

# Latin America

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross**

Band (Jahr): - **(1987)**

PDF erstellt am: **29.06.2024**

## **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

## **Haftungsausschluss**

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

# LATIN AMERICA

As in the previous year, it was in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Chile and Peru that the ICRC conducted the bulk of its protection and assistance activities in Latin America in 1987. ICRC delegates were also active elsewhere, in particular visiting security detainees in Colombia, Paraguay and Suriname. In addition, the ICRC maintained contacts with the governments and National Societies of the Latin American continent so as to encourage ratification of the Additional Protocols of 1977 and promote the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law. A number of seminars were organized at the national level (see below the sections on "Dissemination" in each country) and at the regional level.

The ICRC maintained an average of 85 delegates in Latin America (including administrative personnel), assisted by over 250 local employees and assigned to four delegations (Chile, Nicaragua, Peru, El Salvador) and three regional delegations (Argentina, Colombia and Costa Rica). The staffs of the El Salvador and Nicaragua delegations continued to be the largest: on average about 30 delegates assisted by over 110 local employees in El Salvador and some 30 delegates assisted by 120 or so local employees in Nicaragua. In 1987, the regional delegations covered the following countries:

- **The regional delegation in Buenos Aires:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay;
- **The regional delegation in Bogotá:** Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela and the Lesser Antilles;
- **The regional delegation in San José:** Costa Rica, Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

At the end of the year, delegations were in the process of being established in Haiti and Suriname.

Taking into account the balance available and contributions in kind, a special global appeal for funds was launched to raise 23,901,200 Swiss francs for the ICRC's activities in Central America in 1987. Its activities in the other Latin American countries were financed from the ICRC's regular budget.

## Central America and the Caribbean

### EL SALVADOR

In accordance with the provisions of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and with Additional Protocol II, the ICRC pursued its protection and assistance work in connection with the conflict prevailing in El Salvador, whilst closely following developments in the peace process between the government and the opposition. Protection and assistance for persons detained on account of the events and for the civilian population in regions affected by the conflict continued to be its main concerns. A noteworthy event in respect of the detention situation was the amnesty law passed by the government on 27 October, under which 462 security prisoners were released as of 5 November. The ICRC also gave particular attention to a change in approach in its relief work, with a view to making certain populations self-sufficient and less dependent on food distributions.

Throughout the year, the ICRC, in particular the head of delegation in San Salvador, kept in constant contact with the Salvadorean civil and military authorities to discuss its activities and problems encountered. During a mission to El Salvador by the delegate-general for Latin America in February, talks were held with, among others, the President of the Republic, Mr. José Napoleón Duarte; General Vides Casanova, Minister of Defence; General Blandon Mejía, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces; and Dr. Acevedo Peralta, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

To ensure the smooth operation of its humanitarian work, and in view of the undertakings given by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to respect international humanitarian law, the ICRC also maintained regular contacts with the opposition, especially when conducting activities in the field.

In its discussions with the government authorities and FMLN representatives, the ICRC continued its efforts to uphold the idea of "humanizing the conflict" by encouraging application of the rules of international humanitarian law. It stressed in particular that every wounded or sick person is entitled to receive adequate medical care (entailing respect for medical personnel and transports protected by the Red Cross emblem and measures to facilitate the evacuation of wounded combatants who cannot be properly treated on the spot). It

pointed out further that the civilian population must not be the object of attack, threats or reprisals, nor must property essential for its needs. The ICRC expressed particular concern about the consequences that mine-laying could have for the civilian population.

Lastly, fulfilling its role as a neutral intermediary, and at the request of the parties involved, the ICRC escorted the representatives of the FMLN-FDR to and from the meetings during the third round of talks between the government and the opposition, from 4 to 6 October. This was one of the many occasions when the Committee enjoyed efficient backing from the Salvadorean Red Cross, which mobilized large-scale first-aid support.

### Activities for persons detained in connection with the conflict

As in the past, and although the state of emergency was not extended beyond mid-January, visits to persons de-

tained on account of the conflict constituted a major part of the ICRC's work in 1987. With the agreement of the Salvadorean authorities, delegates again had regular access in accordance with the institution's criteria to 75 places of detention and seven hospitals, in both the capital and the provinces, visiting a total of 812 new detainees. Visits were made not only to the places under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice (penitentiaries, including Mariona and Ilopango prisons, municipal prisons and juvenile detention centres), but also, and above all, to temporary places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Public Security, i.e., the armed forces' military garrisons and *commandancias locales*, as well as the premises of the Security Corps (National Guard, National Police and *Policía de Hacienda*).

Centring its attention on temporary places of detention, the ICRC continued its efforts to gain access to security detainees as soon as possible after their arrest; it was usually informed of arrests and granted subsequent access to detainees, in accordance with the procedures agreed



upon with the Salvadorean authorities.

On 5 November, as part of the peace process and in accordance with the Esquipulas II agreements, the Salvadorean Government issued a general amnesty decree which resulted in the release of 462 detainees (447 from Mariona prison and 15 from Ilopango penitentiary). The remaining 15 security detainees at Mariona prison were transferred to different penitentiaries in El Salvador where they were visited by the ICRC in December.

Throughout the year, medical and material assistance (toiletries, medicines, spectacles, mattresses, clothing) worth 114,500 Swiss francs was given to all inmates of penitentiary centres visited, according to requirements. At Christmas, special parcels were distributed to all detainees visited by the ICRC in the country.

\*  
\* \*

In view of the FMLN's pledge to respect international humanitarian law and especially the provisions of that law concerning the treatment to which captives are entitled, the ICRC endeavoured to protect military personnel and civilians captured by the Front. In particular, it called upon FMLN officials to ensure that it was notified of any prisoners taken, that detainees were treated in keeping with the provisions of international humanitarian law, that they were allowed to receive visits from the ICRC and to exchange messages with their families and, finally, that replies were provided to tracing enquiries.

In 1987, the ICRC gained access to a number of civilians detained by the Front and received 62 replies to tracing enquiries concerning persons reported missing and presumed to be in the hands of the FMLN. In addition, the FMLN released several members of the armed forces, usually soon after their capture, whom the ICRC escorted back to the military authorities. Several released civilians were also handed over to the ICRC.

### **Operations for the release of detainees and evacuation of the seriously wounded**

Further to an agreement concluded between the Salvadorean Government and the opposition in Panama on 26 January 1987, at the request of the parties involved and as a strictly neutral intermediary, the ICRC organized several operations for the release of prisoners and the evacuation of seriously wounded persons:

□ On 29 January, 39 wounded guerrillas were evacuated to another country on board a plane chartered by the ICRC, accompanied by ICRC delegates and doctors who had previously ascertained that they wished to leave (3 guerrillas had elected to remain in El Salvador).

□ On 2 February, an officer of the government armed forces was released by the FMLN in Perquín in north Morazán, at the same time as 57 security prisoners detained by the government were released in San Salvador. The operation was carried out with the help of 17 ICRC delegates in Perquín and San Salvador.

□ On 4 March, 20 war disabled were evacuated by air under ICRC auspices to host countries. Again in March, in the presence of the ICRC and of the Salvadorean church, the FMLN released the mayors of three villages.

□ On 28 June, 98 war disabled were evacuated to other countries under ICRC auspices.

□ In parallel with the talks which took place between the FMLN and the authorities (reported on above) on 3 and 4 October, the ICRC supervised the release of a government soldier and a mayor detained by the opposition, as well as the evacuation of four wounded members of the opposition.

Throughout the year, the ICRC transferred out of the conflict areas, for medical reasons, wounded and sick persons who could not be treated adequately on the spot and were in urgent need of hospital care. These operations were conducted with the agreement of the authorities, and further to an agreement between the FMLN and the Salvadorean church. In 1987, 49 severely wounded or disabled persons were handed over to the ICRC, which escorted them to San Salvador where they were transferred to a civilian hospital or placed under Church protection.

### **Tracing Agency**

Some 700 persons per month came to enquire about relatives through the ICRC Tracing Agency in El Salvador, which consists of a main office in the capital and regional offices in Santa Ana, San Miguel, Chalatenango, Usulután and San Francisco Gotera. The Agency registered tracing requests submitted by families concerning 488 persons reported missing. Of the requests received up to December 1987, 175 cases were settled; 1,250 Red Cross messages were exchanged between separated members of families (including detainees).

The Agency registered all new detainees visited (812), and recorded any information concerning their transfer between different places of detention, or their release. It kept their families informed and in particular made arrangements for the exchange of messages between families and persons detained by the government or the FMLN. In all, 284 messages were forwarded to detainees and their families.



The ICRC granted financial aid to 409 extremely needy families living far away from the places of detention and wishing to visit relatives detained in San Salvador. In addition, 12 prisoners released by the authorities received assistance to enable them to return home.

### **Assistance to civilians displaced or otherwise affected by the conflict**

Encouraged by the promising results of the pilot agricultural project launched in 1986 (cf. 1986 Annual Report), the ICRC gradually re-structured its assistance activities for the civilian population (both resident and displaced) suffering from the conflict situation, in order to gear its programmes to the requirements arising as a direct result of the hostilities and, above all, to make the civilian populations who have received assistance up to now more self-sufficient. With this aim in mind, an agricultural aid programme was launched, with a view to enabling some 60,000 persons in areas affected by the conflict to farm their land and cease depending on external food aid. The effects of this programme were being felt already in 1987, permitting a gradual reduction in the amount of food aid regularly distributed.

The ICRC expressed concern about the situation of 4,300 Salvadorean refugees who in October returned from Honduras to their home villages in the conflict area; after an assessment of needs and in co-ordination with the organizations handling the resettlement of the refugees, the ICRC set in motion a medical consultation, sanitation and safe water supply programme in two of the five places of resettlement.

#### *Distribution of food and material assistance*

The ICRC and the Salvadorean Red Cross continued their co-ordinated material and food assistance programme for displaced persons or residents cut off by the fighting. As in the past, this operation was carried out in areas totally or partially affected by the conflict, where no other private or government organization had access (the provinces of Cabanas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, La Libertad, La Unión, Morazán, San Miguel, San Salvador, San Vicente, Usulután). Food was distributed every six to eight weeks, in so far as the situation allowed the ICRC to reach the areas concerned. A total of 2,029 tonnes of food (maize, rice, beans, oil, sugar and salt) were distributed to some 355,300 beneficiaries in 1987, i.e., an average of 32,300 tonnes per month. Displaced civilian populations were also supplied with material assistance in the form of blankets, mattresses, building materials, etc.

#### *Agricultural assistance programme*

Having ascertained that the pilot agricultural assistance project undertaken in 1986 was properly suited to local conditions, the ICRC decided to repeat the operation on a vast scale in 1987. A new agricultural programme was thus prepared by an ICRC agronomist in close collaboration with a Salvadorean counterpart. The programme was implemented in two phases, with the approval of the government and the opposition:

- From February to April, 12,647 families in the centre and east of the country received "agricultural parcels" containing seed, fertilizer and insecticides purchased on the spot, designed to enable them to meet their food needs for one year by cultivating their land (the average area farmed by a peasant was estimated at 0.35 hectares);
- From mid-June to mid-August, each of the farmers was supplied with a second "agricultural parcel" containing other seed (beans, sorghum, sesame) and insecticides.

In all, a total of 203 tonnes of seed, together with fertilizer and insecticides, were distributed to some 73,500 persons.

At the same time, during each distribution supervised by ICRC delegates, a Salvadorean agronomist explained basic techniques by which the farmers could improve their harvests. In September, the first harvest of crops from the maize seed distributed was good, paving the way for a corresponding reduction in food distributions. In addition, a procedure for continuous assessment of the situation of high-risk populations was established and a structure was maintained to permit an immediate response to any urgent requirements that might arise as a result of the conflict situation.

#### *Curative medicine*

Two medical teams, each comprising an ICRC nurse and two locally recruited doctors, a dentist and assistants, visited the provinces of Cabañas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, La Libertad, La Paz, La Unión, Morazán, San Miguel, San Salvador, San Vicente, Santa Ana and Usulután as regularly as the conflict situation permitted. Their movements were often hampered by military operations, in particular in Chalatenango, the south of San Vicente province and north Morazán. During the year, these teams gave 19,228 medical consultations and 8,230 dental consultations, besides transferring the seriously ill or wounded (118 civilians, 49 combatants) from the places

of consultation to the nearest hospitals for treatment.

The ICRC medical staff also organized one-week first-aid courses in San Salvador and San Miguel for local health officials. At the end of the courses, the participants received diplomas and were issued a small supply of medicines to cover the basic needs of the population between visits by delegates, given the problems of access to certain regions.

Finally, the ICRC continued to supply medicines and medical equipment as needed to hospitals, health posts, schools and penal centres visited.

### *Preventive medicine*

During their travels, the ICRC medical teams regularly evaluated the nutritional condition of children between 1 and 5 years old and systematically studied the factors influencing malnutrition.

The ICRC also endeavoured to make available to certain communities located in the conflict areas an adequate, reasonably close and safely accessible drinking water supply. Water and sanitation programmes (sinking of wells, pipe laying, installation of latrines) continued, the work being done by the community on the basis of technical advice from ICRC health engineers. Some 80,000 people benefited from these programmes. In addition, regular talks were given to explain elementary hygiene and nutritional principles.

Still in the preventive sphere, the ICRC participated in the immunization campaign (measles, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough) organized by the Salvadorean Ministry of Health and UNICEF. The ICRC's assistance was required in the conflict areas only. A total of 7,830 children were vaccinated, as well as 300 women of child-bearing age, as part of the campaign against neo-natal tetanus.

### **Dissemination**

With the assistance of the Salvadorean Red Cross, the ICRC continued its efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross among the Salvadorean armed forces, the security corps, FMLN combatants, members of the National Society and the general public.

In the armed forces, in 1987 attention was focused on officers, for whom two-day courses were arranged. The courses included lectures and practical exercises. Lectures followed by discussions were also organized for recruits and persons working for the security corps.

A dissemination and information seminar for the

Salvadorean press, attended by around 20 journalists, was held in August in San Salvador.

Furthermore, a series of courses on international humanitarian law (each consisting of four two-hour sessions) were given to law students at the country's main universities. Other talks were delivered to various audiences, including military judges and their assistants, lawyers, employees of the Ministry of Public Security, members of the Government Human Rights Commission, students and members of the Salvadorean Red Cross.

Lastly, when the military situation permitted, ICRC delegates organized information meetings for opposition fighters.

### **Support for the Salvadorean Red Cross**

The ICRC continued to provide financial support to enable the Salvadorean Red Cross to expand its activities, in particular in the medical sphere (ambulance service, dispensaries, training of first-aid workers) and for dissemination purposes. As in the past, the ICRC also defrayed the operating costs of the blood collection centre run by the National Society.

The total value of this support in 1987 was 17,640 Swiss francs.

### **NICARAGUA**

In 1987, as in previous years, the ICRC's main activities in Nicaragua centred on persons detained for security reasons and the civilian population living in the areas affected by the armed clashes between government forces and counter-revolutionary organizations.

On two occasions, in February and September, the delegate-general for Latin America travelled to Nicaragua to take stock of ICRC action with the delegation in Managua and the Nicaraguan authorities, particularly the Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Health and the Interior. In March, the head of the ICRC delegation in Managua was received by the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Tomas Borge Martinez.

In order to obtain the necessary security guarantees for continuation of its work in the regions affected by the conflict, the ICRC maintained contact with the representatives of the counter-revolutionary organizations, reminding them of their responsibilities in humanitarian terms towards the civilian population and towards persons detained by such organizations.



### Activities for detainees and their families

Throughout the year the ICRC continued its protection and assistance activities for persons detained by the Nicaraguan authorities — members of the former National Guard imprisoned on the fall of the Somoza regime, civilians convicted of collaboration with the previous regime, or persons arrested subsequently for counter-revolutionary activities or for acts prejudicial to State security. As in the past, aid was given to needy families of prisoners visited.

In keeping with its humanitarian mission, the ICRC also gave attention to the plight of Nicaraguan citizens, whether civilian or military, captured by counter-revolutionary organizations. It took steps to obtain confirmation of capture and to arrange for the exchange of family messages between detainees and their families, reminding the captors of their responsibilities towards

such persons and of the humane treatment to which they are entitled.

### Visits to detainees

In 1987, the ICRC had regular access, in accordance with its customary procedures, to an average of around 4,000 detainees imprisoned under the responsibility of the National Penitentiary System (SPN). In Managua, delegates made visits in particular to the two prisons where the majority of the detainees within the purview of the ICRC were held: five one-week visits were conducted to Tipitapa prison (in January, March, June, August and November) and the Zona Franca prison was visited for one week in February, May and October and for three weeks in August. In December, the ICRC was granted access to a new semi-open women's prison, "La Esperanza".

Six provincial prisons (Bluefields, Chinandega, Estelí, Granada, Juigalpa and Matagalpa) and six prison-farms (*granjas*), where the detainees enjoy a more liberal detention system, were visited twice or three times.

In all, in 1987 ICRC delegates made a total of 36 visits to around 4,400 detainees in 15 places of detention under the authority of the SPN, as well as to the Lenin Fonseca and Manolo Morales hospitals and the psychiatric hospital; detainees were seen individually during interviews without witnesses or during consultations given by ICRC doctors.

As in previous years and in spite of repeated representations, the ICRC was not granted access to persons imprisoned in temporary places of detention under the authority of the State security services, most of them detainees held for questioning.

Finally, under the Esquipulas II agreements, 985 detainees were pardoned and released at the end of November.

### Medical and material assistance

One doctor and three nurses gave medical consultations to sick detainees in the prisons visited. Dispensaries in prisons and *granjas* were supplied with medical equipment and medicines. The ICRC also pursued its optometric programme and paid for spectacles for detainees who needed them. Furthermore, following a survey of the condition of the Tipitapa prison water supply conducted by an ICRC sanitary engineer, two pumps were provided to improve the waste water disposal system.

In addition to the visits themselves, the ICRC also distributed monthly food parcels and personal hygiene and leisure articles to all detainees visited. Needy families

of detainees likewise received food aid, and the ICRC paid the travel expenses of particularly poor families wishing to visit relatives detained in the capital. On average, 7,500 detainees (including common-law prisoners) and 4,000 families received such assistance each month, for a total cost of approximately 2.5 million Swiss francs.

### **Tracing Agency**

The Tracing Agency office in Managua continued to register new detainees and process data on detainees visited, as well as organizing exchanges of news between detainees and their families (10,138 messages exchanged in 1987).

Another important facet of this activity was the exchange of family messages between refugees in Honduras and Costa Rica — mainly Miskito Indians — and their relatives still in Nicaragua and between separated families within Nicaragua itself.

Finally, at the request of families, the services of the Agency in Nicaragua, in collaboration with the regional delegation in Costa Rica and the Agency office in Tegucigalpa, processed 553 new tracing enquiries concerning persons reported missing or presumed detained; 189 cases were resolved.

### **Activities for the civilian population**

In 1987, the ICRC expanded its logistic capabilities, in order to step up its presence and its material and medical assistance activities for civilian populations cut off by the fighting. This programme was carried out with the support of first-aid workers from the Nicaraguan Red Cross and benefited persons temporarily displaced, persons displaced and resettled and residents stranded and in need. It took place in three main regions:

- From the Puerto Cabezas sub-delegation, covering the Rio Coco region and the north of Zelaya province (border with Honduras);
- From the Bluefields sub-delegation, covering Laguna de Perlas, Rio Kukra and Rio San Juan;
- From the Managua delegation, taking in the north-western and western provinces adjoining Honduras, and the south-western provinces adjacent to Costa Rica.

### **Food and material assistance**

Despite certain problems of access to the conflict regions caused by the military situation and, to a lesser

extent, climatic or logistic difficulties, the ICRC provided the civilian populations in the above regions with a total of around 812 tonnes of relief (including 654 tonnes of foodstuffs), for an approximate value of 1.3 million Swiss francs.

After an assessment of requirements by ICRC delegates, each category of beneficiary usually received two distributions: a first distribution to cover urgent essential needs, and a second to bring them up to a certain level of self-sufficiency. On average, the persons concerned were assisted by the ICRC for a period of three months.

The ICRC's main relief action was conducted on the banks of the Rio Coco, for Miskitos who had recently returned to their home villages. Under this campaign, which had been launched in 1986 on the Nicaraguan bank of the Rio Coco Abajo, regular assistance (approximately every six to eight weeks) was given to some 1,200 Miskito families (food rations, clothing, building materials, etc.).

In addition, for the first time an evaluation team was able to travel in March 1987 to Rio Coco Arriba (upstream from Waspan), where a similar operation was considered necessary. This operation began in October.

### **Medical assistance**

In 1987, the ICRC medical team comprising a doctor and three nurses monitored the nutritional and medical condition of the assisted population, in particular on the Atlantic Coast. Numerous places cut off by the conflict were visited for the first time from the Bluefields and Puerto Cabezas delegations.

ICRC nurses travelled to places where distributions were organized in connection with assistance work, in order to give consultations and vaccinate people whom the government health services had difficulty reaching. Some 70 children were vaccinated against various diseases (measles, diphtheria, tetanus, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis).

On their travels, the ICRC nurses gave lessons in public health and medical treatment to health workers in the villages, and supplied them with pharmaceutical kits containing simple medicines and dressings. The ICRC medical staff also evacuated a number of seriously ill or wounded civilians and military personnel to government hospitals.

An ICRC sanitary engineer carried out a two-week mission to the Atlantic coast region in order to assess the water situation and possible sanitation measures. A campaign for the protection or repair of existing wells was established and was due to begin in the first quarter of 1988.

Lastly, throughout the year, the ICRC visited civilian hospitals and dispensaries of the Ministry of Health and branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross situated in regions



affected by the events or having to deal with an influx of displaced persons. Regular aid in the form of medicines and medical supplies was provided.

### **Orthopaedic programme**

In accordance with the agreement signed in 1984 between the ICRC and the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health, five ICRC technicians, joined by a sixth in May, continued to work at the orthopaedic centre in Managua which has been renamed "Centro Erasmo Paredes Herrera". They were assisted by 21 Nicaraguan employees, 11 of whom successfully completed a training course organized by the ICRC. In 1987 a 30-bed treatment and physiotherapy centre was opened to supplement the new workshop for the production of prostheses built and equipped by the ICRC in 1986. During the year a total of 304 prostheses and 613 orthoses were manufactured under the supervision of the ICRC; 822 patients were fitted, including 35 from the Tipitapa and Zona Franca penitentiary centres.

### **Dissemination**

The ICRC continued to support the programme of lectures on international humanitarian law and the Red Cross Movement launched in co-operation with the Nicaraguan Red Cross for members of its branches in areas affected by the conflict. Around 1,100 officials, first-aid workers, volunteers and members heard talks under this programme. In Managua, several four-day seminars were organized for future dissemination workers from all parts of the country, as well as eight days of instruction for first-aid workers from the capital.

With the agreement of the Ministries of the Interior and of Justice, the ICRC pressed on with its country-wide special dissemination programme designed to inform the staff of the Ministries about international humanitarian law. The lectures were attended by a total of 290 persons, including members of the Sandinista police and the State security services. Contacts were also maintained with the Ministry of Defence to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law in military circles.

Finally, occasional lectures were given to various audiences, including students, teachers and journalists.

### **Support for the Nicaraguan Red Cross**

The ICRC continued to provide the Nicaraguan Red Cross with support to enable it to increase its operational capacity, and in particular to keep its ambulance service, fleet of vehicles and communications network in opera-

tion. The National Society received ambulances, commercial vehicles, spare parts and tyres, as well as radio equipment to facilitate communications between its branches nationwide. The ICRC also supplied some of the training aids and the equipment necessary for first-aid workers and volunteers, as well as backing the National Society's dissemination programmes.

The total value of the support provided to the Nicaraguan Red Cross amounted to approximately one million Swiss francs in 1987.

## **HONDURAS**

ICRC activities in Honduras were conducted from the regional delegation in San José. The numerous missions undertaken by the regional delegates made it possible to maintain close relations with the Honduran authorities and Red Cross. In addition, the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America travelled to Tegucigalpa in February, and the Honduran Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. López Contreras, was received in Geneva by the Vice-President of the ICRC in June. The main subjects raised during the talks were the situation in Latin America and its consequences in humanitarian terms (refugees and displaced persons); ratification of the Additional Protocols by Honduras; and the signing of a headquarters agreement between the Honduran Government and the ICRC (concluded on 31 August).

### **Tracing Agency**

With the support of the Honduran Red Cross, the ICRC continued to handle the exchange of family messages between refugees settled in Honduras and their families in Nicaragua and El Salvador. From the beginning of the year, an ICRC delegate was permanently stationed in Honduras, in order to strengthen the network for the transmission of Red Cross messages. Messages were distributed and collected regularly in the refugee camps. In 1987, this activity was also extended to the Miskito Indians displaced on Honduran territory in the Rio Coco Arriba region.

A total of 4,986 family messages were exchanged, chiefly with Nicaragua; 326 tracing requests were submitted by families and processed mainly in co-operation with the Agency in Managua; 76 cases were settled.

## Support for the Honduran Red Cross

The ICRC donated three ambulances to the Honduran Red Cross in order to enhance the operational capacity of the National Society's branches near the border with Nicaragua. Following a mission conducted by a delegate to survey the situation of the Miskito Indians displaced along the Rio Coco on Honduran territory, it also supplied blankets and basic necessities for use by the Honduran Red Cross in its assistance programmes for the Miskitos. Finally 15 tonnes of powdered milk were contributed to an assistance programme for children suffering from malnutrition. In total, ICRC aid to the Honduran Red Cross represented a value of 393,791 Swiss francs.

## Dissemination

Continuing its efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among the Honduran armed forces, for the third consecutive year the ICRC organized a five-day course on the law of war, the principles of international humanitarian law and the role of the ICRC. The seminar, attended by around 30 senior officers, took place in July at the High Command Training School. Two ICRC specialists were dispatched from Geneva for the purpose.

The ICRC also advised the Honduran Red Cross on the dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross as well as providing financial support to the National Society for its dissemination programme for refugees.

## GUATEMALA

In 1987, the ICRC pursued negotiations with the authorities with a view to obtaining official acceptance of its offer of services submitted to the new Guatemalan Government in March 1986. The Guatemalan Minister of Foreign Affairs was received at ICRC headquarters at the beginning of March. On 6 August, President Sommaruga sent a letter to the President of the Republic, Mr. V. Cerezo Arevalo, reiterating the ICRC's offer of services for the benefit of displaced and detained persons. This approach was followed up by a mission to Guatemala by the delegate-general for Latin America, in order to discuss the launching of an ICRC operation for persons affected by the situation. During his mission, the delegate-general had talks, *inter alios*, with President Cerezo Arevalo; the Minister of Defence, General Gramajo Morales; the Minister of the Interior, Mr. I. Rodil Peralta; and the Chief of

Staff of the Armed Forces, General Callejas. They all welcomed the proposals submitted by the ICRC in the following four areas: assistance for civilian populations displaced in certain regions of the country on account of the disturbances; visits to persons detained for reasons of security; dissemination of international humanitarian law, in particular within the armed forces and the police; support for the National Society.

Various representations were also made to encourage Guatemala to ratify the Additional Protocols, which it did on 19 October 1987.

On 9 December, the ICRC received an official letter from the Guatemalan Government confirming authorization for an ICRC delegation to be set up in Guatemala.

During talks between its President and the President of the Guatemalan Red Cross in Quito (Ecuador) in June, the ICRC also confirmed its willingness to collaborate actively with the National Society.

## HAITI

In view of the serious tension prevailing in Haiti, the ICRC devoted particular attention to this country.

At the beginning of August, following violent anti-government demonstrations, the ICRC dispatched a delegate and a doctor to Haiti to assess whether it needed to take action. The two envoys had a large number of meetings with officials from the Haitian Red Cross and travelled to various parts of the island, visiting hospitals and Red Cross outposts. In the light of the mission, the ICRC decided to support the National Society's activities and strengthen its operational capabilities in case further violent outbreaks occurred. After discussions with the League, a programme was drawn up with a view to restructuring the five branches of the National Society, improving ambulance and first-aid services in the capital, building up a stock of emergency supplies in Port-au-Prince and undertaking a programme for the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

An ICRC delegate was stationed in Haiti from 4 November to organize these activities.

Three first-aid teams from the Haitian Red Cross in Port-au-Prince worked round the clock during the election weekend on 28-29 November, evacuating dozens of wounded persons to hospitals. The ICRC supplied the Haitian Red Cross in Port-au-Prince with three fully equipped ambulances and the necessary medical equipment.

As far as dissemination is concerned, an information campaign was launched through the media to inform the population about the work of the Red Cross, its guiding principles and the respect due to its emblem.



## PANAMA

Following the demonstration which prompted the Panamanian Government to proclaim a state of emergency on 11 June, a regional delegate based in San José travelled to Panama to assess the need for ICRC action. As the situation returned to normal shortly afterwards, the ICRC restricted its activities to the establishment, in collaboration with the Red Cross Society of Panama, of a Tracing Agency office to process any tracing requests. In addition, through the President of the Red Cross of Panama, the ICRC informed the authorities of its concern and of the Institution's availability in the event of any deterioration in the situation.

In July, following further demonstrations, the delegate returned to Panama for talks with the authorities and National Society officials.

No immediate action was deemed necessary, but the ICRC continued to monitor the situation up to the end of the year. In particular, it evaluated the National Society's capacity to cope with any needs which might arise.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

□ In 1987 the ICRC regional delegation in **Costa Rica** maintained relations with the authorities and the National Societies of the countries covered from San José, as well as giving logistic support to the Managua and San Salvador delegations.

In Costa Rica itself, as in previous years, the ICRC provided support for the National Society in its work (mainly tracing activities) in the regions bordering on Nicaragua. The ICRC also helped to organize dissemination lectures for branches of the National Society and for refugees in camps.

A number of missions were carried out by the two regional delegates. In most of the countries visited, their activities focused on co-operation with the National Societies to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Movement, either by organizing courses and seminars or by providing support for Red Cross programmes in this sphere. In certain countries the delegates broached the question of accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions with the relevant government authorities.

□ A regional delegate travelled twice to the **Bahamas** in May for contacts with National Society leaders to finalize the organization of a seminar which took place in

November and was attended by some 30 participants from the Bahamas Red Cross and the government. The ICRC also provided financial support for the programme undertaken by the Red Cross in favour of Haitian immigrants detained pending repatriation.

□ In June, a mission was conducted by the ICRC regional delegate to **Belize** to explore possibilities for promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law, in particular among the armed forces, the police and prison staff.

□ At the request of the Cuban Red Cross, the regional delegate made several trips to **Cuba** to visit Haitian nationals whose boats had run aground near the Cuban coast and who had been transferred to the camp at Punta Maisi in the east of the island. He discussed arrangements for their repatriation with the authorities. Accordingly, two repatriation operations were conducted under ICRC auspices, in collaboration with the Cuban and Haitian Red Cross Societies, one in June and the other in December, involving 47 and 153 persons respectively.

Questions relating to Cuba's accession to Additional Protocol II and the dissemination of humanitarian law within the armed forces were discussed in Havana in August during talks with representatives of the Cuban Government.

□ In July, the regional delegate based in Bogotá travelled to **Grenada** in order to take up contact again with the authorities and the National Society and visit detainees arrested in connection with the events in 1983 (the last visit dated back to December 1985). However, he was not granted authorization to conduct the visits in question. An approach made to the Minister of External and Legal Affairs had still not elicited any reply by the end of the year.

□ In May, the regional delegate went to **Jamaica**, where he contacted the civilian and military government authorities and National Society officials. In October, a dissemination and information seminar was organized in collaboration with the Jamaican Red Cross Society and was attended by representatives of the armed forces, the police and various ministries.

□ The ICRC regional delegate made three visits to **Mexico**, in February, June and October, to continue discussions with the Mexican authorities and Red Cross Society, mainly with regard to accession to Additional Protocol II and dissemination programmes. In this context, a course was organized from 1 to 7 February for students from the law faculty of the Autonomous University in Mexico City.

□ During two missions to the **Dominican Republic**, the regional delegate maintained contacts at government level

with regard to the procedure for accession to the Additional Protocols. He met the Vice-President of the Republic and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence. Two seminars on humanitarian law were held in July and September; one at the Armed Forces School, with the participation of a specialist from Geneva, and the other at the Catholic University of Santo Domingo.

## South America

### CHILE

In 1987 the ICRC maintained its delegation in Santiago, which comprised five delegates, including a doctor, and concentrated as in previous years on visits to persons detained for security reasons.

The delegation maintained permanent contact with the Chilean authorities to discuss its work. The head of the delegation was received by the Minister of Defence, Vice-Admiral Carvajal Prado, on 8 January and met the Minister of the Interior, Mr. R. García Rodríguez, on 29 April.

The ICRC also continued to discuss with the military authorities the question of ratification of the Additional Protocols, to which Chile is not yet a party, and encouraged the dissemination of international humanitarian law, especially among the armed forces. The delegation likewise participated in a seminar organized by the Chilean Red Cross Society in December for staff from sections of the country's Red Cross Youth.

#### Visits to persons detained for security reasons

Throughout the year, the ICRC carried out country-wide visits, in accordance with its customary procedures, to persons arrested and detained for security reasons in places of detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. A summary report on the visits conducted from 14 April to 10 September to 438 detainees in 37 places of detention was submitted to the relevant authorities at the end of the year.

At the same time, the ICRC managed to expand its protection activities for persons held in places of detention under the jurisdiction of the security corps, i.e. the **Central Nacional de Informaciones (CNI)**, the **Policía de Investigaciones** and the **Carabiniéro** corps. Under the terms of the authorization received on 17 October 1986,

delegates visited persons detained by the CNI five days after their arrest, but in any case before they were released or brought before the judge. Accordingly, from the date on which the authorization was issued to mid-May 1987, 64 detainees were visited in premises run by the CNI. In June, the law was amended to the effect that prisoners would no longer be held by the CNI in future. It would retain the right to arrest and interrogate persons for reasons of security but was obliged to hand them over to one of the other security corps. The ICRC thus requested the CNI to provide regular information concerning arrests made and transfers, an arrangement which was accepted by the CNI authorities.

In November 1986 the **Policía de Investigaciones** had also authorized the ICRC to visit the persons it detained for security reasons. A formal agreement was signed between the director-general of that security corps and the ICRC on 2 January 1987, stipulating that ICRC delegates would be allowed to visit security detainees 24 hours after their arrest, and again just before they are released or brought before a judge. Nearly 100 persons detained by the **Policía de Investigaciones** were visited by the ICRC under this arrangement in 1987.

Similarly, the **Carabiniéro** corps had also authorized the ICRC to visit the persons it detained for offences pre-judicial to State security, with effect from 8 October 1986. At the end of January 1987, the ICRC secured permission to extend its visits to include the other categories of security detainees as well. Accordingly, nearly 200 detainees were visited in places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Carabiniéros in 1987.

In addition, the ICRC visited persons relegated for security reasons to remote places far away from the capital, including Mr. Clodomiro Almeyda, former Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Throughout the year, although without success, the ICRC reminded the Chilean authorities of its desire to extend its activities to a last category of detainees, namely those who, after questioning, are held incommunicado at the decision of the examining magistrate while their case is being investigated. ICRC delegates were however able to visit one such detainee on 16 December.

ICRC delegates also provided families with news of the detained persons they had visited.

#### Medical and food assistance to detainees and their families

The ICRC continued its medical assistance programmes for detainees, financing the purchase of specific medicines and providing ophthalmic consultations, spectacles and dental treatment. Supplementary food aid continued to be

given to the detainees visited, who received monthly supplies of milk, cheese and vegetable oil. Toiletries, cleaning products, leisure items, mattresses and clothing were also occasionally distributed in the prisons and particularly needy detainees received a small allowance.

The ICRC also pressed on with its food aid programme for detainees' families: in 1987 an average of 400 families benefited each month. Some travel expenses were also defrayed to enable families to visit detained relatives or detainees to return home upon release.

The cost of these various assistance programmes came to 736,224 Swiss francs.

## COLOMBIA

In Bogotá, the ICRC regional delegation for the Andean countries pursued its work in 1987; in the country itself, delegates continued visiting detainees and promoting the dissemination of international humanitarian law. The delegate-general for Latin America and his deputy conducted a mission to Colombia in May, meeting in the capital, among others, the Minister of the Interior, Mr. F. Cepeda Ulloa, and the President of the National Society, together with his principal colleagues. These discussions, like the contacts established throughout the year by the delegate stationed on the spot, provided an opportunity to bring up once again the question of promotion of international humanitarian law, and in particular the Additional Protocols.

To support the dissemination work carried out by the Colombian Red Cross Society, the ICRC delegate participated in a seminar organized in Cali in September. The purpose of this event was to develop a four-year dissemination and National Society internal training programme on the basis of an analysis of the specific problems with which the National Society is confronted.

### Visits to detainees.

The ICRC continued visiting security detainees in places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice. A team of delegates, including a doctor, made a series of visits in March and April to ten places of detention in Bogotá and in the provinces, seeing 131 security detainees, 93 of them for the first time. By the end of December, 110 detainees had been seen in 15 places of detention in the course of a second series of visits begun in mid-November. All the visits were carried out in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures.

When handing in a summary report on the visits carried

out in 1986 and the first series of visits in 1987, the delegate based in Bogotá met representatives of the Colombian authorities, including the Minister of Justice, Dr. Enrique Low Murtra, and the director-general of prisons, Dr. José Guillermo Ferro Torres.

## PARAGUAY

The regional delegate and his deputy, both based in Buenos Aires, conducted several missions to Paraguay, primarily to visit security detainees and promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

During a first series of visits, in March, the delegates and a doctor saw six security detainees in four places of detention in Asunción, two of them under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and the two others administered by the Ministry of the Interior. Three further places of detention were visited, but no security detainees were being held there. Subsequently, two detainees (including a Chilean national) were seen four more times (in June, August, October and December). All the visits were carried out in accordance with customary ICRC procedures. On 20 December, the detainee for whom the ICRC had been urging the authorities for many years to show clemency on health grounds, Napoleón Ortigoza, was released on completion of his 25-year prison sentence. However, he was relegated to a small town 230 km from Asunción, and the ICRC continued to monitor his case.

Its delegates regularly discussed detention matters with the Minister of the Interior, Dr. S. Montanaro, and the chief of police, General Brites Borges.

Other subjects brought up on several occasions were the dissemination of international humanitarian law and ratification of the Additional Protocols, a measure which the ICRC is urging Paraguay to consider. In addition, contacts with National Society staff resulted in the organization of a two-day seminar in December attended by members of the National Society from both headquarters and branch offices. ICRC delegates played an active part in the seminar, giving lessons on international humanitarian law and the ICRC's role.

## PERU

In this country, where the ICRC has maintained a continuous presence since 1984, some of its activities were sharply reduced over the past year. While visits to persons detained for security reasons under the authority of the Ministry of Justice continued, restrictions were placed on

the ICRC's work in places under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior, in particular for persons arrested by the **Policía de Investigaciones del Perú (PIP)**. At the same time, access to the Ayacucho region, an area in a state of emergency and one of the most severely affected by violence, which had been granted on 12 March 1986 by the Joint Command of the Armed Forces, was withdrawn *de facto* from the ICRC with effect from January 1987. Throughout the year, the ICRC made an increasing number of oral and written representations to redress the situation, but without success. The head of delegation raised the matter in meetings with representatives of the civilian and military authorities, such as the Chief of Staff and President of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces, the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Salinas Izaguirre and his successor Mr. José Barsallo Burga, and finally the President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Guillermo Larco Cox. The delegate-general for Latin America, who was in Lima in May, held talks with the Commander-in-Chief of the territorial army, General López Albuja. The President of the ICRC appealed to the President of the Republic, Mr. García Pérez, in two letters sent in July and at the beginning of October respectively, but again without success.

The ICRC was nevertheless able to continue its assistance programmes for detainees and their families, as well as its food aid programmes for children from families affected by the events, in Ayacucho itself.

### Visits to security detainees

In accordance with the authorization granted by the Peruvian Government at the end of 1982, the ICRC continued its efforts to protect and assist persons detained under Decree-Laws 046 and 24651 (anti-terrorist laws) by carrying out regular visits in all parts of the country.

Throughout the year the ICRC made frequent visits to security detainees in 60 prisons (and one hospital) under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, in Lima and in the provinces (except the Ayacucho region, affected by the state of emergency, where the ICRC had to curtail its activities as from January). A medical delegate regularly participated in the visits.

Visits to the places of detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior, in particular PIP centres, suffered changing fortunes throughout the year. No visits were possible to PIP temporary detention centres located in the Ayacucho region under the state of emergency, and visits to such centres elsewhere in the provinces were sometimes prevented because the managing authorities refused to allow ICRC delegates to have interviews without witness with the detainees. In Lima, the ICRC

delegates' scope of action was even more limited: visits to the premises of the **Dirección contra el terrorismo (DIR-COTE)** were few and far between — eight visits until mid-April, followed by a single visit at the end of August. In all, the ICRC was able to visit 29 PIP centres. As from December, however, visits to these places of detention were completely suspended, the authorities having refused to renew the requisite authorization. The ICRC submitted summary reports on its visits to security detainees and discussed them with the authorities concerned. In all, 91 places of detention were visited, including a hospital. The ICRC also continued the efforts it had begun at the end of 1986 in order to obtain access to persons provisionally held in military barracks, above all in the regions affected by the state of emergency. These efforts remained unsuccessful.

### Material and medical assistance

#### *For detainees and their families*

The ICRC continued to distribute relief supplies to needy security detainees visited (specific medicines, toiletries, clothing, food), twice a year in Lima and during each visit in the provinces. The supplementary food aid programme launched in 1985 for the whole of the prison population in the capital was also pursued. In 1987, 67 tonnes of powdered milk and 8.3 tonnes of cheese were distributed to the four penitentiary establishments in Lima (Lurigancho, Canto Grande, San Jorge and Chorrillos).

The ICRC also assisted certain detainees' families living far away from places of detention, by paying their travel expenses to enable them to visit their relatives in prison.

In the medical field, the anti-tuberculosis programme set up in Lurigancho prison in 1985 in collaboration with the Peruvian authorities was brought to completion at the end of the year. The ICRC medical delegate regularly monitored various categories of detainees, who were treated in the isolation ward set up for the purpose, and the ICRC continued to provide technical and financial support for this specific medical campaign. The medical delegate also kept a close check on the condition of detainees in the other prisons in Lima, some 200 of whom received specific treatment in 1987. A similar programme had been launched in Ayacucho in November 1986, starting with a screening of the prison population. Being unable to operate in the region under the state of emergency, however, the ICRC was unfortunately unable to develop this activity.

In 1987 the value of the medicines and medical material distributed (including the anti-tuberculosis programme) amounted to some 46,000 Swiss francs. The material relief



supplied for detainees and their families came to 337,091 Swiss francs.

### *For the civilian population*

The ICRC continued to collaborate with the local section of the Peruvian Red Cross in the town of Ayacucho, underpinning the supplementary food aid programme for some 600 children from families particularly affected by the disturbances in the region. The children thus received a daily breakfast in two district canteens run by the Peruvian Red Cross. The ICRC supplied the provisions and kitchen utensils as well as clothing. It also obtained some medicines and hygiene articles for two private agencies likewise helping children in the town who were suffering from the situation.

In addition, the ICRC assisted all categories of persons affected by the events (in particular civilians and displaced persons). To this end, a relief specialist frequently accompanied visiting delegates on their rounds in the provinces, paying particular attention to the problems facing the population. The ICRC was thus able to assist persons recently displaced on account of the events, for example in Abancay (department of Apurimac) in September. Under this operation, carried out with the collaboration of the local section of the National Society, 35 families received foodstuffs, blankets and clothing.

The ICRC medical delegate helped with a vaccination campaign against yellow fever in the Rio Apurimac valley (in the department of Ayacucho), whose medical infrastructure was also hit by the troubles.

The campaign, under which 15,000 persons were inoculated between 20 and 29 November, was conducted by the church and **Médecins du monde**, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, which supplied the vaccines.

### **Dissemination of international humanitarian law**

Following contacts established in 1986, and for the first time since its delegation was set up, the ICRC was able to launch an operation to disseminate international humanitarian law among members of the armed forces and the police. Delegates spoke on international humanitarian law and the ICRC's role to senior officers at the Higher Military Air School on 8 September and participated in a seminar organized by the Peruvian Institute of Human Rights and the Police Force Officers' Training School from 1 to 3 October.

## **SURINAME**

In view of the troubled internal situation, the ICRC continued its work in Suriname, both to help persons detained in connection with the events and for the benefit of the civilian population. The regional delegate based in Bogotá, joined on the spot by a delegate and doctor dispatched from Geneva, carried out four missions during the year, in January, February, May-June and September. At the beginning of November, a delegation was opened in Paramaribo.

During their missions, the ICRC delegates had several opportunities, in particular when submitting reports on visits to detainees, to talk to the authorities about their activities and formulate observations. Above all, they met Mr. Heidweiler, who was President D. Bouterse's cabinet leader before subsequently becoming Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Minister of Health, Dr. Alimahomed, and the new cabinet leader, Mr. Herrenberg. During their visit to the eastern part of the country, they also met the rebel leader, Mr. R. Brunswijk, with whom they discussed several humanitarian matters in connection with the events. The delegates also held several meetings with National Society staff in order to co-ordinate their efforts to assist the civilian population.

### **Visits to detained persons**

During each of their missions, the ICRC delegates (frequently accompanied by a doctor) visited persons detained by the government authorities in Paramaribo. Six visits in 1987 (in January, February, May, June, September and November) were thus conducted to a number of detainees varying between 72 and 19 (according to captures and releases) in the Fort Zelandia detention centre under the responsibility of the military police. Three visits were also made (in February, May and June) to three detainees imprisoned at a Navy base in Paramaribo. All the visits were conducted in line with ICRC procedures. Detainees were released in the course of the year, the last of them on 1 December. Material aid in the form of mattresses, hygiene articles, kitchen utensils and leisure items were distributed to detainees in January and June. On the other hand, despite its representations, the ICRC was not granted access to interrogation centres.

In May, the delegates also visited, in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures, eight persons who had been captured by Mr. R. Brunswijk's rebel forces. At the request of the organization concerned and of the Government of Suriname, it also endeavoured to secure the release of an American pilot working for an American

organization who had fallen into rebel hands on 31 October. The armed opposition having signified its agreement, the pilot was released on 7 November with the co-operation of the authorities of French Guyana. He was handed over to a delegate who had travelled up the Maroni river for the purpose.

### Tracing Agency

The ICRC began organizing exchanges of family messages with the collaboration of the National Society. Around fifty messages were exchanged in 1987 between prisoners in government or rebel hands and their families living in Paramaribo or in the east of the country or having taken refuge in French Guyana.

### Activities for the civilian population

As in 1986, ICRC delegates monitored the situation of the civilian population in the country. The medical delegate visited the four hospitals in Paramaribo, in January and in June, as well as the centre for rehabilitation of amputees. In addition, in May a delegate travelled to Albina and Moengo (Marowijne district) from where most of the persons displaced to the capital or taking refuge in French Guyana were coming, in order to evaluate the general condition of the population. No need for material assistance was detected, but the delegate organized a convoy to enable 77 civilians to leave Moengo (at their own request) for a safer area near the capital.

In June, a delegate and a medical delegate also visited Djoemoe region ("Upper Suriname River") in the central part of the country, to assess the population's nutritional and medical condition. They concluded that no emergency ICRC assistance was required at that stage, even though the inhabitants had been somewhat cut off from the rest of the country since the beginning of the year on account of the conflict situation.

The Government of Suriname requested the ICRC to assist people who had taken refuge in French Guyana but wished to return to their country. Accordingly, the ICRC visited two potential resettlement sites and met the refugees in Guyana to ascertain their intentions. Prior consent of the persons concerned is a prerequisite for any project for the resettlement of refugees (including the choice of places of resettlement). This evaluation was carried out in May, during a mission by a delegate from Geneva. No large-scale resettlement operation was undertaken, although in November the ICRC delegate did accompany six refugees from Guyana to Paramaribo, at their request.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

□ In **Argentina**, the ICRC regional delegates kept in contact with the authorities, mainly to promote international humanitarian law. They also took an active part in seminars or courses for students and teachers in law faculties and for the armed forces. A presentation of the ICRC's work was also given at the Third National Convention of the Argentine Red Cross in Rosario at the end of October.

The President of the Argentine Republic, H.E. Mr. Raoul Alfonsín, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dante Caputo, visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 10 June where he was received by the President of the ICRC, Mr. C. Sommaruga, together with members of the Committee and Directorate.

□ In order to maintain contact with the authorities and the National Society, the regional delegates based in Buenos Aires travelled to **Bolivia** in June, where they met, among others, the Vice-President of the Republic, Dr. Julio Garret Aillón, and the Minister of the Interior, Dr. Juan Carlos Durán. Talks focused mainly on ratification of the Protocols and financing of the ICRC, as well as the dissemination of international humanitarian law. The delegates gave a lecture on this latter subject in Santa Cruz to officers of the armed forces and representatives of the town authorities.

□ In **Brazil**, President Sommaruga, who led the ICRC delegation to the meetings of the Movement held in Rio de Janeiro in November (see the section on "Co-operation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement"), had several sets of talks with the Brazilian authorities. On 15 November, he was granted an official audience in Brazilia by H.E. Dr. José Sarney, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil. On 24 November, he had talks with the Minister of External Relations, Mr. Costa de Abreu Sodré, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Brigadier Coutinho Camarinha, the Chairman of the Senate, Mr. Humberto Lucena, and the Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr. Ulysses Guimarães. These meetings, supplemented by a lecture given by the President of the ICRC in Brazilia, centred primarily on the question of the Additional Protocols, to which Brazil is not yet a party, on financing of the ICRC and on the dissemination of international humanitarian law. The discussions had been prepared beforehand by the regional delegate based in Buenos Aires, who had conducted three missions to Brazil for the purpose, during which he also took the opportunity to give a number of talks, in particular to young diplomats studying at the "Rio Branco Institute".



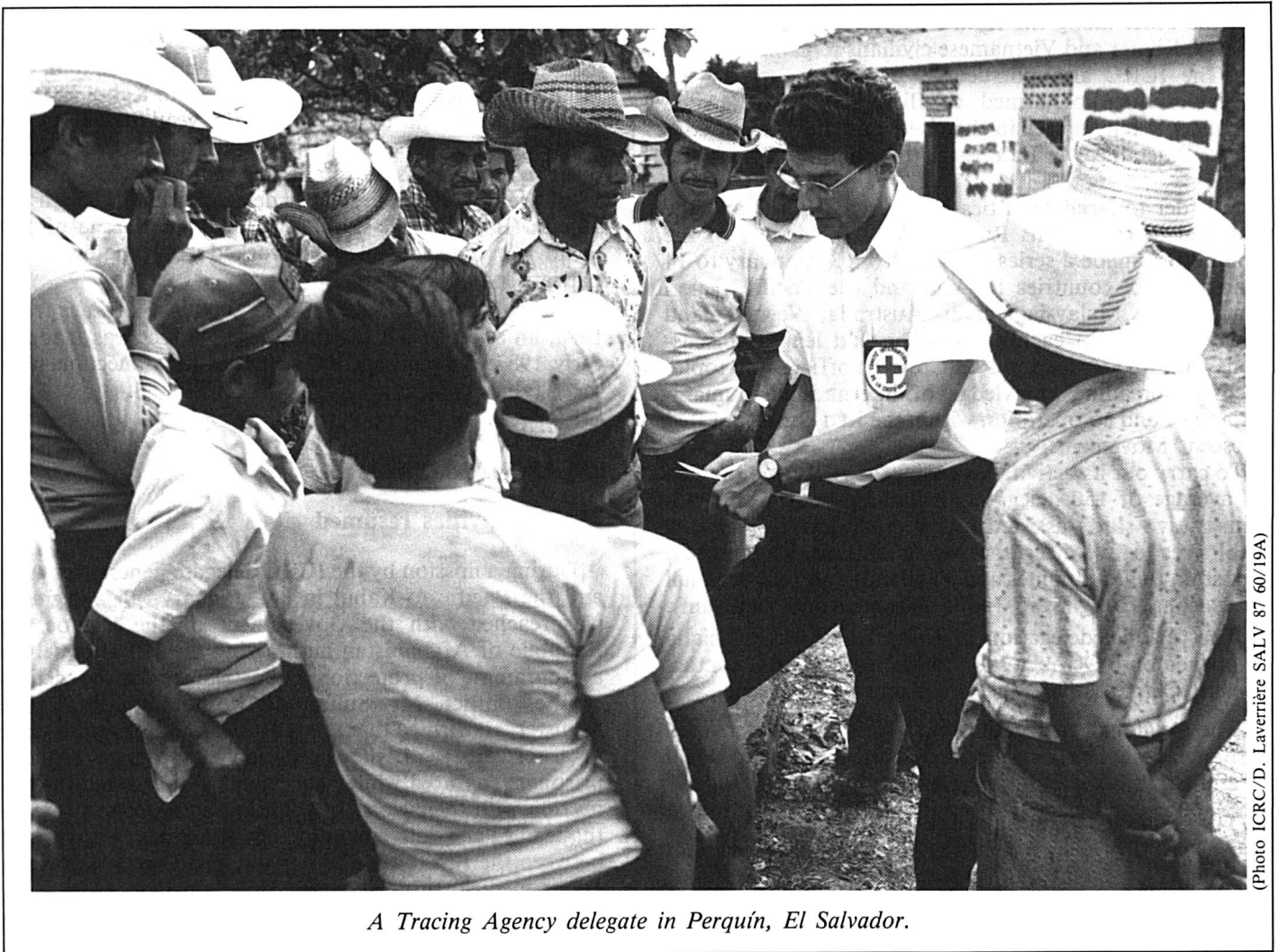
□ The regional delegate based in Bogotá went to **Ecuador** in June and August to maintain contact with the authorities and the National Society. During the June mission, he also took care of preparations for the XIIIth Inter-American Red Cross Conference, which took place in Quito from 30 June to 3 July (see the section on “Co-operation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement”).

□ The regional delegate based in Buenos Aires conducted a mission to **Uruguay** in July to maintain contact with the authorities and the National Society and to encourage the dissemination of international humanitarian law. He met the Ministers of Defence, Education and Culture and Foreign Affairs, as well as the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.

## RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1987

### *LATIN AMERICA*

Country <small>(in French alphabetical order)</small>	Recipient	Relief		Medical assistance	TOTAL Sw. fr.
		Tonnes	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
Chile .....	Detainees, their families and National Society	292	688,769	47,455	736,224
El Salvador .....	Displaced civilians, detainees and National Society	6,076	3,584,596	206,680	3,791,276
Haiti .....	Civilians, via National Society	—	—	6,783	6,783
Honduras .....	National Society	78	393,791	—	393,791
Nicaragua .....	Displaced civilians, the disabled, detainees and National Society	2,446	4,414,303	518,084	4,932,387
Paraguay .....	National Society	60	575,264	—	575,264
Peru .....	Detainees, their families and National Society	110	444,889	46,141	491,030
Suriname .....	Detainees and National Society	—	3,385	51,355	54,740
Uruguay .....	National Society	20	72,050	—	72,050
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>9,082</b>	<b>10,177,047</b>	<b>876,498</b>	<b>11,053,545</b>



(Photo ICRC/D. Laverrière SALV 87 60/19A)

*A Tracing Agency delegate in Perquín, El Salvador.*