

Asia and the Pacific

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ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

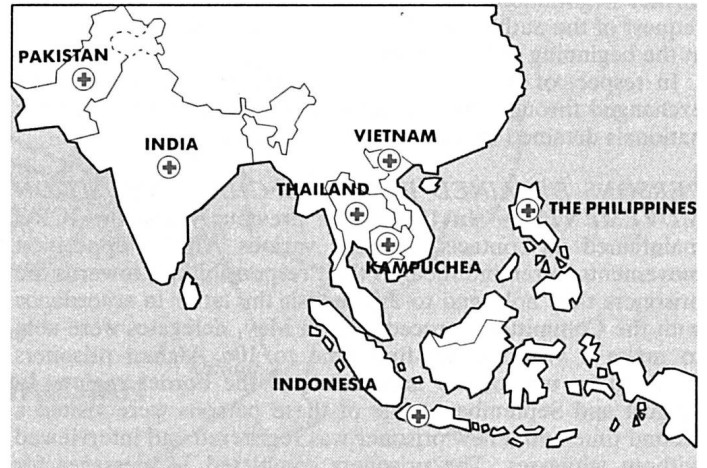
In 1986, the ICRC continued to be heavily involved in its various areas of activity in Asia, where two of its biggest medical programmes were carried out: in Pakistan, on behalf of Afghan war wounded managing to reach the border, and along the Khmer-Thai border where some 250,000 Khmer civilians were still stranded. The ICRC also continued its efforts to develop its protection activities on behalf of civilians and detainees. Visits were made to prisoners in 1986, in particular in connection with the conflict in Afghanistan, other visits being carried out in the People's Republic of China, in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The President of the ICRC, accompanied by the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific, carried out a mission to Asia in May, visiting in turn Malaysia, Thailand, Burma, India and Bangladesh. The Vice-President of the ICRC travelled to the Republic of Korea, Japan, New Zealand and Australia in February.

In order to perform its activities in Asia, the ICRC maintained an average of 135 delegates there (including medical and administrative personnel), assisted by over 800 locally recruited employees, in four delegations (Burma, Kampuchea, Pakistan, Thailand) and four regional delegations (India, Indonesia and East Timor, Philippines, Viet Nam). In 1986, the regional delegations covered the following countries:

- **the regional delegation in New Delhi:** India, Bangladesh, Burma, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka;
- **the regional delegation in Jakarta:** Indonesia and East Timor, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific;
- **the regional delegation in Manila:** the Philippines, Macao, Hong Kong and Taiwan;
- **the regional delegation in Hanoi:** Viet Nam and Laos.

The activities carried out in connection with the conflicts in Afghanistan and Kampuchea and work undertaken in the Philippines (assistance only) and in East Timor were financed by means of special appeals for funds, whereas the cost of the regional operations of the delegations based in New Delhi, Jakarta, Hanoi and Manila was met from the ICRC's regular budget.



CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN

Mission to Kabul

In response to the aide-memoire submitted by the ICRC in September 1985 to the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the ICRC was invited to carry out a mission to Kabul to discuss the proposals set out in the memorandum (renewed offer of services to visit persons arrested bearing arms or on account of the events, and to implement medical assistance programmes and develop activities for the dissemination of international humanitarian law). Hence from 6 to 10 April the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific, accompanied by a delegate and a doctor, travelled to the Afghan capital for talks with senior officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with staff of the Afghan Red Crescent. On the basis of these talks, and of a number of visits to various hospitals, the principles of ICRC action in Afghanistan were identified.

Protection and tracing activities

PERSONS DETAINED BY THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES.

— Following up the fruitful discussions which took place in Kabul in April, the ICRC drew up a further aide-memoire to the Afghan authorities, setting out the proposed programme and arrangements for visits to detained persons. The document was handed over to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sarwar Youresh, during a meeting in Geneva on 19 May. In

August and again in September, during missions to Kabul by the ICRC regional delegate based in New Delhi, the Afghan Government confirmed its agreement in principle to ICRC visits to the those captured bearing arms or arrested on account of the events. However, the scheduled mission to Kabul for further negotiations was postponed until January 1987, at the request of the authorities, because of ministerial reorganization at the beginning of December.

In respect of tracing activities, a number of messages were exchanged through the Afghan Red Crescent between foreign nationals detained in Kabul and their families.

PERSONS DETAINED BY THE AFGHAN OPPOSITION MOVEMENTS. — In 1986, as in previous years, the ICRC maintained its contacts with the various Afghan opposition movements to remind them of their responsibilities towards the prisoners they hold and to ask to visit the latter in accordance with the Committee's procedures. In May, delegates were able to make a visit for the first time to 106 Afghan prisoners detained by one of the movements in the border region. In August and September, some of these persons were visited a second time and a new prisoner was registered and interviewed without witnesses. The prisoners completed 14 messages for transmission to their families.

The agreements signed in 1982 between the parties concerned, providing for the internment in a neutral country, under the responsibility of the authorities of that country, of Soviet prisoners captured by Afghan movements — the neutral country in this case being Switzerland — continued to be applied in the case of the two Soviet soldiers still interned at the end of 1985. Having reached the end of their internment period, set at two years by mutual agreement with the parties involved, and having confirmed their wish to be sent back to their homeland, the two internees returned to the USSR on 26 February and 26 March respectively. The ICRC had regularly monitored their conditions of internment by means of visits by its delegates at approximately six-week intervals. No further Soviet prisoners in the hands of the Afghan opposition movements were transferred to Switzerland in 1986.

Finally, the ICRC delegation in Pakistan continued to issue travel documents to refugees of various nationalities leaving for a host country; 1,113 such documents were issued in 1986.

Medical assistance

IN AFGHANISTAN

The possibility of co-operation between the ICRC and the National Society for the rehabilitation of persons disabled as a result of the war had been raised at a meeting with the Secretary-General of the Afghan Red Crescent in October 1985. This possibility, along with other assistance projects relating to surgery and to medical equipment, was examined during the April 1986 mission to Kabul. Following the mission, the ICRC

supplied the Afghan Red Crescent with dressing kits for its dispensaries and with a generator for the Avicenna Emergency Hospital. In May, the ICRC submitted a document to the Afghan Red Crescent containing proposals for co-operation between the ICRC and the National Society in two medical fields: re-education of persons having lost lower limbs, and war surgery. An orthopaedic specialist from the Committee travelled to Kabul on two occasions, in September and in December, chiefly to assess the potential and the cost of equipment available in the country and to prepare the orthopaedic project in more detail.

On 12 May, the ICRC's chief medical officer met the Afghan Minister of Health, Mr. Kabi Kamyar, to whom he explained the ICRC's medical policy, in particular as regards orthopaedics and the rehabilitation of the disabled.

IN PAKISTAN

ICRC medical activities in Pakistan continued on a very large scale, owing to the growing number of Afghan war wounded managing to reach the ICRC hospitals. Apart from the medical and paramedical personnel recruited directly by it, the ICRC was helped by 49 specialists (surgeons, nurses, anaesthetists, etc.) placed at its disposal by the Red Cross Societies of 12 countries (Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Iceland, Italy, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden). The number of staff in the delegation remained around 40.

ICRC medical assistance was worth 8,423,110 Swiss francs, including the cost of the services provided by the National Societies (1,481,000 Swiss francs).

ICRC medical work in Pakistan involved various activities:

PESHAWAR EMERGENCY SURGICAL HOSPITAL. — In service non-stop since it was opened in June 1981, the ICRC hospital in Peshawar experienced a high occupancy rate (86%) in 1986. Equipped with two operating theatres, an X-ray unit, a laboratory and a polyclinic, this hospital, with an optimal capacity of 100 beds (which can be increased to 120, and even 150 beds when necessary), functioned in the same way as in preceding years: two surgical teams (each comprising a surgeon, an anaesthetist and a specialized nurse), three nurses, a physiotherapist and a medical administrator, together with 120 locally recruited employees, treated the war wounded.

In 1986 a total of 1,885 patients, all war wounded, were admitted to the ICRC hospital in Peshawar, where 4,117 operations were performed. The hospital's outpatient department gave 9,671 consultations. In addition, the training of local personnel continued.

EMERGENCY SURGICAL HOSPITAL AT QUETTA. — Opened in 1983 to treat the war wounded from the south of Afghanistan, this hospital, with a capacity of 55 beds (which can be increased to 80 if necessary) received a total of 878 war casu-



alties in 1986. It recorded an average occupancy rate of 78%. The surgical team provided by the Italian Red Cross (two surgeons, an anaesthetist and a specialized nurse), assisted by two nurses, a physiotherapist and a laboratory technician, performed 1,727 operations and gave 7,619 consultations to out-patients. Here again, the training of local personnel was continued.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTRE. — In 1986, the blood collection and transfusion centres in Peshawar and Quetta enabled the ICRC surgical hospitals to be self-sufficient in blood for the second consecutive year. It even proved possible to supply some surplus units to other hospitals in need. These results were achieved through a blood donation campaign, chiefly among patients' families and students following first-aid courses.

ASSISTANCE FOR AMPUTEES. — The orthopaedic workshop in Peshawar, set up in November 1981, continued to supply prostheses to patients from the surgical hospitals at Peshawar and Quetta and to other Afghan war wounded. In 1986, locally recruited and trained craftsmen made prostheses or orthoses for 606 patients, under ICRC supervision, and 686

rubber feet were manufactured. The orthopaedic centre, where the patients stay during the manufacture and adjustment of prostheses, has a capacity of 30 to 35 persons.

ASSISTANCE FOR PARAPLEGICS. — The rehabilitation centre for paraplegics, housed since 6 February 1984 in a building with a capacity of 100 beds, continued to rehabilitate Afghan and Pakistani paraplegics (the latter are entitled to 50% of the beds), under an agreement signed by the ICRC and the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) branch of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society. Administrative responsibility for the centre was handed over to the Pakistan Red Crescent as planned on 1 July 1986. However, an ICRC physiotherapist stayed on as an adviser and the ICRC continues to defray financial costs for a period of two years. In 1986, 209 patients were admitted to the centre, for an average stay of one year, until they had acquired a minimum of independence. Since it was opened in 1981, the centre has treated and discharged 664 paraplegics. The ICRC supplied each rehabilitated patient with a pair of crutches, a wheelchair (made in the ICRC workshop) and the specific appliances required by his condition.

FIRST-AID POSTS AND EVACUATION OF WAR WOUNDED. — The six mobile first-aid posts already installed at key points along the Pakistani border in the North-West Frontier Province (at Khar Bajaur, Parachinar, Miram Shah and Wana) and in Baluchistan (at Badini, Chaman and Chagai) continued giving first aid to the wounded arriving at the border. These posts, run in co-operation with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, and each comprising a doctor (or an experienced nurse), a driver and a caretaker, also transported wounded persons requiring hospital treatment to Peshawar or Quetta throughout the year. As in previous years, the post in Badini was closed down from December to March on account of the climatic conditions.

The ICRC delegates based in Peshawar and Quetta made regular visits to the first-aid posts to ensure that the ambulance teams' work was going well and to reassess needs. They also visited the region of Dir and Bajaur, where they decided that the post at Khar should be closed in view of the extremely small number of wounded transferred over the preceding two months. On the other hand, a first-aid post operated at Girdi Jangal for six months (March to September) to take care of the many casualties arriving in the district of Chagai.

1986 saw a marked increase in the work of the first-aid posts: 4,831 wounded were received and treated (as against 1,478 in 1985) and 1,683 wounded were taken to Peshawar and Quetta hospitals (1,081 in 1985).

FIRST-AID COURSES AND SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT. — The ICRC continued to organize first-aid courses for Afghans returning to Afghanistan, so that once back in their home country they would be capable of assisting the wounded, and to prepare them for their journey to the frontier (where the mobile first-aid teams take charge of them). In 1986, 13 four-week courses, including a week's practice at Peshawar or Quetta hospital, were each attended by some 15 people who had passed the entrance examination. A total of 346 first-aid workers were trained in 1986 (210 at Peshawar and 136 at Quetta). On completion of each course, students who had passed the final examination were given parcels of medical supplies (for dressings and basic treatment).

At the same time, another series of two-day courses, known as "Red Cross courses", were given to teach Afghans the rudiments of first aid. Launched in 1984, the courses continued in 1985 and 1986 with considerable success, not only in both Peshawar and Quetta but also at the Chaman, Girdi Jangal, Miram Shah and Parachinar first-aid posts. A total of 4,868 Afghans attended these courses in 1986. They also received parcels of dressings.

Dissemination and information

In 1986, the ICRC delegation in Pakistan pursued its efforts to improve Afghans' knowledge of the principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the basic rules of international

humanitarian law. The first-aid courses dispensed to Afghans (see above) provided an excellent opportunity to pass on such knowledge: six hours of tuition during the four-week first-aid courses and two hours of the two-day "Red Cross courses" were devoted to dissemination, backed up by a whole range of teaching aids in vernacular languages. This material was either used during the lessons (films, posters) or handed out to participants (comics, booklets, combatants' cards).

In addition, lectures were given to various target groups, such as disabled patients and their families and journalists.

Contacts were maintained with the Pakistan Red Crescent with a view to organizing programmes for the dissemination of international humanitarian law within the National Society and among the Pakistani armed forces.

SRI LANKA

Deeply concerned by the deterioration in the situation in Sri Lanka, and in particular the intensification of military operations in the Jaffna peninsula, the ICRC made several approaches to the government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in order to ensure that the rules of international humanitarian law were observed in the country. To that end, an aide-memoire and a new offer of services giving details of the scope of ICRC activities in relation to assistance to the civilian population affected by the violence and the protection of persons arrested in connection with the events were submitted to the government authorities on 19 May. By the end of the year, the ICRC's offer had elicited no reply.

The ICRC also endeavoured to set in motion a campaign for the dissemination of international humanitarian law among the Sri Lankan armed forces. In May, during a mission to Colombo by an ICRC dissemination official, plans for a tuition course for senior army officers and representatives of the police were accepted by the competent authorities. Hence, two one-week introductory courses on international humanitarian law were held in Colombo in November, attended by a total of 34 officers from the navy, the air force, the territorial army and the police. The course was given by three delegates who had travelled from Geneva for the purpose.

ICRC delegates also had contacts with the Tamil opposition movements to inform them about the principles of humanitarian law.

BURMA

In November 1985, in co-operation with the Burma Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Health, the ICRC set up a project for the treatment of Burmese who had lost limbs as a result of the fighting. An agreement governing the details of the project (manufacture of prostheses and training of local staff)

was signed in Rangoon on 24 January 1986, and the project was officially inaugurated on 3 March in the presence of the Burmese authorities and of Dr. Athos Gallino, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Chairman of the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled. In May, President Hay visited the ICRC centre for amputees and met leading officials of the National Society.

The project was implemented by an ICRC team comprising three prosthetists and a physiotherapist. In 1986, 56 military and civilian nurses were trained to dispense pre-prosthetic treatment and physiotherapy. 800 foot and 300 knee prostheses were manufactured using local materials, as well as 2,000 crutches. Seven Burmese employees received basic training in order to boost the output of the prosthesis workshops. The whole project was financed by the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled, for a cost of 603,550 Swiss francs.

The ICRC regional delegate based in New Delhi made regular trips to Burma to monitor the project and consolidate relations between the ICRC and the Burmese authorities. Following various meetings with officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence and the visit to Rangoon in November by the ICRC chief medical officer, a rehabilitation programme was drawn up for the military hospital in Rangoon (establishment of an orthopaedic centre), which is scheduled to begin in the spring of 1987.

In addition, during his missions the regional delegate also raised with the Burmese authorities the questions of dissemination of international humanitarian law and Burma's accession to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols.

CONFLICT IN KAMPUCHEA

A lull in the fighting in the border region and the more stable temporary settlement since September 1985 of some 250,000 civilians, most of them in three camps on Thai soil, prompted the ICRC to modify its approach somewhat and to concentrate more specifically on the protection of displaced civilians and detained persons, also on war surgery and emergency medicine, since other agencies were in charge of providing food and material aid to Khmer civilians.

Several missions to Thailand and Kampuchea were carried out from Geneva in order to discuss the humanitarian problems raised by the conflict and developments in the ICRC's activities with the various authorities concerned. President Hay, who was in the Thai capital in May, accompanied by the assistant delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific, met, among others, Squadron-Leader Prasong Soonsiri, Secretary-General of the National Security Council, and Mr. Siddhi Savetsila, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister, discussing, in addition to the above-mentioned subjects, the question of Thailand's accession to the Additional Protocols. The delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific also travelled to Thailand in October and December. Finally, the ICRC chief medical officer

and the delegate responsible for the sector at headquarters conducted a mission to Kampuchea from 25 September to 2 October.

To discharge its duties on the Khmer-Thai border, the ICRC maintained a large delegation in Thailand: in December it comprised 49 delegates (including medical and administrative personnel) and 183 locally recruited employees. The number of delegates in Phnom Penh was maintained at five.

In January 1986, the ICRC launched an appeal to donors to raise 17,012,800 Swiss francs to finance its assistance and protection activities in connection with the conflict in Kampuchea. The ICRC regularly attended meetings of donor countries held in New York under the auspices of the United Nations.

Activities in Kampuchea

Protection

Since 1981, the ICRC has been trying in vain 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 not enjoying diplomatic protection). Despite many written and oral representations, including the submission in August 1985 of an aide-memoire setting out the ICRC's offer of services and addressed to Mr. Hun Sen, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, no reply had been received by the end of 1986.

In addition, during its contacts with officials from the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the ICRC drew attention to the serious humanitarian implications — numerous cases of malaria, injuries caused by mines — of the displacement of Kampuchean civilians called up to perform military duties in the areas near the Thai border.

This problem was raised in particular by the delegate-general for Asia during talks in Geneva with officials from the Government and the Red Cross Society of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Three persons were reunited with members of their families through the services of the ICRC in 1986. The reunions took place in France on 24 January, 13 November and 3 December, the persons concerned being a young girl, a young woman and an elderly person, who were assisted by the ICRC delegation in Phnom Penh. In addition, 18 requests to join families living abroad were transmitted by the ICRC to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in 1986, as yet without response.

At their families' request, forwarded by the Thai authorities, the ICRC again brought up with the Kampuchean authorities the specific matter of five soldiers detained by the People's Republic of Kampuchea, recalling the request made the previous year to be allowed to register, visit, assist and possibly repatriate them. Red Cross messages were conveyed to the Red Cross of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, via the ICRC delegation in Phnom Penh, for transmission to the persons detained.

Medical assistance

In 1986, the ICRC continued providing specific assistance as needed. Thus, during the year, the ICRC nurse provided medical relief (medicines, medical and surgical supplies) to the three main hospitals in Phnom Penh (the "17 April" surgical hospital, the "7 January" paediatric hospital and the "Revolution" general hospital) and to four hospitals in the provinces (Takhmau, Kompong Speu, Kampot and Kompong Cham). This extremely selective action cost 217,000 Swiss francs. The ICRC also continued to support the Phnom Penh blood bank, the only one in the whole country, by providing 5,560 Swiss-francs-worth of medical supplies. In addition, it gave the Red Cross in Phnom Penh 10,000 first-aid kits for distribution to the armed forces and to civilians living in the regions affected by the conflict.

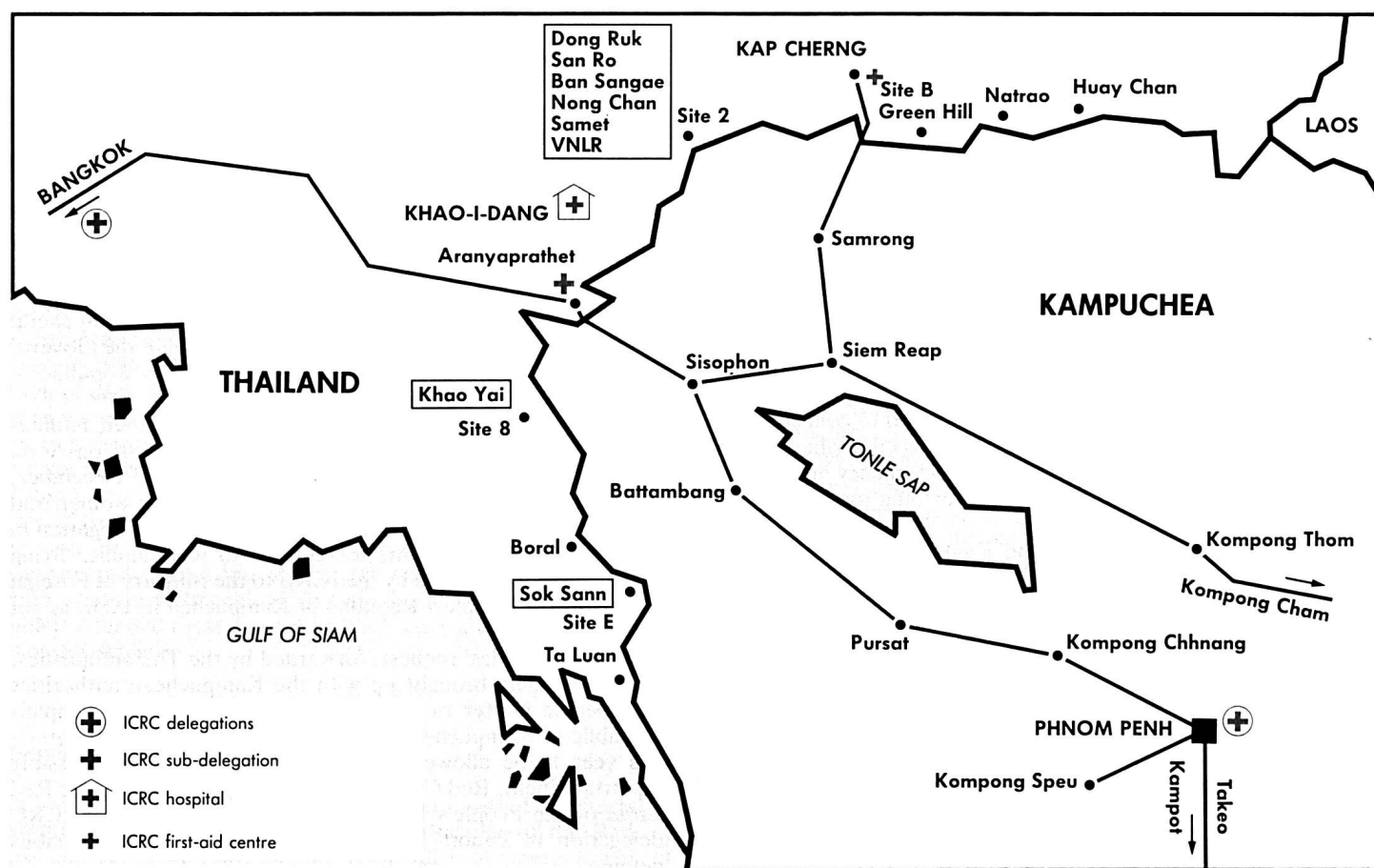
As in previous years, the ICRC provided administrative and logistic support to the Swiss and Swedish Red Cross Societies' surgical teams, based respectively at Takeo and Kompong Chhnang, and to the French Red Cross medical team in charge of an anti-tuberculosis programme operating from the capital. In 1986, the ICRC pharmacy supplied these three teams with

medicines and medical material, on the basis of lists drawn up by the National Societies concerned. In September, the ICRC extended its support to take in the Australian Red Cross which had undertaken a project to refurbish Kompong Speu hospital.

Finally, the ICRC continued its discussions with the authorities with a view to setting up an ICRC medical team at Kampot, in one of the provinces affected by the conflict. To this end, the ICRC chief medical officer conducted a mission to Kampuchea at the end of September and an aide-memoire setting out the ICRC's proposals was submitted to the authorities of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in November.

Material assistance and logistic support

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME IN ORPHANAGES. — The ICRC pursued its assistance programme for the particularly needy orphanages assessed in 1984. Relief in the form of essential goods for the improvement of hygiene, housing, clothing, food and teaching was distributed directly by delegates to the orphanages in the provinces of Kampot, Kompong Cham,



Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Speu, Prey Veng and Svay Rieng. The relief distributed, to a total value of 80,000 Swiss francs, was donated by the Japanese Red Cross.

BANGKOK—HO CHI MINH CITY—PHNOM 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 went on to Phnom Penh. In addition to passengers, these flights carried medicines and relief supplies, both for the ICRC (43 tonnes) and for other humanitarian organizations.

Dissemination

As in 1985, copies of a school textbook in the Khmer language entitled "Red Cross Handbook" were given to the Red Cross of the People's Republic of Kampuchea for distribution in secondary schools. The book describes the history of the Red Cross and explains its fundamental principles and work.

In addition, 10,000 cards summarizing the basic rules of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross were inserted in first-aid kits delivered to the National Red Cross Society for distribution to the armed forces and to civilians living in the regions affected by the conflict.

Activities in Thailand

Protection

In 1986, the ICRC continued its efforts to protect the victims of the conflict, including civilians displaced on the Khmer-Thai border and persons detained by the various factions of the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) or by the Thai authorities.

Following up a memorandum submitted to the various parties in 1984 and supplemented in 1985 by a first situation report, the ICRC submitted to the Thai authorities, in March, April and December, and to the three components of the coalition government (FNLPK, FUNCINPEC and Democratic Kampuchea), in March and April, specific situation reports reviewing matters relating to the protection of displaced civilians and of persons detained in connection with the conflict. Whilst highlighting the progress made in respect of the safety of most of the Khmer and Vietnamese civilians accommodated since 1985 on sites in Thailand some distance from the combat areas, and the generally rapid transfer to these sites of new refugees arriving at the border, the document underlined the main problems still giving the ICRC considerable cause for concern, namely:

- internal safety within the camps;
- the condition of some 40,000 persons living in places on the border to which humanitarian agencies have no access ("hidden border");

— the plight of persons detained in connection with the conflict, to whom the ICRC has not been granted access in accordance with its criteria.

Despite numerous contacts subsequent to the above representations, in particular during the mission conducted by the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific in October and during talks between the head of the ICRC delegation in Bangkok and the Thai authorities (Mr. Siddhi Savetsila, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Prasong Soonsiri, appointed as General Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. Suvit Sutthanakul, new Secretary-General of the National Security Council), as well as the head of delegation's talks with representatives of the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea (Prince Sihanouk, President of the CGDK coalition and President of the FUNCINPEC, Mr. Son Sann, Prime Minister of the government and President of the FNLPK), the ICRC made no progress in respect of its requests for access to the "hidden border" and to all persons detained in Thailand in connection with the conflict.

CIVILIANS. — In 1986, the ICRC's primary role for the protection of civilian populations was reaffirmed. This role is based on the mandate entrusted to it by the international community, which it discharges in conjunction with the various United Nations agencies conducting humanitarian operations in favour of the victims of the conflict. Responsibility for assisting the population is in fact shared between the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) and the ICRC. UNBRO takes care of food assistance and basic medical treatment, whilst the ICRC handles surgery, medical transfers and operation of the blood bank.

With a few exceptions, the ICRC did not have access to the actual frontier itself, in particular the southern part. Nevertheless, it maintained a constant presence in the three main camps in Thailand where the majority of the Khmer and Vietnamese civilian population is housed: Site 2 (152,000 persons), Site B (43,000 persons) and Site 8 (30,000 persons), as well as Sok Sann camp (7,500 persons).

Civilians continued to be transferred away from dangerous combat areas in 1986. In January, 2,430 persons living on the border at O'Bock were evacuated to Site 2 and Site B. In addition, following repeated requests by the ICRC, some 1,100 persons living in the former camp at Nong Samet were able to be transferred to Site 2 and the end of October.

The ICRC also stepped up its contacts with the Thai authorities with a view to ensuring that the temporary asylum granted to displaced civilians will be extended until such time as appropriate conditions prevail for them to return to their countries in complete safety.

The ICRC was concerned about the need to maintain internal safety in the camps, holding numerous discussions with the authorities concerned. In particular, allegations by new Khmer or Vietnamese arrivals at the border that they had been subjected to violence were collected by the ICRC and forwarded to local officials and to the Thai authorities in Bangkok.

As in previous years, the ICRC was especially anxious about the plight of a group of particularly vulnerable persons, the **Vietnamese refugees** arriving in a hostile environment on the border. In 1986, the ICRC continued to transfer new Vietnamese arrivals from the border to a place set aside for them on Site 2. It intervened several times with the Thai authorities and the Khmer administrations to ensure that everything possible was done to improve the safety and treatment of this group, and in particular new arrivals, jeopardized both by the military operations and by their forced cohabitation with the Khmers. Apart from these measures, the ICRC also organized working meetings with the UNHCR and representatives of potential host countries in order to find long-term solutions for this category of persons. From 21 January onwards, the ICRC provided transport for Vietnamese refugees from Site 2 to the venue of selection interviews with representatives of potential resettlement countries. Prior to that, a joint panel (comprising representatives of the Thai authorities, two interpreters recruited by the ICRC, two Vietnamese and two Khmers) had conducted a preliminary selection among the people living in the Vietnamese camp. As at 31 December 1986 a total of 1,661 Vietnamese refugees had been accepted for resettlement in one of the following countries of asylum: Australia (222), Canada (102), Denmark (10), France (37), Federal Republic of Germany (1), Italy (3), New Zealand (12), Sweden (1) and the United States (1,273). Pending their departure, the ICRC escorted the persons in question to Panat Nikhom (the UNHCR transit centre). In December 1986, 3,412 Vietnamese refugees were still stranded on Site 2.

The ICRC also concerned itself with the fate of another vulnerable group, namely **194 Degas refugees** from the Vietnamese high plateaux who had reached the border in 1985. The ICRC considered that it was responsible for protecting this group of persons by registering them and by discussing their case with the Thai authorities and with representatives of potential countries of asylum. In April, the United States accepted the whole group for resettlement.

DETAINEES. — The ICRC also continued its endeavours to obtain access to persons detained by the various coalition government factions of Democratic Kampuchea and by the Thai authorities. This question was one of the matters raised in the situation reports submitted in March and April.

Until the month of July, the ICRC continued to provide material and medical assistance to the Vietnamese detained in Aranyaprathet military prison. On 26 July, as a result of restrictions imposed on the ICRC by the Thai authorities, the ICRC decided to suspend its weekly visits. Between January and July, 153 Vietnamese detainees had been visited for the first time by delegates. During the visits, a certain amount of relief was given to prisoners in the form of hygiene requisites and blankets. By the end of the year, negotiations with a view to visits in accordance with the ICRC's criteria had still not produced any result.

With regard to the persons detained by the three factions of the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea, the ICRC

was able to carry out only one visit to 14 prisoners in the hands of the FNLPK. Despite making appropriate representations, it was not authorized to renew this visit in 1986 or to have access to persons detained by the other components of the coalition, the FUNCINPEC and Democratic Kampuchea.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency office at the delegation in Bangkok pursued its operations in 1986, providing in particular the following services:

- tracing requests concerning 8,606 persons of Khmer origin and 409 Vietnamese refugees were made by members of their families; 2,243 and 173 cases were resolved, respectively;
- 42,009 family messages, letters and air letters were exchanged between displaced persons from the border and their families living in other camps or evacuation sites or in other countries;
- 151 persons of Khmer origin were reunited with their families in camps or evacuation sites in Thailand;
- 62 persons of Khmer origin and 1,855 persons of Vietnamese origin were transferred from one site to another, or to Panat Nikhom transit centre with a view to resettlement in a third country;
- 1,231 Vietnamese refugees, either new births or recent arrivals, were registered on Site 2;
- finally, the Agency registered 153 Vietnamese detainees, principally those at Aranyaprathet military prison, visited by the ICRC in the period up to July. During the first seven months of the year, the ICRC transferred 172 Vietnamese from the military prison to the Panat Nikhom transit centre; 68 messages were exchanged between prisoners and their families.

Medical assistance

As in previous years, the ICRC continued its medical activities along the Khmer-Thai border; it is the only agency taking care of war surgery in this region and transferring the wounded to Khao-I-Dang hospital by means of its fleet of ambulances.

The ICRC's medical operations on the Khmer-Thai border involved several aspects:

KHAO-I-DANG EMERGENCY SURGICAL HOSPITAL.

- Opened in 1980, this emergency surgical hospital, with a

capacity of 100 beds, received a total of 2,215 patients in 1986, of whom 527 were war casualties. The hospital was permanently run by three surgical teams made available by National Societies (each comprising a surgeon, an anaesthetist and a surgical nurse), relieved every three to six months, and by a medical coordinator and six nurses (including four ICRC staff). In 1986, a total of 57 professionals were made available to the ICRC in this way by the Red Cross Societies of Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Iceland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden. With the help of Khmer or Thai medical personnel recruited on the spot (about 100 persons), during the year these teams were able to provide the required war and emergency surgery to the 250,000 or so displaced persons on the border.

To enhance the autonomy of its hospital, the ICRC continued its efforts to encourage the population to give blood. The blood donation campaign undertaken on Site 2 in October 1985 was extended to take in Site B as from August of the following year. In 1986 a total of 4,122 units of blood were collected on Site 2, in Khao-I-Dang and on Site B. The success of this programme made it possible to cut imports of blood from the Australian and Japanese Red Cross Societies, which supplied only 2,423 and 800 units of blood respectively during the year. Any surplus imported blood left over after needs had been met on the border was placed at the disposal of the Thai Red Cross which, in return, ensured that an emergency stock was available to meet any sudden increase in demand.

The Khao-I-Dang surgical hospital also ran a physiotherapy service managed by an ICRC physiotherapist assisted by staff trained on the spot.

KAP CHERNG FIRST-AID POST. — Since June 1985 the Kap Cherng surgical hospital has been a first-aid centre. The centre continued to operate in 1986 under the responsibility of an ICRC nurse who gave first aid and prepared serious casualties requiring transfer to Khao-I-Dang.

PRESENCE ON THE BORDER, EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATIONS. — To keep abreast of the situation on the Khmer-Thai border, two ICRC nurses maintained regular contact with Khmer medical and paramedical personnel along the border, in order to be ready for any emergency. In addition, they supplied occasional medical relief to dispensaries on the border.

Throughout the year, the ICRC took responsibility for transferring emergency cases and war wounded from the border to Khao-I-Dang hospital. The ICRC fleet of 12 ambulances, stationed in the daytime at several locations along the border (three in Kap Cherng, one in Khao-I-Dang, one on Site 2, one on Site 8, one in Nong Samet from November, one in Tapraya from November, and four to six at the sub-delegation in Aranyaprathet), transferred 2,188 persons in 1986.

The ICRC doctors based in Khao-I-Dang regularly visited Site 2, Site B and Site 8 to examine persons possibly requiring surgery.

FIRST-AID COURSES. — In addition to its traditional medical activities, the ICRC organized first-aid courses for Khmer combatants on Site 2, Site 8, Site B and in Sok Sann. A total of 64 one-week first-aid courses were thus dispensed by ICRC nurses to 1,154 participants from the three factions of the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea.

Dissemination and information

In 1986, the ICRC stepped up its efforts to disseminate international humanitarian law, both among Khmer civilians and soldiers and among the Thai armed forces. With the assistance of the Thai Red Cross, the dissemination delegate gave talks to several Khmer and Vietnamese audiences in the border camps. In particular, he regularly explained the principles of the Red Cross and basic rules of international humanitarian law as part of the first-aid courses organized by the ICRC. Cards summarizing these principles and rules were placed in all the first-aid kits distributed. As well as conventional means of communication such as films and brochures, other more unusual media were used, such as the writing and production of play depicting a conflict and its effects on civilian victims. Thousands of people saw two stage plays on this theme, organized and acted by occupants of the Site 2 camp.

In co-operation with the Thai Red Cross, the ICRC pursued its campaign for the dissemination of international humanitarian law (talks, distribution of the booklet "Rules for Behaviour in Combat" in the Thai language) aimed at the Thai armed forces, in particular the units stationed along the border.

REFUGEES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

In 1986, the ICRC continued its activities on behalf of the Vietnamese "boat people", mainly through the Central Tracing Agency (CTA). As in the past, the CTA worked in close co-operation with the Tracing and Mailing Services network set up among the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies in South-East Asia. In 1986 this network operated through the National Societies of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and the Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross. The system continued to demonstrate its usefulness; in the course of the year it enabled the exchange of 227,592 letters and also received 7,148 tracing requests.

The Central Tracing Agency in Geneva continued to co-ordinate all tracing activities. In September, it organized a seminar in Jakarta which brought together the five Tracing and Mailing Services concerned and which was attended by the head of the CTA and by delegates specializing in this field. The seminar was followed by a presentation of the "Guide for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies" published by the CTA in 1986. An ICRC expert also carried out a mission in September to the Hong Kong branch of the British Red Cross.

In addition, the ICRC continued to support the UNHCR in its efforts to protect the "boat people" against acts of piracy at sea.

VIET NAM

The ICRC maintained its presence in Viet Nam in 1986. In addition to the constant contacts with the authorities maintained by the regional delegate on the spot, the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific met the Vietnamese Red Cross delegation to the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross in October in Geneva and, also in October, talked to the Vietnamese Government delegation taking part in the UNHCR meeting on "orderly departures from Viet Nam". In general, the ICRC reiterated its wish to undertake protection activities on behalf of persons detained in rehabilitation camps and to visit the persons captured during incidents on the Sino-Vietnamese border, recalling that it had made offers of services to that effect. The Committee further informed the government authorities of its concern with the plight of civilians living on the Khmer-Thai border, recalling that civilians as well as medical personnel and installations on the frontier were to be protected and respected.

In 1986, as in previous years, the ICRC took up the case of Taiwanese boats which had run aground or been lost in the territorial waters of Viet Nam. In the absence of diplomatic relations, the ICRC offered its services as a neutral intermediary and acted as a substitute for the consular authorities. Its mediation facilitated the exchange of news and enabled crews and boats to be repatriated. In 1986, two groups of Taiwanese fishermen (27 persons in all) were repatriated via Bangkok, under ICRC auspices.

Dissemination

The ICRC pursued its programme, launched in 1985, for the dissemination of international humanitarian law, organizing two seminars in June and September. The first one, for about 70 officials from sections of the Vietnamese Red Cross, took place in Hanoi; the second was held in Ho Chi Minh City, for the heads of 21 National Society sections from the southern provinces together with representatives of the armed forces, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Vietnamese Press Agency.

Repatriation of residents of Chinese origin

Since 1975 the ICRC has been arranging the repatriation of foreign citizens without diplomatic representation in Viet Nam. This operation mainly involves repatriating or reuniting with their families in Taiwan persons of Sino-Vietnamese, Sino-Khmer or in exceptional cases, Vietnamese origin. A repatria-

tion flight enabling 185 persons to travel to Taiwan, via Bangkok, was organized under ICRC auspices in April 1986. Since the first such flight, on 14 September 1976, the ICRC has repatriated no fewer than 5,610 persons.

Assistance

Using funds left over from the INDSEC (formerly "Indo-China Bureau") programme, the ICRC allocated 75,000 Swiss francs for the implementation of two programmes put forward by the Vietnamese Red Cross, namely, the purchase of dissemination material for the Vietnamese Red Cross staff school in Hanoi and upgrading of equipment at the National Society's central headquarters.

INDONESIA

A member of the Legal Division of the ICRC conducted a mission in April to Indonesia where, accompanied by the regional delegate based in Jakarta, he had talks with representatives of the army, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Parliament, in particular in connection with the dissemination of international humanitarian law and ratification of the Additional Protocols.

Protection

The Indonesian authorities having approved the ICRC's request to be allowed to carry out a new series of visits to the detainees under the former category G.30 S/PKI (persons arrested in connection with the events of 30 September 1965), the ICRC conducted a series of visits, from 25 March to 20 May, seeing 92 sentenced detainees in 16 places of detention throughout the country, in accordance with ICRC criteria. The last series of visits to the prisoners in question dated back to 1983.

East Timor

In 1986, the ICRC continued its protection, assistance and tracing activities in East Timor. In January, an appeal for funds was launched to raise 1,848,700 Swiss francs to finance this activity.

Protection

In line with discussions with the Indonesian authorities in March 1985, the ICRC was able to continue visiting persons

detained in connection with the situation in East Timor (GPK prisoners). The visits were conducted in accordance with ICRC criteria by two delegates, a doctor and a nurse.

In 1986, three series of visits took place in February/ March, June and November, during which 209, 226 and 254 persons respectively were seen in four places, in Jakarta (Cipinang and Tangerang) and Dili (Comarca and Becora). The ICRC nurse also made interim visits to the prisons, mainly to see patients examined by the doctor during the series of visits. Detainees were given occasional assistance at the end of the nurse's visits. Aid was also provided to needy families of detainees.

Tracing Agency

Exchanges of family news by way of Red Cross messages carried on throughout the year in accordance with the procedure established by the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross Society. The detainees visited by the ICRC, as well as displaced persons, made full use of this service. About 3,800 Red Cross messages were exchanged in 1986.

In November and December 1986 the ICRC took some 900 persons back to their places of origin. Most of them had previously been displaced to Atauro and subsequently taken back to the main island of East Timor, although not to their home villages. This operation, performed in co-operation with the Indonesian Red Cross, served to reunite a large number of families.

The ICRC continued to reunite families and to repatriate persons to Portugal and Australia for humanitarian reasons: in 1986, two persons left East Timor for Portugal and one for Australia, under ICRC auspices. In addition, having been officially requested to do so by the Portuguese and Indonesian authorities, the ICRC launched an operation for the repatriation to Portugal of former officials of the Portuguese Administration in East Timor and their families. During the course of the year, 31 former officials and their dependants (representing a total of 236 persons) travelled to Portugal in this way, in nine groups, under ICRC auspices.

Finally, the ICRC continued to enquire into the whereabouts of missing persons. In September 1986, it submitted 12 cases of missing persons to the Indonesian authorities on the basis of information provided by their families. Replies are still awaited. On the other hand, 20 cases submitted in 1984 (8) and in 1985 (12) have been elucidated.

Food and medical assistance

In co-operation with the Indonesian Red Cross Society, the ICRC continued its assistance activities for displaced persons on the island of Atauro, whose number fell from 940 at the beginning of the year to 600 by the end of December. About 200 tonnes of relief, mainly food, but also clothing and soap, were distributed. The feeding centre delivering additional rations to vul-

nerable groups (undernourished children, pregnant women or nursing mothers, etc.) was closed down in October in view of the satisfactory nutritional condition of the persons concerned. As regards medical assistance, the responsibility for medical treatment for displaced persons, formerly assumed by the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross, was handed over to the local health services in March 1986. As a result of the changeover, the Committee and the National Society gradually curtailed the supply of medicines. The resident population in Atauro also received supplementary food assistance (1.3 tonnes). This activity was regularly supervised by an ICRC nurse, who made monthly visits. The programme was implemented by some 50 Indonesian Red Cross workers.

The 340 or so displaced persons taken back to their places of origin on the main island of East Timor were given food aid by the ICRC on their departure, in order to meet their needs for a period of three months.

For the third time since June 1985, the ICRC carried out a thorough medical mission to assess the nutritional situation on the main island of East Timor: some 20 villages, with a total population of about 40,000 inhabitants distributed over eight districts, were visited by two delegates, a doctor and a nurse. As in 1985, the situation did not call for any ICRC assistance, although the Committee drew the authorities' attention to a number of villages where problems had been detected and close supervision was required.

At the same time, four random surveys were conducted in five regions by the delegates based in Jakarta and by the ICRC nurse.

In addition, the ICRC continued to assess the condition of people brought back to the main island after having been displaced to Atauro; around 550 persons were seen in May and November 1986, in three districts.

MALAYSIA

The President of the ICRC went to Kuala Lumpur at the beginning of May to participate in the inaugural meeting of the second "Asia-Pacific" seminar on the dissemination of international humanitarian law, organized jointly by the Malaysian Red Crescent and the ICRC (*see the section on "Dissemination of international humanitarian law" in this Report*), and to hold talks with the Malaysian authorities. President Hay met the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahatir Mohamed, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tengku Dato' Ahmad Rithaudeen Al-Haj. The discussions focused, among other topics, on the ICRC's work in Malaysia, ratification of the Additional Protocols by Malaysia and the preparations for the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross.

Protection

1986 saw the resumption of ICRC visits to persons held under the Internal Security Act (ISA), thanks to an agreement concluded between the Malaysian authorities and the ICRC. The previous series of visits, in 1983, had been broken off because the ICRC could not obtain access to all the places of detention where prisoners in this category were held. Thus, in the first two weeks of May 1986, delegates visited three detention centres (including those to which access had been refused in 1983), where they saw 72 persons detained under Section 8 of the ISA. This category of prisoners had previously been visited by the ICRC between 1973 and 1983.

The delegates then went on to visit other categories of detainees held under Articles 57 to 62 of the ISA: from 16 June to 9 July, delegates had access to 72 detainees in these categories (persons sentenced or awaiting trial) in nine places of detention, in accordance with ICRC procedures. Consequently, the total number of detainees visited in Malaysia was 144.

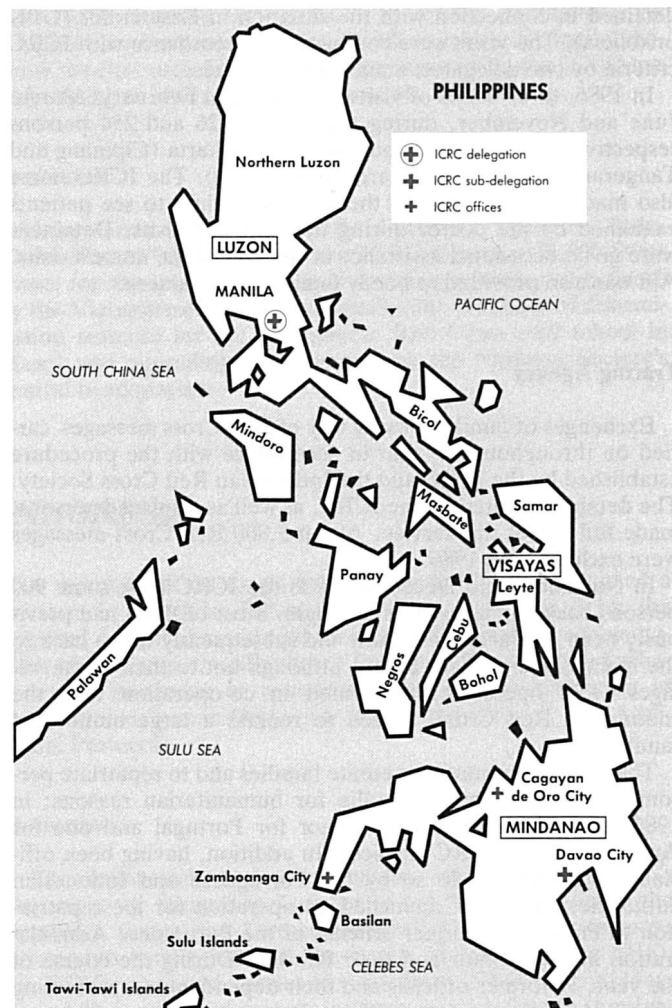
CHINA

Contacts were maintained in 1986 between the ICRC and the People's Republic of China. A delegation from the National Society visited ICRC headquarters in April, and again in October on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross. In turn, the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific conducted a mission to Beijing from 28 November to 3 December during which talks were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, with the military authorities, and with the leading officials of the Chinese Red Cross. Discussions with the National Society centred in particular on questions concerning the Tracing Agency and the dissemination of international humanitarian law. The main topic raised with the military authorities was the ICRC's offer to visit the persons captured in connection with the situation prevailing on the Sino-Vietnamese border, an offer which elicited a favourable reply from the Chinese authorities in October. At the beginning of December, therefore, a delegate and a doctor of the ICRC visited, in accordance with the Committee's procedures, 14 Vietnamese soldiers captured by the Chinese armed forces and detained in two camps in Guangxi and Yunnan provinces.

Two ICRC missions were carried out to Taipei, in January and June, providing the opportunity for talks with the administration and the Red Cross, in particular on various questions relating to the Tracing Agency.

PHILIPPINES

The installation of the Aquino government in the Philippines in February 1986 prompted the ICRC to re-assess its protection



work in the country. With the agreement of the authorities, visits to persons detained in connection with the events resumed in mid-July. In addition, in close collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross, the ICRC continued to provide medical and food relief to displaced persons in Mindanao, in the Visayan Islands and in Luzon. A sub-delegation was opened in Davao City and offices set up in the towns of Zamboanga and Cagayan de Oro. At the end of the year, the ICRC delegation in the Philippines comprised 28 expatriate delegates and 71 locally recruited employees.

Generally speaking, the ICRC delegates maintained regular contact with representatives of the Philippine authorities in order to deal with ICRC activities. The head of the Manila delegation, in particular, held talks with the Minister of Justice, Mr. Neptali Gonzales, the Minister of Local Governments,

Mr. Pimentel, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr. Ileto, and the assistant chief of staff of the armed forces, General Ermita.

Protection

The change of government which occurred in February prompted the authorities to review the cases of persons detained in connection with breaches of public order and order their release. A large number of detainees under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of National Defence, formerly called "public order violators" (POVs), were thus freed. In view of this, the ICRC decided for the time being not to carry out the series of visits to detention centres initially scheduled for the first half of the year, preferring first of all to re-assess the situation.

From March onwards, however, the attention of the authorities was drawn to a number of problems: the fate of prisoners arrested as POVs under President Marcos and still held in civil prisons, and persons newly arrested after February in connection with incidents related to the uprising. The ICRC therefore approached the authorities concerned with a view to securing access to these persons.

On 2 May, the ICRC received from the Ministry of Justice a permit to visit all premises under its control. Consequently, from July onwards, delegates visited, in accordance with the Committee's procedures, 46 prisoners coming within the responsibility of the ICRC, held in the national penitentiary of Muntinlupa, as well as nine prisoners in the annex to the Fort Bonifacio Prisons Bureau. Access was also obtained to other premises under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice (Mandaluyong women's penitentiary, the penal colonies in Zamboanga City, Davao del Norte and West Mindoro) in August, September and October, where 21 detainees were visited.

With effect from September, the ICRC was authorized to visit provincial prisons under the responsibility of the Ministry of Local Governments. A team comprising two delegates, an interpreter and a doctor, all Swiss, began a series of visits in regions 1, 2 and 6 which will be continued on the other regions in 1987. In November and December, the ICRC visited a total of 63 detainees under the responsibility of this authority, including the majority of persons arrested after 26 February in connection with the incidents related to the uprising.

The ICRC observed that prisoners under the authority of the Ministry of Defence were gradually being released, in line with President Corazon Aquino's decision to "free all political prisoners". It nevertheless approached the Ministry of Defence with a view to visiting any new detainees, and obtained an agreement in principle from the Deputy Minister, Mr. Ileto, at the beginning of June 1986. This agreement was confirmed in November by the Chief of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) and the Integrated National Police (INP), who issued an authorization to visit the places of detention under his responsibility. The visits in question are scheduled to take place in January 1987.

Between July and the end of December, the ICRC had access to a total of 148 persons detained in 17 places, in accordance with the Committee's criteria.

To supplement its protection activities, the ICRC continued to provide special aid (material and medical relief) to the detainees in greatest need. It also paid travel expenses for needy persons wishing to visit members of their families in prison. Assistance to detainees cost a total of 17,650 Swiss francs.

Tracing Agency

The work of the Tracing Agency in Manila was mainly associated with detention activities (processing of information concerning arrests and releases).

Material and medical assistance for displaced persons

In close co-operation with the Philippine Red Cross, the ICRC pursued its medical and food assistance work on behalf of persons recently affected by the disturbances or by incidents involving armed conflict (especially displaced persons), defining the relevant criteria and methods in order to enhance the effectiveness of this joint programme.

With the aim of giving the Philippine Red Cross more effective support in this activity, more staff and logistic resources were provided, in particular on the *island of Mindanao* where an ICRC sub-delegation was set up in Davao City (South), with effect from January 1986. Two other offices were opened during the first six months of the year, one in Cagayan de Oro (north) and the other Zamboanga City (west).

The joint relief operation was carried out in accordance with the procedures endorsed by the National Society in April. When a group of civilians affected by disturbances is identified, generally by one of the local branches of the Philippine Red Cross, and after an appropriate survey, it receives distributions of rice and oil (three-week ration). At the same time, a joint ICRC/National Society team carries out a medical and nutritional assessment (survey of the environment and of medical structures, anthropometric measurements) which, where necessary, may prompt the opening of a "Red Cross centre" to dispense more specific aid, according to needs, in the form of additional food, basic medical care and tuition in hygiene and public health. Such centres are opened for a period of three months, for a minimum of 30 displaced families.

Elsewhere in the Philippines, the ICRC continued to provide occasional assistance (distributions of rice and oil only), after assessing requirements, to persons displaced for security reasons in north *Luzon* (Cagayan and Kalinga Apayao provinces) and in the *Visayan Islands* (Bohol province). Delegates also carried out a survey in West Negros province (in April) which did not reveal any urgent needs resulting from problems of security and meeting the criteria for the joint operation.

In all, an average of 16,700 persons per month benefited from Red Cross assistance in 1986, including 13,500 in Mindanao, 2,600 in Luzon and 600 in the Visayan Islands. The value of food aid amounted to 974,120 Swiss francs.

In Mindanao, around 975 persons per month received additional food rations and aid by way of the new "Red Cross centres". In all, 51 tonnes of food were distributed in these centres, under the supervision of ICRC medical personnel.

In addition, ICRC and Philippine Red Cross nurses gave basic medical care to displaced persons and provided medicines for a total value of 44,000 Swiss francs.

In order to perform its medical and food assistance activities and to support the National Society, the ICRC launched a special appeal for funds to raise 3,884,400 Swiss francs.

Support for the National Society

In addition to the facilities provided under the joint relief operation, the ICRC sought to enhance the Philippine Red Cross's operational capability, for instance through gifts for special purposes. Thus, in 1986 it gave 11 new vehicles as well as medical equipment (80,000 blood bags and 80,000 hepatic test kits), to a total value of some 500,000 Swiss francs.

Dissemination

The ICRC continued its programme for the dissemination of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and of information on the role and activities of the various components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, giving priority to the areas in which the assistance programme was being carried out and to the armed forces.

In 1986, for the third consecutive year, the two dissemination delegates concentrated in particular on the preparation and launching of a campaign for schoolchildren aged 11 to 14 in the sixth year of primary school (distribution of Red Cross comics in English and Pilipino, together with a teacher's guide). The programme was carried out in close collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport (MECS). From June to August, the campaign reached 6,200 schools in Mindanao and in the regions of Luzon and the Visayan Islands, i.e., 345,000 schoolchildren. In the course of the dissemination campaign, information meetings were organized for teachers during which an ICRC delegate, assisted by a National Society worker and representatives of the MECS, showed films and explained the ideals of the Red Cross and its activities in the Philippines. At the end of the year, an edition in Cebuano was published for the Visayan Islands and certain regions of Mindanao, in order to reach a wider audience.

Another feature of dissemination work was the organization of meetings to spread the knowledge of international humanitarian law among the Philippine armed forces. In all, 95 talks were given during the year, chiefly in Mindanao.

ICRC delegates also explained the principles of the Red Cross to various audiences, such as university students, journalists and National Society workers. Having acquired a land cruiser equipped with dissemination material, including equipment for the projection of video films, delegates travelled around the villages and towns in Mindanao to make the people more aware of the Red Cross's work.

OTHER COUNTRIES

— The head of the Central Tracing Agency travelled to **Australia** in September to deal with a number of questions concerning the tracing activities of the Australian Red Cross and to participate in a seminar organized by the National Society. In addition, Mrs. Renée Guisan, a member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, visited the headquarters and local branches of the Australian Red Cross in September.

— At the invitation of the Bangladesh Red Cross, the President of the ICRC, accompanied by the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific, went to **Bangladesh** in May. He had talks with the Head of State, President Hussein Muhammad Ershad, the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Abdul Mannan Siddiqui, and the leading officials of the National Society. On completion of the visit, a sum of 10,000 dollars was donated to the Bangladesh Red Cross for its assistance programme for Biharis. In addition, to support the National Society's activities concerning natural disasters, the ICRC, in agreement with the League, sent a radio technician to Bangladesh in September to improve the communications system.

— In January, the regional delegate based in Manila carried out a mission to **Hong Kong** and **Macao**, chiefly to meet officials of the Red Cross to discuss the tracing of missing persons and matters relating to the dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross.

— In **India**, the delegates based in New Delhi maintained constant contact with the National Society to co-ordinate efforts for the dissemination of international humanitarian law and Tracing Agency activities. Delegates also travelled to a number of Indian States to visit local branches of the Indian Red Cross in Madras, Calcutta, Bombay and Srinagar. In respect of tracing activities, the ICRC office in New Delhi issued 631 travel documents, mainly to Afghan nationals; 41 Red Cross messages were exchanged, in connection with the Iran/Iraq conflict. In addition, the President of the ICRC stayed in New Delhi from 10 to 13 May and met leading officials of the Indian Red Cross.

— The regional delegate based in New Delhi visited **Nepal** on several occasions (in March, July, November and December). These missions enabled him to develop contacts with the

National Society, especially in connection with the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law, and to discuss Nepal's ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions with the authorities. At the beginning of December, a seminar for the dissemination of international humanitarian law (the first of its kind in Nepal) was held in Katmandu, jointly organized by the Nepalese Red Cross, the Ministry of Justice, the University and the ICRC. The two ICRC delegates based in New Delhi and a legal expert sent specially from Geneva introduced some 30 participants from the various ministries concerned, the army, the police, the university, the press and the National Society to international humanitarian law and the Red Cross Movement.

— The head of the ICRC Tracing Agency in Geneva travelled to **New Zealand** at the beginning of October to review with the National Society the activities of the New Zealand Red Cross in this field and to discuss plans for setting up a national tracing office.

— The regional delegate based in Jakarta carried out a mission to **Papua New Guinea** from 18 to 30 July, where he met repre-

sentatives of the National Society, also, in particular, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commerce, Mr. Legu Vagi, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Warren Dutton, and the Commander of the armed forces; the main question raised was that of the displaced persons from Irian Jaya. The regional delegate also visited three camps for displaced persons in the provinces of West Sepik, and took part in dissemination meetings on international humanitarian law and information meetings on the Red Cross Movement aimed at members of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross.

— Preoccupied by the problem of the millions of separated Korean families, the ICRC continued to work to establish dialogue between the Red Cross Societies of the **Republic of Korea** and the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** in order, especially, to find a solution to this humanitarian problem.

— In November and December, the regional delegate based in Jakarta carried out a mission to establish contacts in the South Pacific, visiting in turn **Kiribati, Tuvalu, Fiji** and **Vanuatu**.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1986

ASIA

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Recipient	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnes	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
Afghanistan	National Society	—	—	5,681	5,681
Burma	Disabled	—	—	68,096	68,096
Indonesia (East Timor conflict) .	Displaced civilians and detainees	208	265,281	9,023	274,304
Kampuchea	Orphanages, hospitals and National Society	255	79,911	307,668	387,579
Malaysia	Detainees	—	123	238	361
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan) .	Refugees and hospitals	300	359,948	1,817,369	2,177,317
Philippines	Displaced civilians, detainees and their families and Na- tional Society	761	986,281	106,559	1,092,840
Thailand (conflict in Kampuchea) .	Displaced civilian population, refugees and detainees	81	119,612	804,583	924,195
TOTAL		1,605	1,811,156	3,119,217	4,930,373



Photo ICRC/J.-P. Kolly PAKI 80/8

Pakistan: transferring a patient from the first-aid post at Parachinar to the ICRC hospital in Peshawar