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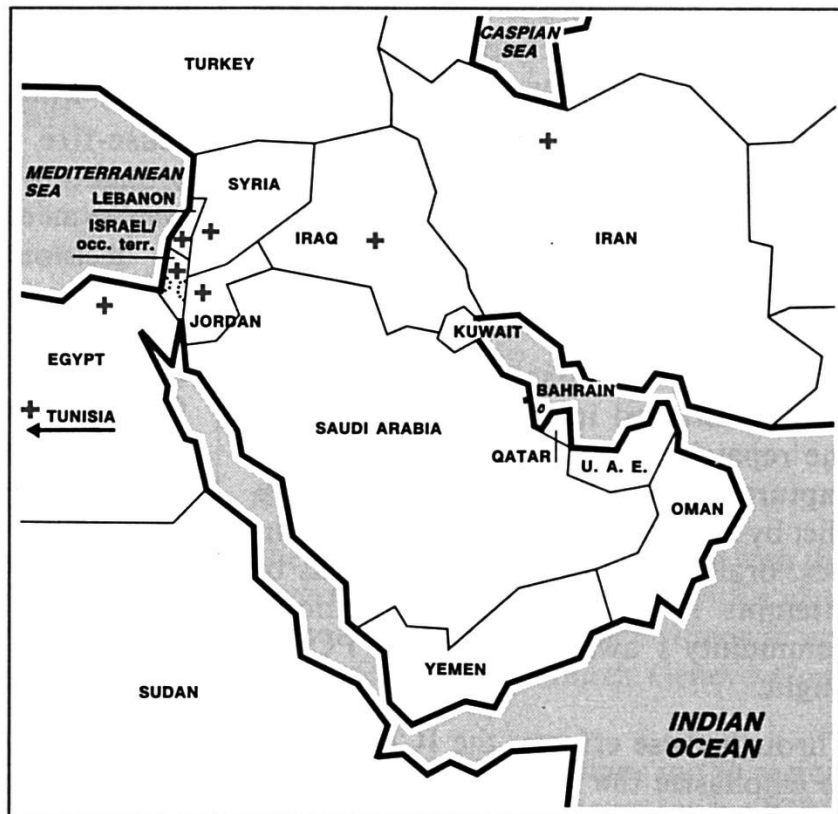
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## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

*Tensions ran high in the Middle East in 1990. The year was marked by strained relations between several countries and armed conflict on the regional and international levels. While the intensity of the conflict in Lebanon diminished in the latter part of 1990, the disturbances in the territories occupied by Israel continued and, following the entry of Iraqi troops into Kuwait on 2 August and the deployment of multinational military forces in the region, the critical situation in the Middle East became a major concern. The returnees in Jordan were given*



*assistance and emergency medical care in transit camps managed by the ICRC and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society while awaiting transport to their countries of origin in the Middle East or Asia.*

*1990 also saw the repatriation of more than 75,000 prisoners of war captured during the Iran/Iraq conflict.*

*Throughout the year the ICRC maintained seven delegations in the Middle East (Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Cairo, Tehran and Tel Aviv) and two regional delegations, one in Tunis covering North Africa, the other in Geneva for the countries of the Arabian peninsula.*

*In December 1990, the number of ICRC personnel present in the Middle East and North Africa was 350, of whom 83 were expatriate personnel (National Society and ICRC), and 267 were local employees.*

*The budget for this zone for 1990 was set at 73,422,900 Swiss francs. In the same year, the total income (transfers, cash, kind and services) was 54,384,100 francs and the expenditure totalled 57,229,200 francs.*

## CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ

On 20 August 1988, following Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution 598 (it will be recalled that Iraq had accepted this resolution the previous year), a cease-fire went into effect between Iran and Iraq. The ICRC immediately proposed a comprehensive repatriation procedure to both parties, based on the applicability of Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention, which is mentioned in Point 3 of Resolution 598. However, this repatriation was still not under way at the end of 1989.

Throughout the first part of 1990 the ICRC sustained its efforts to carry out the repatriation of all prisoners of war captured during the eight years of conflict by repeatedly approaching both parties, orally and in writing, as well as by attempts to heighten the international community's awareness of the POWs' plight.

Through these efforts, the ICRC aimed to emphasize the validity of Article 118 in order to remind both parties involved of their conventional obligations regarding global repatriation of prisoners of war after the cessation of hostilities.

While the ICRC delegation in Iran focused on these negotiations as well as tracing activities, the delegation in Baghdad carried out the traditional ICRC activities, including protection, tracing, medical and relief for the Iranian prisoners of war to whom they had access and for displaced or interned Iranian civilians in Iraq.

### Repatriation of prisoners of war

On 17 and 18 January, the ICRC repatriated 70 sick or wounded prisoners of war (50 Iraqis and 20 Iranians) whom

the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq decided unilaterally to release for humanitarian reasons. The ICRC reminded the international community that over 100,000 POWs were still being held in both countries, and that under the terms of the Third Geneva Convention, they should have been repatriated after the cease-fire, 17 months earlier.

On 15 August 1990, two years after the cease-fire of 20 August 1988 which brought the conflict between Iran and Iraq to an end, Iraq announced *inter alia* its decision to repatriate all prisoners of war captured during the Iran/Iraq conflict. Following this decision, the ICRC acted quickly to reinforce the four-member delegation in Iran with 25 delegates. The ICRC delegation in Iraq was increased from 21 to 41. On 17 August, the first group of Iranian POWs crossed the Iran/Iraq border under ICRC supervision. At this point in the operation, the majority of the prisoners of war were repatriated by land routes through the border post at Khanaqine/Qasr-e-Shirine. Sick and wounded POWs were airlifted.

The repatriation operation was temporarily interrupted in mid-September. At that time, a technical commission was set up by the governments of Iran and Iraq and the ICRC to organize the repatriation of the remaining prisoners of war and to settle a number of individual and special cases. Negotiations continued throughout the month of October and into November. On 21 November 1990, the repatriation process resumed on a regular basis.

The most active phase of the repatriation operation was between 17 August and 5 October 1990, when 37,861 Iranian prisoners of war and 40,960 Iraqi prisoners of war returned home. The operation was still continuing at the end of the period covered by this report.

In accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, the ICRC pursued efforts to negotiate a long-term solution for the civilians displaced or interned during the Iran/Iraq conflict. The ICRC delegation in Baghdad continued regular visits to Iranian civilians interned in Iraq and provided them with tracing services as well as medical and relief assistance.

### **Activities for prisoners of war**

Before the major repatriation operation began, the ICRC carried out the following activities for prisoners of war:

**In Iraq:** Regular visits were made in 1990 by ICRC delegates and doctors to 18,000 Iranian POWs in Iraq and relief items were distributed (clothing, personal hygiene products, books and sports equipment).

After the severe earthquake in Iran, ICRC delegates made a special visit to Iranian POWs in camps in Iraq to distribute forms enabling prisoners to request news of their families. Over 1,700 "Anxious for News" messages from prisoners to family members living in the stricken areas of Gilan and Zanzan were collected in the Mosul, Salaheddine and Ramadi camps.

**In Iran:** The ICRC reminded the Iranian authorities of the ICRC's mandate vis-à-vis prisoners of war and worked to resume visits to Iraqis held in Iran as provided for by the Geneva Conventions.

### **Settlement of cases of POWs who refused repatriation**

Following the major repatriation operation, ICRC delegates held interviews without witnesses with Iraqi POWs in Iran who had expressed to Iranian authorities their unwillingness to be repatriated.

In Iraq, ICRC delegates held second interviews with the Iranian POWs who had refused repatriation. Some of the POWs in question changed their minds and opted to return home.

A final settlement was sought for all POWs who remained firm in their refusal to be repatriated.

### **Tracing Agency**

The ICRC reaffirmed its readiness to assist the two parties in resolving the cases of those missing in action.

The Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC handled a total of 848,220 Red Cross messages for POWs and their families in 1990.

### **Activities for civilians**

The ICRC continued negotiations with the governments of Iran and Iraq with a view to the settlement of these civilians in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Access to detained civilians in the region has been a source of concern for the ICRC for a number of years. However, in Iraq, regular visits were made to Iranian civilians interned in the Al Tash and Shomeli camps and to displaced families from Khuzestan. Medical, nutritional and sanitation surveys were carried out regularly and supplies were provided as needed.

## **EGYPT**

Tracing activities continued for families separated because of the different conflicts in the Middle East, past and present. In 1990, 120 Red Cross messages were exchanged.

In coordination with other Middle East delegations, the delegation in Cairo worked on dissemination projects designed especially for the Arab world. The ICRC continued its dissemination activities in universities, military and police academies, and with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society.

## **IRAQ/KUWAIT**

Kuwait became the focus of worldwide attention when Iraqi troops entered the country on 2 August 1990. The ICRC responded the same day by stating the applicability of the Geneva Conventions and by reminding both countries of their obligations in armed conflict as States party to the Geneva Conventions. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the international community, the ICRC requested authorization to take action to protect and assist all those in need.

The ICRC's objective was to carry out protection and assistance activities in behalf of Kuwaiti civilians. Foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, Kuwaiti prisoners, and Iraqi civilians were also offered protection and assistance. To this end, the ICRC sent a note verbale to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry on 23 August requesting permission to carry out its mandate in Iraq and Kuwait. The institution offered its services to secure authorization to transport food and medicine into Kuwait and Iraq despite the embargo, to help transfer foreign nationals from Iraq or Kuwait to other countries, and to provide communications between foreigners still in Iraq or Kuwait and their families.

During the period August-December 1990, the ICRC maintained regular contact with representatives of the international community as well as government representatives in Baghdad and Kuwaiti

government representatives in exile in Taif (Saudi Arabia). As a last resort, the ICRC President visited Amman, Baghdad and Tehran in September, but no agreement permitting the ICRC to fulfil its mandate in connection with the conflict in Kuwait could be reached with the Iraqi authorities.

As the coalition forces were deployed in the region in November, the ICRC intensified contacts with all of the parties concerned in order to ensure compliance with the four Geneva Conventions.

Among the 12 resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council between August and December 1990, resolution 666 of 13 September stipulated the conditions of humanitarian aid to the civilian population in Iraq and Kuwait, as well as a supply of essential foodstuffs, which would be sent to the region and distributed under ICRC supervision, or the supervision of other appropriate humanitarian organizations.

On 14 December, the ICRC sent a note verbale to the 164 States party to the Geneva Conventions reminding them of their obligation to respect the provisions of international humanitarian law regarding the protection of the sick, wounded and shipwrecked, of medical units and establishments, prisoners of war and civilians. The same day, the ICRC President addressed ambassadors and representatives of the States party to the Geneva Conventions at the institution's headquarters in Geneva. The President once again reminded the States of their obligations in the event of armed conflict between States. He informed representatives of the measures taken by the ICRC to fulfil its mandate in Kuwait.

Despite the ICRC's sustained efforts to carry out its humanitarian mandate in Iraq and Kuwait, no agreement was

reached with Iraqi authorities for such action by the end of 1990.

Beginning in October, the ICRC increased the number of its staff in the region, and on 27 December a Task Force was organized at ICRC headquarters to deal with the crisis. Delegates already present in the Middle East prepared for possible intervention and more than 50 delegates remained ready in Geneva for departure to the region on short notice. With the cooperation of various National Societies, equipment and material assistance was mobilized and stored in Europe. The ICRC prepared for the rapid construction of refugee camps which would each hold 30,000 persons and transit camps, each with a capacity of 5,000 in any area in the region. (See also *Jordan below*).

The Central Tracing Agency contacted the parties with armed forces in the region and their National Information Bureaux in order to facilitate the tracing of missing persons using technical procedures developed by the Central Tracing Agency.

## ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

In the conflict between Israel and the Arab states, the ICRC considers that the conditions for the application of the Fourth Convention, which prohibits an occupying power from settling its civilians in the occupied territory, destroying the homes of the people living there or expelling them from it, are fulfilled in all of the occupied territories (the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Golan and East Jerusalem). The principles that the rights of persons who are in occupied territory are inviolable is expressed in Article 47 of the Fourth Convention. ✦

The Israeli authorities consider that in view of the *sui generis* status of the occupied territories, the *de jure* applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to these areas is doubtful. Israel prefers to leave aside the legal question of the status of these areas and has decided, since 1967, to act *de facto* in accordance with the humanitarian provisions of that Convention. [ ... ]

The disturbances in the territories occupied by Israel which began in December 1987 had a serious impact on the civilian population there. Many homes were walled up or demolished by the army. A marked decline in economic activity in the occupied territories over the year was accentuated in the second half by the conflict in the Middle East. The inter-Palestinian killings of alleged collaborators remained a source of concern for the ICRC in 1990.

In the period 1987-1990, the yearly total of persons detained by the Israeli forces increased from 4,000 to more than 16,000. Through the sustained presence of its delegates in the field, the ICRC endeavoured to carry out its protection and assistance mandate in behalf of protected persons in the territories that have been occupied since 1967.

From December 1987 through 1990, the number of ICRC expatriate staff in the area tripled. In 1990 there were more than 40 ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories.

Protection activities increased as the number of persons detained went up. Tracing services were extended to keep track of the arrests, transfers and release of detainees in more than 40 places of detention. Medical assistance increased for detainees and for civilians wounded in the clashes. Relief assistance to detainees and their families was also stepped up. >

→ Art. 47 : ...

### **Activities for detainees**

In 1990, the ICRC carried out regular visits to protected persons held in prisons and police stations, and to security and administrative detainees held in military detention centres and a prison hospital.

The Qeziot military detention centre, situated in the Negev desert on Israeli soil and thus, contrary to the provisions of the Fourth Convention, outside the occupied territories, remained a major source of concern for the ICRC. About half of those detained in military camps are held at Qeziot, where they still could not receive family visits at the end of the period covered by this report. After a series of partial visits, the first complete visit to this camp was conducted in September.

ICRC delegates obtained access to places within the military governorates used for temporary detention for the first time in the early part of the year. Regular visits were conducted in 1990 by Arabic-speaking delegates to prisoners captured on the high seas or in southern Lebanon and transferred to Israel. The ICRC saw more than 21,000 security and administrative detainees in 1990; of this number, 14,990 were seen for the first time. Bi-weekly visits were made to prisoners under interrogation.

An ICRC doctor accompanied the delegates on visits to monitor the detainees' health and to evaluate medical facilities at the detention centres. Assistance was provided to the places of detention regularly visited by the ICRC.

The ICRC continued negotiations to obtain access to all detainees under interrogation, in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the ICRC and the Israeli authorities. In southern Lebanon, the ICRC tried to obtain access to individuals detained within the so-called

"security zone". The ICRC pursued its efforts to secure family visits for detainees. Monthly visits by bus were organized to places of detention for the families of detained persons.

### **Protection of the civilian population**

Since the beginning of the civil disturbances in 1987, the ICRC maintained a regular presence in the territories occupied by Israel, particularly in camps and villages under curfew, so as to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention by the occupying power. On 9 October, after a sharp rise in the number of dead and wounded in the territories occupied by Israel, the ICRC urgently appealed to the Israeli authorities to put an end to the use of live ammunition against civilians. In December, the ICRC appealed again to the Israeli authorities to treat the civilian population in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The ICRC conducted on-the-spot investigations and reports were submitted to the Israeli authorities whenever there was evidence of a violation of international humanitarian law (expulsion of residents from the occupied territories, destruction or sealing of homes, settlements constructed within the occupied territories, absence of legal guarantees).

As a neutral intermediary, the ICRC acted whenever possible to ensure the protection of the civilian population by evacuating the wounded and guaranteeing the immunity of hospitals and dispensaries.

### **Tracing Agency**

The ICRC carried out tracing activities connected with protection: registering detainees, checking lists received from the Israeli authorities (about 1,000 new ar-

rests per month), opening and updating files, locating detainees (which involves a monthly update by the Tracing Agency of about 1,000 transfers from prison to prison), and issuing detention certificates.

The Tracing Agency also facilitated the exchange of messages between people in the territories occupied by Israel and their relatives living abroad, particularly in Arab countries.

In 1990, 18,872 arrests were communicated to the ICRC by families, and 18,642 cases were confirmed by the authorities, as well as by ICRC registration. A total of 28,234 certificates of detention were issued to family members in 1990 by the ICRC.

The number of Red Cross messages handled by the ICRC grew from 10,604 in 1987 to 24,367 in 1988, 74,567 in 1989 and 78,144 in 1990.

### Medical activities

ICRC medical staff made regular evaluations of hospitals and dispensaries in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. They distributed medicines and other stocks of medical supplies when necessary, evacuated the wounded from areas affected by the disturbances, monitored their treatment in hospital and provided support when hospitals were overburdened.

The ICRC promoted and supervised training courses given by the Magen David Adom Society on the evacuation of wounded persons for ambulance staff from Red Crescent Societies. The ICRC also encouraged the professional development of existing mobile medical teams in order to improve the care given to conflict victims and the sick and wounded under curfew conditions.

During the last quarter of the year, the Netherlands Red Cross Society and the

ICRC made a joint study of the needs in hospitals in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in order to provide temporary financial assistance for running costs.

### Relief

In 1990, the ICRC provided assistance in the form of blankets and tents for temporary shelter to 400 families whose homes were demolished or walled up by the Israeli armed forces.

### Dissemination

In spite of the many years of ICRC presence in the region, in 1990 there was still a great need for spreading information about the ICRC, why it was in Israel and the territories occupied by Israel, and how the organization worked.

In 1990 the ICRC set up, developed and maintained a systematic dissemination programme for the Israeli armed forces operating in the occupied territories.

A dissemination programme was also set up for the Palestinian population, including members of the local Red Crescent branches.

## JORDAN

The work of the ICRC delegation in Jordan included activities related to the situation in Kuwait, Lebanon and the territories occupied by Israel, dissemination of information on the work of the Red Cross, and cooperation with National Societies.

The amount of tracing work carried out by the delegation increased continuously following the *intifada* in the territories occupied by Israel. Thousands of detention certificates were issued, and the ICRC organized transportation of sick people



jointly with the Jordanian Red Crescent. Furthermore, thousands of family messages — over 28,000 in 1990 — were transmitted (often by VHF).

### **Activities for detainees**

The ICRC delegation visited security detainees and detainees under interrogation. The delegates made 40 visits to six places of detention, where they saw 697 prisoners; of this number, 289 were seen for the first time. The ICRC conducted regular visits and provided relief assistance throughout the year to security detainees in Jordan, including security detainees under interrogation. In the first part of 1990, the ICRC delegation in Amman monitored the release of the security detainees granted amnesty in November 1989. ICRC visits to prisoners who did not benefit from these measures continued. The delegates also visited persons detained after the disturbances in May 1990.

### **Activities for civilians in transit**

In August, following the entry of Iraqi troops into Kuwait, thousands of third-party nationals leaving Kuwait and Iraq were evacuated through Jordan. At the request of the Jordanian authorities, the ICRC, with the cooperation of the Jordan Red Crescent, took action on behalf of the persons stranded at Ruwesheid in the no-man's-land between the Jordanian and Iraqi border posts. The Ruwesheid transit centre was not designed to accommodate a large number of people for a long period of time. However, most of the returnees did not have the means to travel on. With hot desert conditions and the constant mass influx of evacuees, the centre was soon dangerously overcrowded and conditions deteriorated alarmingly.

### ***Azraq 1 camp***

ICRC delegates, doctors and nurses as well as 30 volunteers from the German Red Cross were immediately sent in to assist with the operation. Relief supplies, including tents, blankets and medical material, were transported by air from Geneva to Amman.

A transit camp with a capacity of 30,000 persons was set up in six days near Azraq, an oasis 100 kilometres from Amman. The tents were laid out in sections, each with a capacity for 500 persons. The camp opened on 12 September. There was an infrastructure for water supply, food distribution, medical care and sanitation facilities. People who arrived received blankets, kitchen sets and stoves. Basic foodstuffs were distributed each day.

More than 66,000 returnees (daily average: 10,300 persons) were sheltered at Azraq 1 during the first 27 days the camp was open (12 September — 10 October). More than 270,000 daily rations of rice, lentils, oil, curry bread, milk, fresh vegetables and fruit were distributed. Baby food was also supplied for infants. Returnees stayed an average of four days at Azraq before leaving Jordan for their homeland. The return journeys were organized and financed by either the International Organization for Migrations or the country of origin of the persons concerned.

On 8 November, the camps again began receiving returnees, and 3,892 people were sheltered for a week.

On 15 November, the Azraq camp was turned over to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to be run jointly with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society.

### ***Transit camp T 1/28***

A new transit camp, T 1/28, was set up 50 kilometres from the border and went

into operation on 1 October, replacing the emergency centre at Ruweshid.

In addition to relief and medical assistance, ICRC delegates gave protection to returnees by acting as a liaison with their diplomatic representatives and international governmental or non-governmental organizations.

The ICRC retained responsibility for the T 1/28 camp at the end of the year.

## LEBANON

Deteriorating relations between the different factions and widespread fighting displaced many families in 1990 and increased the social and economic disruption in the country. For some periods, Beirut came under daily shelling and civilians left the city and its suburbs *en masse* for safer areas, in particular southern Lebanon. The heavy loss of life and resources weakened the already fragile economic and social structures.

Between March and the end of June, the ICRC assisted approximately 500,000 people in a special operation financed by the European Community.

Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, the two ICRC orthopaedic technicians abducted in Sidon on 6 October 1989, were released on 8 and 13 August respectively. Following their release, the ICRC reassessed the situation and decided to remain in Lebanon but to reduce its expatriate staff and increase security measures.

In October, the political structure of the country changed and the militia groups withdrew from greater Beirut, creating conditions favourable to the continuation of the ICRC's work. On several occasions the ICRC evacuated civilians and removed bodies during intense inter-Shiite fighting

in the Iklim el Touffah region. The AMAL and Hezbollah signed an agreement in November which reduced hostilities between the two groups there. At the end of the year the weight of the conflict shifted to the southern part of the country where there was an escalation in the conflict between various factions and Israeli troops.

### Activities for detainees

In spite of the widespread conflict in Lebanon and a reduction in ICRC staff, ICRC delegates and doctors visited prisoners held by government forces in Beirut and by the different militias in Lebanon where authorized. On the other hand, Khiam prison, situated within the "security zone", remained closed to the ICRC, despite repeated requests made to the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) and to the Israeli authorities. In addition, family visits for detainees in Khiam prison, authorized until February 1988, remained suspended during 1990. However, ICRC delegates maintained contact with the Khiam centre, as well as other centres where access was not authorized, transmitted messages to families, and distributed medicines and personal items when permitted. In 1990, the ICRC visited 1,879 detainees of whom 1,779 were registered for the first time.

In early December, subsequent to the agreement signed by the AMAL and the Hezbollah in the Iklim el Touffah region, a quadripartite committee of the Hezbollah, the AMAL and the Syrian and Iranian Governments was formed. The ICRC was invited to be the neutral and independent intermediary in two exchanges of prisoners; seven prisoners were released in the first exchange and 93 in the second.

Detainees and families of detainees received 26.9 tonnes of assistance.

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

Despite the decrease in ICRC expatriate staff, the delegation pursued its protection, tracing, medical and relief activities in behalf of the civilian population in Lebanon, largely due to the delegation of work to locally-employed staff.

A regular ICRC presence was maintained throughout Lebanon, particularly in the regions most likely to suffer directly from armed clashes. The ICRC maintained and developed contacts with all parties to the conflict in order to permit an ongoing evaluation of the situation in Lebanon. People fleeing the fighting found few calm areas, many were displaced, thousands left Lebanon and many civilians were killed or wounded.

### **Tracing Agency**

In 1990, the ICRC had nine tracing offices in the following places: Beirut, Jounieh, Tripoli, Ksara, Baalbek, Beit-ed-Dine, Sidon, Jezzine and Tyre. These offices gathered and processed information concerning detainees and civilians affected by the conflict.

The increase in the number of displaced civilians in 1990 meant more requests for information from family members. The volume of family messages rose, both within Lebanon and abroad. The ICRC received 1,045 tracing requests for missing persons, facilitated 83 family reunifications and forwarded more than 26,660 Red Cross messages from families without news of their relatives in Lebanon or abroad.

### **Medical activities**

Owing to the danger for ICRC expatriates, which resulted in reductions in ICRC expatriate staff, the mobile clinics did not function as usual and there was limited assessment of medical centres.

ICRC medical activities in Lebanon included evacuating the dead and wounded from the conflict areas, assisting hospitals, managing two orthopaedic centres and providing medical and nutritional assistance for displaced persons. The ICRC maintained stocks of medical material and medicines in Lebanon. ICRC sanitation teams assessed and, where necessary, improved water facilities in conflict zones and areas where displaced persons were located.

The orthopaedic centre in Sidon, which had closed in 1989 following the abduction of two ICRC orthopaedic technicians, reopened in December 1990 with Lebanese staff. The centre coordinated consultations in Jezzine. The ICRC also provided support for the orthopaedic centre in Beit-Chebab.

### **Relief**

A total of 2,436 tonnes of assistance, including 99,314 food parcels, 751 kitchen sets and 107,027 blankets, was distributed to 607,513 beneficiaries in 1990. Relief assistance was provided in northern Lebanon and the Bekaa valley, Beirut and the Chouf mountains, and southern Lebanon.

### **Cooperation with the National Society**

The different departments of the Lebanese Red Cross are responsible for medical and social work, first aid, pharmacy, the blood bank and information/dissemination. The ICRC continued to provide financial and material support to the National Society and acted as advisor, together with the League, in the effort by the Lebanese Red Cross to reorganize its components.

Relief assistance to the Lebanese Red Cross in 1990 totalled 730 tonnes.

## SYRIA

In 1990, the delegation based in Damascus was mainly concerned with activities related to the regional conflicts in the Middle East, specifically the hostilities in the territories occupied by Israel and in Lebanon. The ICRC continued to assist the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society with a nutritional programme for children.

The delegation provided tracing services in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent primarily for separated families living in Syria and the territories occupied by Israel. A total of 2,320 Red Cross messages were handled by the delegation and 21 families were reunited in 1990.

The ICRC provided technical support for the Doummar orthopaedic centre in Damascus.

## *North Africa*

### WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT

Up to the end of the period covered by this report, the ICRC continued working for the repatriation on humanitarian grounds of 200 Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front. No date had been set for the repatriation by year's end.

The ICRC continued parallel discussions with the Polisario Front and the Moroccan government.

With the Polisario Front, the ICRC discussed visits to the Moroccan prisoners.

Talks held with the Moroccan government centred on the notification of capture which would enable prisoners to be visited.

The ICRC handled 1,540 Red Cross messages between Moroccan prisoners of war and their families.

### REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

*ARABIAN PENINSULA: (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Republic of Yemen, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates).*

The ICRC regional delegate for the Arabian Peninsula was based in Geneva. Nevertheless, since 2 August 1990 the delegate in charge was present in the region. (*For further details see Iraq/Kuwait above*).

In addition, this regional delegation was responsible for visits to detainees in the Republic of Yemen.

*TUNIS: (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Western Sahara).*

The delegation continued to develop contacts with the authorities and the National Societies of the respective countries in the region.

*MAURITANIA* — Between 26 October and 21 November, an ICRC team, including a medical doctor, visited 765 prisoners, 140 of them security detainees, in 13 places of detention. Reports on the visits were submitted to the authorities.

This was the second such series of visits made by the ICRC in Mauritania.

In cooperation with the Mauritanian Red Crescent, the delegation continued tracing activities, such as the exchange of family news, in behalf of victims of the

conflict between Mauritania and Senegal. A total of 2,876 Red Cross messages were handled by the delegation in 1990.

*LIBYA* — Throughout the year, the delegation participated in negotiations in behalf of Libyan prisoners of war held in detention centres in Chad. (*See also Central and West Africa*).

In December, 433 Libyan POWs were released when the government changed in N'Djamena. The regional delegate met with Libyan authorities in Tunis to discuss plans to visit the former POWs. Following their repatriation, the ICRC interviewed the former prisoners of war to determine whether they had returned voluntarily to Libya.

<b>RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1990</b>				
<i>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</i>				
<b>Country</b> (in French alphabetical order)	<b>Medical assistance</b>	<b>Relief</b>		<b>Total</b> Sw. fr.
	<b>Value in Sw. fr.</b>	<b>Value in Sw. fr.</b>	<b>(Tonnes)</b>	
Iraq .....	211,936	808,012	35.2	1,019,948
Iran .....	6,792		.	6,792
Israel and the occupied territories	394,712	1,665,803	297.7	2,060,515
Jordan .....	137,943	6,339,971	1,074.7	6,477,914
Lebanon .....	1,190,785	4,267,734	3,192.3	5,458,519
Mauritania .....	1,305			1,305
Western Sahara (conflict in) .....		200,923	12.5	200,923
Syria .....	21,561	256,846	84	278,407
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>1,965,034</b>	<b>13,539,289</b>	<b>4,696.4</b>	<b>15,504,323</b>

**RELIEF SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC AND INVENTORIED IN THE FIELD IN 1990**  
(Geographical distribution by recipient country)

COUNTRY (in French alphabetical order)	CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND		ICRC PURCHASES		TOTAL	
	(Sw. fr.)	(Tonnes)	(Sw. fr.)	(Tonnes)	(Sw. fr.)	(Tonnes)
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>13,162,361</b>	<b>20,668</b>	<b>17,200,369</b>	<b>9,616</b>	<b>30,362,730</b>	<b>30,284</b>
South Africa .....			365,362	216	365,362	216
Angola .....	4,162,914	7,922	3,398,548	2,836	7,561,462	10,758
Angola (south-east) .....	253,009	24	1,832,540	1,797	2,085,549	1,821
Benin .....			6,500	6	6,500	6
Burundi .....	220		7,448	3	7,668	3
Djibouti .....			2,718		2,718	
Ethiopia .....	848,198	8	1,043,313	5	1,891,511	13
Ethiopia (Eritrea, via Sudan) .....	323,673	35	178,333	41	502,006	76
Gambia .....			20,410	8	20,410	8
Liberia .....	205,052	22	423,780	146	628,832	168
Mali .....			10,820		10,820	
Mozambique .....	519,476	83	1,201,282	1,354	1,720,758	1,437
Namibia .....			70,040	65	70,040	65
Uganda .....	1,506,682	4,602	2,067,395	1,181	3,574,077	5,783
Rwanda .....	570		64,605	13	65,175	13
Senegal .....			29,002	12	29,002	12
Somalia .....	2,808,606	5,435	2,331,109	397	5,139,715	5,832
Sudan .....	1,097,268	2,025	1,653,240	366	2,750,508	2,391
Sudan (conflict in southern Sudan, via Kenya) .....	1,383,937	511	2,241,333	1,012	3,625,270	1,523
Swaziland .....			26,178	2	26,178	2
Togo .....			7,639	1	7,639	1
Zaire .....			69,907	45	69,907	45
Zambia .....	36,200	1	79,493	54	115,693	55
Zimbabwe .....	16,556		69,374	56	85,930	56
<b>LATIN AMERICA</b>	<b>1,347,826</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>1,776,189</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>3,124,015</b>	<b>654</b>
Chile .....	363,837	110	136,997	40	500,834	150
Colombia .....			48,390	4	48,390	4
El Salvador .....			1,080,574	47	1,080,574	47
Haiti .....			1,260		1,260	
Honduras .....	93,158	30			93,158	30
Nicaragua .....	189,468	200	167,866	76	357,334	276
Panama .....			10,147	1	10,147	1
Paraguay .....	419,095	40			419,095	40
Peru .....	282,268	32	330,955	74	613,223	106
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>148,870</b>		<b>6,653,369</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>6,802,239</b>	<b>532</b>
Afghanistan .....	5,900		2,041,107	314	2,047,007	314
Cambodia .....	59,775		1,464,191	20	1,523,966	20
Indonesia .....			19,641	8	19,641	8
Myanmar .....			95,413		95,413	
Nepal .....			9,050		9,050	
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan) ..			1,564,885	151	1,564,885	151
Philippines .....			216,948	24	216,948	24
Sri Lanka .....	62,915		408,258	7	471,173	7
Thailand (conflict in Cambodia) .....	20,280		746,891	8	767,171	8
Viet Nam .....			86,985		86,985	
<b>EUROPE (Romania)</b>	<b>29,588,384</b>	<b>6,668</b>	<b>5,810,453</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>35,398,837</b>	<b>6,688</b>
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b>	<b>6,207,421</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>11,643,311</b>	<b>2,909</b>	<b>17,850,732</b>	<b>4,884</b>
Iraq .....	32,449	5	782,848	19	815,297	24
Iran .....			6,792		6,792	
Israel and the occupied territories ...	298,589	12	1,606,109	269	1,904,698	281
Jordan .....	3,056,088	384	4,634,958	1,376	7,691,046	1,760
Lebanon .....	2,086,686	1,433	2,285,905	936	4,372,591	2,369
Mauritania .....			1,305		1,305	
Western Sahara (conflict in) .....	165,209	8	35,714	4	200,923	12
Syria .....	257,356	84	12,321		269,677	84
"Gulf" emergency stock .....	311,044	49	2,277,359	305	2,588,403	354
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,454,862</b>	<b>29,723</b>	<b>43,083,691</b>	<b>13,319</b>	<b>93,538,553</b>	<b>43,042</b>

**CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC  
AND INVENTORIED IN THE FIELD IN 1990**  
*Listed by donor*

DONORS (in French alphabetical order)	TOTAL RELIEF SUPPLIES (Sw. fr.)	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (Sw. fr.)	OVERALL TOTAL (Sw. fr.)
<b>NATIONAL SOCIETIES</b>	<b>22,452,287</b>	<b>12,397,958</b>	<b>34,850,245</b>
Germany (Democratic Republic) .....	2,050,000		2,050,000
Germany (Federal Republic) .....	413,489	1,612,717	2,026,206
Australia .....		20,280	20,280
Austria .....	1,715,000	1,400,000	3,115,000
Belgium .....	4,046,802	40,971	4,087,773
Bulgaria .....	20,588		20,588
Denmark .....	1,226,511	473,591	1,700,102
Spain .....	33,500	126,619	160,119
Finland .....	831,517	472,483	1,304,000
France .....	214,797		214,797
Greece .....	280,000	570,000	850,000
Iran .....	59,040	25,880	84,920
Ireland .....		100,000	100,000
Italy .....	5,013,455	2,602,800	7,616,255
Luxembourg .....	661,800		661,800
Norway .....	251,664	1,009,763	1,261,427
Netherlands .....	793,170	775,914	1,569,084
Poland .....	634,000		634,000
Portugal .....	31,700		31,700
United Kingdom .....	426,983	939,060	1,366,043
Sweden .....	1,299,112	674,957	1,974,069
Switzerland .....	655,430	959,650	1,615,080
Czechoslovakia .....	1,668,000		1,668,000
USSR .....	20,000		20,000
Yugoslavia .....	80,889	591,817	672,706
Other National Societies <sup>1</sup> .....	24,840	1,456	26,296
<b>GOVERNMENTS</b>	<b>7,485,719</b>	<b>614,434</b>	<b>8,100,153</b>
United States of America .....	1,830,717		1,830,717
Finland .....	1,420,188	614,434	2,034,622
India .....	58,480		58,480
Norway .....	892,000		892,000
Sweden .....	1,331,813		1,331,813
Switzerland .....	1,952,521		1,952,521
<b>OTHER DONORS</b>	<b>7,495,130</b>	<b>9,334</b>	<b>7,504,464</b>
EEC .....	5,587,901		5,587,901
UN (WFP, UNHCR, etc.) .....	1,349,575		1,349,575
Others .....	557,654	9,334	566,988
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>37,433,136</b>	<b>13,021,726</b>	<b>50,454,862</b>
<b>ICRC PURCHASES (non-earmarked)</b>	<b>10,207,027</b>	<b>15,699,683</b>	<b>25,906,710</b>
<b>ICRC PURCHASES (earmarked)</b>	<b>14,509,801</b>	<b>2,667,180</b>	<b>17,176,981</b>
<b>TOTAL ICRC PURCHASES</b>	<b>24,716,828</b>	<b>18,366,863</b>	<b>43,083,691</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62,149,964</b>	<b>31,388,589</b>	<b>93,538,553</b>

<sup>1</sup> National Societies which contributed less than 20,000 Swiss francs.