

Middle East and North Africa

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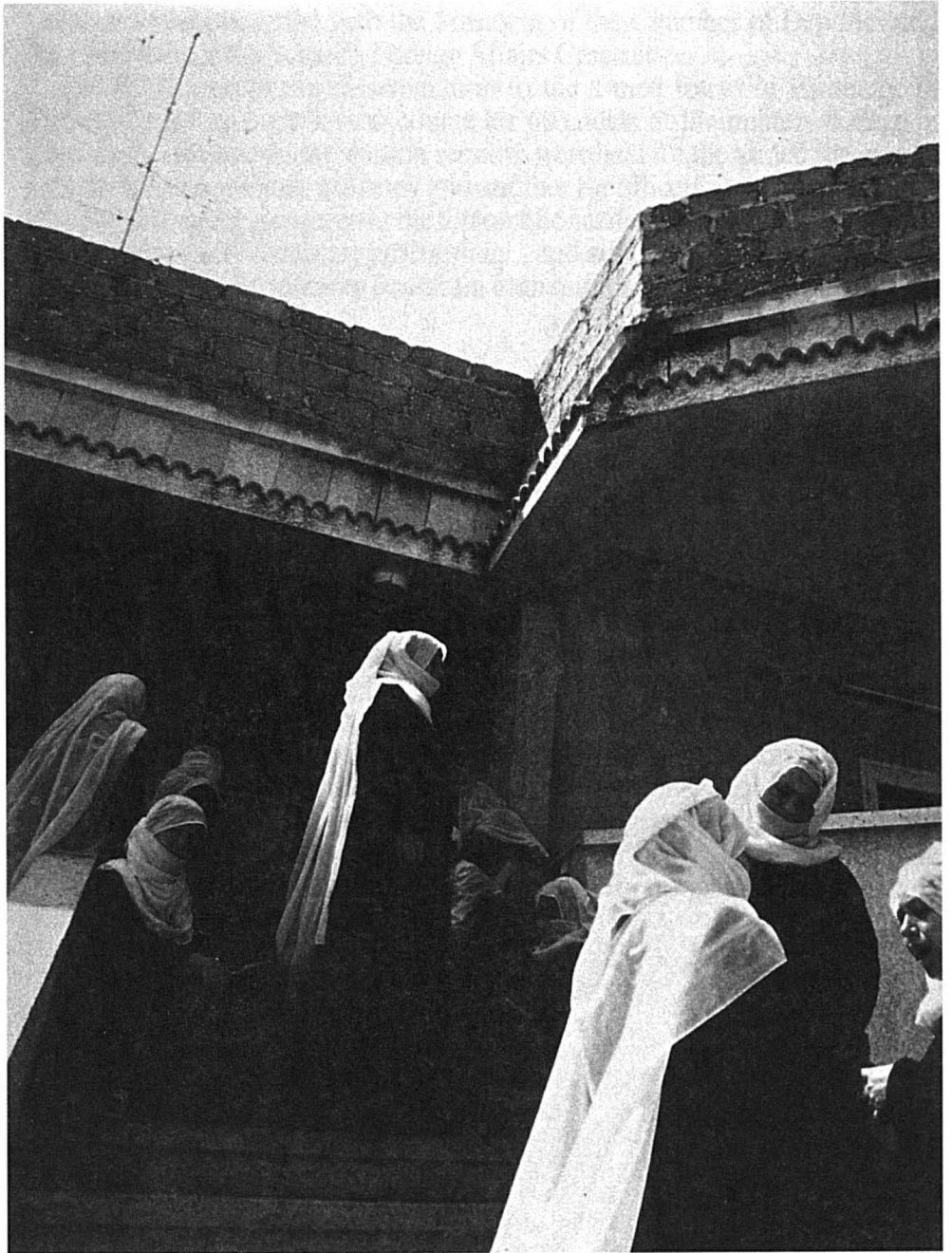
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ICRC/T. Gassmann



The family visit programme to detainees: waiting for the buses on the steps of an ICRC office in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Near East

ICRC delegations:

Israel and the occupied territories
Jordan
Lebanon
Syria

The Gulf

ICRC delegation:

Iraq

ICRC regional delegation:

Kuwait

North Africa

ICRC delegation:

Egypt

ICRC regional delegation:

Tunis

Staff

ICRC expatriates* : 84

Local employees** : 314

Total expenditure

CHF 30,090,990

Expenditure breakdown CHF

Protection/Tracing: 12,666,674

Relief: 604,339

Medical assistance: 7,084,633

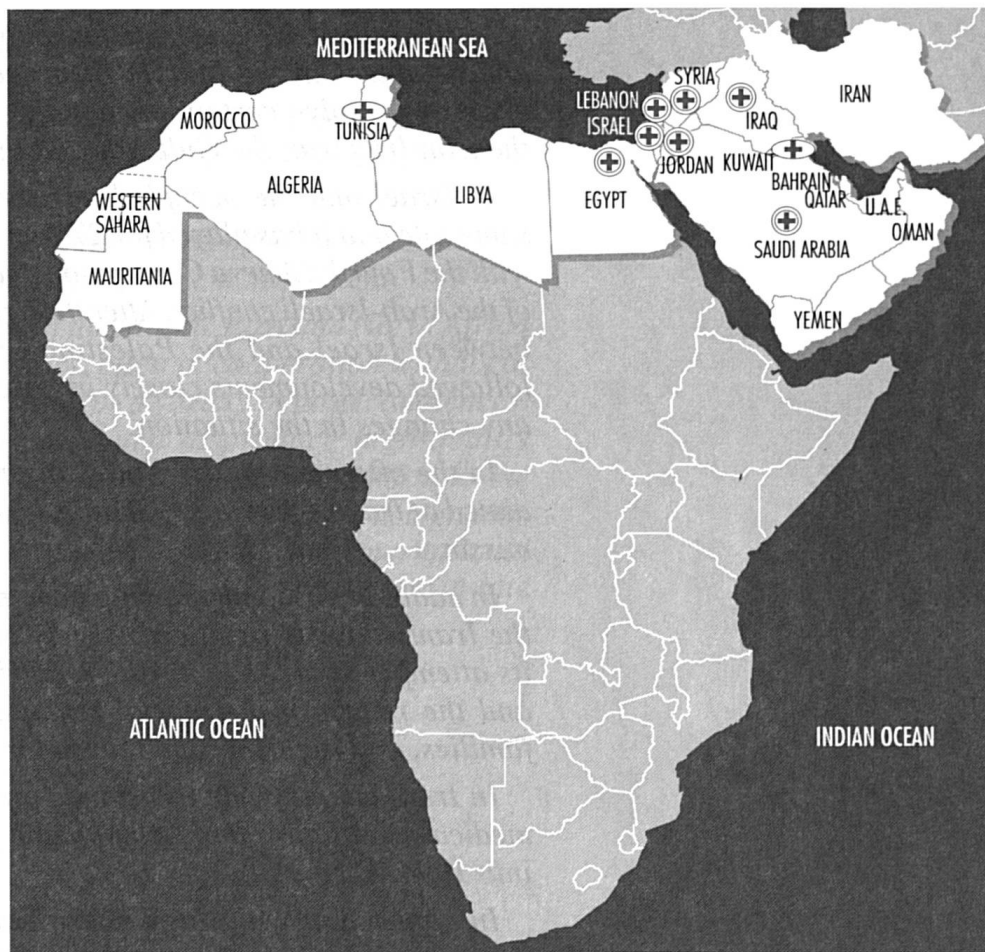
Cooperation with

National Societies: 1,121,595

Dissemination: 573,630

Operational support: 6,208,666

Overheads: 1,831,453



⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC delegation

ICRC / AR 12.93

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

* Average numbers calculated on an annual basis.

** Under ICRC contract, as at December 1993.

In 1993 the ICRC concentrated on protection activities for civilians and detainees in the Middle East and North Africa. It continued its efforts to resolve certain outstanding humanitarian consequences of the Iran/Iraq war, the Gulf war and the Western Sahara conflict.

In Israel and the occupied territories, the ICRC continued in the same role that it has played for 27 years: that of monitoring compliance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and protecting and assisting victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict. After the agreement was signed in September between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, it also followed developments closely in order to adapt in a timely fashion to any changes in the situation.

In the aftermath of the Gulf war, the ICRC kept up its negotiations aimed at tracing Kuwaitis, Saudis, Iraqis and other nationals reported missing.

In addition, the long-standing humanitarian problems connected with the Iran/Iraq war remained largely unresolved. The ICRC continued its attempts to arrange for the repatriation of thousands of prisoners and the return of the mortal remains of all fallen soldiers to their families, and to further the search for people still unaccounted for.

In Iraq, countrywide assistance programmes were launched in the medical, sanitation and orthopaedic fields, and were continuing on into 1994.

In connection with the Western Sahara conflict, the ICRC visited Sahrawis held in Morocco for the first time since 1978. Moroccans detained by the Polisario Front were also visited, for the first time since 1989. The institution continued its efforts to gain access to all prisoners held in connection with the conflict.

In Algeria the ICRC's visits to people detained in connection with the enforcement of the state of emergency had been suspended by the authorities in July 1992. Throughout 1993 the ICRC sought to break the deadlock, but by the end of December 1993 no understanding had been reached on a resumption of visits.

Dissemination activities in the region continued to be of paramount importance. Delegates maintained and built up contacts with the local armed forces, academic and professional circles and the media with a view to promoting international humanitarian law and providing information on the ICRC's role and activities.

The ICRC made particular efforts to promote understanding in the following two main areas:

- international humanitarian law and human rights law: their differences, the ways in which they complement one another and their different fields of application;*
- the ICRC's right of humanitarian initiative, recognized in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.*

During the year the delegations in the Middle East and North Africa arranged many courses and seminars, often in cooperation with local National Societies and organizations, for a variety of target audiences. The ICRC delegation in Egypt continued to produce high-quality publications and dissemination aids in Arabic for distribution to the armed forces and the public. Dissemination efforts by all the delegations in the region were stepped up in connection with the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims held in Geneva in late August at the initiative of the ICRC.

The Near East

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Throughout 1993 the ICRC continued to monitor compliance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and protect and assist victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the same role that it has played in the 27 years during which it has been present on a permanent basis in Israel and the occupied territories.

From 21 to 24 May the ICRC President made an official visit to Israel and the occupied territories. He had talks with the President of the State of Israel, the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, and various other ministers of the Israeli cabinet and members of the Knesset, the defence forces and the judiciary. The President reiterated the ICRC's position regarding the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the territories occupied by Israel. He called on the Israeli authorities to be consistent with their commitment to apply the provisions of the

Conventions and not to allow Israel's security interests to take precedence over its respect for international humanitarian law.

The ICRC President had an exchange of views with the "Magen David Adom" ("the Red Shield of David Society") on various questions of mutual interest.

During his stay in the West Bank and Gaza, the President had direct contacts with leading members of the Central Committee of the Red Crescent Societies, the umbrella organization for eight Red Crescent Societies in the occupied territories which are part of the "Palestinian Red Crescent Society". In addition, he participated in a round table discussion at the ICRC's Jerusalem office with Palestinian personalities.

A significant event in 1993 was the mutual recognition on 10 September by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, followed by the signing three days later of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the two parties. The Declaration provides for a five-year transitional period of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with negotiations on the final status to commence not later than the beginning



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office ⊕ ICRC orthopaedic centre

- IN 1993 THE ICRC:**
- visited some 23,000 detainees in 44 places of detention;
 - provided relief in the form of tents and blankets to about 600 civilians whose houses had been destroyed;
 - arranged for 288,418 people to visit their detained relatives through the joint ICRC/Norwegian Red Cross/Central Committee of the Red Crescent Societies family visit programme;
 - handled 27,293 Red Cross messages;
 - issued 17,403 certificates of detention and 1,046 power-of-attorney documents.

of the third year of this phase. Joint Israeli-Palestinian committees were set up to deal with issues linked to the implementation of the Declaration.

The ICRC stated that, during the five-year transitional period laid down in the Declaration, it would extend its role as an independent humanitarian organization whose mandate was defined by the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the Movement. It would keep a close watch on the humanitarian implications of the new accord's implementation, and would remain at the disposal of all parties concerned in order to act as a neutral intermediary.

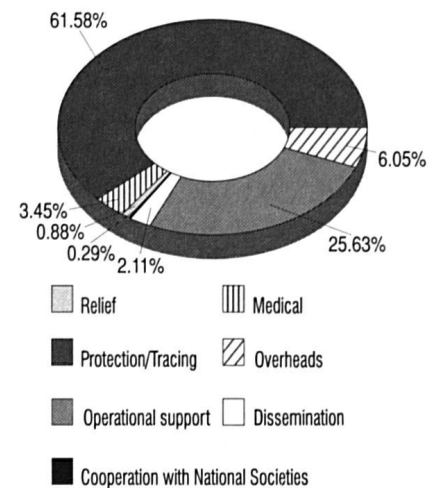
On 3 October the ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa and the regional delegate met the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunis. They discussed such issues as the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the consequences, in humanitarian terms, of the occupation, the ICRC's activities and administrative structure in the area, and the institution's role in programmes to assist the existing Red Crescent structures inside and outside the occupied territories.

Protection of the civilian population

In an effort to protect the civilian population and their property, ICRC delegates try, by means of approaches to the authorities, to put an end to violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention such as deportations, the destruction of houses and the building of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

On 17 December 1992, following the killing of an Israeli border policeman, the Israelis had deported 415 Palestinian civilians who thereupon remained stranded in a camp situated in a no man's land between Israeli-controlled and Lebanese-controlled territory in southern Lebanon. The ICRC publicly stated that the expulsion was a grave breach of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the forcible transfer of protected persons, and that Israel's responsibility for people illegally transferred lasted until the state of affairs that had existed before the breach had been restored. The ICRC also stressed that both Israel and Lebanon were unilaterally obliged to allow the free passage of medical and other relief consignments. On 9 and 23 January ICRC delegates flew to the makeshift camp at Marj-ez-Zouhour/Zemraya and assessed the condition of the deportees. They were allowed to evacuate 19 of them, including five for medical reasons. On 9 September 181 deportees were allowed to return to the occupied territories, and on 10 September a team of ICRC delegates were given access to the 215 remaining in the camp. The delegates delivered medical assistance and assessed the deportees' overall conditions, paying particular attention to their general state of health. During the year a total of 2,240 Red Cross messages were exchanged between the deportees and their families in the occupied territories. By 15 December all but 18 of the 415 deportees had returned to Israel and the occupied territories. Those remaining in the camp had decided not to return for the time being.

Israel and the occupied territories
Total expenditure in 1993:
CHF 9,200,000



The situation in the occupied territories remained tense in 1993. A total of 143 Palestinian civilians, including a number of children, were killed by Israeli security forces, many others were wounded and 87 houses were partially or completely destroyed during or after operations to arrest Palestinians on the Israeli “wanted” list. The ICRC made representations to the Israeli authorities, asking them to ensure that the security forces carried out only police operations in the occupied territories and to ban military operations against civilians and civilian property.

The number of houses destroyed or walled up as a punitive measure declined. Nonetheless, 71 houses were destroyed because they had been built despite the fact that the owners had not obtained a construction permit. This caused considerable distress for several hundred people protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

For security reasons, Israel decided to close off the occupied territories at the end of March 1993. Some 120,000 Palestinians who had previously crossed the “green line” on a regular basis to go to work in Israel suffered severe economic deprivation and the overall economic situation deteriorated.

Following a period of relative calm in the occupied territories in mid-year, the situation again deteriorated at the end of October. Incidents in which Palestinians were killed or injured or Palestinian property was destroyed by Israeli settlers increased, as did killings by armed Palestinians of Israeli civilians and members of the Israeli security forces in the occupied territories and in Israel. The delegation intervened with the Israeli authorities to remind them of their responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding maintenance of law and order in the occupied territories, and made representations to all sides concerned to put an end to the killings of Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

A large number of Palestinians were victims of continuing violence amongst Palestinians, mainly in the Gaza Strip but also in the West Bank. ICRC delegates requested Palestinian personalities inside and outside the occupied territories to use their influence to put an end to extrajudicial executions and ill-treatment of fellow Palestinians.

From 25 to 31 July the Israel Defence Forces, supported by the South Lebanon Army, carried out a military operation which they termed “Operation Accountability” in the area north of the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon, during which intensive shelling and air raids were conducted. At the same time attacks continued on northern Israel and the Israeli-occupied zone. The ICRC on two occasions made public appeals to all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law and to spare the civilian population and their property.

After the operation ICRC delegates conducted a survey in the Israeli areas affected by the said attacks, in northern Galilee, in order to assess the needs of the civilian population. According to the survey, the “Magen David Adom” and

other private and public institutions were able to cover the needs of the people affected. (For ICRC assistance to Lebanese victims, see *Lebanon*.)

Activities for detainees

In 1993 the bulk of the delegation's work in Israel and the occupied territories was again focused on protection of detainees. At the beginning of the year, ICRC delegates were visiting more than 12,000 Palestinian detainees held by the Israeli authorities. By the end of the year, around 10,400 Palestinians were still in detention, including 144 administrative detainees, 9,500 security detainees and 750 common law detainees held in 44 places of detention in the occupied territories and, contrary to the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, in Israel. ICRC delegates carried out visits to all places of detention, consisting of prisons, military detention centres, police stations and temporary detention centres, during which they monitored conditions of detention and provided medical and material assistance. In 1993 ICRC delegates made a series of complete visits to Prison Service jails and to the military detention centres. Following these visits, synthesis reports were produced and transmitted to the Israeli authorities concerned.

Despite sustained efforts, the ICRC continued to be denied access to a number of Lebanese nationals detained in Israel and to detainees in Khiam prison in the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon. All these detainees are protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In 1993, ICRC delegates carried out 424 visits to detainees held in interrogation sections. The majority of the average 1,000 Palestinians arrested every month were held in these sections. In order to monitor conditions of detention there, 4,158 private interviews were conducted with detainees in accordance with an agreement concluded in 1979 with the Israeli authorities under which detainees can be visited by ICRC delegates within 14 days after their arrest. In February 1993 a confidential report was handed over to the Israeli authorities on the treatment of Palestinian detainees under interrogation in prisons, military detention centres and police stations. Following the submission of this report, which did not receive any written response in 1993, the ICRC had several meetings with the competent Israeli ministerial authorities to explore practical measures that could be taken to improve the treatment of detainees and reduce the period of time that they spent in the interrogation sections.

In 1993 the ICRC and the Central Committee of the Red Crescent Societies arranged transport for 288,418 people to visit detained relatives in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. The Norwegian Red Cross took over responsibility for financing and coordinating the programme for one year in September 1992 and in September 1993 the agreement was renewed for another year. The National Society had a coordinator working with the ICRC delegation throughout 1993.

Tracing activities

In connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the ICRC continued to provide an all-important link between people in the Israeli-occupied territories and the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, with which Israel had no diplomatic relations. This link was often the sole means of communication between families separated as a result of the conflict. In particular, in the absence of postal links with the above countries, delegates facilitated the exchange of news between detainees and civilians in the occupied territories and their families living in Arab countries, forwarded official documents of an administrative, medical and legal nature, and sent urgent messages by radio when necessary on humanitarian grounds. The ICRC facilitated 293 transfers and ambulance crossings in emergency cases across the King Hussein/Allenby bridge into Jordan, and arranged the hand-over to Lebanon of two civilians, as well as a detainee released from a place of detention in Israel. It acted as a neutral intermediary between the Israeli and Syrian authorities in organizing the transfer during the year of 389 Arab residents of the occupied Golan Heights or Syria across the demarcation line for the purpose of pilgrimage, studies or marriage. At the end of 1993, 55 people from the occupied Golan Heights, who in 1992 had received permission from the Syrian authorities to visit relatives in Syria, were still waiting for the green light from the Israeli authorities to cross the demarcation line.

The ICRC carried out its tracing services from Jerusalem, Gaza and Tel Aviv and its network of 11 local offices in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. It collected information on the whereabouts of detainees, mainly through notification by the detaining authorities, the registration cards filled in by detainees during ICRC visits and information collected from families of detainees. The huge amount of data was processed by means of three computer networks and redistributed to ICRC offices. Every month the ICRC tracing offices responded to an average of 10,000 requests from families for information about a detained relative and handled Red Cross messages between detainees and their relatives in countries without diplomatic representation with Israel. The tracing offices issued certificates of detention enabling detainees' families and ex-detainees to obtain certain benefits and had powers of attorney signed by detainees to enable their families to settle their affairs on their behalf.

Throughout the year the tracing agency dealt with tracing requests from Lebanese families looking for relatives who had gone missing in southern Lebanon.

In June the tracing agency in Israel and the occupied territories and Jordan organized a visit by 30 relatives from Jordan to Palestinians who were detained in the occupied territories and did not have any relatives there.

Despite continuous efforts throughout the year, no progress was made in determining the fate of Israeli servicemen reported missing in Lebanon.

Medical assistance

During the regular visits to places of detention, ICRC medical staff monitored health care services there.

On 1 April a programme was started to provide financial assistance to ten private Palestinian hospitals situated in the West Bank and Gaza. The scheme was funded by the European Community and implemented by the Netherlands Red Cross under ICRC supervision. It was agreed for 12 months and covered 20-30% of the hospitals' running costs.

Dissemination

In April delegates organized a two-day seminar on international humanitarian law, the ICRC's mandate and activities and the history of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the Gaza Strip for 50 lawyers from the organization Palestinian Lawyers for Human Rights, and in July a similar seminar was organized for the Association for Human Rights in Nazareth. In August, as part of a course for legal officers, the delegation in Tel Aviv presented the ICRC's role and its mandate, concentrating on the Fourth Geneva Convention and the ICRC's presence in the occupied territories, and the Movement. The presentation was made to 19 future employees of the International Law Branch of the Israel Defence Forces.

The delegation produced a Hebrew version of the *Basic rules of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols*, published by the ICRC. Two thousand copies were printed.

On 22 August the Jerusalem sub-delegation inaugurated a photo exhibition "The ICRC – the World Over", in the presence of a member of the Committee, the ICRC's governing board. After being shown in East Jerusalem, the exhibition made a tour of the other 12 towns in the occupied territories where the ICRC has local offices. A number of institutions showed interest in setting it up on their premises as well.

Coordination of international Red Cross/Red Crescent action in the occupied territories

Following the signing of the Declaration of Principles in Washington on 13 September 1993 it was agreed, in consultation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, that the ICRC, by virtue of its role as a neutral and independent institution and intermediary, would assume the general coordination of international Red Cross and Red Crescent action during the transitional period leading up to Palestinian autonomy. This role was confirmed at a meeting held in Geneva on 29 September between representatives from the ICRC, the Federation and 20 National Societies. With a view to

developing an active Red Crescent Society in the occupied and future autonomous territories, the ICRC delegation began to assist the existing Red Crescent structures in the Gaza Strip and West Bank in identifying projects which would help to develop their operational capacity. The delegation also compiled data on the organizations in the occupied territories which provide primary health care to the civilian population, with the aim of assisting these organizations during the transitional phase.

At a meeting between the presidents of the “Magen David Adom” and the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” in the presence of the ICRC President in Birmingham on 25 October, the two decided to develop the existing working contacts between the two organizations and to determine jointly fields in which cooperation would be possible and useful. On 2 November the ICRC convened a meeting in Geneva for potential donor National Societies. On 14 December a meeting was held in Amman to discuss cooperation within the Movement regarding projects to support and develop the Red Crescent in the occupied territories. Present were representatives from the ICRC, the Federation, the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” and the Central Committee of the Red Crescent Societies, as well as several National Societies. On 22 December the ICRC President met the President of the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society” at the ICRC’s headquarters in Geneva, where it was again confirmed that the ICRC would coordinate all action by National Societies in the occupied territories, in close cooperation with the Federation and the “Palestinian Red Crescent Society”, until autonomy had been implemented in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

JORDAN

The ICRC delegation in Amman concentrated in 1993 on detention-related and dissemination activities, and provided logistic support for ICRC programmes being carried out in Iraq. It also continued its work on behalf of Palestinians affected by the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in the occupied territories.

Developments in the Middle East peace process were naturally of great interest in Jordan, where a large number of the population are Palestinian. The delegation intensified its contacts with Palestinian representatives in Amman.

Following the introduction in 1992 of a law legalizing political parties in Jordan, 17 political groups which had applied for recognition were granted official status by the end of March 1993. Multi-party elections were held on 8 November against a background of calm.

Activities for detainees

Throughout the year the delegation carried out protection activities which consisted in particular of visits to security detainees.

IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- carried out 57 visits to 343 detainees in 9 places of detention, registering 321 for the first time;
- handled 24,737 Red Cross messages, opened 62 tracing cases and closed 55, and issued 5,988 certificates of detention and 37 travel documents;
- carried out 466 repatriations and transfers for medical and humanitarian reasons.

ICRC delegates assessed the situation in civilian and military detention centres. Visits were carried out twice a month to 302 detainees in the General Intelligence Directorate, and eight *ad hoc* visits were made to detainees in the Military Intelligence Directorate, the Department of Foreigners and Frontiers, the rehabilitation centres of Swaqa, Qafqafa and Juweideh and the military detention centre of Zarqa.

In addition, between 9 and 18 February ICRC delegates, accompanied by a doctor from Geneva headquarters, carried out a complete visit to all rehabilitation centres in the country and submitted reports to the Ministry of the Interior. The previous complete visit had taken place in August 1991.

Tracing activities

The tracing work of the delegation was related mainly to the conflict in the Israeli-occupied territories (see *Israel and the occupied territories* for details), although some of it still concerned the aftermath of the Gulf war. Delegates issued certificates of detention to the families of detainees in Israel and the occupied territories, and also of some detainees in Kuwait and Iraq. These certificates enabled the families to obtain financial support.

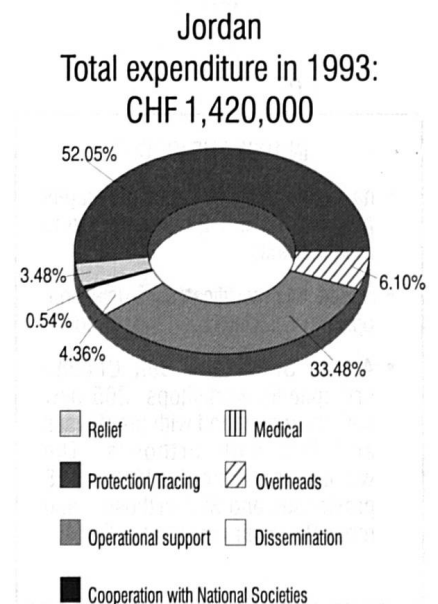
Dissemination

In May the delegation held a symposium in Amman on international humanitarian law. The participants included lawyers, editors, writers, journalists and teachers from North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East. In September a seminar entitled "Health in Prison" was held in cooperation with the Jordanian Ministry of Health and under the patronage of the Crown Prince. Participants consisted of doctors working in detention centres visited by the ICRC and representatives of various ministries and security forces concerned with health problems and medical ethics.

An important part of the delegation's dissemination work in 1993 was the organization of courses for Palestinian police forces to serve in the future autonomous territories. Two three-day courses were held in November, each one for some 50 officers belonging to the Palestine Liberation Army and responsible for leading and training the future police forces.

The programme consisted of an introduction to international humanitarian law, a presentation of the ICRC's activities in the occupied territories and a specialized section on the humanitarian and human rights aspects of police work, given by an outside expert.

Throughout the year delegates maintained contacts with the armed forces with a view to promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law. They also continued their regular presentations on the ICRC and international



humanitarian law to teachers and schoolchildren from Jordanian secondary schools and university students.

LEBANON

The situation in 1993 remained tense in southern Lebanon: regular confrontations took place along the demarcation line separating the Israeli-occupied zone from the rest of the country and inside the zone itself between Lebanese and Palestinian armed groups and the Israel Defence Forces/South Lebanon Army.

Protection of civilians was the foremost concern of ICRC delegates in Lebanon. Civilians in the southern part of the country regularly suffered the consequences of military operations carried out by forces present in the area. The ICRC checked on alleged violations of international humanitarian law which resulted in civilian deaths and injuries or destruction of civilian property, and made the appropriate representations to all parties to the conflict in the south of the country. The delegation maintained and intensified its contacts with the main parties present in Lebanon.

On 25 July the Israel Defence Forces launched a large-scale military offensive, which they termed "Operation Accountability", in southern Lebanon. At the same time, attacks continued on the Israeli-occupied zone and civilian targets in northern Israel. According to information from the Lebanese authorities, in the course of the operation some 300,000 civilians were forced out of their homes, more than 130 were killed and several hundred were wounded. ICRC surveys, carried out mainly along the demarcation line separating the Israeli-occupied zone from the rest of the country, showed that over 800 buildings had been completely destroyed and nearly 2,000 damaged. In addition to the five expatriates based in Lebanon, six more ICRC delegates were sent to the country during the conflict. Two of the delegates and a nurse stayed in the south of the country after the hostilities in order to carry out surveys in the affected areas and to distribute relief and medical assistance.

During the hostilities the ICRC made public appeals to all parties to the conflict to respect the provisions of international humanitarian law. The ICRC distributed *ad hoc* material assistance to 2,800 displaced families and medical supplies to hospitals and dispensaries in the areas affected by the hostilities. It also provided first-aid material and financial aid to the first-aid department of the Lebanese Red Cross which evacuated a large number of dead and wounded.

The ICRC extended its budget by CHF 1,400,000 in order to finance the following relief activities which were organized after the hostilities. Delegates provided food parcels, blankets and kitchen sets for a period of two months for 2,000 families whose homes had been completely or partially destroyed. They also gave medical assistance in the form of ten WHO* emergency kits for

IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- handled 5,979 Red Cross messages and carried out 21 transfers and repatriations;
- issued 117 certificates of detention, opened 76 tracing cases and solved 47.
- At the Sidon and Beit Chebab orthopaedic workshops, 205 new patients were fitted with prostheses and 201 with orthoses. The workshops manufactured 528 prostheses and 393 orthoses, and made 95 repairs to artificial limbs.

*World Health Organization.

dispensaries run by local organizations in southern Lebanon which had been destroyed or damaged during the fighting (each WHO kit covers the needs of 10,000 people for three months). To enable the 15 Lebanese Red Cross dispensaries in southern Lebanon to respond to the needs of the population which had been affected by the hostilities, the ICRC provided them with equipment and medical supplies for three months and financed the repair of a Lebanese Red Cross dispensary damaged in the fighting.

For details of ICRC activities in connection with the camp of deportees at Marj-ez-Zouhour/Zemraya in southern Lebanon, see *Israel and the occupied territories*. The delegation in Lebanon also stressed that both Lebanon and Israel were unilaterally obliged to allow the free passage of medical and other relief consignments.

Activities for detainees

On five occasions the delegation organized the transfer back to their families of a total of 12 detainees who had been released by militia groups or from Khiam prison in the Israeli-occupied zone.

The ICRC did not have access to detainees held by Lebanese militia groups.

(For activities relating to visits to Khiam prison see *Israel and the occupied territories*.)

Tracing activities

The ICRC tracing agency continued its work both for detainees and their families and for dispersed families, in particular Palestinians, by forwarding Red Cross messages, carrying out transfers and repatriations, issuing certificates of detention and dealing with tracing requests (see *Israel and the occupied territories*).

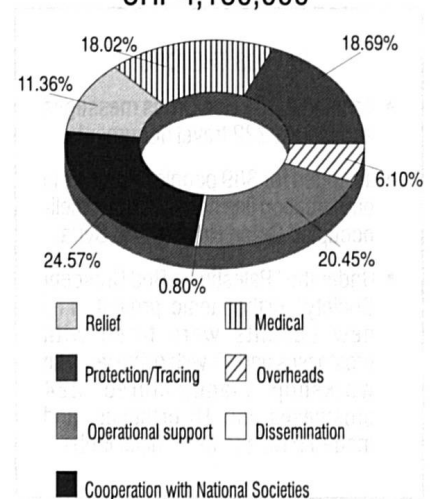
In addition to the special assistance provided in connection with "Operation Accountability", the following medical and relief activities were carried out during the year.

Medical assistance

Some 15,515 consultations were given during the year by the staff of the mobile clinics assisted by the ICRC. These clinics cover villages along the demarcation line between the Israeli-occupied zone and the rest of the country, where normal access to medical services is difficult. The ICRC regularly distributed medical supplies to some 17 hospitals and 42 dispensaries to enable them to treat civilians injured in clashes, and also provided assistance to the eight "Palestinian Red Crescent Society" hospitals in the country.

The ICRC paid part of the running costs of the first-aid department of the Lebanese Red Cross and provided it with medical supplies. It gave financial aid

Lebanon
Total expenditure in 1993:
CHF 4,180,000



in the form of payment of salaries to the social and medical sections of the National Society.

The ICRC continued material and technical support for its two orthopaedic workshops in Sidon and Beit Chebab, introducing a new technique using polypropylene to produce prostheses and thus reducing costs considerably.

Assistance for the civilian population

ICRC delegates regularly distributed relief items to victims of clashes in the southern part of the country as well as to needy families of detainees known to the ICRC from tracing enquiries. The assistance took the form of family parcels, kitchen sets and blankets.

Dissemination

Delegates delivered a series of twice-monthly lectures at Jinan University on international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In April two lectures were given on ICRC activities, the Movement and international humanitarian law to about 100 Lebanese officers at the Institute of Internal Security Forces. The delegation held two similar sessions for 42 officers participating in a course for battalion commanders at an army staff college near Beirut.

On 29 November the delegation organized a round table discussion in Beirut in cooperation with a private television network covering the whole of Lebanon. Participants included an ICRC expert on humanitarian law, a professor of international law and a former judge, and discussions covered humanitarian law and human rights law and the follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims.

SYRIA

Throughout the year one of the ICRC's main activities in Syria was its tracing services in connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict and in particular on behalf of the population of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights (see *Israel and the occupied territories* for details).

From 14 to 19 December the Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa visited Damascus, providing an opportunity for the ICRC to explain both to the Syrian authorities and Palestinian groups based in Damascus its position and plans regarding the recent developments in the region and their consequences in humanitarian terms. The Delegate General also informed the authorities about the ICRC's work on behalf of Syrian nationals held by the Israeli authorities.

The institution maintained its contacts with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. At the beginning of September the ICRC organized a seminar in Arabic on international humanitarian law for more than 30 members of the National Society,

IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- handled 2,301 Red Cross messages and issued 222 travel documents;
- arranged for 389 people to cross the demarcation line between the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and Syria.
- Under the "Palestinian Red Crescent Society" orthopaedic project, 115 new patients were fitted with prostheses and 13 with orthoses. The workshop manufactured 224 prostheses and 16 orthoses, and made 79 repairs to artificial limbs.

including lawyers, teachers, doctors and journalists. The seminar was given in Homs by the regional dissemination delegate based in Amman, and provided an opportunity for a presentation on the ICRC's activities and a discussion of the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. A second seminar, covering the same ground, was held in November for some 50 members of the National Society's Latakia branch, mainly lawyers and legal advisers.

The ICRC continued its support for the "Palestinian Red Crescent Society" orthopaedic project in Damascus by introducing a new technique using polypropylene to produce prostheses, thus reducing costs considerably. The institution helped to set up the centre at a new location in Yarmouk camp, Damascus.

Throughout 1993 the ICRC continued to supervise the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's mother and child health programme which involved the distribution of 80 tonnes of wheat-soya milk.

The Gulf

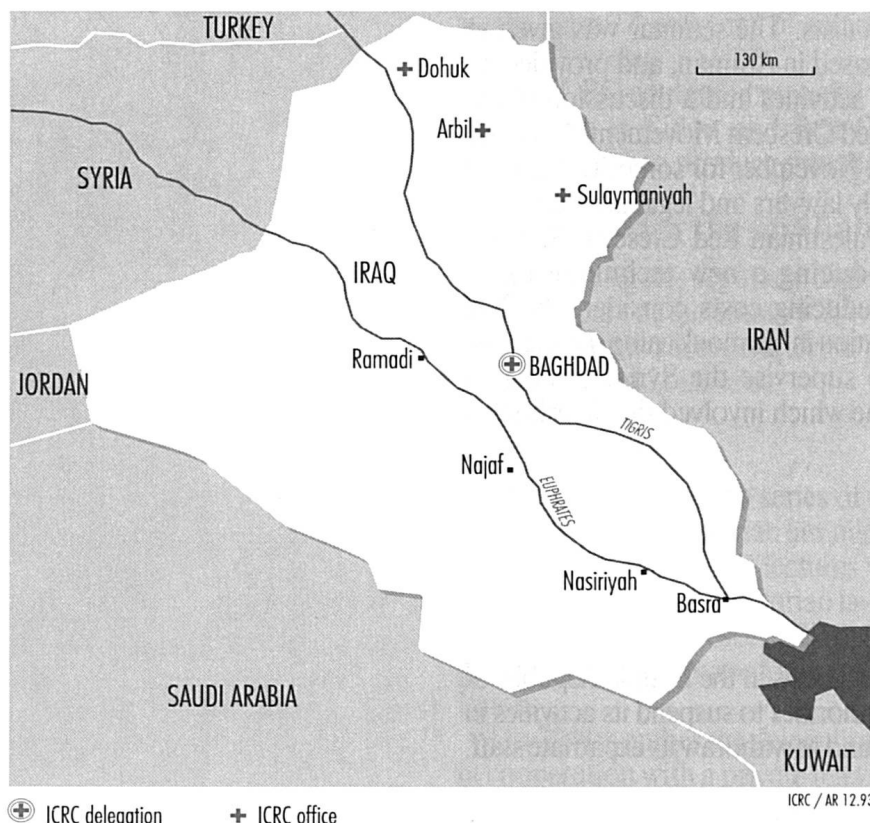
IRAN

The ICRC ceased to be present on a permanent basis in the Islamic Republic of Iran in March 1992, when it was asked by the authorities to suspend its activities in the country (see *Aftermath of the Iran/Iraq war*) and to withdraw its expatriate staff.

IRAQ

The ICRC's brief in Iraq was essentially to deal with unresolved humanitarian issues which arose in connection with the two international conflicts in which Iraq had been involved, the Iran/Iraq war of 1980-88 (see *Aftermath of the Iran/Iraq war*) and the Gulf war of 1991 (see *Aftermath of the Gulf war*). The institution continued its visits to detainees in the three northern governorates of Iraq under Kurdish control, foreign nationals in Abu Ghraib prison and Iranian servicemen in Ramadi camp. It organized family reunifications and coordinated measures aimed at clarifying the fate of people missing after the two wars. It kept up its work to make its activities better known and understood by all organizations, ministries and individuals with which or with whom it was in contact.

High-level contacts were maintained with the Iraqi authorities throughout the year to discuss their obligations under the Geneva Conventions concerning the consequences, in humanitarian terms, of the two international conflicts. With respect to the Iran/Iraq conflict, the authorities were requested to complete the process of repatriating all Iranian prisoners of war who wished to return home and to initiate both a search for and return of mortal remains and clarify the fate of persons missing in action. Regarding the Gulf war, the authorities were reminded of their obligation to cooperate in the search for people reported missing



by the Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian authorities. In addition to these subjects, discussions were held on the ICRC's protection and assistance activities in Iraq. The ICRC President met the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister on 22 June and 1 September in Geneva, and the ICRC Vice-President met the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs on 26 April in Karachi during the annual summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa carried out a mission to Iraq from 18 to 23 April during which he was received by the Minister of Defence, the First Deputy Minister of the Interior and several high-ranking officials. The Deputy Delegate General went to Iraq in September and December, and met the Minister and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In January coalition air forces, in response to alleged Iraqi violations of UN resolutions, carried out several air attacks on Iraqi military installations in the south and along the 36th parallel in the north. On

17 January Cruise missiles hit targets in and around Baghdad. In a memorandum, the ICRC reminded the governments of the United States, France, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Iraq that international humanitarian law applied to recent and possible future military operations in the area. The memorandum recalled the basic humanitarian rules relating to the conduct of hostilities and obligations *vis-à-vis* victims of war.

In early April the ICRC was requested by the Iraqi authorities to close down its offices in Basra and Nasiriyah. However, temporary missions in the area were subsequently carried out from Baghdad. In the northern governorates the ICRC maintained its presence in the form of the three offices in Dohuk, Arbil and Sulaymaniyah, and delegates made *ad hoc* visits to those offices in order to keep up their contacts with the local authorities and maintain the necessary operational capacity in case of emergency.

Activities for detainees

ICRC delegates visited 70 Iranian servicemen held in Iraq. They also visited protected foreign nationals without diplomatic representation who had been

IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- carried out 12 visits to 5 places of detention in Baghdad, seeing 320 detainees, including 124 for the first time;
- carried out 14 visits to 9 places of detention in the northern governorates, seeing 346 detainees, including 257 for the first time;
- handled 26,372 Red Cross messages, opened 187 tracing cases and solved 191, issued 310 certificates of detention and organized 81 repatriations;
- issued 125 travel documents for persons of Iranian origin.

sentenced and were detained in Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad. The detainees were given material assistance and contact with their families was ensured by means of Red Cross messages.

In addition, in the northern governorates, ICRC delegates visited civilians detained for security reasons by the Kurdish local authorities. In February, April and May complete visits to nine places of detention were carried out. Material assistance was distributed during each visit.

Activities for civilians

In 1993 the ICRC ceased its relief activities in Iraq and handed over part of its remaining stock to hospitals and welfare institutions. Some of it was handed over to civilians of Iranian origin who were living as refugees in the governorates of Maysan and Wasit and were still under the protection of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The remainder was given to UNHCR* in Baghdad to be used for Iranian refugees at Al Tash camp in Ramadi and to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society for distribution to people living in particularly difficult circumstances.

Tracing activities

The ICRC tracing service handled Red Cross messages between separated families, mainly in Kuwait and Iraq, between detainees in other countries and their families in Iraq, and between prisoners held in Iraq and their families. It processed tracing requests, particularly regarding Egyptian, Sudanese and Somali nationals with whom contact had been lost after the Gulf war. It organized repatriations and family reunifications (see *Aftermath of the Gulf war*), and dealt with matters concerning people reported missing (see also *Aftermath of the Iran/Iraq war* and *Aftermath of the Gulf war*).

ICRC delegates helped the Iraqi Red Crescent Society to develop its tracing service by means of regular meetings and training sessions.

Medical activities

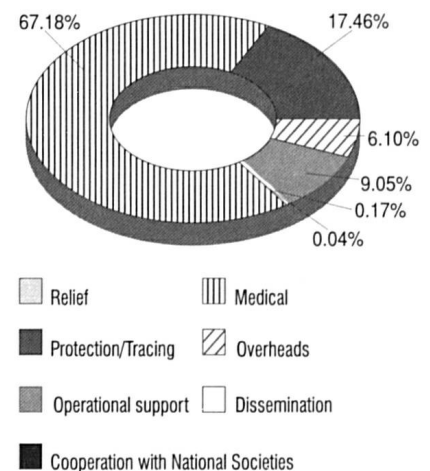
Following the US Cruise missile attack on the headquarters of the Iraqi intelligence services in Baghdad on 27 June, the ICRC delegation in Baghdad provided medicines and other emergency medical supplies to a public hospital there which had received most of the civilian casualties.

In July, in cooperation with the Iraqi military medical services, the ICRC held a three-day seminar on war surgery in Baghdad for about one hundred experienced surgeons and field doctors. The opening ceremony was attended by a member of the Committee, the ICRC's governing board, and the Iraqi Ministers of Defence and Health.

Owing to the continuing embargo in Iraq, the country suffered shortages of medical and X-ray materials and maintenance equipment, particularly in

* Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Iraq
Total expenditure in 1993:
CHF 8,630,000



hospitals, orthopaedic centres and water treatment plants. The ICRC consequently launched a programme to supply 18 blood transfusion centres throughout Iraq with blood bags, blood transfusion sets and HIV and hepatitis B tests. The first consignment was distributed in August.

A second medical programme was started towards the end of the year to supply the country's main hospitals with surgical items and X-ray materials. The programme ran into administrative difficulties, but was due to resume at the beginning of 1994.

Emergency medical kits were distributed on an *ad hoc* basis in the northern governorates when security incidents gave rise to casualties.

An ICRC orthopaedic expert carried out a survey in May, and the ICRC made proposals to the authorities whereby workshops would be established in Basra and Najaf to produce and repair orthopaedic appliances, specialized training would be provided for local orthopaedic technicians and raw materials and components supplied for the orthopaedic workshops under the authority of the various ministries. Equipment would also be provided for a central air conditioning system to make the Baghdad paraplegic centre operational. An agreement to this effect was signed between the ICRC and the Ministry of Health in November.

Following a mission in April by an ICRC sanitation team, an agreement was signed with the water authorities on a programme to supply spare parts vitally needed to improve the water distribution system throughout the country. To this end, an ICRC sanitation engineer based in Baghdad as from August carried out field surveys throughout Iraq and, in cooperation with the competent authorities, identified priority needs for all the governorates.

Dissemination

For the first time, an Iraqi officer took part in the course on the law of armed conflict held in Geneva for senior medical officers, as well as the 43rd Military Course on the Law of Armed Conflict in San Remo.

The ICRC set up a stand at the International Baghdad Fair from 8 to 21 November to provide information on the institution and its activities.

Starting on 28 November the delegation held two dissemination sessions at the Palestine Representation in Baghdad for a total of 50 officers from the Palestinian police force training for service in the future autonomous territories (see *Jordan* for details of the courses).

AFTERMATH OF THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR

The ICRC remained extremely concerned about the unresolved consequences in humanitarian terms of the Iran/Iraq war, especially the plight of the prisoners of war (POWs) who had still not been repatriated. Apart from the repatriation

of 100 Iraqi POWs under the auspices of the ICRC in May, no progress was made in 1993 despite the ICRC's advocacy that, in accordance with Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention, POWs should be repatriated immediately after the cessation of hostilities.

Parallel to its diplomatic approaches at all levels to both parties, on 5 April the ICRC handed over a comprehensive progress report to the Permanent Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations in Geneva. The report stated that substantial progress had to be achieved in all humanitarian matters relating to the parties' obligations under the Geneva Conventions.

In particular, the ICRC requested Iran to allow the institution access to some 20,000 Iraqi POWs still in Iran so that it could ascertain whether they wished to be repatriated. The ICRC also asked Iraq to carry out in-depth investigations into the fate of Iranian POWs presumed to be still in Iraq.

At the same time, the ICRC invited both parties to attend a fifth meeting of the JTC* to finalize ways and means of reaching a settlement on the issues still outstanding, but the meeting did not take place. The JTC had been set up in September 1990, with ICRC participation, to bring together representatives of Iran and Iraq in order to deal with questions concerning the repatriation of POWs, the search for and return of mortal remains and investigations into the fate and whereabouts of people missing in action.

In an attempt to make some headway, the ICRC carried out missions to both countries throughout 1993 and had talks with high-level representatives as follows:

Islamic Republic of Iran

The ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East and North Africa visited Iran from 13 to 18 February. He was received by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Director of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Chairman of the Commission for POWs. The Deputy Delegate General went to Iran twice in autumn 1993; he met the Director of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry in September and again in October, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in October.

Republic of Iraq

The ICRC President met the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister on 22 June and 1 September in Geneva, and the ICRC Vice-President met the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs on 26 April in Karachi during the annual summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Delegate General went on mission to Iraq from 18 to 23 April and was received by the Minister of Defence, the First Deputy Minister of the Interior and several high-ranking officials. The

* Joint Technical Committee.

Deputy Delegate General went to Iraq in September and December, and met the Minister and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In addition to the above-mentioned missions, the ICRC resumed informal discussions with Iranian officials in September and subsequently interviewed 1,442 Iraqi POWs between 16 October and 17 November, 1,244 of whom made known their wish to be repatriated. However, no repatriations had yet taken place by the end of the year, contrary to Iran's undertaking to repatriate the POWs at the latest one month after their interviews.

The ICRC also submitted substantiated files to the Iraqi authorities on Iranian nationals who had reportedly been seen alive when they were captured or during their captivity in Iraq. In spite of assurances given by Iraqi officials, by the end of the year no information had been received on these cases.

Although no substantial progress was achieved in 1993 regarding the repatriation of Iraqi POWs, late in the year Iran expressed its willingness to solve all the remaining issues by means of a comprehensive approach, i.e. repatriating all prisoners on both sides who wish to return home, providing any available information on enemy combatants killed in action and prisoners who had died while in captivity, and furthering the search for and handing over mortal remains. Iraq agreed to this approach. In addition, both parties were prepared to establish individual files on their own nationals who were still missing and transmit them to the other party via the ICRC. Both parties agreed in principle to finalize ways and means of implementing this comprehensive approach at a meeting of the JTC, to be held under the auspices of the ICRC.

AFTERMATH OF THE GULF WAR

In order to expedite the search for Kuwaiti, Saudi, Iraqi and other nationals reported missing after the Gulf war, the ICRC proposed special procedures worked out by its Central Tracing Agency with a view to facilitating the tracing of such people and the transmission of replies. Agreement was reached by the parties concerned on a standard ICRC form to be used in drawing up individual files, which the ICRC would forward to the relevant parties. By the end of January files on 610 persons reported missing by Kuwait had been compiled by the National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs and were handed over by the ICRC to the Iraqi authorities in February and March. At the end of 1993 Iraq had not yet replied to any of these files. The Saudi authorities had transmitted to Iraq five individual files concerning missing military personnel, and the Iraqi authorities had given a reply concerning one of them. The Iraqi authorities were awaiting answers from the Kuwaiti authorities regarding 11 individual files, and from the Saudi authorities regarding 14 individual files.

Various meetings and discussions took place in an attempt to resolve the issue. From 18 to 23 April the ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East and North

Africa was in Baghdad, where he was received by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Minister of Defence. The ICRC was informed that there were no longer any Kuwaiti or Saudi nationals detained in Iraq. Nevertheless, Iraq undertook to supply answers regarding the individual files.

On 24 April, the Delegate General went to Kuwait, where he met the Chairman of the National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and informed them of the Iraqi position.

On 30 April the Chairman of the National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs visited ICRC headquarters and met the ICRC President, who briefed him on the current situation in efforts to trace Kuwaiti nationals reported missing during the Gulf war. The ICRC President also brought up the issue of people reported missing after the liberation of Kuwait. He asked for enquiries to be made into the fate of 102 people who had allegedly disappeared at that time, whose cases had been submitted by the ICRC to the Kuwaiti authorities.

In Geneva, on 22 June, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister met the ICRC President, who asked for replies with regard to the 610 missing Kuwaitis and the five files concerning missing Saudi military personnel. The Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister answered that no Kuwaiti or Saudi prisoners were being held. He confirmed the existence of an interministerial commission set up to deal with the individual files.

At Kuwait's request and in agreement with the other coalition members, the ICRC convened a meeting of the Tripartite Commission (the coalition members and Iraq, under the auspices of the ICRC) on two occasions, on 29 July and 19 November. The purpose of these meetings was to inform the parties of the latest developments in efforts to establish the fate of people who had disappeared during the occupation of Kuwait and the Gulf war, and to find ways and means of ascertaining what had happened to them. Iraq did not attend the meetings. On 5 October the ICRC reminded Iraq in a note verbale of its responsibility to take part in the Tripartite Commission and asked for a reply to the individual files submitted in February and March. In a note verbale dated 12 October, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it was prepared to provide the ICRC with all relevant information on the files as soon as it was available.

At the second meeting with the coalition members on 19 November the parties present accepted the ICRC's offer to use its good offices with the government of the Republic of Iraq to seek ways of bringing about progress on the issues still pending. It was agreed that the ICRC would report to the coalition on progress achieved within a period of six months.

Following this consultation the Deputy Delegate General went on mission to Baghdad, where he met the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on 18 and 19 December respectively. He was assured that a special Iraqi commission would continue the work of investigating the individual files and that it would be prepared to cooperate with the ICRC delegation in Baghdad.

Repatriations

In seven operations carried out under the family reunification programme during the year, the ICRC facilitated the return of 81 Kuwaiti nationals or former residents from Iraq to Kuwait via Arar, Saudi Arabia. Five of them appeared on the list of 850 missing people submitted in 1992 to the ICRC by the Kuwaiti authorities. The final such operation of the year, in December, brought to 5,727 the number of people repatriated to Kuwait by the ICRC since March 1991.

At the end of the year the ICRC was awaiting an official reply from the Kuwaiti authorities to some 1,900 requests made by former residents of Kuwait who were living in Iraq and had asked for permission to return to Kuwait.

On 4 August the ICRC organized the repatriation from Kuwait to Iraq of the mortal remains of two Iraqi soldiers killed in Kuwait during the Gulf war.

KUWAIT

Regional delegation

(Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen)

A headquarters agreement for the establishment of an ICRC regional delegation was concluded with the Kuwaiti authorities in October 1991. However, the regional delegate remained in Saudi Arabia until 19 January 1993, when he presented his credentials to the Emir of Kuwait and was subsequently based in Kuwait.

KUWAIT

Activities for detainees

ICRC delegates continued to monitor the conditions of detention and treatment, mainly of people detained in connection with the Gulf war. The majority of those visited were Iraqi, Jordanian, Yemeni and Sudanese nationals, Palestinians with travel documents, and stateless persons. The ICRC had access to detainees at places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of the Interior, Defence, and Labour and Social Affairs, including police stations. Some detainees were awaiting trial, others had been sentenced in state security trials.

Detainees under expulsion order, consisting of residents of Kuwait and illegal immigrants, were visited regularly at the Talha expulsion centre. Interventions were made to resolve special cases and to ensure that the conditions of detention were adequate. In addition, delegates made sure that the detainees concerned were not expelled to a country where they had reason to fear persecution and that those being expelled had the opportunity to settle their personal affairs and

IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- visited 1,479 detainees in 30 places of detention, registering 706 for the first time;
- opened 61 tracing cases and solved 50, handled 28,658 Red Cross messages and issued 1,009 certificates of detention and 70 travel documents.

were permitted to take their belongings with them. Some 720 people (expellees and their families) were accompanied by ICRC delegates to the Kuwaiti/Iraqi border.

The delegation followed trials of Kuwaitis and other nationals accused of security offences. The ICRC approached the relevant authorities to ensure that the fundamental judicial guarantees were respected.

Tracing activities

The delegation took part in the efforts still being made to trace people who disappeared during the Gulf war (see *Aftermath of the Gulf war*). It restored and maintained contact between family members, mainly Iraqis, Kuwaitis and Jordanians, by forwarding Red Cross messages, and organized repatriations of Kuwaiti nationals from Iraq and family reunifications with Kuwaitis living in Iraq.

Dissemination

In 1993 the delegation regularly provided ICRC contacts and the press in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia with information in English and Arabic on ICRC activities, mainly in Islamic countries.

On 20 April the regional delegate for the Arabian Peninsula participated in the talk show "A guest on air" on Kuwaiti national television. The interview focused on ICRC activities, especially those relating to the aftermath of the Gulf war and the problem of the missing Kuwaitis. The talk show was screened in all other member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

SAUDI ARABIA

The delegation maintained high-level contacts with the Saudi authorities, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

On 19 October the President of the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) visited ICRC headquarters, where he and the ICRC President signed a cooperation agreement placing the relations which had already existed between the two organizations, particularly as far as assistance to war victims was concerned, on an official footing.

On 2 November the ICRC was asked to close its office in Riyadh. The institution was given verbal assurances that activities for internees in the Rafha camp could be continued by ICRC expatriates in Kuwait. In a letter addressed to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and dated 16 December, the ICRC President took note with regret of the authorities' decision and reminded them that the ICRC

IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- collected 1,111 Red Cross messages and distributed 3,382;
- opened 207 tracing cases and solved 158.

still had a mandate, under the Fourth Geneva Convention, to protect the Iraqi refugees living in Rafha camp until a permanent solution could be found for them. He pointed out that the ICRC would need certain facilities in order to discharge its mandate, and requested that the institution be granted all these facilities in due course.

Activities for civilians living in the Rafha camp

In accordance with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention ICRC delegates carried out regular visits to monitor the conditions of internment and the treatment of Iraqi civilians still living in the Rafha camp administered by the Ministry of Defence and Civil Aviation. At the beginning of the year there were some 27,000 internees, whereas by December the number had dropped to around 25,000.

The ICRC also visited Iraqi nationals from the camp who were detained in prisons, police stations or hospitals under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior.

The ICRC stepped up its activities in the camp following an outbreak of violence in March which led to the death of 12 people, both Iraqi and Saudi nationals. Delegates visited those wounded and those detained in connection with the incident. Subsequently the institution concentrated on improvements in such fields as medical care and water supply. The ICRC's regular presence in the camp and its contacts with the internees and the authorities helped to normalize the situation there.

Over the year, in cooperation with UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration, the ICRC facilitated the departure and resettlement of 605 of the civilian internees, providing them with travel documents.

In cooperation with the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society the delegation facilitated the exchange of 2,000 Red Cross messages between Somali nationals living in Saudi Arabia and their families in other countries.

YEMEN

From 30 January to 10 February and from 13 to 22 December an ICRC team visited a total of about 5,000 detainees in seven places of detention in Yemen. They monitored conditions of detention and handed over material assistance.

The ICRC continued to offer its tracing services to Somali refugees living in two camps in Yemen as well as in other areas of the country. A total of 6,829 Red Cross messages were handled.

From 20 to 25 November, a seminar on international humanitarian law was organized by the Yemenite Red Crescent Society in cooperation with the ICRC. The course, the third of its kind, was given by Yemeni and ICRC speakers for around 35 participants from various ministries and institutions, university professors and media representatives.

North Africa

EGYPT

In 1993 the ICRC delegation in Cairo concentrated on its work in the field of dissemination. It also kept up its tracing work for people affected by the Arab-Israeli conflict and maintained contacts with various Arab organizations such as the League of Arab States.

With the aim of disseminating international humanitarian law and the Red Cross/Red Crescent principles throughout the Middle East, the delegation produced high-quality publications, audio-visual aids and radio broadcasts in Arabic for the armed forces and the public.

The illustrated calendar for 1993, which drew parallels between examples of humanitarian behaviour selected from ancient Arab Islamic chronicles and contemporary humanitarian law, was adapted and produced in the form of a brochure so that it could be distributed more widely. Versions were produced in Arabic, English and French. A calendar for 1994, illustrating humanitarian principles with calligraphy of sayings and verses from traditional Arab culture, was distributed to ICRC contacts throughout the Arab world.

During the 30 days of Ramadan the national radio network broadcast one episode a day of the ICRC's "Thousand and One Days", a story which draws on the classic Arab tale of a "Thousand and One Nights" and confronts Sheherezade and her prince with contemporary humanitarian challenges. This inspired a children's serial. Other dissemination aids produced during the year included a comic strip for adolescents, an Arabic soundtrack for the cartoon "Story of an Idea" on the history of the ICRC, which was subsequently broadcast on Egyptian television, and a cartoon on the principles of the Third Geneva Convention relating to the treatment of prisoners of war.

Throughout the year the head of delegation regularly gave lectures on international humanitarian law and the role of the ICRC at seminars organized by military academies. A teaching file on the law of war for use by instructors to the armed forces was translated into Arabic, and dissemination sessions were organized for university students.

In cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and the Egyptian police academies, the delegation organized two courses for officers of the future Palestinian police force in Gaza. The courses were held in late November and early December, along the lines of those given in Amman (see *Jordan*), for about 50 officers each, including several Egyptian officers involved in training the forces.

The ICRC, represented by its Vice-President and the Delegates General respectively for the Middle East and North Africa and for Africa, took part as an observer in the annual OAU* conference held in Cairo in June.

* Organization of African Unity.

IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- received 90 tracing requests and handled 2,074 Red Cross messages in connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the aftermath of the Gulf war.

TUNIS

Regional delegation

(Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco/Western Sahara, Tunisia)

ALGERIA

The ICRC was very concerned about the deteriorating security situation in Algeria in 1993. Attacks took place on people in official positions, journalists and intellectuals, many arrests were made and more than 300 death sentences handed down by special courts. At the end of the year a curfew was in force in ten *départements*.

On 18 December 1992 the ICRC President had addressed a letter to the President of Algeria in which the ICRC offered to resume its traditional activities in Algeria, in particular visits to people detained in connection with the enforcement of the state of emergency. Visits had been suspended by the Algerian authorities in July 1992. Throughout 1993 the ICRC maintained contacts with the authorities, in particular through the Permanent Mission in Geneva, but by the end of December 1993 no understanding had been reached on a resumption of visits.

From 5 to 12 November the regional delegate went on mission to Algeria. He discussed with his Algerian contacts the possibility of stepping up dissemination activities in order to increase awareness of the ICRC's role in a context such as that prevailing in Algeria.

LIBYA

From 7 to 15 September the ICRC Vice-President carried out a mission to Libya. He visited the Libyan Red Crescent and discussed with the Secretary General and his staff ways of increasing cooperation between the ICRC and the National Society, specifically in dissemination programmes. On 12 September the Vice-President paid a visit to a camp situated 70 km east of Tripoli, where 1,200 Bosnian refugees, including 900 children, were being accommodated. Several hundred Red Cross messages were collected, and the regional delegation offered to act as an intermediary to speed up the transmission of such messages with the help of the Libyan Red Crescent. In Tripoli the Vice-President had talks with the Secretary for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, Libya's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

MAURITANIA

During the year ICRC delegates travelled on several occasions to south-eastern Mauritania to assess the situation of refugees who had fled the fighting in Mali.

Delegates distributed medical supplies to be used for wounded Tuaregs and others when special requests were made, and informed the refugees about ICRC activities in the area. They also collected and dispatched Red Cross messages.

After the situation in Mali improved and ICRC activities there were consequently reduced, the regional delegation's previous support activities for the Mali delegation were no longer needed. As a result, delegates carried out two missions in October and November to close the ICRC offices in Fassala, in south-eastern Mauritania, and in Nouakchott. Talks on dissemination activities, especially for the armed forces, continued with the authorities concerned following a three-day course held for 30 officers in the capital in January by an ICRC expert.

MOROCCO

The ICRC President visited Morocco from 4 to 6 January. He met King Hassan II of Morocco and officials of the Moroccan Red Crescent, with whom he discussed topics of humanitarian concern. Following the meeting with the King the ICRC was authorized to visit Sahrawi prisoners held in connection with the Western Sahara conflict and to carry out dissemination activities in Morocco.

From 25 to 27 May ICRC delegates visited 70 Sahrawi prisoners, including 68 for the first time, held by the Moroccan authorities in Agadir. (The only previous visit to Sahrawi prisoners had taken place in 1978.) From 24 to 27 November a further visit was carried out. In the meantime, four prisoners had been released and had rejoined their families, while six people had been arrested. A team of four delegates, including a doctor, visited 72 Sahrawi prisoners in Agadir and Marrakech, registering six of them for the first time. During the two visits over 400 Red Cross messages were exchanged. The ICRC team also met the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation to discuss various issues related to the Western Sahara conflict.

At intervals during the year, ICRC delegates discussed with the Moroccan authorities pending issues such as dissemination to the armed forces, ratification by Morocco of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and recognition by Morocco of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.

From 6 to 12 June a Geneva-based delegate gave a series of five lectures on international humanitarian law in Rabat, Kenitra, Marrakech and Agadir. The programme, the first of its kind in Morocco, reached about 600 officers from the *Gendarmerie Royale* and the Royal Armed Forces and high-ranking civil servants from the Ministry of the Interior.

WESTERN SAHARA

In the Western Sahara, the cease-fire which was agreed under the UN peace plan and took effect in September 1991 was respected, but little progress was

IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- carried out 4 visits to 5 places of detention, seeing 495 detainees and registering 287 for the first time;
- handled 18,071 Red Cross messages, mainly for Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front.

made towards holding the referendum or carrying out the repatriations provided for in the plan.

The ICRC made some progress with respect to visits to prisoners taken in connection with the Western Sahara conflict and held by the Moroccan government (see *Morocco*) and the Polisario Front. Many of these prisoners had spent more than a decade in captivity.

From 22 to 31 January ICRC delegates visited 419 Moroccans (including 213 visited for the first time) held by the Polisario Front. The previous visit was in 1989. Following the visit in May to Sahrawi prisoners in Morocco, the regional delegate met a representative of the Polisario Front to discuss humanitarian matters concerning prisoners held by both parties. In particular, he repeated the ICRC's long-standing request to have access to all Moroccan prisoners held by the Front, and to have such access during the same visit, since the ICRC had only ever been allowed to see small groups of prisoners at any one time. In the third quarter of 1993 the number of Red Cross messages delivered to and collected from such prisoners increased sevenfold compared with the same period in 1992. Despite continued efforts by the ICRC, no agreement was reached on visits to all Moroccan prisoners.

TUNISIA

During a visit by the ICRC President to the President of the Republic in November 1992, the issue of visits by the ICRC to people deprived of their freedom was raised, but no conclusion was reached.

Throughout the year discussions on various humanitarian issues were held with the authorities. In addition, the ICRC regional delegation carried out various dissemination activities. For example, delegates participated in a course organized by the Tunisian Red Crescent for first-aiders, gave a presentation on international humanitarian law at a seminar on the subject of women and violence and organized a drawing contest for children on the theme "Red Cross/Red Crescent and the war". Publications on international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement were distributed to institutions and individuals.

The delegation also provided reference documentation to the officer in charge of dissemination to the armed forces. The documents were adapted and edited specially for distribution to military personnel.

