

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1984)

Rubrik: Africa

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>

AFRICA

In 1984 Africa continued to be the scene of numerous armed conflicts, internal disturbances and tension and consequently the bulk of the ICRC's work took place on that continent; it was called upon to deploy almost half its field staff, i.e. some 200 delegates, throughout 13 delegations and five sub-delegations.

Priority was given to civilians displaced within their own country as a result of conflict or because of the combined effects of internal disturbances and drought. These civilians, forced to flee their villages because of the fighting and the scarcity of food, constitute a particularly vulnerable category in need of protection and material and medical assistance.

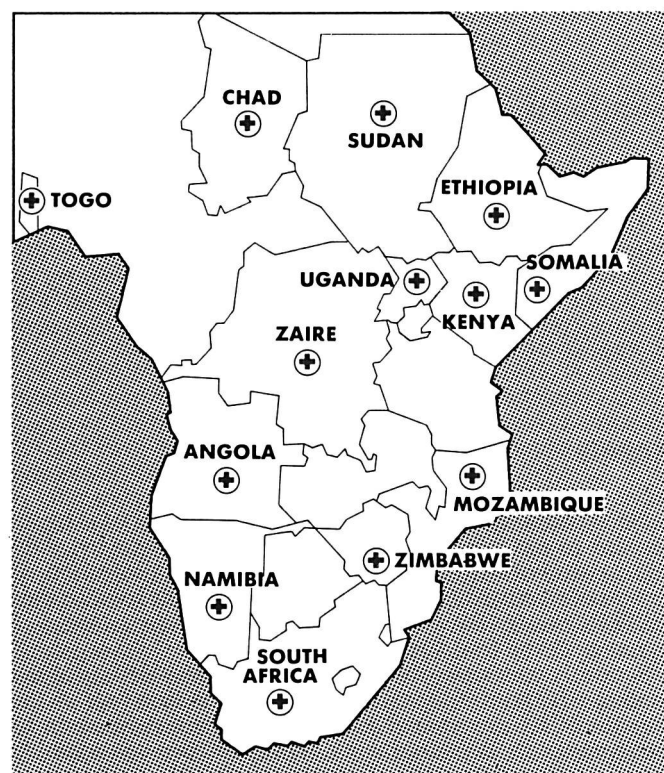
More than 70 per cent of the ICRC's total budget for its special activities on the African continent was devoted to assistance work in Ethiopia and Angola, where its work considerably increased during the last three months of 1984. In point of fact, in many conflict regions in the north of Ethiopia the ICRC was the only organization capable of sending relief supplies and medical aid on a significant scale: therapeutic feeding centers were set up and general monthly food distributions were organized. By the end of the year, 268,000 victims were being assisted by the ICRC.

Despite the pressing needs of the people in Angola, the institution's activities were held up during the first six months of 1984 because of hazardous conditions and difficulties which the ICRC encountered in obtaining the facilities necessary for carrying out its mission. In June, President Dos Santos gave his consent to a programme to attend to the medical and food requirements of about 200,000 people displaced as a result of internal fighting, mainly on the Planalto.

During most of the first half of the year, the ICRC also carried out a sizeable aid programme in Uganda, distributing relief supplies every month to some 100,000 displaced people living to the north of Kampala in the region known as the "Luwero triangle". However, the relief work as a whole was increasingly interrupted because of a marked increase in danger.

Likewise, the ICRC continued to discharge its mandate to protect detainees. It visited prisoners of war and other categories of detainees in Ethiopia, Uganda, Chad, Rwanda, Zaire, Namibia/South West Africa, South Africa and Angola. In addition, exercising its humanitarian right of initiative as set out in the statutes of the International Red Cross, it approached—albeit unsuccessfully—other countries to be allowed to visit detainees imprisoned for security reasons.

In Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia the ICRC was busily engaged in tracing missing persons and forwarding family messages. Moreover, it continued to act as a neutral intermediary for the release and repatriation of civilians captured in southern Angola and to supervise the repatriation of prisoners.



Throughout 1984 the ICRC intensified its efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles, endeavouring thereby to limit the effects of war and facilitate protection and assistance for the victims.

At the beginning of 1984 the ICRC estimated at 178,290,000 Swiss francs the cost of its programmes planned for 1984 in Africa. Bearing in mind the balance left over from the previous operational period (15,673,000 Swiss francs) and the amount of food aid expected (63,579,000 Swiss francs) it launched an appeal for a total sum of 99,045,000 Swiss francs. In response to this appeal, by 31 December 1984 the ICRC had received 90,309,000 Swiss francs in cash and 40,179,000 Swiss francs in kind and services from 19 governments, the European Economic Community (EEC), the World Food Programme (WFP), various other donors and 15 National Societies. As of 31 December the ICRC had spent 128,409,000 Swiss francs for all its activities during the year in Africa; the balance, i.e. 17,252,000 Swiss francs, was therefore carried forward to finance activities in the first weeks of 1985.

The ICRC accepted an invitation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to attend as observer the Second International Conference for Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA II) which took place in Geneva from 9 to 11 July 1984; the ICRC was represented by its Vice-President, Mr. Maurice Aubert, the Director for Operational Activities and several other staff members.

Southern Africa

Repatriation of prisoners of war in May

The ICRC organized the repatriation of 30 Angolan prisoners of war and one Cuban prisoner held by the South African authorities, simultaneously with that of a member of the South African forces held by the Angolan authorities. The exchange took place on 22 and 23 May at N'Giva in the south of Angola.

Angola

On 20 September 1984, the People's Republic of Angola acceded to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and to Additional Protocol I relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts. It will be recalled that the ICRC's activities and offers of service stem from Article 3 common to the four Conventions.

Seriously concerned for the people who were victims of the conflict situation in the country, during the first half of the year the ICRC persevered in trying to obtain permission to recommence its assistance work. This had been considerably reduced since July 1983 because of precarious transport conditions, danger in the conflict zones and the difficulty in obtaining from the authorities concerned an agreement for the ICRC to work according to its usual criteria. On 6 March, given the gravity of the situation, the Minister for Foreign Affairs received a memorandum from the ICRC outlining the approaches it had already made to the authorities and reaffirming its willingness to organize emergency humanitarian work, in co-operation with the Angola Red Cross. At the same time, several countries were approached in order to obtain their support, consistent with Article 1 of the four Geneva Conventions, for the concrete proposals put forward by the ICRC to the government in Luanda.

In addition, during discussions with the parties concerned, the ICRC pointed out on several occasions that it was absolutely essential to take every measure to ensure that the civilian population was respected.

On 6 June the ICRC Director for Operational Activities, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, accompanied by the delegate-general for Africa, Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, was received in Luanda by President Dos Santos and various other political leaders: Mr. Lucio Lara, Secretary-General of the Organizations for

the Masses, Mr. Lopo de Nascimento, Minister for the Plan, Mr. Paulo Jorge, Minister for Foreign Relations, and Mr. Ferreira Neto, Minister of Health. During this mission, an agreement was reached with President Dos Santos, wherein the Angolan authorities accepted the emergency plan proposed by the ICRC enabling it to supply, in stages and in accordance with the institution's methods of working, medical and food aid for the survival of 200,000 civilians in the provinces of Benguela, Bié, Huambo, Huila, Moxico and Cunene.

Thanks to the fact that the ICRC already had a basic unit on the spot and that activities were being co-ordinated with the Angola Red Cross it was possible to set up the logistic infrastructure indispensable for conducting the relief operations. These started in September after initial surveys had been carried out in July and August.

An appeal for an extra 22 million Swiss francs to finance this work had been made to donors in June to add to the 1984 budget of 14 million already scheduled for Angola.

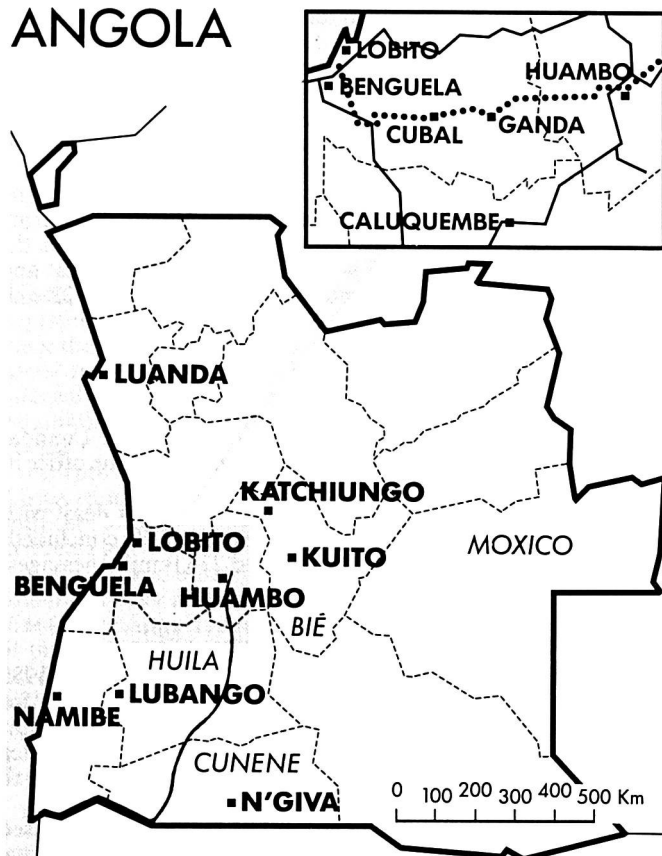
The ICRC carried on its mission to the southern part of the province of Cunene bordering Namibia because of the continued intervention of South Africa in the region. These activities were conducted from N'Giva and were mainly of a medical nature or were connected to the work of the Tracing Agency. Nevertheless, in March the sub-delegation had to withdraw temporarily because of logistic and supply problems.

Material assistance

As mentioned above, the ICRC's efforts to supply food aid to the victims of the conflict situation had been very seriously hampered during the first half of 1984; as a result, all assistance work on the Planalto ceased in March 1984 but it did continue, albeit to a lesser extent, in Lobito and Benguela. All in all, the ICRC provided 75,500 beneficiaries with 645 tonnes of relief supplies between January and May 1984. Seriously concerned by the hostilities occurring in certain provinces of Angola where the number of civilians involved had been estimated at around 500,000 (including 200,000 in need of emergency medical and food aid), in April the ICRC put forward concrete proposals for action, i.e. an emergency programme to distribute relief supplies to the some 200,000 civilians most affected. Spread out over three successive phases, this six-month plan was to help 50,000 people in the provinces of Benguela and Huambo during the first stage, then to 75,000 more people at the second stage, and finally, in a third stage, to a total of 200,000 beneficiaries in the provinces of Benguela, Huambo, Bié, Moxico, Huila and Cunene.

After it had obtained agreement from the Angolan authorities, the ICRC sent a team of delegates at the beginning of July to plan and make technical preparations for the assistance work. While the logistic infrastructure and personnel were being set up between July and September, preliminary food surveys were conducted to establish a priority programme of action.

ANGOLA



During this period, the ICRC also distributed food to people suffering from serious malnutrition, particularly in the province of Benguela. Nevertheless, in order not to further destabilize the socio-economic situation during the sowing season, over these weeks, it confined itself to building up stocks in each of the distribution centres (approximately 80 tonnes) before beginning large-scale relief distributions in the middle of October.

In a country where certain roads and railways are often impassable because of hazardous conditions, where airport runways are sometimes damaged and harbours congested, the ICRC found itself faced with enormous difficulties in regularly sending relief supplies to the provinces affected and to the places where it had chosen to intervene. In point of fact, 90 per cent of relief supplies reaching the ports of Lobito and Namibe had to be transported by cargo aircraft from airports in Benguela and Namibe to Huambo and Kuito, the main distribution centres in the Planalto; only ten per cent was freighted by rail from Namibe to Lubango or from Lobito to Ganda and Cubal.

With the local authorities' consent and under the control of ICRC delegates, from the end of October general distributions

suited to each type of situation were organized for people suffering from the effects of the conflict and whose means of subsistence were insufficient. An average ration for one person for one month contained about 15 kg of food. From 1 September to 31 December 1984 the ICRC distributed 2,596.8 tonnes of relief supplies to some 160,000 beneficiaries.

As regards logistic support for the operation, four boats laden with 6,800 tonnes of ICRC merchandise berthed in the Angola ports of Lobito and Namibe; three cargo planes and six light aircraft transported a total of 5,035 tonnes of relief supplies on the Planalto; 470 tonnes of aid and 40,000 litres of fuel were freighted by rail from Lobito to Huambo in September, 375.5 tonnes to Ganda and Cubal and 55 tonnes from Namibe to Lubango; at the end of 1984 the ICRC had 66 vehicles for its work in Angola.

Medical assistance

TO DISPLACED PEOPLE ON THE PLANALTO. — In view of the difficulties encountered since July 1983, the ICRC pharmacy in Huambo closed its doors in February 1984; stocks of medicaments and medical equipment to a value of 150,000 Swiss francs were donated to hospitals run by religious missions in Huambo and Caluquembe.

After the agreement reached with President Dos Santos an ICRC team consisting of one doctor, one nutritionist and one sanitary engineer conducted a medical-nutritional survey from 1 July to 20 August in the provinces of Benguela, Huambo and Bié and came to the conclusion that the situation was serious, particularly in the provinces of Huambo and Bié. Consequently, the ICRC feeding centre in Kuito was re-opened at the end of the month of August.

From September until the end of the year the ICRC medical team monitored the food situation amongst the most vulnerable sections of the population (children under six, pregnant women or nursing mothers), beginning with people recently displaced as a result of the disturbances. In cases where the situation had deteriorated the ICRC acted either by making general distributions (see under "Material assistance") or by opening feeding centres for children suffering from severe malnutrition (and indeed sometimes those accompanying them) who were regularly given meals consisting of a type of gruel (a mixture of maize flour, oil, milk and sugar) and milk prepared under the supervision of ICRC medical personnel. Soap, clothing and blankets were also distributed. In certain cases, food was given directly to the people and they themselves took responsibility for preparing it and feeding the children. At the end of 1984, 18 feeding centres (each with a capacity for 200 to 300 children) were operating in the provinces of Huambo (9), Bié (6), and Benguela (3), having admitted some 4,400 children suffering from severe malnutrition.

From October to December the ICRC medical staff, assisted by local staff, gave 7,243 medical consultations.

In all the areas where the ICRC was operating, two sanitary engineers had wells sunk, water sources protected and toilets installed. By the end of 1984 there were 30 wells and 60 toilets.

At the same time, nurses taught the rules of basic hygiene to people working in the feeding centres and to mothers whose children had been taken into care.

In addition, the ICRC endeavoured to bring assistance to the war wounded in the zones where it was working by evacuating them to the civilian hospital in Huambo. All in all, over the period under consideration, 203 seriously wounded or sick people were evacuated by air from the dispensaries in the towns to hospitals in the provincial capitals. In order to strengthen existing medical facilities, the ICRC supplied medical equipment and medicaments (eight tonnes distributed from September to December) and trained local hospital and dispensary staff in the provinces where it was operating.

THE BOMBA ALTA ORTHOPAEDIC CENTRE (HUAMBO). — In conjunction with the Ministry of Health which took over from the Angola Red Cross in August 1983, the ICRC has been running the prostheses centre in Bomba Alta (suburb of Huambo) since 1979. Two expatriate prosthetists and one physiotherapist are responsible for operating this centre. As in previous years, patients were fitted on the spot with prostheses manufactured in Bomba Alta. An admission centre (Abrigo), run jointly by the Ministry of Health, the Angola Red Cross and the ICRC, has been providing permanent accommodation for about 80 patients waiting to be fitted with prostheses and for about 50 wounded attending the outdoor clinic in the hospital in Huambo.

In September, a fire destroyed part of the Bomba Alta centre but since November activities have been continuing as usual.

During 1984, 302 patients were fitted with prostheses and the Bomba Alta centre manufactured 1,025 pairs of forearm crutches. The centre also began manufacturing wheel-chairs.

TO THE POPULATION IN THE SOUTH OF THE PROVINCE OF CUNENE. — During the first three months of the year, the ICRC nurse, assisted by local staff, continued to give medical consultations in N'Giva and the surrounding area where almost 80 per cent of the population was suffering from malaria. Large quantities of chloroquine were therefore supplied by the ICRC.

In March, medical equipment left over was given to the religious mission in Mongua.

Dissemination and information

At the beginning of September a dissemination delegate joined the ICRC delegation in Angola. In co-operation with local leaders and people from the Angola Red Cross, the ICRC, in various regions of the country where it was operating, endeavoured to explain to as wide an audience as possible (with the help of brochures, posters, slides and films) its role, principles and criteria for action, particularly in Angola.

Protection

Following President Hay's mission in April 1983 and a memorandum sent shortly afterwards to the Angolan author-

ities defining the way in which the ICRC's protection activities are carried out, in January 1984 the Luanda delegation repeated the ICRC's offers with a view to obtaining access to people detained under the state security law so that it might conduct its protection and, possibly, assistance activities in the prisons. By the end of 1984 such approaches remained unsuccessful.

In May ICRC delegates visited a prisoner of war belonging to the South African forces and captured by the Angolan army in December 1983; this was part of the ground work for the exchange of prisoners of war between South Africa and Angola which took place under ICRC auspices on 22 and 23 May (see below).

Tracing Agency

In 1984 the Tracing Agency was operating in Luanda, Huambo, Kuito, Lobito/Benguela and Lubango. The office in N'Giva was closed in March.

All in all, the ICRC Tracing Agency in Angola dealt with 241 tracing requests, 81 of which were successfully concluded; it reunited four families and transmitted 236 family messages.

Relations with UNITA

Security problems encountered in 1982 and which in 1983 and 1984 forced the ICRC to suspend its assistance work for displaced people on the Planalto led the ICRC to raise this matter with representatives of UNITA in Europe and Africa with a view to obtaining proper safety standards enabling it to resume its humanitarian work.

When the prisoners held by UNITA were being released ICRC delegates went on four occasions (April, June, September and November) to southern Angola and discussed security problems with Mr. Savimbi; they pointed out the obligation under the Geneva Conventions to respect the civilian population.

These missions led to UNITA's releasing 148 people who were repatriated by the ICRC with the assistance of the delegation in Pretoria. The majority of the people who were released (95 Portuguese, 15 Filipinos, 5 Mexicans, 4 Spaniards, 1 Italian, 1 Colombian, 1 Brazilian, 1 Japanese, 1 Pole, 1 Cape Verdean) were handed over to their diplomatic representatives in South Africa; the 20 Czechoslovakians were flown on an aircraft chartered by the ICRC to Kinshasa (Zaire) where the consular authorities of their country took charge of them; the three Bulgarians released in November were accompanied by the ICRC to Sofia.

The ICRC also supplied assistance to the war wounded (emergency medical equipment) to a value of approximately 10,000 Swiss francs.

Origin of staff and their deployment

At the end of 1984 the ICRC delegation in Angola consisted of 92 "expatriate" people working either in the delegation in

Luanda or the sub-delegations in Huambo, Kuito, Lobito/Benguela, Namibe and Lubango. Of these, 17 came from the National Societies. The number of local employees had reached 733 in December.

South Africa

Against the background of the tension prevailing in South Africa, particularly after the serious disturbances in September (strikes and riots in the Transvaal, massive arrests, etc.), the ICRC attempted to draw up a list of humanitarian issues to find out exactly which are the direct result of the internal problems and tension in the hope of reopening negotiations to improve protection for certain categories of people.

In April the ICRC delegate-general for Africa visited South Africa to have discussions about ICRC activities in the area with the South African authorities and the delegation based in Pretoria.

As in 1983, the delegation in Pretoria played a very active role logistically as regards the missions that were carried out in southern Angola, particularly in connection with the release of prisoners held by UNITA and in supplying the delegation in N'Giva during the first three months of the year. (See above under "Angola".)

Protection

The ICRC delegation based in Pretoria continued visiting sentenced security prisoners and people held in preventive detention under Section 28 of the 1982 Internal Security Act; the only two categories to which access has been granted to the ICRC by the authorities of the Republic of South Africa. As it has been doing every year since 1969, the ICRC conducted a yearly series of visits: between 26 August and 13 September four delegates and a doctor from Geneva went to eight places of detention and met 331 security prisoners, including 16 held in preventive detention. An interview with the Minister of Justice, Mr. Coetzee, followed this series of visits.

As it had done in previous years, the ICRC, using its right of initiative, again made approaches to the authorities concerned, particularly during the mission of the delegate-general for Africa to Pretoria, to obtain authorization to visit, in accordance with the usual criteria, security detainees belonging to other categories, especially those being detained under Sections 29 and 31 of the 1982 Internal Security Act, detainees awaiting trial and security prisoners condemned to death. By the end of 1984 these approaches had led to no result.

Since the beginning of the year delegates made six separate visits to a Cuban prisoner of war captured during the offensive by the South African forces in southern Angola in December 1983. As mentioned above, he was released on 22 May in N'Giva under the auspices of the ICRC.

The Pretoria delegation also concerned itself with the security detainees in Venda, Ciskei and Transkei.

Delegates went to Thohoyandou four times to continue their approaches to gain access to all the security detainees imprisoned in **Venda**. At the end of May 1984, three security prisoners were visited in the central prison in Thohoyandou but it was not possible to see them again. Delegates also went to **Ciskei** in March, June and November to continue negotiations to obtain access to security detainees in accordance with the offer of services made by the institution in December 1983. These negotiations did not succeed. Similar steps were taken in **Transkei** during two missions to Umtata in July and December to repeat the ICRC's offer of services put forward in May 1982 and requesting access to security detainees in Transkei. It was not possible to visit them in 1984.

Assistance

In addition to its protection work the ICRC continued its aid programme on behalf of former security detainees and their families who were in need. The number of beneficiaries was in the order of 400 people per month. Relief, to a total of 323,125 Swiss francs, was provided in the form of food parcels, blankets and payment of travelling expenses for people visiting their relatives in detention. The ICRC also paid for medical treatment.

At the end of the series of visits carried out in September, the ICRC was authorized to supply 15,000 Swiss francs' worth of aid mainly for security prisoners.

Moreover, in October ICRC delegates conducted a survey in the Gazankulu region to assess the needs of the displaced civilian population which had come from Mozambique; blankets were distributed during the mission.

Tracing Agency

In co-operation with the South African Red Cross, the Pretoria delegation dealt with about 100 tracing requests and requests for repatriation, transfers and the reuniting of families. Some 212 family messages were exchanged during the year.

Dissemination and information

During the first two weeks in May the ICRC delegate to the armed forces went to South Africa and gave several lectures to various types of audiences on the law of armed conflicts and the ICRC, in particular to the Army College and the National Council of the South Africa Red Cross.

Throughout the year, when visiting the townships and Venda, Ciskei and Transkei, delegates explained the ICRC's role, principles and activities. Various ICRC publications were distributed.

Namibia/South West Africa

Military operations continued in 1984 between the South African forces and SWAPO. Hence, in 1984 the delegation in Windhoek continued to work on behalf of Angolan prisoners of war and security detainees held in Namibia.

In this context it will be recalled that the United Nations Council for Namibia, set up in 1967 by the United Nations as the legal authority responsible for administering Namibia until its independence, on 18 October 1983 deposited an instrument of accession to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977 with the Swiss Federal Council. This accession had been requested by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 37/233 (1982). Its validity was contested by the Republic of South Africa on 12 March 1984.

Protection

In 1984 ICRC delegates were authorized to continue their three-monthly visits (February, May, August, October) to people detained in Mariental camp under Decree No. 9 by the Administrator General ("AG 9"). Of the "AG 9" detainees imprisoned in 1978 the number fell from 131 in February to 76 in August; all except one had been released by October. The latter was visited in December in Windhoek prison. Despite repeated approaches by the ICRC to the relevant authorities, in particular during the mission of the delegate-general for Africa to Windhoek in April, the ICRC did not gain access to other detainees in this category who were being held in prisons in this territory.

On the other hand, as in the previous year, delegates visited sentenced security detainees in Windhoek prison in February, June, September and December (seven, ten, ten and eight detainees respectively) and seven "AG 26" detainees seen for the first time in December.

At the same time delegates continued, unsuccessfully, to try to gain access to all security detainees, including people under interrogation.

After the operation mounted by the South African forces in the south of Angola and on the basis of Articles 69, 70 and 126 of the Third Geneva Convention, the ICRC reminded the detaining power of the time-limits set out in the Convention for notifying the names of those who had been captured and it requested access to the prisoners. As a result of this, the ICRC was notified of 15 Angolan prisoners of war. In February and May they were visited in Mariental camp along with 14 other Angolan prisoners of war captured in 1982. They were all released and repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC on 22 and 23 May 1984. (See page 10.)

Assistance

The ICRC continued its aid programme for the families of detainees and recently released detainees as it did in South

Africa. Despite the difficulties encountered in establishing contact with families, some of whom were living in inaccessible regions, the programme increased in 1984. A sum of 68,649 Swiss francs was spent in assisting detainees' families and for the relief supplies given to detainees and prisoners of war during visits. Detainees' families were issued with travel vouchers to enable them to visit their relatives in the prison on Robben Island, in South Africa, or in Namibia/South West Africa.

In October and November delegates conducted various surveys in the north of the country (Ovambo, Kavango, Kaokoland) and to Damaraland and Namaland to find out for themselves the food situation of the population afflicted by conflict or drought or both. As a result of these surveys, aid programmes were set up where necessary and started operating in 1985.

Tracing Agency

In 1984 a total of 320 family messages were exchanged through the Tracing Agency in the Windhoek delegation. It also dealt with more than 100 tracing requests.

Dissemination and information

To improve awareness of international humanitarian law and ICRC activities, delegates gave several lectures accompanied by films, notably on the occasion of a visit to detainees in Mariental camp, and in the hospital in Rundu and to young South African police recruits.

Mozambique

In view of the worsening conflict situation in certain parts of Mozambique the ICRC kept pressing the authorities to allow it to begin assistance work for the civilian victims of the conflict. Despite the urgency of the situation, no assistance work could be undertaken during the year because negotiations continued to be unsuccessful as regards how the ICRC would carry out its work (particularly permission to assess the victims' needs and to participate in and control the distribution of relief supplies to ensure that they reached the people for whom they were intended).

Protection

As a result, on the one hand, of statements by President Samora Machel in Bissau on 20 December 1983, according to which the ICRC was invited to visit some 3,500 "captured elements" and, on the other hand, the mission by the delegate-general for Africa at the end of December 1983 (see the 1983 *Annual Report*), the ICRC offered its services on 3 January

1984 to visit all those who were being detained because of the hostilities. Despite reminders from the delegation in Maputo, no definite reply had been given by the end of December 1984.

As in 1982 and 1983, at the request of families or representatives of the countries of origin, the ICRC was concerned about several foreigners of various nationalities who had been kidnapped by the Mozambique National Resistance Movement. Family messages were forwarded through the ICRC.

Medical assistance

The ICRC's activities to assist Mozambique war disabled, which began on 1 April 1981 with the opening of the orthopaedic centre at the main hospital in Maputo, expanded in 1984. The technical co-operation agreement concluded between the Ministry of Health and the ICRC was renewed for one year, i.e. until 31 March 1985. In April, an extra ten local technicians passed their final exam at the end of two years of training in orthopaedics. Since the centre opened, 534 patients (242 in 1984) were fitted with prostheses manufactured and adjusted at the centre, using locally available raw materials.

In December 1984 two ICRC prosthetists working in Maputo went to the main hospital in Beira and prepared the ground-work for a workshop to repair prostheses, thereby making it no longer necessary for patients to go to the capital.

Zimbabwe

In addition to its activities in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia the ICRC regional delegate based in Harare maintained regular contact with the authorities in Zimbabwe, especially concerning the events in Matabeleland, the problem of Mozambique nationals crossing the border, and the question of protecting people detained because of the events.

In Harare at the beginning of April the delegate-general for Africa, Mr. Bornet, was received by Mr. Mnangagwa, Minister of State for Security, and discussed with him the situation in the interior of the country. He repeated the ICRC's willingness to undertake protection and assistance work and reminded him of the ICRC's offer of services in 1983 regarding access to all people detained or arrested because of the events. By the end of 1984 the ICRC had received no positive reply on this matter.

The delegation supported the Tracing Agency work done by the National Society. It continued to handle some tracing requests and forward family messages coming from or going to other countries in southern Africa.

In connection with dissemination and information a number of ICRC publications and explanatory cassettes illustrating various activities of the ICRC and intended for radio or television broadcasts were sent to the Red Cross Societies in countries covered by the regional delegation in Harare.

Medical assistance

As a result of a mission to Zimbabwe by an ICRC orthopaedic specialist and in response to a request by the Minister for Health, the ICRC decided to establish an orthopaedic centre in Bulawayo, the main city in Matabeleland, for war disabled who are estimated at some 20,000 in this country. This project was started in September by an ICRC orthopaedist. A tripartite agreement was signed on 20 December by the ICRC, the Ministry for Health and the National Society. In running the centre the ICRC is responsible for finance, equipment and staff training while the Ministry for Health and the Zimbabwe Red Cross are concerned more especially with finding and admitting the patients.

ICRC aid, which began in 1983, for the Zimbabwe Project—a charitable organization involved in rehabilitating war victims—ended in June 1984. It consisted in paying optician expenses and buying glasses for former detainees and refugees to a sum of about 3,900 Swiss francs.

Relief supplies

The curfew in force in Matabeleland from January until the end of April and the prohibition on movements caused serious problems in supplying the region. From February to June the ICRC provided blankets and 50 tonnes of high-energy food to aid the victims of these hazardous conditions. These relief supplies were mainly for some 22,000 children attending schools run by the Catholic Commission on Social Service and Development (CCSSD) in the diocese of Matabeleland.

Detainees and their indigent families were also aided when the need arose (three tonnes of beans and 210 blankets).

The total amount of relief supplies distributed in Zimbabwe came to 97,902 Swiss francs.

Other countries

- The ICRC delegate based in Maputo conducted brief missions to **Swaziland** to maintain contact with the authorities and the National Society.
- Between 27 and 29 February the ICRC regional delegate based in Harare was in Maseru to maintain contact with the authorities and the National Society of **Lesotho**.
- On 26 and 27 March, and then again from 10 to 13 December, the same delegate visited **Malawi** to discuss with the National Society the possibilities of co-operating in tracing agency work and dissemination.
- He was also in **Zambia** from 19 to 21 June to assess dissemination and tracing agency activities with the National Society.

Ethiopia

While continuing its traditional activities against the background of the conflict in the Ogaden (protection of Somali prisoners of war being held in Ethiopia, tracing missing people, medical aid and dissemination), the ICRC concentrated mainly on bringing relief supplies to the victims of the internal conflicts whose plight had considerably worsened as a result of the drought, particularly in the north of the country (Tigray, Eritrea and Wollo).

As in 1983, the ICRC was at work wherever possible in close co-operation with the Ethiopian Red Cross. In addition to the joint aid programme which enabled the Ethiopian Red Cross to increase its operational capacity, the ICRC involved the National Society in forwarding mail between prisoners of war and their families and working out with it a dissemination programme on international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles.

In March, November and December 1984 the delegate-general for Africa and his deputy went to Addis Ababa to assess, with the delegation there what the ICRC's objectives should be in response to the situation developing in the field and to adapt aid programmes to new requirements.

In this respect an important stage was reached in March: confronted with a deterioration in the medical-nutritional situation in the north of the country subjected to both drought and the effects of the internal conflicts, and the authorities having accorded new facilities to the ICRC to visit these regions and carry out aid programmes in conformity with the institution's working criteria (assessment, defining programmes, monitoring distributions), the ICRC drew up a new plan of action involving a substantial increase in aid and thereby entailing an expansion in the number of delegates in the field and the necessary logistic back-up. The centre of gravity of the ICRC's relief work was quickly transferred north (Tigray, Eritrea, North Wollo, Gondar), chiefly in the areas not catered for by the programmes run by the Relief and Rehabilitation Committee (RRC), a government body which co-ordinates foreign aid, and where the ICRC is the only active body. In June a new revised budget for the second half of 1984 was submitted to the donors: it was intended to enable the ICRC to reach 120,000 beneficiaries per month. By the end of the year this target had been greatly exceeded with more than twice the number of people (268,000) receiving aid in December.

On 10 July Minister Fikre-Selassie Wogderess, Secretary-General of the Provisional Administrative Military Council and Vice President of the Council of Ministers, was received at headquarters by the Vice-President of the ICRC; he was accompanied by Dr. Dawit Zawde, Chairman of the Ethiopian Red Cross. This provided an opportunity for taking stock of the ICRC's protection and assistance work.

Protection

Against the background of the Ogaden conflict and its consequences, the ICRC was authorized by the Ethiopian government to continue visiting Somali prisoners of war held in Harar. In March it visited 206 prisoners and in October 204 (two of them having died in the meantime) in the Hararge regional prison. During the same months and after permission had been granted by the Minister for Defence in February, delegates were able to register and visit—for the first time—ten prisoners of war captured by the Southern Command and held in Awasa (Sidamo).

On 22 April a fight in Harar prison between prisoners of war and penal law prisoners resulted in the deaths of two prisoners of war and 62 wounded (including 21 prisoners of war). In accordance with Article 121 of the Third Convention, the ICRC immediately requested the Minister for Defence to set up an enquiry into this incident. The very next day a delegate was authorized to visit the prison and succeeded in having the prisoners of war separated from the penal law prisoners, as had been previously demanded by the ICRC consistent with Article 22 of the Third Convention.

Just as in 1983, the ICRC reiterated its request to the Ethiopian authorities that 16 Somali prisoners of war eligible for repatriation under the terms of the Third Convention be released and repatriated on medical grounds. In February, and again in October, the Minister for Defence agreed in principle to this operation. Nevertheless, the way in which this was to be carried out was still being discussed by the end of 1984. Simultaneous contacts were made with the Somali authorities to reach an agreement for the repatriation of 13 Ethiopian prisoners of war.

Finally, despite the agreement in principle reached in December 1980 and numerous approaches made since that date to the relevant authorities, by the end of 1984 the ICRC had still not been authorized to extend its protection work to all people being detained because of the events, particularly the conflicts in the north of the country.

Tracing Agency

Two-hundred and twenty-five family messages were forwarded by the Addis Ababa Tracing Agency in 1984. In accordance with the agreement reached between the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross in August 1983, and renewed in 1984, the National Society was responsible for distributing family messages from Ethiopian prisoners of war held in Somalia and for collecting the replies in the administrative regions of Tigray, Wollega, Gwejam, Hararge and Addis Ababa. The distribution of family messages in Tigray was blocked until November.

In addition, the Addis Ababa Tracing Agency registered prisoners of war that had been visited and processed the relevant data. It also dealt with 266 tracing requests (25 successfully), stemming mainly from the conflict in the Ogaden.

Assistance

For all of 1984 a total of 18,893 tonnes of goods (food, tents, blankets, etc.), to a value of 24.8 million Swiss francs, was distributed by the ICRC (in the regions affected and to prisoners of war). Almost all the activities took the form of food aid, i.e. 18,365 tonnes amounting to 21.8 million Swiss francs; relief aid for prisoners of war alone came to 100,445 Swiss francs. Medical activities cost 421,671 Swiss francs.

IN THE REGIONS AFFECTED BY THE INTERNAL CONFLICTS. — As in previous years all distributions were made in close co-operation with the Ethiopian Red Cross (ERC) as part of the joint ICRC/ERC relief operation.

ICRC experts conducted medical-nutritional surveys at the beginning of 1984 and these revealed that, particularly amongst the population displaced in the conflict regions in the north of the country, the situation was alarming. Consequently the ICRC considerably expanded its assistance. Thus there was an increase in the relief supplies shipped and distributed between the beginning and the end of 1984, rising from 311 tonnes for 31,400 beneficiaries in January to 3,500 tonnes for 268,000 beneficiaries in December, in the provinces of Eritrea, Tigray, Gondar, Wollo, Hararge, Sidamo and Bale (from January to July). Two thirds of the relief supplies were distributed in Tigray and Eritrea, the regions most affected. Nevertheless, given the needs of the people, it was still far from enough.

Beginning in March, the delegates supplied those who were registered in the distribution centres (see below) and their families with full dry rations (instead of half rations distributed hitherto) for one month; this was equivalent to about 2,000 calories daily per person (12 kg of flour, 2 kg of beans, 1.2 kg of vegetable oil). Once they had received their food supplies for one month and having been informed where and when the next distribution would take place the beneficiaries then went back to their villages, if they were in a position to do so, or camped within the vicinity of the distribution point.

During 1984 the main distribution places per administrative region were as follows:

Eritrea: Asmara, Keren, Hagesa, Halhal, Akordat, Barentu, Adi Guadad, Debarwa, Mendefera, Adi Kwala, Dekamhere, Senafe.

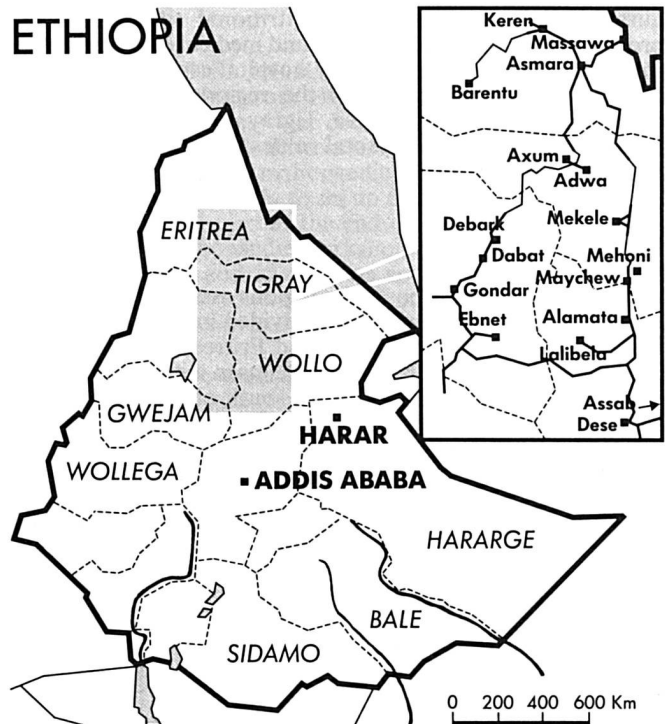
Tigray: Mekele, Quiha, Axum, Adwa, Wikro, Adi Gudum, Ambalage, Mehoni, Maychew.

Gondar: Gondar, Ebnet, Debark, Dabat, Nefas Mewcha, Yifag, Adi Arkay.

Wollo: Alamata, Lalibela, Muja, Sanka.

Hararge: Harar, Grawa, Douk Jijiga, Milikai.

Bale and Sidamo: Chirry Ballo, Chirry Komburta, Aby Sorro, Lalessa, Worka.



The ICRC also started therapeutically feeding children and mothers suffering from serious malnutrition. In Mekele, the capital of Tigray, a special feeding centre was opened and two ICRC nurses in co-operation with staff from the Ethiopian Red Cross were responsible for running it. This centre admitted every month an average of 600 children who received three meals a day of sugar-enriched milk, fats and local bread. To enable more serious cases to be dealt with, these children left the feeding centre once they had reached 80 per cent of normal weight. Given the magnitude of the task, in November 1984 the ICRC began building a second feeding centre in Mekele capable of supplying 1,000 children and their mothers with between four and six meals a day. (This centre was opened on 14 January 1985.) Besides this, a clinic with a capacity for about 50 patients and extra shelter consisting of 30 tents were also being set up. In the same region, the ICRC erected three shelters to protect approximately 500 people from the cold and wind. By the end of the year three other feeding centres were in the course of construction in Maychew (southern Tigray), Axum (northern Tigray) and Adwa (northern Tigray).

In addition, between February and July 1984, the ICRC continued to run its feeding centre in Chirry Ballo (Sidamo) which looked after an average of 110 children a month suffering from malnutrition.

Throughout the year, a doctor responsible for co-ordinating the ICRC's medical activities in Ethiopia, assisted by

nurses, regularly assessed the nutritional situation in the provinces affected. Medicaments and medical equipment were supplied to civilian and military hospital establishments and to clinics and dispensaries in the regions affected by the troubles or the conflict (Eritrea, Tigray, Gondar, Wollo, Bale, Sidamo and Hararge). The total value of this medical aid came to 95,000 Swiss francs.

Logistics

For operational purposes the regions assisted by the ICRC in the north of the country were divided into two zones: the first covers the north of Tigray and Eritrea beginning at the port of Massawa (a warehouse in Asmara with a 3,000-tonne capacity); the second includes the south of Tigray (south of Mekele), the north of Wollo and Gondar and is supplied mainly from the port in Assab (warehouses in Addis Ababa and Dessye, with a capacity of 2,000 and 3,000 tonnes respectively).

Because of enormous difficulties met with in transporting goods by road, particularly towards Axum and Mekele, from June onwards the delegation organized several air lifts to ensure that the necessary relief supplies and logistic equipment arrived regularly in the distribution centres. In addition to a Hercules aircraft chartered by the ICRC for Ethiopia and Angola in June, September, October and the beginning of November, the delegation could occasionally use in November and December large cargo aircraft supplied to the RRC by the governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

As well as 24 lorries and 36 other vehicles, the delegation also had a Twin Otter aircraft since the end of September and used it mainly for transporting medicaments and ICRC staff.

FOR CIVILIAN DISABLED. — In 1982 the ICRC reached an agreement with the Ethiopian Minister for Work and Social Affairs to set up two re-education centres (for physiotherapy and fitting prostheses) intended for civilian war-disabled. One of these centres opened in Asmara in November 1982; the other, in Harar, admitted its first patients in March 1983. In 1984 both these centres considerably increased their production of prostheses (312) and crutches (274); all in all 283 patients were fitted with appliances. The work was carried out by seven ICRC orthopaedic technicians assisted by 25 local employees.

As it had done in similar projects, particularly in Debre Zeit, the ICRC's programme for civilian disabled concentrated on training local staff and making the best use of local materials. The ICRC secured the assistance of the Fund for the Disabled—under the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Work and Social Affairs—which manufactured the components for the prostheses according to ICRC designs. Theoretical and practical courses were organized by ICRC technicians to train local staff over a period of two years; in November 1984, 14 Ethiopian students passed their exams at the end of the course and received their diplomas from the ICRC and the Ethiopian authorities.

FOR PRISONERS OF WAR. — Assistance work was also undertaken on behalf of prisoners of war held in Harar and Awasa. The ICRC gave them food, clothing, articles for hygiene and recreation activities, cooking utensils, blankets and medicaments, all of which came to 100,445 Swiss francs.

Dissemination and information

In April an ICRC delegate joined the delegation to draw up jointly with the Ethiopian Red Cross a programme to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles. An agreement on a joint Ethiopian Red Cross/ICRC project on a national scale was signed on 5 July.

To facilitate expansion in activities and ensure protection for Red Cross staff, the ICRC and the National Society conducted a dissemination campaign which took the form of lectures on international humanitarian law, the Red Cross movement and respect for the emblem; these were delivered to various sectors of the public in Addis Ababa, Mekele, Harar and Asmara. Two thousand brochures on the Red Cross and international humanitarian law were published in Amharic and distributed to a cross-section of readers.

During the last three months of the year an information delegate had to be permanently stationed in Addis Ababa because of the influx of press correspondents. He welcomed to the capital the numerous journalists, distinguished visitors and envoys from National Societies who had come to assess for themselves the extent of the needs and the way in which relief activities were being conducted and took them on a guided tour in the field. In addition, two teams from the ICRC Information Department wrote articles and took photographs for both the press and the National Societies.

Sudan

As in the past, the ICRC tracing and relief work in Sudan had to do with refugees, principally from Ethiopia and Uganda. A new orthopaedic centre for war disabled, set up by the ICRC, came into operation in Kassala at the end of February. In addition, the ICRC sent increasing aid to the provinces in the north of Ethiopia for victims of the conflict situation and the drought.

The ICRC continued relations with the Sudanese authorities. The deputy delegate-general for Africa, on mission to Sudan in March, reviewed with Mr. Mohammed Mubarak, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the ICRC's activities in and from Sudan. At the beginning of December, Mr. Bornet, delegate-general for Africa, met the First Vice-President of the Republic, Mr. Omar El Tayed, in Khartoum to discuss the repercussions on his country of the situation in Ethiopia and an increase in ICRC aid from Sudan. On the same day, a delegation agreement, was signed, between the Sudanese authorities and the ICRC, placing all the facilities for action at our institution's disposal.

On 8 October the Sudanese Ministry for the Interior, Mr. Ali Yassin, was received at the ICRC headquarters by President Hay.

Protection

On 2 October the delegation in Khartoum supplied technical support during the repatriation of 121 Sudanese prisoners of war imprisoned in N'Djamena and took them directly to El Fasher, their place of origin. (See under "Chad" in this Report.) These people were then held for investigation by the Sudanese security forces and later were visited twice by ICRC delegates in October and November. They were provided with material assistance in the form of food, medicaments, mattresses and cooking utensils to a value of 12,000 Swiss francs.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency in Khartoum was involved mainly with refugees from Uganda and Ethiopia, with the help of its "outposts" which had been set up in Gedaref, Kassala, Port Sudan, Juba and Yei, as well as itinerant missions.

All in all the Tracing Agency in Khartoum dealt with 794 new tracing requests in 1984, including 414 about Ethiopian nationals and 380 about Ugandan nationals. It transmitted 476 family messages and reunited 36 families.

Relief work

In 1984 the ICRC stepped up its aid from Sudan for victims of the conflict situation in the north of Ethiopia, particularly in the province of Tigray. Although this relief work (food and various items) had to be suspended for three months, because of the rainy season, it nevertheless came to about 5,300 tonnes of goods (450 tonnes in February; 1,100 tonnes in December) amounting to some 5.3 million Swiss francs. Aid to a value of approximately 54,000 Swiss francs was also provided to Ethiopian prisoners of war in Tigray.

To meet the immediate needs of tens of thousands of people crowded along the Sudanese border, mainly from central Tigray, and given the precarious condition of the relief infrastructure, in November and December the ICRC began emergency distributions for refugees in Safawa camp, near Gedaref, and Tukulabab camp near Kassala. Food and cooking utensils were supplied to a total of 343,135 Swiss francs.

In addition, 92.5 tonnes of food (flour, lentils, sugar, milk, etc.) to a value of 112,475 Swiss francs was given by way of exception because of the really urgent needs to the Swiss Red Cross in Kassala, to Sudanaid in Gedaref and to various other bodies for their aid programmes for newly arrived refugees in the camps along the eastern border.

Medical aid

In December 1983, the ICRC obtained the consent of the Sudanese authorities to open an orthopaedic centre in Kassala for civilian and military war disabled, particularly victims of the conflict situation in Eritrea and Tigray. At the beginning of January an ICRC orthopaedic specialist and a physiotherapist went to Kassala to set up this project. Treatment for the first patients began at the end of February.

In 1984 the orthopaedic workshop in Kassala manufactured 122 prostheses and 19 orthoses and fitted 110 people with appliances. This work was carried out by two ICRC orthopaedic technicians, assisted by a Sudanese apprentice prosthetist.

The ICRC gave medicaments and sanitary equipment to REST for its dispensary in Tigray to a value of 10,600 Swiss francs.

All in all ICRC medical distributions to Sudanese hospitals and centres for displaced people came to more than 420,000 Swiss francs.

Dissemination

In this sphere the delegation concentrated its activities on instructing the Sudanese armed forces about international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross. To this end conferences were organized in February and April for parachute troops from Khartoum and for staff officers from the garrisons in the capital and Kassala. In addition, from 15 to 28 July the ICRC ran a seminar on international humanitarian law for senior officers of the Sudanese army. On this occasion two delegates sent from Geneva gave lectures to about forty people.

Somalia

Since August 1982 the ICRC has had a permanent delegation in Mogadishu and against the background of the conflict in the Ogaden it has been endeavouring to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it in the Conventions.

However, despite several requests, in 1984 the ICRC was not authorized to visit, in accordance with its established criteria, Ethiopian prisoners of war held in Somalia.

Protection

Unlike the previous year, the ICRC was not permitted to continue its visits in 1984 to the 211 Ethiopian prisoners of war and to the Cuban prisoner of war held in Somalia. In point of fact, the authorities did not agree to allow interviews without witnesses as set down in Article 126 of the Third Convention. However, on the occasion of a medical visit, delegates were

able to see prisoners of war held in the main prison in Mogadishu and in Afgoi and Gezira.

As in 1983, on several occasions the ICRC urged that seven Ethiopian prisoners of war eligible for repatriation under the terms of the Third Convention be released and repatriated on medical grounds. It also recommended that six other sick prisoners be repatriated. Likewise, for health reasons, the ICRC requested the repatriation of the Cuban prisoner of war held since 1979 in the prison in Afgoi; this request was backed up by a special approach by President Hay to President Siad Barre in February 1984.

Since the Somalia authorities made no reply and the ICRC having received information to the effect that prisoners of war existed whom it had not so far visited, President Hay wrote to President Siad Barre on 17 July. In this letter he referred to the constructive dialogue which had taken place between them during his mission in August 1983 (see the 1983 *Annual Report*) and regretted that it had not led to any concrete progress. He repeated the three requests made by the ICRC, i.e. access to all prisoners of war on Somali soil in accordance with the institution's criteria; facilities for exchanging family messages (see below) and the repatriation of wounded and sick prisoners. In a written note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs on 3 October addressed to the ICRC delegation the Somali authorities said they were willing to consider repatriating prisoners of war. Nevertheless nothing had been done by the end of 1984.

In November another Ethiopian prisoner of war held in the prison in Mogadishu was registered by the delegates; he had been captured five months previously.

Medical assistance

The dispensaries in the places of detention were provided with medicaments and medical equipment to a value of 3,475 Swiss francs during a medical visit to prisoners of war in May. In addition the ICRC took charge of treating some prisoners suffering from tuberculosis.

As a follow up to a survey conducted in May, Belet Huen hospital and the military hospital in Mogadishu, which both treat war wounded, were given medical aid (surgical equipment, medicaments, dressings) to a value of 42,912 Swiss francs.

Material assistance

In 1984 the ICRC continued to supply material assistance to prisoners of war held in Gazira and in Mogadishu prison, thereby enabling delegates to keep in contact with the detainees. Food and vegetables and then, starting in July, rice, maize, beans, powdered milk and articles for recreation were distributed monthly; the value of this relief came to about 103,300 Swiss francs.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency office in Mogadishu concerned itself mainly with the numerous requests to trace Ethiopians and Somalis who had disappeared as a result of the conflict in Ogaden and with distributing in Somalia family messages from Somali prisoners of war held in Ethiopia. As regards the first activity, 142 tracing requests were dealt with by the Mogadishu Tracing Agency, only 20 of which led to results. When distributing family messages, ICRC delegates did not always benefit from the necessary co-operation on the part of the Somali authorities. In point of fact, although 178 messages had reached the delegation by the beginning of 1984, it was only from March, after several approaches had been made to the authorities, that 131 of them could be transmitted to the governors of the various regions for distribution, first Mogadishu and then other regions in the country. By the end of the year only about 50 replies had been received and distributed by the delegates to the Ethiopian prisoners of war and the Cuban prisoner of war. Similarly, the messages written by the Cuban prisoner of war encountered difficulties in censorship by the Somalis.

All in all, 369 family messages were forwarded by the Agency in Mogadishu.

Dissemination and information

In July and August ICRC delegates took part in regional seminars organized by local sections of the Somali Red Crescent in Hargeisa and Baidoa. To members of the National Society, the local authorities and the press they gave several lectures on international humanitarian law and the ICRC.

About 4,000 students and a number of heads of secondary schools attended a series of four lectures given by delegates to El Jalle camp, on the Red Cross principles and the ICRC's activities.

Along with the Somali Red Crescent Society the ICRC participated in the Mogadishu national fair from 20 October to 10 November. In the ICRC stand delegates replied to visitors' questions and showed films and slides on the Red Cross to an estimated 50,000 people.

Uganda

At the end of September 1983, the ICRC was authorized to open a delegation in Kampala so as to fulfil its mandate to protect detained people and help civilian victims of the internal disturbances resulting from the confrontations between the Ugandan forces and those opposed to the government; these brought about numerous displacements of population, particularly in the district of Luwero, Mpigi and Mubende to the north and north west of Kampala in the area known as the "triangle".

Thanks to an agreement between the ICRC, the Uganda Red Cross and the League, reached on 17 November 1983 for six months and then renewed, with slight changes, until 31 December 1984, it was possible to co-ordinate Red Cross emergency activities on behalf of civilians in the triangle. This agreement made the ICRC responsible for all the Red Cross emergency activities, with support from the National Society and the League which was charged with backing up the Uganda Red Cross with a view to co-operation on a longer term basis.

Practically throughout all the first half of 1984, some 100,000 people per month in the conflict zone benefited from Red Cross emergency activities. Nevertheless, from the end of March onwards those activities came up against the first barrier when the authorities restricted access to beneficiaries in the Luwero district and later, from the middle of May onwards, in the Mubende district. When the delegate-general for Africa, based in Kampala, conducted a survey in May, with the delegation and the Ugandan authorities, of the targets for the second half of the year a reduced aid relief programme was set in motion in the "triangle" although the targets as regards the medical sphere and tracing people remained unaltered.

An incident which occurred on 30 July and another one on 14 August endangered the Red Cross convoys (see below) and, apart from a few emergency expeditions, held up once again the activities in the "triangle". To negotiate their resumption and obtain at least the minimum guarantee of safety, the ICRC sent the Deputy Director of Operational Activities to Kampala to have discussions with Mr. Muwanga, Vice-President and Minister of Defence, and Mr. Smith Opon Ajak, General Chief of Staff. On this occasion it was accepted that the Red Cross could work in the "triangle" and assurances were given as regards delegates' safety.

At the beginning of September when activities had just started up again, another incident occurred on the Hoima road causing work to be suspended once again and the delegate-general for Africa had to go to Kampala in the middle of September. A different approach was suggested by the ICRC and agreed to by Mr. Allimadi, the Prime Minister; this involved the recommencement of Red Cross activities in the conflict zone hand-in-hand with a dissemination campaign to explain the aims and methods of the Red Cross to the armed elements. Nevertheless, after initial contact with the Special Forces of the Police, this work too had to be suspended because the delegates did not receive all the necessary co-operation and support from the authorities concerned.

As a result, all Red Cross activities in the "triangle" zone were suspended as of 4 October. Despite the discussions which Mr. Umbricht, Vice-President of the ICRC, had with Mr. Obote, President of Uganda, in Kampala on 4 December it was not possible to resume work in 1984.

Security

Eleven Red Cross workers (four ICRC delegates and seven local employees) were kidnapped on 7 January, 35 km north of

Kampala and later released safe and sound, some on 9 and the others on 24 January.

Since the situation in the "triangle" had seriously deteriorated, with the government's consent extra security measures were set up. Since June the authorities have been notified on week in advance of delegates' movements.

Despite these precautions, on 30 July a Red Cross convoy on the Wabusana road was brought to a halt by gunfire and an ICRC nurse, a doctor from the Uganda Red Cross and a liaison officer in the leading vehicle were wounded. Other incidents occurred at the Kakiri check-point on the Hoima road on 14 August and 10 September when soldiers stopped Red Cross convoys, fired into the air and threatened the delegates.

Protection

In September 1983, the Ugandan Government authorized the ICRC to visit civilian places of detention throughout the country in accordance with the institution's normal criteria. Visits started on 6 February. First two and then three teams consisting of two delegates and a doctor had access once, twice or thrice to security detainees, and saw a total of 2,867 of them in 90 places of detention (police stations and civilian prisons), including the three large prisons in Kampala, Luzira Upper, Kampala Women and Murchison Bay.

In addition to these visits, which took place in accordance with its criteria, the ICRC made several approaches both to the Vice-President, Mr. Muwanga, and the Minister for the Interior, Mr. Kirunda, to be allowed into military barracks where people were being detained for security reasons and to ensure that the legal period of detention in these interrogation centres was not being exceeded. By the end of 1984 the Ugandan authorities had still not reacted to the ICRC's offer to extend its protection work to people detained by the army.

In the districts of Luwero, Mpigi and Mubende, the ICRC endeavoured to ensure that displaced people were protected against armed attack; on the one hand it did this by having delegates visit the camps from time to time to distribute relief supplies, provide medical assistance and trace people reported missing and, on the other hand, by having repeated contacts with the authorities in Kampala. The delegates drew up a report on this for President Obote.

Tracing Agency

As part of Red Cross assistance work for displaced people in the districts of Lowero, Mpigi and Mubende, ICRC delegates and their colleagues from the National Society endeavoured to reunite dispersed families and facilitate their transfer to places where they could regularly receive assistance. Thus, in 1984, 1,356 families were reunited and 4,563 transfers made. Since work began in December 1983, the Tracing Agency in Kampala successfully dealt with 3,397 tracing requests; 6,595 family messages passed through this office.

After the ICRC's activities in the "triangle" had been suspended, delegates from the Agency, jointly with people from other bodies, organized the transfer of 668 displaced persons from dismantled transit camps to their native villages situated outside the conflict zone and too far away for them to get there unaided.

ICRC delegates involved with the Tracing Agency also set up a post-box network enabling some 2,129 Red Cross messages to be distributed and collected for recipients throughout the country, outside the Kampala region and the "triangle". To do this, delegates contacted the people in charge of the local branches of the Uganda Red Cross and missionaries of various religions.

Delegates visited and registered 2,867 security detainees; 2,483 family messages were exchanged. Furthermore, in 1984 the ICRC continued to help the Uganda Red Cross department which normally deals with requests to trace Rwandese refugees in Uganda and Ugandan refugees in Zaire, Sudan and Kenya jointly with the ICRC's tracing agencies in those countries.

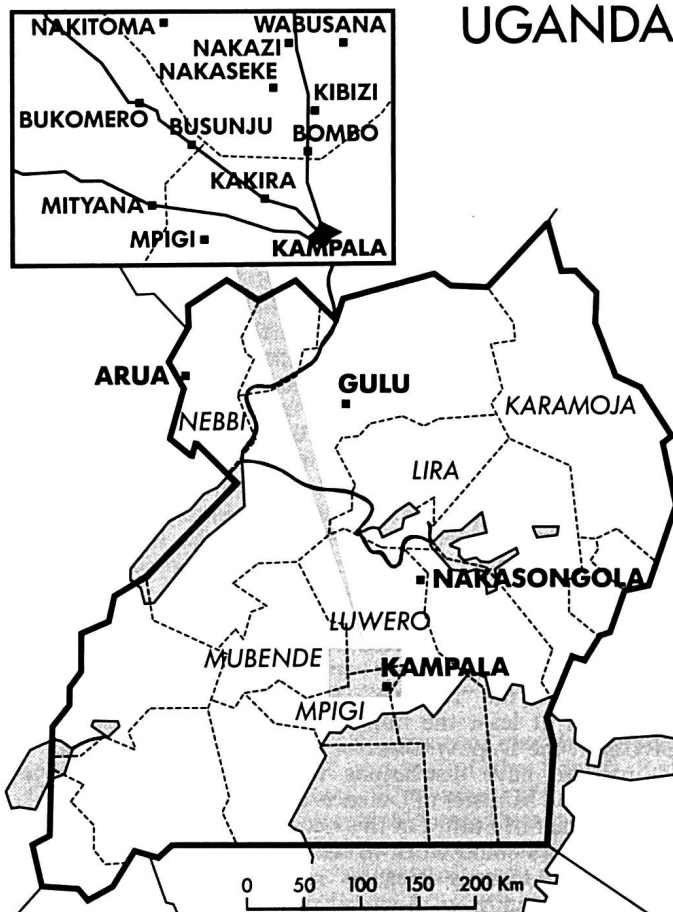
Material assistance

During 1984, 5,271 tonnes of relief supplies, to a value of 3,913,988 Swiss francs, were distributed in Uganda.

Red Cross emergency work started in November 1983 and by April 1984 was benefiting 121,000 displaced people and residents in the districts of Luwero, Mubende and Mpigi. Since the work began, the Red Cross (ICRC and National Society) was responsible for general food distributions while the Save the Children Fund (SCF) ran an intensive auxiliary feeding programme for people suffering from serious malnutrition.

At the beginning of the year, food (rice, maize, beans, oil), blankets, clothing and cooking utensils were distributed on a weekly basis by five joint ICRC/Uganda Red Cross teams. From mid-February onwards, thanks partly to increased supplies of food from the World Food Programme (WFP), daily rations of corn flour increased from 200 to 300 and even 400 grammes, depending on the beneficiaries' nutritional state. In addition, each person received 350 grammes of beans per week. Half way through March, the nutritional situation in the "triangle" was reassessed and showed that the state of the people had noticeably improved. As a result rations were reduced.

From the end of March onwards, the risks involved in travel forced the ICRC gradually to reduce its food distributions and towards the middle of May to stop them altogether. During this period transit camps north of Luwero, were dismantled on the orders of the authorities; their inhabitants were evacuated under the auspices of the Red Cross to the camp in Nakazi, where they had to rely completely on outside help. Likewise, from the middle of May onwards, distributions were suspended and gradually halted in the district of Mubende: the camp in Bukomero was dismantled and its inhabitants taken by the Red Cross to Buzunju.



Since obstacles had been placed in the way of the Red Cross within the "triangle" a plan to phase out assistance work was drawn up after negotiations with Mr. Alimadi, the Prime Minister: food distributions started again from the end of May but were limited to five places in the conflict zone, namely the transit camps in Buzunju, Nakazi and Kibizi, and the hospitals in Mityana and Nakaseke. On account of the above-mentioned restrictions the ICRC also undertook at the end of June an aid programme which, though intended mainly for people resident within the "triangle", also included groups of displaced people awaiting their resettlement. The programme consisted of distributions of items such as second-hand clothes, cooking utensils, tools and seeds, the aim being to encourage the people to become self-reliant.

AD HOC ACTIVITIES. — In March the ICRC distributed five tonnes of food to victims of the conflict situation in the Lira district.

In November and December the ICRC provided back-up facilities and paid the running expenses of relief work by the National Society and the League in Nebbi for drought victims.

Detainees visited by the ICRC were also the recipients of assistance. They were given blankets, mattresses, food, clothing, toilet articles and recreation items to a value of 149,700 Swiss francs.

Medical assistance

During the first months of the year seven medical teams (including one responsible for the vaccination programme and another responsible for hygiene matters), consisting of staff from the Uganda Red Cross and ICRC doctors and nurses, were very active in the "triangle", taking care of an average of 100,000 displaced people per month. In co-operation with OXFAM, SCF and the Uganda Red Cross, ICRC delegates assessed the state of nutrition of the displaced people, drew up rehabilitation programmes and selected those patients most in need of their care. Thus, until the month of September, most of the displaced people inside the transit camps regularly received food and attained a degree of self-sufficiency. Unfortunately, since relief work in this region had to be suspended because of hazardous conditions the Red Cross was prevented from continuing to monitor the medical and nutritional state of these people.

The Uganda Red Cross team in charge of the immunization programme, assisted by the League and the SCF, carried out some 20,000 vaccinations (BCG, DPT, polio, measles). Once activities had been suspended in the conflict zone the vaccination campaign continued in the schools and hospitals of Kampala.

The ICRC was also involved in supplying drinking water to the camps for displaced people and conducted work to this end (ten wells and water reservoirs were made; seven sources protected). Likewise, toilet facilities were constructed at "Yellow House" and the Mulago hospital in Kampala. All these activities were supervised by two sanitation experts seconded to the ICRC by the Red Cross Societies of Australia and New Zealand.

The medical teams had the support of the ICRC laboratory that had been set up in January 1984 and the central pharmacy that had been opened in Kampala. People from the hospital in Kampala or others waiting to be returned to their families in safe areas were admitted to "Yellow House" and taken care of by delegates. This place consists of a group of buildings forming an annex to Mulago hospital in Kampala; it has been entirely refitted and is being financed by the ICRC.

As mentioned above, medical activities were considerably reduced from September onwards because delegates were no longer allowed to go inside the "triangle" for security reasons. The medical staff was therefore reduced from twelve people in July to six in December. During the final months of 1984, delegates concentrated their activities on Kampala and the surrounding area.

For 1984 as a whole, the ICRC supplied medicaments and medical equipment to a value of 431,000 Swiss francs for displaced people, 16,186 Swiss francs for prisoners and 51,906 Swiss francs for hospitals and dispensaries.

Dissemination and information

That the people assisted might be better protected and the safety of all relief bodies in the field increased, the ICRC set up an information and dissemination programme on international humanitarian law, on the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and on the way in which the Red Cross operates. The programme consisted of lectures with booklets being handed out and was aimed mainly at the Ugandan armed forces (UNLA), the local authorities, police and prison officers, prisoners, school-children and the staff of the National Society.

In September, as a result of several incidents involving Red Cross staff (see above), the ICRC adopted a new approach concentrating on a campaign to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross to the armed forces and the police along the main routes where it was working (the Bombo and Hoima roads).

On 21 and 24 September this exercise was carried out at four check posts before an audience of some 80 people mainly from the Special Forces of the Police. By contrast, by the end of 1984 the ICRC had not been authorized to initiate a dissemination programme for officers and soldiers in the UNLA.

Kenya

The ICRC regional delegation in Nairobi covers not only Kenya but also Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Seychelles and Tanzania. In addition, it acts as a logistic basis for assistance activities in Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. As early as 1983, a delegate specially in charge of dissemination was attached to the regional delegation with a view to promoting dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and ICRC co-operation with the National Societies in the countries covered from Nairobi.

As regards protection, the ICRC reminded the Kenyan authorities of its offer of services made on 30 August 1982 with a view to obtaining access to people arrested during the attempted *coup d'état* on 1 August of the same year. After the troubles which occurred in the district of Wajir (north east) at the beginning of 1984, the ICRC told the government that it was willing to conduct a survey in the affected area in the expectation that the victims might need assistance and protection.

The Tracing Agency in Nairobi dealt with 90 tracing requests (31 of which led to success) and exchanged 144 family messages between various African and European countries. These activities were largely the result of the situation in Uganda: tracing people in Uganda because of requests from Sudan, Zaire, Rwanda or, conversely, tracing people in these countries and in Europe because of requests from Kampala;

exchanging family messages between these same countries, in particular, between people detained in Uganda and their relatives in Kenya and Tanzania; confirming the validity of education diplomas at the request of Ugandan refugees. The Agency in Nairobi issued 61 travel documents for Ugandans, Ethiopians, South Africans and Mozambicans who had obtained authorization to rejoin their families in Canada, the United States, Netherlands and Sweden.

As regards dissemination and information, the ICRC endeavoured to bring about a greater awareness of international humanitarian law: on the one hand it reminded the authorities of the Additional Protocols to which Kenya is not yet a party; on the other hand it gave lectures on this law and the activities of the Red Cross to senior police officers, people in charge of prisons, staff members from the Kenya Red Cross, participants in various training courses organized by this Red Cross Society and, for the first time, to instructors in the Kenyan armed forces. Moreover, it was possible to reach a wide public by means of radio and television broadcasts and by distributing booklets in schools.

Madagascar

To maintain ICRC relations with the National Society and the authorities in Madagascar, three missions were carried out to Tananarive in May, June and November. They concentrated mainly on dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Red Cross: the purpose was to help the National Society draw up a programme for this and, with the Ministry for Defence to establish a similar programme for the armed forces. During these missions, several lectures were given to various audiences: the armed forces, police, medical personnel, university circles, civil servants and members of the Malagasy Red Cross.

Mauritius

The regional delegate in Nairobi went on mission to the Island of Mauritius in February to renew contact with representatives of the National Red Cross Society and to lay the basis for a dissemination programme on international humanitarian law. A second mission was undertaken to this country in May by a dissemination delegate who gave several lectures to members of the National Society, the armed forces and university students.

Tanzania

Delegates based in Nairobi visited this country on four separate occasions (February, July, August and December) to

keep up dialogue with the authorities and the Tanzania Red Cross. Detention for political reasons, the implementation of the Additional Protocols and dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law amongst the armed forces, the police and prison administrations were some of the subjects touched upon with the authorities. To this end, several lectures were given in Dar es Salaam and Arusha to various audiences: the armed forces, medical personnel, members of the Tanzania Red Cross and future diplomats.

Others countries

Two missions were also undertaken to the **Seychelles** (April-May) and the **Comoros** (October) to expedite the processing of files in these countries in connection with acceding to the Conventions and the Protocols and to enter into contact with the emerging National Societies.

Central and West Africa

Chad

In the context of the conflict in Chad, the ICRC endeavoured to carry out its mandate as set out in the Conventions on behalf of the parties involved. This concerned two spheres of action: protecting people who had been captured during the fighting, informing their families and giving direct assistance where necessary; providing medical aid to civilian and military war wounded.

At the end of January, after several months of negotiations, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation informed the ICRC delegation in N'Djamena that the Chad authorities had agreed in principle to the ICRC's resuming its activities in the capital and the provinces. These had been suspended since August 1983.

In the north of Chad, in the GUNT (*Gouvernement d'Union Nationale de Transition*) area, the ICRC delegation which opened in November 1983 in Bardai suspended its protection and assistance activities at the end of May because of the difficulties which prevented the ICRC from seeing all the prisoners of war detained by this movement. After this withdrawal, an ICRC delegate remained on in Sabhah (Libya) so as to continue negotiations. Since these were unsuccessful he returned to Geneva at the end of July.

Protection

From March 1984 onwards ICRC delegates, accompanied by a doctor from Geneva, regularly visited the prison in

N'Djamena; here, in conformity with the institution's usual criteria, they saw a total of 657 prisoners of war and 22 people detained on security grounds. Throughout the year the delegation ensured that the prison was visited weekly so that prisoners could receive medical and food aid because needs there were particularly pressing and noticeable. There were also two medical visits to three wounded prisoners of war in the hospital in the military base in Adji Kossei, near N'Djamena.

In 1984 delegates visited a total of 84 prisoners of war in the detention centres in Biltine (two visits), Abéché and Kalait in the provinces. In addition they carried out several missions to try and find any prisoners of war in the prefectures of Batha, Guera and Kanem (in May), and to provinces in the south of the country, Tanjile, and the eastern and western parts of Logone (August). No prisoners of war were discovered since they had been transferred to N'Djamena after having been captured and placed under the jurisdiction of the Directorate for Documentation and Security (DDS).

On 2 October 121 Sudanese prisoners (including nine medical cases) held in prison in N'Djamena were repatriated in accordance with their wishes directly to El Fasher, their place of origin. Preparations for this operation had been going on since July; it took place under the auspices of the ICRC in the presence of the Minister for the Interior of Sudan. Delegates based in Khartoum saw these former detainees twice in El Fasher.

Because the state of health of a number of prisoners of war gave cause for concern, President Habré was sent a letter on 16 July requesting that 37 Chad prisoners of war who were disabled or seriously ill be released in accordance with Article 110 of the Third Convention. Ten detainees were released in August; the delegation attended to their medical needs and to the administrative formalities.

Pursuant to its offer of services submitted to the Minister for the Interior in November 1982, and the steps which it had taken in 1983, the ICRC reiterated in April, and then in June, when the deputy delegate-general for Africa was on mission, its request to be admitted to places of detention housing political detainees under the jurisdiction of the DDS, the Special Rapid Intervention Brigade (BSIR) and the Presidency. By December 1984 there had been no positive reply.

Finally, concerned at the tense situation in certain areas in the south of the country, the ICRC asked the Government in N'Djamena for permission to visit those areas in order to assess the civilian population's needs and, if necessary, provide protection and assistance. By the end of the year, no positive reply had been received.

Between January and the end of May 1984, delegates conducted two series of visits to four places in Tibesti in the north of the country and had access to 185 prisoners, including ten people detained for political reasons. At the same time the ICRC made further overtures (unsuccessfully) to various levels of the GUNT and of Libya to be allowed to visit all the prisoners of war held in Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti (BET).

Assistance

An ICRC doctor took part in visits to prisoners of war held in government hands. Dispensaries in places of detention were provided with what they needed in the line of medicaments and medical equipment to a value of 51,698 Swiss francs; food and various other items, to a total of 312,000 Swiss francs, were distributed to detainees.

When the ICRC examined the situation in the prison in N'Djamena, it decided to provide emergency medical treatment to a large number of detainees and supply them with hygiene materials and food. After providing the prisoners of war with everything they needed for four days, the ICRC limited itself to providing weekly deliveries of cereals, meat, vegetables and protein tablets. In addition it regularly distributed soap and disinfectant and, from time to time, cooking utensils and clothing. Sixteen visits were carried out by the ICRC doctor or nurse in 1984 to monitor the detainees' medical and nutritional state.

Seriously concerned at the lack of any way to evacuate prisoners for treatment in the main hospital in N'Djamena, on several occasions the ICRC insisted that means be found to send them there. Despite an agreement in principle with the Chad Government, only one urgent case was transferred, on 26 September, to the hospital in N'Djamena.

Amongst the team of delegates sent by the ICRC to Bardai were a doctor and a nurse who took part in visits to prisoners in Tibesti. These visits were accompanied by distributions of relief supplies (vegetable fat, vitamin biscuits, sardines, soap, blankets and kitchen equipment) to an overall value of 9,000 Swiss francs. Together with local health officials, the ICRC doctor and nurse examined the nutritional state of the civilian population and, for difficult cases, gave consultations twice a week in the hospital in Bardai. A limited training programme for health personnel started in mid-January.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency in N'Djamena registered the prisoners of war that had been visited and handled formalities for their transfer or release. Either directly, or through the offices of religious missions or humanitarian bodies, the Agency forwarded 2,481 Red Cross messages between prisoners and their families. It dealt with 139 tracing requests.

The Tracing Agency which was operating in Bardai from November 1983 to May 1984 dealt with 72 tracing requests; 161 family messages passed through this office.

Zaire

In addition to Zaire, the regional delegation in Kinshasa covers Burundi, the Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon and Rwanda.

As in the past the main work of the ICRC in Zaire was to protect detained people. Moreover, the ICRC increased its co-

operation with the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zaire, particularly as regards dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

After the confrontations which occurred in November in the region of Moba, the ICRC obtained authorization to assess the needs of the people affected and to assist them. At the same time, approaches were made with a view to obtaining permission to visit those who had been arrested.

Protection

The ICRC's protection work in Zaire was impeded several times during the first half of 1984. Consequently, the delegate-general for Africa went to this country in June to assess the situation with President Mobutu; the latter agreed to the ICRC's continuing its visits to all places of detention which might be holding people for security reasons. From July onwards visits were being made again at their normal rate.

In 1984, delegates visited a total of 158 people who were being detained for security reasons in 20 places of detention in Kinshasa, Kisangani, Lubumbashi, Kolwesi and Mbuji Mayi. In the capital the ICRC had access to the premises of the National Police Force (B2), from July onwards, and to those of the Military Security Headquarters (G2) twice a month; to the premises of the "National Documentation Agency" (AND, formerly CNRI) once a month, from July onwards; to the military prison in N'Dolo, every three months; and to the prison in Makla belonging to the Department of Justice. Fifteen places of detention were visited in the provinces.

In addition, after the armed confrontations which occurred on 13 November in the region of Moba (Shaba province), the ICRC made approaches to obtain permission to visit people arrested because of the events.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency in Kinshasa registered the security detainees who had been visited. It informed families when their relatives were being held in detention and forwarded 311 Red Cross messages between the detainees and their families. When dealing with official notifications of transfers or releases of detainees, the Agency in Kinshasa checked the information with former detainees or with their relatives.

At the request of their families, the Agency dealt with requests to trace people both in Zaire and abroad. An outpost in Aru, Upper Zaire, concerned itself with Ugandan refugees who continued to flow into this region and endeavoured to re-establish family ties within the region and abroad. In 1984, 621 tracing requests were handled by the delegation, including 347 successfully, in co-operation with the Tracing Agencies in Khartoum, Kampala and Nairobi.

Assistance

On the basis of a survey conducted by an ICRC delegate accompanied by a doctor from the Red Cross Society of the

Republic of Zaire in the east of Shaba which had been affected by the hostilities of 13 November, an emergency aid programme for the civilian population in need was begun in December: an ICRC delegate spent several weeks in Moba organizing and supervising the distributions of food (64 tonnes) and blankets for some 8,650 beneficiaries. The local medical services were provided with a batch of medications. These operations came to approximately 67,500 Swiss francs.

In the wake of its protection work, the ICRC assisted people in detention by distributing relief supplies (food, soap, blankets, toilet items, leisure articles and individual medications depending on needs) and gave medical equipment to dispensaries in places of detention—all of this amounting to a total of 22,400 Swiss francs. Detainees' families who were in need received food aid.

The total amount of assistance distributed by the ICRC in Zaire in 1984 came to 106,368 Swiss francs.

Dissemination and information

Together with officials from the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zaire ICRC delegates drew up a dissemination programme for the capital of Zaire and its suburbs to improve awareness of the Red Cross movement, its fundamental principles and international humanitarian law. A group of dissemination workers trained by the ICRC was set up within the National Society and began work in January, organizing some 75 lectures for audiences totalling about 9,500 people (medical and paramedical personnel, teachers, students, members of the National Society). In addition, the ICRC organized dissemination meetings intended more specifically for members of the armed forces and government circles. In 1984 delegates gave 32 lectures illustrated with films and followed by discussions to approximately 7,000 people.

The above-mentioned efforts at dissemination especially among the general public, received an added impetus when the head of the ICRC Legal Division visited Kinshasa in May.

Rwanda

In November 1984 four ICRC delegates, including a doctor, began a series of visits to six places of detention where security detainees were being held; however, because of restrictions as to how these visits should take place, in particular the refusal to accept the principle of interviews without witnesses with certain security detainees in Ruhengeri prison, the visits were suspended; it had not been possible to recommence them in 1984 despite the approaches that had been made, particularly to the Minister for Justice, Mr. Vianney Mugemana, and a message from President Hay to the President of the Rwanda Republic, Mr. Habyarimana. During this curtailed series of visits, delegates had access to 36 security detainees in Kigali, Gitarama and Butare.

In places of detention in Kigali, Ruhengeri and Gisenye the ICRC undertook sanitation works (construction of septic tanks, improving water distribution). An ICRC sanitary engineer went on two occasions, in February-March and June, to initiate the work and check how it was progressing. In addition, through the Rwandese Red Cross, the ICRC provided the detainees with a modest amount of medical and material aid and gave financial support for fitting out cells in three prisons.

In 1984 the total value of these operations came to around 11,500 Swiss francs.

In Rwanda ICRC delegates gave their attention also to the developing of co-operation with the Red Cross Society of that country. Working meetings were held to organize and develop the National Society's activities as regards tracing people and disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law. In July a delegate sent from Geneva took part in a seminar on the principles and activities of the Red Cross, organized by the Rwandese Red Cross for senior officials from certain ministries and from the National Society. In addition, an ICRC delegate gave eight lectures to some 2,700 people in Kigali, Ruhengeri and Butare during a two-week visit in November; he also took part in an exhibition on the occasion of the Rwandese Red Cross Society's twentieth anniversary.

Congo

In 1984 ICRC delegates based in Kinshasa conducted several missions to Congo to have discussions with the authorities and the directors of the National Society of that country. In co-operation with the Congolese Red Cross the delegate in charge of dissemination organized a joint exhibition which was held in Brazzaville (March) and Pointe Noire (April). On these two occasions he gave lectures on international humanitarian law and the Red Cross movement to a large audience.

As part of the dissemination efforts begun by the ICRC in the Congo, the head of the ICRC's Legal Division went to Brazzaville and gave several lectures. He also met the Minister for Defence who agreed in principle to a dissemination campaign on international humanitarian law for the armed forces.

Togo

In November 1982 the ICRC reactivated its regional delegation in Lomé; in addition to Togo this delegation covers Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

In 1984, a regional delegate, a delegate in charge of disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law and an administrator were based at the regional delegation in Lomé. Their general objectives:

- To establish and maintain relations with the governments and the National Societies of the above-mentioned countries;
- To make known the ICRC's activities, particularly as regards protection;
- To remind those States which are not party to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols that these texts exist and, with the National Society's help, encourage the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law amongst various sectors;
- To participate, in co-operation with the League, in the development of the National Societies, mainly as regards information and dissemination.

In Togo delegates maintained relations with senior officials and members of the Executive Committee of the Togolese Red Cross. A development plan was worked out jointly for this Society centring mainly on preparedness for emergency relief and the training of dissemination officials and of relief and hygiene workers. A co-operation agreement between the ICRC and the Togolese Red Cross was reached during the mission to Lomé by the deputy delegate-general for Africa in November.

As regards the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law, ICRC delegates gave many lectures illustrated with films on the Red Cross movement and the Geneva Conventions to various audiences (senior officials from certain ministries, the police, members of the National Society, and the general public). The delegation was also authorized by the Head of State to launch a dissemination programme for the armed forces.

Benin

In the course of the year ten or so missions were carried out to Benin. The ICRC's main task in this country was to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Red Cross. The ICRC encouraged the authorities to accede to the 1977 Additional Protocols to which, as yet, Benin is not a party. By having a delegate regularly on hand at the Red Cross of Benin, the ICRC helped in the development of this National Society's information service, particularly by taking part in the in-depth training programme for two groups of dissemination officials from the local sections in Cotonou and Porto Novo. On several occasions, delegates gave the staff of the National Society lectures, accompanied by films, on the Red Cross movement in general and on the work of the ICRC in particular. In close co-operation with the Red Cross of Benin, the ICRC strengthened the basis of a dissemination programme for other sections of the public (local media, university circles, training schools, armed forces)—a programme favourably received by the authorities.

As regards protection, a mission was carried out in July by the regional delegate based in Lomé to assess the situation of security detainees with senior officials from the Justice Department, the Ministry of the Interior and the Prison Service. When the Head of State was re-elected in September an amnesty was proclaimed for all administrative and security detainees with the exception of those who had been convicted after the attempt to land mercenaries in 1977.

Burkina Faso

Two missions were carried out to Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) in January and August mainly to establish contacts with the directors of the National Society and government ministries concerned with the activities of the Red Cross, i.e. Health, Information, Defence and the Interior. With the technical and financial backing of the ICRC a plan was drawn up—and accepted by the authorities—for a national information programme to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles. Furthermore, in August an ICRC dissemination delegate participated in organizing and running a training camp for instructors from the Burkina Be Red Cross.

Cape Verde

From 28 May to 3 June an ICRC delegate took part in a seminar organized by the Red Cross of Cape Verde and the League to give senior staff members from the National Society training in dissemination and information.

Gambia

The regional delegate visited Gambia twice, in June and October, to have discussions with the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Health, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, the Commissioner for Prisons and those in charge of the Gambia Red Cross.

The ICRC's offer to visit people arrested after the attempted *coup d'Etat* of 29 July 1981 did not meet with any success because the authorities in Gambia were opposed to the detainees' being interviewed without witnesses before they had been tried. During these missions the ICRC delegate drew the authorities' attention to the 1977 Additional Protocols and encouraged the Gambian Government to accede to these instruments.

In addition, there were numerous meetings with the directors of the National Red Cross during which stock was taken of the activities of this Society. Lectures on international humanitarian law were given to members of the Gambia Red Cross.

Ghana

In Ghana the ICRC continued its efforts to obtain access to people detained after the *coup d'Etat* of 31 December 1981 and the later attempted *coup d'Etat*. The regional delegate went to Accra three times; he reminded the Ghanaian authorities of the ICRC's role and the criteria according to which it worked to protect detainees and he repeated the institution's offer of services. No definitive reply had been given by the end of 1984; however, the Government proclaimed several amnesties for some of those detained for security reasons.

The missions to Ghana also provided opportunities for numerous discussions with the directors of the Ghana Red Cross on the Society's activities and the ICRC's contribution to their development. In January an ICRC delegate took part in a training course organized by the Ghana Red Cross for 53 youth leaders from all parts of the country.

In addition, ICRC delegates kept in contact with people from the armed forces and the university with a view to promoting international humanitarian law.

Guinea

In June and December the regional delegate in Lomé went to Conakry and had discussions with the Ministers of Health, Social Affairs, Defence, the Interior and Justice and other members of the new government. The main objectives of these missions were as follows:

- To encourage Guinea to accede to the Geneva Conventions and their two Additional Protocols (it did so on 11 July);
- To examine the problem of protecting detainees and explain the ICRC's work in this sphere;
- To establish contacts with circles interested in international humanitarian law with a view to setting up a dissemination programme;
- To support the creation of a National Red Cross Society.

Liberia

At the invitation of the Liberian Red Cross the regional delegate in Lomé visited Monrovia from 29 February to 7 March; He took stock of the various activities of this Society and helped it to define its objectives, particularly as regards information and preparedness for emergency relief operations. There were also several discussions with the Liberian authorities, in particular with the Ministers of Justice, Defence and the Interior. They were reminded of the importance of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions with a view to persuading Liberia to accede to these instruments.

Mali

During a mission to Mali by the regional delegate from 10 to 20 October the Malian authorities were encouraged to accede to the 1977 Additional Protocols. The delegate conferred also with the Mali Red Cross with a view to laying the basis for co-operating with this National Society, mainly as regards information and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

Niger

In January two ICRC delegates went to Niamey and met the directors of the Red Cross Society of Niger, they explained how the ICRC could help develop a National Society and what its criteria were for co-operating. The occasion was taken to refer to the existence of detention for security reasons in the aftermath of the attempted *coup d'Etat* of 6 October 1983.

Senegal

The regional delegate carried out two missions to Senegal, one in March and another in October. He had several

discussions with the people in charge of the Senegalese Red Cross with a view to setting up an information programme within the National Society. In addition, there were contacts with the police and the army to encourage the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law. Finally, the importance of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions was stressed with a view to Senegal's accession to these instruments.

Sierra Leone

In May the regional delegate took part in a seminar organised by the Sierra Leone Red Cross and gave several lectures accompanied by films to very diverse audiences (officers of the armed forces and the police, representatives from the ministries, students and members of the National Society). On this occasion the delegate had helpful meetings with the ruling authorities of the country concerning the accession of Sierra Leone to the Additional Protocols, the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the role of the ICRC in case of armed conflicts.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1984

AFRICA

Country	Beneficiaries	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnage	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
Angola	Displaced civilians, disabled persons, detainees	3,867	4,591,867	426,798	5,018,665
Chad	Detainees, displaced civilians	205	353,236	66,561	419,797
Ethiopia	Displaced civilians, prisoners of war, disabled persons	18,893	24,869,625	421,671	25,291,296
Mozambique. . . .	Disabled persons	—	—	348,351	348,351
Namibia	Detainees and their families	43	65,072	3,577	68,649
Rwanda	Detainees and their families	1	2,764	11,453	14,217
Somalia	Prisoners of war, hospitals	28	103,277	46,387	149,664
South Africa . . .	Detainees and their families, refugees	250	323,125	—	323,125
Sudan	Repatriated prisoners of war, National Society	14	79,548	—	79,548
Sudan (conflict in Tigre and Eritrea)	Displaced civilians, prisoners of war	5,645	5,825,047	421,108	6,246,155
Uganda.	Displaced civilians, detainees, National Society	5,271	3,913,988	501,488	4,415,476
Zaire	Detainees and their families, displaced civilians	68	92,148	14,220	106,368
Zimbabwe	Civilians, refugees	62	97,902	3,894	101,796
TOTAL		34,347	40,317,599	2,265,508	42,583,107