the Khao-I-Dang surgical hospital and the new Kab Cherng hospital.

KHAO-I-DANG HOSPITAL.—The ICRC medical team, based at the emergency surgical hospital, opened at Khao-I-Dang camp in 1980, had to be reinforced during the first months of 1983. During the busiest period, the number of expatriate doctors and nurses working there rose to 28. At the end of 1983, there were still 6 doctors and 14 nurses, assisted by 90 local helpers.

A total of 2,236 patients were admitted to this hospital in 1983, as against 783 in 1982.

KAB CHERNG HOSPITAL.—On 4 January, the ICRC opened a second emergency surgical hospital at Kab Cherng, in the province of Surin. Although it had an initial capacity of 40 beds, this hospital had to be enlarged in April, so as to be able to treat 130 patients in emergencies. As at Khao-I-Dang, the surgical team had to be reinforced during the first few months of 1983. At the end of 1983, two expatriate doctors and two nurses, assisted by 40 local helpers, were still working at Kab Cherng, where a total of 801 patients were hospitalized in 1983.

NORTH AND SOUTH OF ARANYAPRATHET.—The ICRC mobile medical team, made up of a doctor and three nurses, gave medical attention to the displaced civilians, both Khmer and Vietnamese, along the border. At the beginning of 1983, it also had to deal with the influx of war wounded and give daily medical care to patients in the hospitals of Nong Pru, Taprik, O'Sralau and Khao Dinh to the south of Aranyaprathet. During the rainy season many patients had to be treated for malaria. This medical team took part in the visits to the detainees at Aranyaprathet and in the camps along the border.

The ambulance fleet, which evacuated the war wounded from the border to the Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng hospitals, also had to be reinforced during the first half of 1983. Three additional ambulances, a gift of the Japanese Red Cross, were put into service in 1983.

Thanks to the co-operation of the Australian, Japanese and Thai Red Cross Societies, the ICRC was able to supply about 9,000 units of fresh blood, throughout the year, to its own two hospitals and to various hospitals along the border.

Between June and October, an emergency medical and food aid operation was carried out for about 15,000 Khmer civilians, to the south of Aranyaprathet, displaced because of the fighting, from the former Red Hill site. In co-operation with the WFP, UNBRO and the CARE organization, an ICRC specialist set up a food programme for these people. In November, an ICRC doctor and nutritionist reassessed the situation, which showed that the state of nutrition of these people had considerably improved and that, consequently, the ICRC operation was no longer necessary.

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF.—The ICRC continued to provide relief (medical and paramedical supplies, food) to the most destitute groups of the population, such as the Vietnamese refugees and the detainees. These distributions were organized at Khao-I-Dang, Kab Cherng, Aranyaprathet prison and in the camps along the border.

Other activities in Thailand

In 1983, the ICRC continued its approaches to the Ministry of the Interior (Department of Punishment and Police) with the aim of carrying on its programme of visits to security prisoners. In 1982, the ICRC had had access to about a dozen rehabilitation centres under the authority of the Internal Security Operations Command, and the Bangkok delegation had taken steps to gain permission to begin a second series of visits to the other categories of detainees under the authority, this time, of the Ministry of the Interior. At the end of 1983, the ICRC had not received consent for these visits.

Refugees in South-East Asia

The ICRC continued its assistance for the Vietnamese 'boat people', mainly through its Central Tracing Agency (CTA). It

also continued its collaboration with the UNHCR in dealing with the scourge of piracy of which the 'boat people' were the victims.

After working for four years in close collaboration with the Tracing and Mailing Service network set up by seven South-East Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross and the Macao branch of the Portuguese Red Cross), the ICRC noted, in 1983, that the system was working satisfactorily and using the right tracing procedures. For the first time, the number of new arrivals registered went down considerably, causing a gradual reduction in the volume of tracing work. In 1983, 5,012 enquiries were received by the Tracing and Mailing Service network as a whole (including the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva). However, contacts between the National Societies of the countries of first asylum and those of the countries of resettlement increased in 1983.

The Central Tracing Agency in Geneva, for its part, carried on co-ordinating all tracing work. Its specialists visited the South-East Asian Tracing and Mailing Service and the tracing agencies of the National Societies of the three main countries of resettlement (France, United States and Canada).

At a seminar held in Kuala Lumpur from 26 to 29 September representatives of the Tracing and Mailing Service were able to co-operate more closely with the American, British, German (FRG) and Chinese National Societies and carry out a broad survey of their individual difficulties. This seminar was also the occasion for a discussion on the future of the network, set up in 1980, and on the ultimate storage of the documents held by each of the National Societies. On account of this gradual decline in the volume of work, it was decided during the discussions at Kuala Lumpur to abolish the Singapore and Macao Tracing and Mailing Services in 1984.

Piracy

Although the piracy to which the 'boat people' were still prey is for governments to suppress, the ICRC maintained its interest in this serious problem. It organized meetings in Geneva, in collaboration with the UNHCR, in order to inform the representatives of donor countries of the work carried out within the scope of the anti-piracy programme drawn up by the UNHCR, and in order to guarantee its financing. In addition to the 3,670,000 dollars requested in 1982, it was estimated that another 2,500,000 dollars would be needed to continue this programme during the twelve months from June 1983 to July 1984.

Indonesia and East Timor

At the beginning of 1983 the ICRC reinforced its Jakarta delegation which, in addition to its regional activities and

protection in Indonesia, continued carrying out ICRC operations in East Timor.

Indonesia

Protection

In 1983, ICRC delegates carried out two series of visits to the detainees of the former G.30.S/PKI category (those arrested after the attempted *coup d'état* of 30 September 1965):

— from 20 January to 24 March, a team of four delegates, including a medical delegate and an interpreter, visited sixteen detention centres and met 201 prisoners;

— from 20 October to 24 November, the delegates visited 51 detainees in seven detention centres, including 26 they had already been to at the beginning of 1983.

East Timor

Because of the restrictions imposed by the Indonesian authorities on the delegates' movements on the island of Timor, the ICRC was not able to achieve its objectives, as its assistance programme on the island had to be suspended in July. Likewise, the visit to the East Timor detention centres, which should have started in June, could not take place as planned.

In May, the ICRC made an appeal to donor governments and National Societies for 3,900,000 Swiss francs, to finance its activities in East Timor.

Fatal accident in East Timor

A helicopter accident on 2 April plunged into mourning the joint ICRC-Indonesian Red Cross assistance programme for the needy of East Timor. The aircraft, with five people on board, including two staff members of the Indonesian Red Cross, crashed during bad weather, after hitting a tree, 10 km to the south of Dili, the capital. At the time of the accident, the team was returning to Dili, after an aid assignment in the south of the island.

Two people died during the accident, Dr. Bagus Rudiono, and the helicopter pilot, Captain Ashoka P. Lolong. Three others were seriously injured, Dr. Pudjo Hartono, a doctor from the Ministry of Health, Mr. Toyib Kartadinata, an Indonesian Red Cross medical orderly, and Mr. Suhardi Sulaeman, the helicopter mechanic. Deeply affected by this tragic event, the ICRC awarded its medal to the three injured and, posthumously, to the two who died. Mr. Harald Huber, ICRC Vice-President, went to Jakarta for this purpose where, during a ceremony on 12 May, at the Indonesian Red Cross

headquarters, he presented the ICRC medal to the widows of the two deceased and to the three injured.

Protection

In January, during the visit to Jakarta of the ICRC Director of Operational Activities, the Indonesian authorities confirmed that they accepted the ICRC's proposal to visit all the East Timor detention centres as from June 1983. In 1982, the ICRC had, in fact, had access only to the displaced persons camp on the island of Atauro, off Dili, to Dili prison and to another detention centre at Los Palos.

However, after the temporary restrictions imposed by the Indonesian Government in July on the delegates' movements on East Timor, the ICRC was compelled to suspend its protection programme planned for the main island, but it continued its activities on Atauro. Several times, the ICRC reminded the authorities that it wished to be able to carry out both its protection and assistance work as soon as possible. A memorandum requesting access to all detention centres was sent to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in July. A similar written request was made in September to the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Security. In December, during the delegate-general's visit to Jakarta, the military authorities and the ICRC reached an agreement according to which the ICRC would resume its protection work, in geographical stages and spaced out in time, with repetition of visits. Thus, in 1984, the ICRC should have access to all persons detained because of the events.

Food and medical assistance

The temporary restrictions imposed on the ICRC delegates' movements on East Timor curtailed their assistance work. Consequently, the Jakarta delegation sent written requests to the authorities, similar to those made concerning their protection work, stressing that the ICRC was ready to resume its humanitarian aid programmes as soon as it was authorized to work according to its own criteria.

However, throughout 1983, the ICRC continued its joint assistance programme with the Indonesian Red Cross on the island of Atauro, where, since the end of 1981, there were thousands of displaced persons.

ON THE MAIN ISLAND, in March, two ICRC delegates, including a relief specialist, carried out a survey in a dozen localities, Cailaco, Con (Los Palos), Iliomar, Kampung Baru Dotik/Kampung Baru Ueto (Same), Luro, Quelicai Lama (Baucau), Raifusa (Same), Souro (Los Palos), Sumako (Lacuta), Tutuluru (Same), Uatulari and Viqueque. In reply to its delegates' proposals, the ICRC immediately reinforced its presence on East Timor by sending out a relief specialist delegate to supervise distributions and carry out regular surveys of the needs of the assisted population. However, this delegate was recalled to Geneva as soon as the programme was suspended.

ON THE ISLAND OF ATAURO the ICRC continued its food and medical assistance programme, in close collaboration with the Indonesian Red Cross, for about 2,000 displaced persons. This programme consisted in distributing food, providing medical assistance and running feeding centres for the most vulnerable categories of the population (children, pregnant women, old people). The survey carried out in February by an ICRC medical delegate confirmed that the assistance programme, which had been readjusted in conformity with the norms set in October-November 1982, was beginning to show results. From May to December 1983, the ICRC programme on Atauro had the benefit of the aid of a nurse-nutritionist who went regularly to the island to supervise the distributions of food (mainly maize, beans, butteroil and salt). At the end of 1983, the ICRC medical delegate, who had taken part in the previous surveys, returned to Atauro where he noted a considerable improvement in the situation, as regards both nutrition and public health.

In the strictly medical field, the ICRC's role was restricted to supporting the activities of the Indonesian Red Cross and to financing the purchasing of medicaments.

Tracing activities

In 1983, the ICRC continued to give financial and technical assistance to the Indonesian Red Cross tracing service. The exchange of family messages between inhabitants of East Timor and their relatives in various foreign countries, such as Portugal and Australia, constituted the main task of this service.

In February, a new agreement was concluded between the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross, in order to divide out the work concerning family reuniting and repatriation to Australia and Portugal. This agreement specified that families to be reunited in Australia with government approval would be dealt with by the Indonesian Red Cross. The ICRC, for its part, would continue to deal with families whose application to go to Australia had not been accepted, and all wishing to go to Portugal.

Although by the end of the year it had not been possible to complete this programme of family reuniting and repatriation, as planned twelve months earlier, 134 persons left East Timor for Portugal in 1983 and 105 persons went to rejoin their families in Australia.

Manila regional delegation

At the beginning of 1982 an ICRC regional delegation was opened in Manila, and in 1983 the ICRC's activities in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Malaysia, continued to fall within the scope of the regional delegate based in Manila. In September, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs officially confirmed to the ICRC the regional status of this delegation.

Philippines

In addition to carrying on its protection and assistance work in 1983, the Manila delegation collaborated with the armed forces and the National Red Cross in drawing up programmes to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and the basic principles of the Red Cross.

Protection

From 3 October to 9 December, three teams of delegates (i.e. 6 persons including a medical delegate) visited forty detention centres, where they had access to 340 persons detained for violating public order. Between 19 April and 22 June, the delegates visited fourteen detention centres, where they saw 193 detainees belonging to this same category of 'Public Order Violators'.

Tracing Agency

A microcomputer system was installed at the Manila delegation to make it possible to have on hand data gathered in the Philippines on protection. As from August, a delegate from the Central Tracing Agency was based in Manila to work on this pilot scheme.

Assistance

In collaboration with the National Society, the ICRC continued its assistance work for persons displaced as a result of the disturbances affecting mainly the islands of Mindanao and Samar. In 1983, 2,050 tonnes of food (i.e. 1,150 tonnes of rice, 580 tonnes of milk powder, 290 tonnes of rolled oats and 30 tonnes of oil) were supplied to the Philippine Red Cross, in Manila, for distribution through its branches.

Several times, delegates, including the delegate-general for Asia in March, went into the field in order to inspect current programmes and examine the need for changing them according to the developments observed. In addition, a nurse and a nutritionist, recruited on the spot in August 1982, continued their collaboration with the National Society. At the end of 1983, these specialists had opened 159 feeding centres in the province of Davao Del Norte and fifty in Maguindanao. In the province of Davao Del Sur, the 27 feeding centres supervised by a specialist of the Philippine Red Cross and a nurse belonging to the local health services continued to operate in 1983. In all, 18,580 children under six benefitted from extra food dispensed in these centres.

Malaysia

The ICRC's activities in Malaysia were undertaken by the regional delegate based in Manila, who went to Kuala Lumpur

four times in 1983, mainly to take up again with the authorities the problems of protection left in abeyance.

From 11 to 13 April, the ICRC regional delegate and a medical delegate visited 160 persons, arrested under the Internal Security Act, at Kamunting Prison, near Taiping, but when they were refused access to a detention centre housing persons detained under the Internal Security Act they suspended their visits. By the end of 1983 the ICRC had not received authorization to resume visits.

The Fifth Conference of National Societies of ASEAN Countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore), held in Kuala Lumpur from 7 to 11 May, is dealt with on page 87.

Viet Nam

Throughout 1983, the ICRC was represented in Viet Nam by a delegate based in Hanoi, where he maintained contact with the authorities.

In addition, a Vietnamese delegation led by Mr. Ha Van Lau, the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited the ICRC President in Geneva on 5 October.

Repatriation of foreign residents

Since 1975, the ICRC has been handling the repatriation of foreign residents without diplomatic representation in Viet Nam. In 1983 there was only one repatriation flight organized under ICRC auspices. It enabled 141 persons to return to Taiwan, via Bangkok. Since the first flight on 14 September 1976, 5,034 persons have been repatriated by the ICRC.

Medical assistance

Continuing the liquidation of the funds allocated to the INDSEC programme (ex-'Indo-China Bureau'), the ICRC handed over medical equipment valued at 12,500 Swiss francs to the Tu Du Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City. In addition, small assistance programmes were carried out, such as supplying apparatus for detecting dengue in children, and co-operating in the anti-tetanus vaccination of pregnant women and in the campaign against infantile anaemia.

Other countries

From 6 to 12 February, Mr. Rudolf Jäckli, a member of the Committee, went to **Australia** to attend the first regional seminar on humanitarian law for representatives of governments and academic institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, organized in Canberra by the Henry Dunant Institute, the

National University of Australia and the Australian Red Cross. Mr. Jäckli also visited **New Zealand**. During this mission, he had talks with the government authorities and the leaders of the National Societies in the two countries.

In addition, on 10 June, Mr. Robert Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, accompanied by several Australian officials, was received by President Hay at ICRC headquarters, Geneva.

In May, two ICRC delegates went to **Taiwan**, where they had talks with the authorities and the leaders of the Red Cross, both on the repatriation of Taiwanese from Viet Nam, and on the Vietnamese 'boat people' (see chapters 'Viet Nam' and 'Refugees in South-East Asia').

The Queen of **Tonga**, H.M. Halaevalu Mata'Aho, who is also president of the Tonga Red Cross, was welcomed by the ICRC President to headquarters in Geneva, on 19 October.

During this visit, various ways of collaborating with this National Society were considered.

At the invitation of the National Society, the ICRC delegate-general for Asia went to the **Republic of Korea**, in December, in order to discuss ICRC activities in general and humanitarian problems of mutual interest. The ICRC's protective function was brought up with the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs to whom the delegate-general handed a memorandum setting out ICRC procedures in the discharge of that function.

At the invitation of the National Society, the delegate-general for Asia went to **Japan** in December, when, to representatives of the Red Cross and the Government, he gave an account of ICRC activities in the world and especially in Asia, where the Japanese Red Cross actively supported several ICRC programmes (see chapter 'Conflict in Kampuchea').

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OR FORWARDED
BY THE ICRC IN 1983 ***

ASIA

Country	Beneficiaries	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnage	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
East Timor.	Displaced civilians, sick persons	677.7	1,609,170	18,830	1,628,000
Indonesia.	Detainees	0.4	21,370	—	21,370
Kampuchea	Displaced civilians, sick persons	11.6	168,820	205,640	374,460
Pakistan	Refugees, sick and disabled persons	—	—	1,821,630	1,821,630
Philippines	Detainees, civilian population through the National Society	2,052.0	3,911,710	—	3,911,710
Sri Lanka	Civilian population	0.5	12,450	107,500	119,950
Thailand	Displaced civilians and refugees, sick persons, National Society	289.8	700,180	2,018,970	2,719,150
TOTAL		3,032.0	6,423,700	4,172,570	10,596,270

* This includes food aid from the EEC and the Swiss Confederation, aid to detainees and their families, and aid financed by funds for relief operations.



Thai 224/33A

A child with severe burns being treated in the Khao-I-Dang Hospital on the Khmer-Thailand border (Photo ICRC)