

Support for activities throughout the world

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II. HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Function and structure of Operations Department

As mentioned in the 1978 Annual Report (page 47), the task of the Operations Department is essentially to conduct the operations which the ICRC undertakes in the field for victims of conflicts or of related situations, pursuant to decisions of the Assembly or, more generally, of the Executive Board. It also proposes action to the Executive Board.

A new "support service" was set up in 1979, the "Liaison with National Societies and Governments" (LNSG). The main aim of this service is to improve the exchange of information between the ICRC and the National Societies relating to current operations and the possibility of obtaining personnel and material or financial assistance from the National Societies.

Relief Division

The tables given on pages 60, 61 and 62 illustrate the ICRC relief activities in 1979. Forty-five countries received 30,040 tons of supplies to a total value of 55 million Swiss francs. This amount includes specially financed actions and material aid donated by the EEC and the Swiss Confederation.

The specially financed actions undertaken by the ICRC with the support of governments, National Societies and various organizations amounted to 33.7 million Swiss francs for a total of 22,360 tons of supplies. These were forwarded to areas concerned, either by the ICRC or by the donors themselves, under ICRC supervision.

In addition to this, aid was given by the EEC and the Swiss Confederation. Thanks to agreements concluded with them, 17 countries received food aid to a value of 21.3 million Swiss francs (i.e. 7,680 tons of supplies).

Assistance to "political" detainees and their families amounted to 509,550 Swiss francs (not including the aid given to detainees and families coming under the "specially financed actions").

Finally, twelve National Societies received financial aid from the ICRC for a total value of 307,120 Swiss francs.

TRANSPORT

Transport organized and financed by the ICRC in 1979 was as follows:

	Kg.	Sw. fr.
1. Despatch by scheduled transport services		
— Sea or land	543,002	196,187
— Air	147,540	834,606
2. Chartered transport by air		
— Full charters 14 trips	206,923	963,207
— Large aircraft time charters		
Kampuchea Action (services rendered)	2,908,361	3,979,393 ¹
Nicaragua Action	2,086,000	1,384,331 ¹
— Small aircraft time charters		
Rhodesia Action, 1698 flying hours ²		282,922
Chad Action, 519 flying hours		
Timor Action, 901 flying hours		684,888
3. Low cost transport by air (IATA resolution 200).	5,225	23,732
4. Import duty	49,531	17,061
5. Insurance		54,027
Total	5,946,582	8,420,354

¹ Provisional figures.

² Pro memoria: ICRC planes in Rhodesia; cost included in expenses of Southern Africa Action (see table VI, pages 92-93).

Beneficiaries	Total Sw.fr.	Swiss Confederation		European Economic Community			
		Commodities	Sw.fr.	Commodities	Sw.fr.		
Africa	1,671,550		172,150		1,499,400		
Botswana	220,180	20 t. whole-milk powder	172,150	50 t. sk-milk powder	220,180		
Ethiopia	172,150			100 t. sk-milk powder	332,670		
Mozambique	827,120			500 t. rice	494,450		
Zambia	452,100			100 t. sk-milk powder	452,100		
Latin America	2,738,130		448,000		2,290,130		
Argentina	220,000	25 t. whole-milk powder	220,000	197 t. sk-milk powder	679,700		
Honduras	88,000	10 t. whole-milk powder	88,000			1000 t. rice	868,960
Nicaragua	1,694,710					100 t. porridge oats	146,050
Paraguay	88,000	10 t. whole-milk powder	88,000	100 t. sk-milk powder	342,000		
Uruguay	647,420	10 t. cheese	52,000			30 t. butter-oil	253,420
Asia	11,334,110		1,060,800		10,273,310		
Kampuchea	1,235,800	25 t. whole-milk powder	220,800	50 t. sk-milk powder	175,000		
Philippines	2,951,480	200 t. sweetened sk-milk	840,000	400 t. sk-milk powder	1,454,080		
East Timor	478,400			690 t. rice	648,950		
Vietnam	6,668,430			100 t. butter-oil	848,450		
				130 t. sk-milk powder	478,400		
				800 t. sk-milk powder	3,222,960		
				500 t. butter-oil	3,445,470		
Middle East	5,596,680		1,422,900		4,173,780		
Israel & occupied territories	3,919,350	500 t. wheat flour	525,000	1325 t. wheat flour	946,580		
Jordan	779,430			250 t. sk-milk powder	787,650		
Lebanon	290,400	33 t. whole-milk powder	290,400	200 t. butter-oil	1,660,120		
Syria	607,500	75 t. whole-milk powder	607,500	100 t. sk-milk powder	363,830		
				50 t. butter-oil	415,600		
Total Sw.fr.	21,340,470		3,103,850		18,236,620		

SPECIALLY FINANCED ACTIONS

(Relief in kind) 33.7 Million

	Sw.fr.
Africa	19,207,400
Southern Africa	6,656,300
of which:	Sw.fr.
— Angola	608,400
— Botswana	1,066,900
— Mozambique	397,800
— Rhodesia	3,014,400
— South Africa	23,100
— Zambia	1,545,700
Algeria (Western Sahara conflict)	73,700
Ethiopia (Ogaden and Eritrea conflicts)	1,971,200
Mauritania (Western Sahara conflict)	38,200
Uganda	1,797,800
Sudan (Eritrea conflict)	6,032,200
Tanzania	347,500
Chad	2,250,500
Zaire	40,000
Latin America	8,678,200
Argentina	307,800
Honduras	357,400
Nicaragua	8,013,000
Asia	4,633,600
Pakistan	17,400
People's Republic of Kampuchea ¹	212,200
Thailand ²	342,400
East Timor	4,061,600
Vietnam ³	
Middle East	1,201,300
Lebanon	896,100
Yemen Arab Republic	305,200

^{1,2} These figures are only the value of relief in kind given by the ICRC. The value of relief in kind of the joint UNICEF-ICRC action is:

— for the People's Republic of Kampuchea	Sw.fr. 8,380,800
— for Thailand	Sw.fr. 4,667,200

³ Relief in kind for Vietnam was given only by the EEC. (See table page 61.)

AID TO DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Sw.fr. 0.5 million

Africa	74,000
South Africa	11,100
Botswana	250
Uganda	33,000
Rhodesia	13,750
Tanzania	15,400
Zaire	500
Latin America	6,200
Argentina	100
Chile	500
Colombia	5,600
Asia	14,750
Indonesia	14,750
Middle East	414,600
Egypt	1,800
Israel and occupied territories	376,600
Jordan	10,300
Syria	4,500
Yemen Arab Republic	21,400

AID TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Sw.fr. 0.3 million

(Financed by ordinary budget, not by special financing)

Europe	15,000
Yugoslavia (donation to the League earthquake)	15,000
Africa	37,300
Morocco (for Algerian prisoners)	30,000
Central African Republic	7,300
Latin America	121,350
Bolivia	100,900
Chile	400
Cuba	17,450
El Salvador (for various sections of population)	2,600
Asia	31,120
Philippines	31,120
Middle East	102,350
Israel (for local Red Crescent Societies in occupied territories)	78,700
Jordan (for various sections of population)	10,300
Syria (for various sections of population, hospitals, etc.)	5,200
Yemen (People's Dem. Rep. of)	8,150

Medical Division

The steps taken in 1978 to increase the efficiency of the Medical Division in emergency actions have born fruit, both for the despatching of medicine and the use of personnel provided by National Societies.

In 1979 the Medical Division sent 511 doctors and paramedical personnel in the field, 388 of whom were provided by the National Societies. In the ICRC depots standard packages were prepared (medicine, bandaging material, etc.) to a value of about 2 million Swiss francs and these enabled prompt action to be taken during emergencies in the field.

Action for the benefit of the war-disabled has been expanded and the pilot projects of Debré Zeit in Ethiopia (see page 24), and Humabo in Angola (see page 19), have been worthwhile experiences. They have opened new horizons in artificial limb production by a technique suited to local conditions.

Detention Service

The Detention Service maintains the central captivity records up-to-date. This is done by classifying information given by delegates after their visits to places of detention. It also collects documents from various organizations concerned with penitentiary problems. In 1979 it recorded more than 3,780 visits to persons deprived of freedom.

The Detention Service processes all reports on visits to detainees before they are sent, in strict confidence, to the respective authorities. Historical research connected with captivity carried out by this Service last year enabled it to supply information to various institutions conducting studies on detention of persons captured during the Second World War.

In 1979 the Head of the Detention Service made several surveys for and of the operations carried out in Africa. He also participated in choosing and training future delegates to visit prisons (course on the methods of visiting), and during seminars and conferences he dealt with certain problems relating to detention and the prevention of torture.



Telecommunication Service

Six new radio stations were brought into operation in 1979 by the ICRC: in Teheran on 20 February, in San Salvador on 15 October, and four in Thailand, i.e. at Bangkok on 27 October, Aranyaprathet on 29 October, Sa Kaeo on 30 October and Kamput in December.

Three local stations serving as radiotelephonic links were set up in El Arish (Egypt) in August, in Leon (Nicaragua) in July (closed down in August), and in Moundou (Chad) in October.

ICRC radio stations and planes maintained contact during operations in Chad, Rhodesia, Thailand and elsewhere.

The number of VHF connections (short range portable or fixed transmitting-receiving sets) have continued to increase. Networks have been set up in the Lebanon, Rhodesia, Israel and Thailand. Sets were operated in Chad and Zambia. By 31 December about one hundred VHF sets and 50 HF (long range transmitting-receiving sets) were in the field.

(The World Administration Radio Conference and the 1979 TELECOM exhibition are dealt with on pages 69 and 82.)

At the end of 1979 the ICRC radiocommunication network could be illustrated as follows:

