

Operational activities

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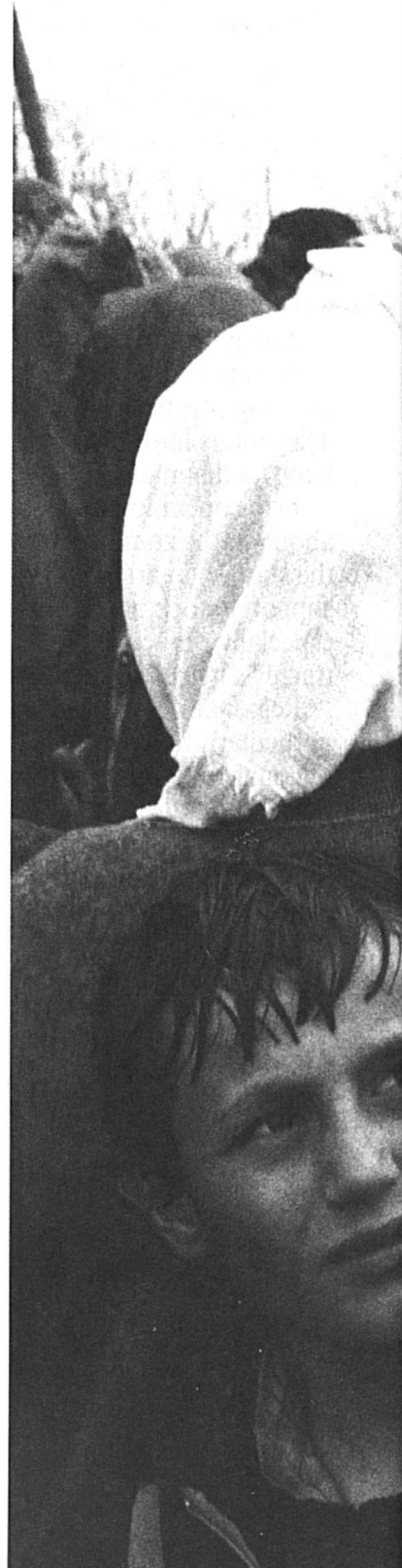
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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES



ICRC/L. Stoop



Protecting the victims of armed conflict is the very purpose of international humanitarian law. Almost all the world's States have undertaken to respect that law and to ensure that it is respected. The protection of war victims is also the raison d'être of the ICRC and of the mandate entrusted to it by the international community. In the increasingly frequent and serious crises of 1993, the ICRC was more determined than ever to meet the victims' needs and took action on an unprecedented scale. The complexity of the problems posed by the erosion of the authority of international humanitarian law and by violation of the rules on which it is based compelled the institution to adopt an innovative approach. It was a year of humanitarian mobilization, not only in terms of aid provided but also on account of the renewed dialogue with States in order to clarify roles, resolve ambiguities, seek possibilities for complementary endeavour and restore authority to international humanitarian law.

The International Conference for the Protection of War Victims took place in August.¹ In the months that preceded it, the ICRC was highly active on the diplomatic front, both in the field and at its Geneva headquarters, so as to alert the international community to the plight of war victims and urge States to send high-ranking representatives to the meeting.

The scale of the ICRC's involvement in the field reflected the widespread acceptance of the institution, which, in its particular capacity as a neutral intermediary, carries on its work against all odds. Indeed, the ICRC is convinced that the effectiveness, credibility and safety of humanitarian action are directly related to the independence and neutrality of such action, themselves a guarantee of its impartiality.

ICRC programmes were bigger than ever before, both in volume and in the number of staff and recipients; making the necessary resources available was no small challenge to the international community.² Almost half the relief supplies distributed went to conflict victims in Africa, principally Somalia, where the emergency is now over and activities have moved into the rehabilitation phase, and in Rwanda, where the ICRC's largest relief operation that year provided aid for nearly one million people. With the exception of Angola, whose population suffered a cruel year of war cut off from humanitarian aid, the ICRC managed to work wherever its services were needed, not only to meet emergency requirements but also to take preventive action and carry out rehabilitation activities.

¹ See *International Conference*, p. 236.

² All figures in this report are in Swiss Francs (CHF). On 31 December 1993, the average USD exchange rate was approximately: CHF 1.48 to USD 1.

The situation in the former Yugoslavia was another major source of concern for the ICRC. Its delegates worked in all areas to provide aid for all the victims of the conflict. One fourth of the institution's resources were devoted to assisting them and attempting to ensure their protection.

The ICRC also remained present in other situations that did not make headline news but nonetheless caused tremendous suffering to the victims – in Afghanistan, the Caucasus and Sri Lanka, which is the ICRC's main theatre of operations in Asia.

The debate on the politicization and militarization of humanitarian work brought to the fore all the risks involved in confusing different categories of action and the ambiguities of certain motivations. Humanitarian action needs political support from the various States, it needs international humanitarian law to maintain its force of authority and to be known and respected by all. It cannot, however, be a substitute for political action taken by States in order to restore peace. On the contrary, the strength of humanitarian action lies in the limited nature of its objectives and in the soundness of its working principles. Experience gained in 1993 demonstrated the need to preserve an independent sphere of humanitarian action and to allow a neutral intermediary to take action in all instances where force is being used, even – and including – that of the United Nations. This is the only way to ensure respect for the protective emblems of the red cross and red crescent. A humanitarian organization accepted by all is the victims' last resort.

Being able to work for the protection of all victims of conflict and violence, whatever the circumstances and with support from the States, while maintaining a coordinated and complementary approach with the United Nations is, and remains, the primary challenge facing neutral and independent humanitarian action.

Relations with international organizations

In 1993, the ICRC actively pursued its efforts to heighten the international community's awareness of humanitarian issues, to foster greater knowledge and understanding of international humanitarian law, and to enhance respect for and compliance with that law. It closely followed the proceedings of the main international organizations, particularly through its International Organizations Division and its delegation in New York. It obtained observer status with the United Nations in 1990 and with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1992.

One of the institution's primary objectives is to maintain the neutral and impartial character of humanitarian action. Addressing the forty-fourth session of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva, 4-8 October), the ICRC Director of Operations stressed that a clear distinction must be made between the role of States in peace-keeping operations and that of neutral and impartial organizations.

The ICRC followed with interest the debate at the United Nations Economic and Social Council on the transition between emergency and development and on the coordination of humanitarian assistance. It also took part in numerous working groups on humanitarian coordination, convened by the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs to discuss matters such as early warning, mines, displaced persons, United Nations consolidated appeals and the protection of humanitarian mandates in conflict situations involving peace-keeping forces. It strongly emphasized the need to define the respective limits of political action and humanitarian work.

The ICRC President took the floor in plenary session at the 90th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held in Canberra from 13 to 18 September, to condemn the ceaseless violations of international humanitarian law. He urged the parliamentarians to help ensure application of the law. The IPU confirmed its support by adopting a resolution which takes up nearly all the recommendations in the report submitted by the ICRC to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims (Geneva, 30 August-1 September).¹ The resolution calls on States to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law, to respect the emblems of the red cross and red crescent, to adopt national measures to implement humanitarian law, to ratify the humanitarian law instruments and to "understand the meaning of

¹ See *International Conference* p. 236.

humanitarian action so as to avoid hindering it, to ensure rapid and effective relief operations by guaranteeing safe access to the regions affected,” [and] “to take all the necessary measures to strengthen respect for the safety and integrity of humanitarian organizations”. References to international humanitarian law were also included in the declaration adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 14-25 June) as a result of the ICRC’s active contribution to the drafting process.

Taking the floor at a meeting of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, the ICRC stressed the link between violations of international humanitarian law and mass population movements.

All military personnel must have a thorough knowledge of the relevant principles and rules of international humanitarian law, and dissemination of that law must be an integral part of the training given to peace-keeping troops. The ICRC therefore welcomes the United Nations’ decision to adopt measures providing for instruction to the commanders of peace-keeping forces and to countries sending such contingents.

The ICRC took part in the discussions of the First Committee (disarmament and international security) of the United Nations General Assembly on the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons. It mentioned in particular the work it had already accomplished in two related areas, i.e., by organizing meetings of experts on blinding weapons (1989-1991) and by hosting the Symposium on Anti-Personnel Mines in April.²

An ICRC report on protection of the environment in times of armed conflict was submitted to the forty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly.³

The ICRC noted with great interest that the Twenty-first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers had adopted a resolution on Bosnia-Herzegovina, in which the Organization of the Islamic Conference “calls for full respect by all parties of the Humanitarian Plan of Action adopted in the framework of the London Conference on 27 August 1992 and notably calls for the immediate release of prisoners in accordance with the agreement signed in Geneva under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross on 1 October 1992”.

Contacts with the OAU “Group of 15” on refugees and displaced persons led to the ICRC being mentioned in a resolution adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers, which thanks the institution for its activities on behalf of displaced people in Africa.

² See *Medical activities* below.

³ See *The Law and Legal Considerations*, p. 246.

The ICRC also participated in the annual session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and in the proceedings of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the 23rd General Assembly of the Organization of American States, the World Health Assembly, the 16th Conference of the Union of African Parliaments and the Council of Europe (in particular the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography, and the Committee on Legal Issues and Human Rights).

Finally, the ICRC and New York University jointly organized the 11th seminar on international humanitarian law for diplomats accredited to the United Nations. A similar seminar, hosted together with the Graduate Institute of International Studies, was held in Geneva.

Activities for people deprived of their freedom

In 1993, the ICRC continued its work for people deprived of their freedom, acting on strictly humanitarian grounds as a neutral intermediary between parties to a conflict or between a detaining Power and the people it was holding. In Somalia, for instance, the ICRC visited Somalis arrested and held by the United Nations forces (UNOSOM), and UNOSOM military personnel detained by Somali factions. In Russia, the authorities granted the ICRC permission to visit people arrested and charged following the events of 3 and 4 October.

Both activities were possible thanks to universal recognition of the ICRC's neutrality and of its role as a humanitarian intermediary between the parties. It is indispensable for the ICRC to maintain its independence *vis-à-vis* governments and the United Nations if it is to succeed in pursuing this task in situations of armed conflict, internal violence or crisis, regardless of the applicability of international humanitarian law.

For many years now, the ICRC has monitored every situation where people were deprived of their freedom on account of armed conflict, internal violence or situations of crisis. It has practically always reached the conclusion that it was its duty to propose its services to the governments concerned for visits to detainees coming within its purview.

The purpose of these visits is to examine the material and psychological conditions of detention and the treatment accorded to detainees since their arrest. The ICRC then submits its findings to the governments concerned and proposes any improvements it considers necessary for the inmates.

To ensure that its humanitarian work is useful both to detainees and to the detaining authorities, the ICRC repeats its visits for as long as it deems necessary, with the consent of the government concerned. This type of work does not require

IN 1993, THE ICRC:

- visited 143,610 detainees in 2,367 places of detention.

extensive material investment since the ICRC does not act as a substitute for the detaining authorities, but it does involve considerable human resources.

In 1993, the ICRC visited detainees in 55 countries. Although some of these countries no longer make the headline news, they are still in the throes of armed conflict or internal violence, and the ICRC therefore carries on its work there on behalf of people deprived of their freedom. In South Africa, the ICRC has been visiting people detained on account of internal disturbances since 1963 (with an interruption between 1986 and 1990). The ICRC has maintained a presence in Israel and the occupied territories since 1967, in order to monitor respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention and to provide protection and assistance to the victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In Colombia and Peru, the ICRC's work on behalf of people detained in connection with political violence began in 1969. Since 1989, ICRC delegates have been visiting persons detained in relation with the conflict in northern and eastern Sri Lanka and the disturbances that broke out in the south of the country. They also visit detainees held by the LTTE*.

Within the context of humanitarian work for people deprived of their freedom, the following three issues were of particular concern to the ICRC in 1993: the aftermath of the Iran/Iraq and Morocco/Western Sahara conflicts; the plight of people held in connection with the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and conditions of detention in countries where the authorities are not or are no longer in a position to assume their responsibilities *vis-à-vis* the people they detain.

The international conflict between Iran and Iraq ended on 20 August 1988. Although the ICRC again repeatedly approached the authorities during the year, at the end of 1993 thousands of prisoners of war (POWs) had still not been repatriated, particularly many Iraqi POWs held by Iran. Under international humanitarian law, prisoners of war must be released and repatriated without delay after the cessation of active hostilities, and those refusing repatriation retain prisoner-of-war status until the repatriation process has been completed; they therefore continue to benefit from the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention, in particular as regards notification of their identity to the ICRC, visits by ICRC delegates and the exchange of family messages.

In accordance with the Third Geneva Convention and pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 690, the ICRC also continued its representations to the parties to the conflict between Morocco and Western Sahara, which ended in 1991. ICRC delegates visited prisoners held by the Moroccan authorities and by the Polisario Front. Some of these prisoners had been in captivity since 1975 and should have been repatriated at the close of hostilities, but by the end of 1993 they had still not been released.

* LTTE Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the ICRC carried on its vast protection and relief operation for detainees and increased the number of field delegates for the purpose. It secured the release of numerous detainees, who were transferred to areas or countries where they would find safety. The ICRC observed, however, that detainees who remained in custody continued being subjected to inhumane practices by the parties to the conflict. Despite repeated representations to all the parties involved, the institution was unable to induce them to put a stop to such practices. In some instances the ICRC was compelled to depart from its policy of confidentiality – which is one of its customary ways of working – and report publicly on certain grave breaches of international humanitarian law.

Until the parties to the conflict honour their commitments, the ICRC's protection work in Bosnia-Herzegovina will remain limited in scope, and the institution will be powerless to prevent an even greater human disaster.

The ICRC increasingly has to deal with situations marked by a disintegration of governmental structures, and these are a matter of growing concern to the institution. The inevitable consequence of such disintegration is that the State can no longer fully discharge the obligations it normally assumes towards its citizens, particularly those who depend on it for subsistence. Prisoners are a case in point: the breakdown of prison systems in particular and of the judicial system is followed by a serious deterioration in detention conditions, as those in charge of ensuring the prisoners' upkeep no longer fulfil their duties. When there is no one left to assume responsibility for humanitarian matters, the ICRC steps in with emergency assistance for vulnerable population groups – including prisoners. It also seeks to identify authorities that could take the necessary action and to make them aware of their duties, and to involve other humanitarian organizations or charities.

IN 1993, THE ICRC:

- forwarded 4,703,258 Red Cross messages;
- reunited 2,182 families;
- traced 10,184 people;
- received 14,947 new tracing requests.

Central Tracing Agency

Keeping track of the whereabouts of thousands of individuals deprived of their freedom, organizing releases and repatriations and reuniting families constitute the day-to-day work of the Central Tracing Agency. Maintaining or re-establishing contact between relatives separated by conflict or detention is a crucial task that greatly helps to alleviate the anxiety and moral suffering of the victims. That is why speed in forwarding messages and processing information remains one of the Agency's primary objectives.

Efforts initiated in 1992 to decentralize and accelerate the processing of inquiries through agencies in the field continued throughout 1993. Individuals and National Society tracing services can thus submit most of their inquiries

directly to Tracing Agency offices in the field, and doing away with the compulsory passage of inquiries through Geneva saves a lot of time.

The exchange of messages via these field tracing offices is one area where cohesion and solidarity between the various components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have really proved their worth. In 1993, more than four million family messages were exchanged all over the world, in connection with the ongoing conflict in the former Yugoslavia. This required cooperation on the part of over 80 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In the field, an extensive network designed to collect and distribute family messages was set up to assist countless refugees and displaced persons. The network was operated with the support of local Red Cross branches and it helped restore contact between vast numbers of people who had become separated from their relatives.

Red Cross messages are only one of the means used to restore family ties. When a person reports to the ICRC that a close relative has disappeared in connection with a conflict or internal disturbances, a tracing request file is opened. It is considered closed and resolved when the missing person's present whereabouts has been established or, sadly, when the missing person's death has been reliably reported to the ICRC. Files are also closed, although unresolved, when all attempts to trace the missing person have failed and the ICRC has no further means of obtaining reliable news, or when the person who made the request has left without indicating where he or she can be contacted.

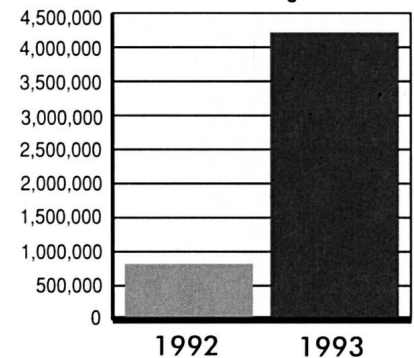
Another major aspect of the Central Tracing Agency's work is to cooperate with and help develop National Society tracing services. In 1993, training seminars were organized in Hungary and in the Central Asian republics of the former USSR.

The Central Tracing Agency's archives serve as a basis for issuing certificates of captivity designed to enable the victims of former conflicts or their rightful claimants to obtain compensation. Tracing Agency staff in Geneva carried on the major task of sorting archives and computerizing documents relating to former conflicts.

Medical activities

The ICRC's Medical Division has two main functions. Firstly, it devises, carries out, supervises and coordinates ICRC medical assistance programmes. Secondly, it works to increase and spread knowledge of health problems related to armed conflict (including those specific to prisoners and detainees) while seeking, and making widely known, the best ways of dealing with such problems.

Red Cross messages exchanged in connection with the conflict in the former Yugoslavia



One of the Medical Division's main concerns in 1993 was the use of anti-personnel mines and their effect on civilians both during and after conflicts. Almost 25 per cent of the war casualties treated by ICRC surgical teams are mine-blast victims. Most of these victims are non-combatants, and almost one third of them must undergo one or more amputations.

This situation prompted the Division to organize, jointly with the ICRC's Department of Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement, a meeting of experts on the subject, which took place in Montreux (Switzerland) from 21 to 23 April 1993. This symposium was attended by 55 specialists from around the world as well as 14 staff members from various ICRC departments. Attention was drawn to the multiple consequences of indiscriminate use of these weapons: the victims' suffering and permanent disablement and the overburdening of medical and social welfare services, but also the fact that mines impede the repatriation of refugees, render fertile land unusable for cultivation and cause damage to the environment, etc. Various proposals were made to restrict the use of mines and limit their harmful effects. A further meeting of technical experts was scheduled to continue the symposium's work in early 1994 and pave the way for the revision and strengthening of the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons.⁴

A knowledge of war surgery is indispensable to alleviate the suffering of people injured by mines and other weapons, but the techniques required have no equivalent in civilian practice. The surgeons of the Medical Division therefore organized war-surgery training seminars in Geneva from 2 to 4 April and in Banja Luka and Zenica (Bosnia-Herzegovina) during the months of February and March. They also took part in seminars on the subject organized by the armed forces of various countries, for instance in Baghdad (Iraq) from 6 to 9 July, Bangkok (Thailand) on 15 July and Yangon (Myanmar) from 8 to 10 November. Lastly, they gave lectures at international conferences on war surgery and emergency medicine, notably in London (Eurosurgery, 18 to 22 September), Hong Kong (International Surgery Week, 22 to 27 August), Perugia (XVII Congresso Nazionale della Società Italiana di Medicina di Pronto Soccorso, 22 to 25 September) and Istanbul (29th International Congress of Military Medicine, 18 to 25 September). In addition to the many articles published in medical journals by the ICRC's specialized staff, a book on the treatment of wounded limbs was written by the Division's coordinator of surgical activities (Robin Coupland, FRCS, *War Wounds of Limbs – Surgical Management*, Butterworth-Heinemann, July 1993).

IN 1993, THE ICRC:

- spent a total of CHF 99,493,000 on medical activities;
- distributed a total of CHF 35,007,045 worth of medical supplies;
- had 205 medical posts on average in the field, 97 of which were held by staff seconded by National Societies;
- facilitated the surgical treatment of 22,985 patients in 11 countries for 6 conflicts. Of these, 9,050 were treated by ICRC expatriate surgical staff or by personnel supervised by expatriates.

⁴ See *The law and legal considerations*, p. 239-243.

In the field itself, surgical teams were active in over 25 countries, in particular in Burundi, Somalia, Djibouti, Afghanistan and Cambodia. The ICRC hospitals in Quetta (Pakistan) and Lopiding (Kenya) worked throughout the year. The hospital in Peshawar (Pakistan) closed on 13 April while the one in Khao-I-Dang (Thailand) closed on 10 February.

In order to facilitate the rehabilitation of people who had undergone amputations, the ICRC continued to run 26 orthopaedic workshops in 16 countries. A centre for the treatment of spinal injuries was set up in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) in conjunction with the Norwegian Red Cross. The ICRC continued its support for the paraplegic centre in Peshawar (Pakistan) set up in 1983, and helped finance a project in Bucharest (Romania), carried out by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Red Cross of Romania, for the treatment and rehabilitation of spinal injury victims.

But the actual treatment of casualties is only one aspect of the Medical Division's work. When war strikes, it also affects the basic medical infrastructure such as hospitals and other health-care facilities, which are soon overstretched, disrupted and sometimes destroyed precisely when needs are greatest. The team of specialists at ICRC headquarters stands ready at all times to assess conflict situations, identify needs and bring emergency medical assistance to the victims. Such assistance may consist in distributing medical supplies and equipment, providing drinking water or setting up sanitation facilities in a war zone.

In 1993, the ICRC helped hospitals, dispensaries and other health-care facilities in some twenty countries to continue working, particularly in the former Yugoslavia, where over 200 medical facilities were provided with supplies.

ICRC nutritionists assessed the food supply and nutritional status of displaced persons, detainees and large sections of the civilian population in Somalia, Rwanda, Sudan, Zaire, Angola and the former Yugoslavia.

ICRC sanitary engineers launched and carried out programmes in a dozen countries to provide the civilian population, medical facilities and detainees with clean drinking water, in particular in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq and East Timor.

Another important aspect of ICRC medical work is training health-care personnel in disaster medicine. Two "SOS" courses were held in 1993, the first in April-May in Brussels (21 participants) and the second in June-July in Geneva (24 participants). In conjunction with the Swiss Nursing Association, the ICRC organized four seminars in the French- and German-speaking parts of the country to train nursing staff to meet the specific requirements of humanitarian work.

¹ SOS/HELP Health Emergencies in Large Populations.

IN 1993, THE ICRC:

- ran 26 orthopaedic workshops in 16 countries;
- fitted 8,399 amputees with orthopaedic appliances;
- produced 12,740 prostheses, 755 wheelchairs and 11,152 pairs of crutches.

The Medical Division plays an important role in ICRC visits to detainees. Forty doctors took part as medical delegates in 10,521 prison visits in 55 countries to assess the health of the detainees. A seminar entitled "Health in Prison" was organized in Amman in September for all doctors on the staff of the Jordanian prison service. The Division's coordinator of detention-related work, also a doctor, attended a number of international meetings on torture, detainee health and the role of doctors in situations of imprisonment.

Useful contacts were thus maintained with organizations such as Physicians for Human Rights, the World Medical Association, the Copenhagen Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims, the International Council of Prison Medical Services and various universities and colleges such as the Harvard School of Public Health.

Relief activities

ICRC relief activities again increased in 1993 in terms of volume, personnel and number of beneficiaries. Whereas just over 290,000 tonnes of material relief had been provided to almost 50 countries in 1992, the figure rose still further in 1993 to a total of 306,000 tonnes. The three major relief programmes in Rwanda, Somalia and the former Yugoslavia accounted for 85 per cent of the assistance provided.

Many will agree that to begin a relief programme is far easier than to end one in good time and in such a way that the withdrawal is understood and accepted by the previously assisted population. We have indeed witnessed too many situations in which assistance began to show more and more negative side-effects, assistance dependency being the most commonly known. The task is particularly difficult for the ICRC as conflict situations are tending to become more and more prolonged. It is therefore not at all easy to choose the right moment to withdraw, as there is always the fear that a situation of newly restored peace may rapidly revert to war again. Besides choosing the right moment for withdrawal, intensive preparation is required by all those involved in the relief effort: ourselves, other humanitarian organizations, other members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the local authorities, the donor community and, last but not least, the previously assisted population itself.

Unlike 1992, when the biggest major challenge had been to get the huge food aid programme in Somalia under way, the ICRC's main difficulty in 1993 was, firstly, to choose the right moment for scaling down its relief operation and, subsequently, to facilitate a smooth transition from emergency intervention to

IN 1993, THE ICRC:

- provided 306,000 tonnes of relief to victims in some 54 countries.

development activities. Somalia has been a particularly good example of how the ICRC has helped famine victims to get through the immediate crisis by means of food aid and then to survive in the long term through large-scale distribution of seed, basic agricultural tools, fishing tackle and veterinary medicine and equipment. Such programmes are now a well-established component of ICRC operations, enabling the beneficiaries to regain a measure of self-sufficiency and thus their human dignity. Frequently launched, as in Somalia, while the emergency is at its height, these activities already pave the way for rehabilitation and development, in short, a return to normal life.

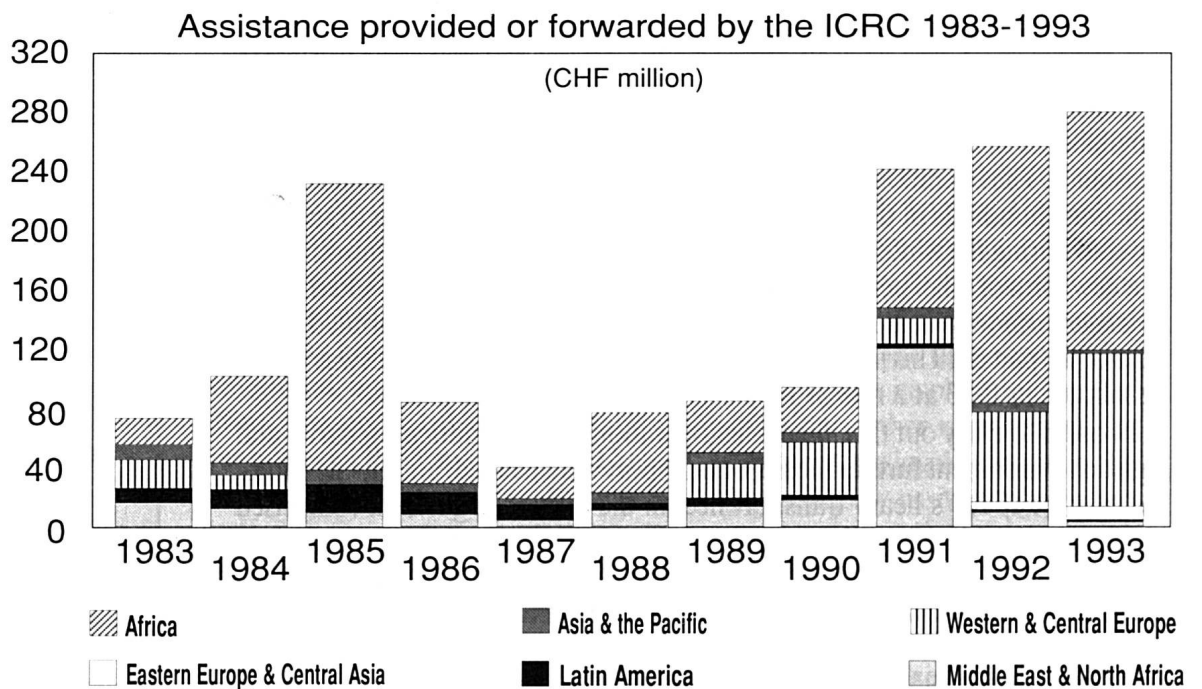
The ICRC assistance programme in Rwanda never drew public attention to the same extent as its operation in Somalia. However, with over 120,000 tonnes of food provided to some one million displaced people in northern Rwanda, it should be recognized as the largest relief input undertaken by the ICRC in 1993, and would not have been possible without the substantial support of the United Nations World Food Programme and the operational participation of the Rwanda Red Cross Society. Similar to the strategy adopted in Somalia, an emergency rehabilitation programme providing seed and basic agricultural tools was simultaneously implemented throughout 1993 to complement the food aid distributions. Thus, after the peace agreement was signed in August 1993, close to half a million people were able to return to their places of origin in time for planting. Thanks to this programme most had regained their self-sufficiency by the end of 1993.

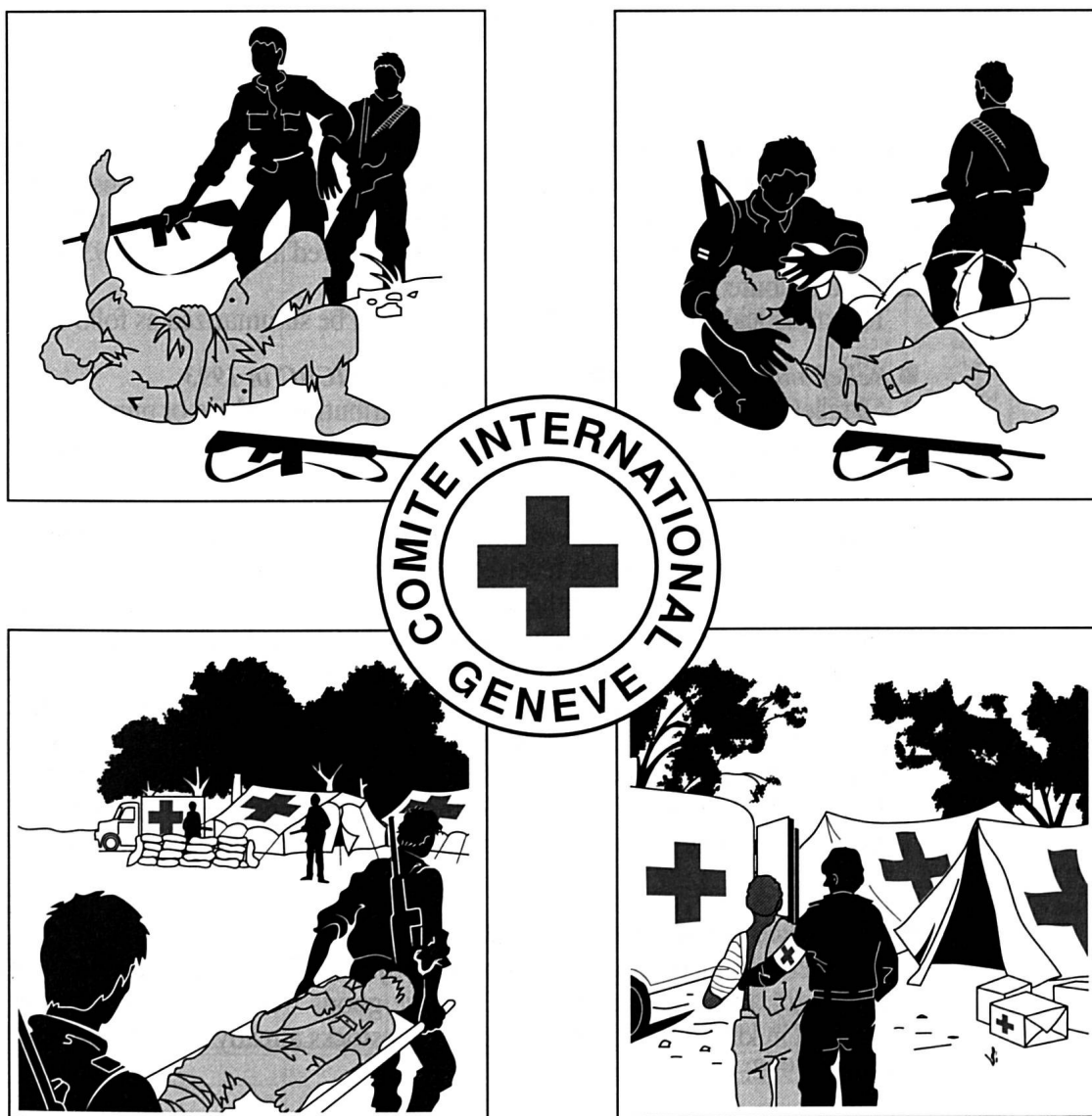
Throughout 1993 the ICRC's relief programme in the former Yugoslavia remained its second largest operation and the biggest in terms of non-food assistance. The operation included a second winter assistance programme aimed at helping hundreds of thousands of people in Bosnia-Herzegovina to stave off the cold during the winter of 1993-1994. Another highlight was the introduction of a new form of relief item in the form of an individual food parcel. A Red Cross message form was included and dissemination comic strips were printed on all sides of the parcels. This first joint relief-dissemination-tracing product was widely distributed in 1993 at a rate of 300,000 to 500,000 units per month.

In order to carry out this huge relief operation in a very difficult security and logistic environment further means of transport were needed, and by the end of the year the ICRC's heavy transport fleet in the former Yugoslavia comprised 110 lorries and 55 trailers. Furthermore, political constraints forced the ICRC to employ more and more expatriate drivers for its relief operation there. Thanks to the positive response by a large number of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies it was possible to send an average of around 60 to 80 drivers to the field throughout 1993, some from as far away as Australia and Canada.

Apart from the three major relief operations described above, the ICRC continued to provide assistance in Mozambique, Liberia, Sierra Leone, southern Sudan and various parts of the former Soviet Union. The level of assistance provided in the Caucasus remained much the same as in 1992, whereas the ICRC's relief operation in Tajikistan could be substantially reduced in the second half of 1993.

As in the past, the bulk of assistance went to Africa, with Europe the second biggest beneficiary. The chart below shows the breakdown of assistance by year and by region. With the exception of 1991, when the ICRC was heavily involved in assisting victims of the Gulf war, Africa has regularly been the principal recipient of relief and medical aid. Assistance given to the Middle East countries further decreased to reach levels similar to those prevailing in Asia and Latin America. All those regions received less than one per cent each of the overall relief assistance provided by the ICRC in 1993. However, it must be stressed that the main emphasis in Asia continued to be clearly placed on medical assistance, especially in Afghanistan and Cambodia.





Dissemination cartoon strip printed on ICRC relief parcels which were distributed in the former Yugoslavia at the rate of 300,000 to 500,000 units per month.

Comments on relief and medical assistance tables

All the figures mentioned in the preceding pages relate to relief and medical goods arriving in a country of destination or procured locally during the year. Distribution figures are therefore not necessarily identical, as distributions may have taken place from stocks still available for a given operation at the end of the previous year. Similarly, large quantities which arrived at the end of 1993 might not be distributed until 1994.

The statistical data in the following tables can be summarized as follows:

■ ***Relief and medical supplies dispatched by the ICRC in 1993***

All relief and medical goods received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December 1993.

■ ***Contributions in kind received and purchases made by the ICRC in 1993***

All relief and medical goods received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December 1993. The figures for contributions in kind cover all material support received as a gift but do not include any services received, such as the provision of human resources and/or logistic means. The figures for medical and relief purchases comprise all procurements carried out both with unearmarked and with earmarked financial contributions ("cash for kind"). The grand total of CHF 295,583,039 therefore corresponds to the grand total given in the table "Relief and medical supplies dispatched by the ICRC in 1993".

■ ***ICRC relief and medical distributions in 1993***

All relief and medical goods distributed by the ICRC in the field between 1 January and 31 December 1993. These goods were either purchased or received in kind during 1993 or taken from stocks already constituted at the end of 1992.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC IN 1993

(by receiving countries, according to stock entry date)

COUNTRIES	GIFTS IN KIND			PURCHASES BY THE ICRC			TOTAL DISPATCHED			
	MEDICAL (CHF)	RELIEF (CHF)	(Tonnes)	MEDICAL (CHF)	RELIEF (CHF)	(Tonnes)	MEDICAL (CHF)	RELIEF (CHF)	(Tonnes)	TOTAL (CHF)
AFRICA	2,983,854	98,099,077	155,708.3	4,152,403	60,554,466	90,208.9	7,136,257	158,653,543	245,917.2	165,789,800
Angola		16,515	16.5	239,495	55,712	46.1	239,495	72,227	62.6	311,722
Burundi		332,632	80.4	264,265	217,856	68.4	264,265	550,488	148.8	814,753
Cameroon				216	53,669	38.0	216	53,669	38.0	53,885
Central African Republic					75,518	111.6		75,518	111.6	75,518
Chad		221,424	477.0	39,036			39,036	221,424	477.0	260,460
Congo		7,056	0.5					7,056	0.5	7,056
Côte d'Ivoire				2,151			2,151			2,151
Djibouti					7,302	1.1		7,302	1.1	7,302
Eritrea				163,792			163,792			163,792
Ethiopia				315,573	24,545	8.3	315,573	24,545	8.3	340,118
Liberia	3,174	1,092,580	169.9	76,927	935,324	1,004.7	80,101	2,027,904	1,174.6	2,108,005
Malawi				95,334	43,326	10.6	95,334	43,326	10.6	138,660
Mali		5,732	1.6	84,542	9,259	3.1	84,542	14,991	4.7	99,533
Mozambique	2,875	5,244,637	12,626.0	521,574	2,271,596	2,477.0	524,449	7,516,233	15,103.0	8,040,682
Niger					3,698	0.8		3,698	0.8	3,698
Rwanda	276	47,176,689	84,895.4	603,288	22,880,256	40,306.0	603,564	70,056,945	125,201.4	70,660,509
Senegal				65,101	86.5			65,101	86.5	65,101
Sierra Leone	690	473,604	1,011.1	36,872	325,352	149.4	37,562	798,956	1,160.5	836,518
Somalia	2,909,032	42,048,104	54,683.3	183,504	29,327,392	41,290.1	3,092,536	71,375,496	95,973.4	74,468,032
South Africa		139,704	31.4		776,333	290.1		916,037	321.5	916,037
Sudan				303,279	108,228	280.7	303,279	108,228	280.7	411,507
Sudan (south via Kenya)	66,151	97,200	25.0	1,137,308	274,409	152.3	1,203,459	371,609	177.3	1,575,068
Togo				390			390			390
Uganda				2,998	1,684	0.7	2,998	1,684	0.7	4,682
Zaire	1,656	1,243,200	1,690.2	81,859	3,096,496	3,882.0	83,515	4,339,696	5,572.2	4,423,211
Zambia					1,018	1.0		1,018	1.0	1,018
Zimbabwe					392	0.4		392	0.4	392
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	212,560	278,567	167.3	4,516,809	920,209	664.3	4,729,369	1,198,776	831.6	5,928,145
Afghanistan	208,650	278,567	167.3	2,360,152	474,662	387.6	2,568,802	753,229	554.9	3,322,031
Bhutan					2,152	0.3	2,152		0.3	2,152
Cambodia				1,191,211	62,223	43.3	1,191,211	62,223	43.3	1,253,434
Indonesia				22,671	27,246	7.1	22,671	27,246	7.1	49,917
Myanmar				133,955			133,955			133,955
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan)				341,044	133,228	125.0	341,044	133,228	125.0	474,272
Philippines					17,613	9.3		17,613	9.3	17,613
Sri Lanka	3,910			227,236	203,085	91.7	231,146	203,085	91.7	434,231
Vietnam				240,540			240,540			240,540
WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE	4,125,663	32,413,685	22,971.9	16,682,015	56,680,565	30,136.6	20,807,678	89,094,250	53,108.5	109,901,928
Former Yugoslavia	4,125,663	32,413,685	22,971.9	16,682,015	56,680,565	30,136.6	20,807,678	89,094,250	53,108.5	109,901,928
EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	28,716	728,279	145.5	601,314	9,140,115	5,056.0	630,030	9,868,394	5,201.5	10,498,424
Armenia		101,600	12.2	5,599	1,538,489	878.7	5,599	1,640,089	890.9	1,645,688
Azerbaijan		337,873	90.7	77,423	536,109	300.0	77,423	873,982	390.7	951,405
Georgia				280,018	35,638	19.5	280,018	35,638	19.5	315,656
Russian Federation				61,588	244,806	172.1	61,588	244,806	172.1	306,394
Tajikistan	28,716	1,000		176,686	4,708,036	3,125.9	205,402	4,709,036	3,125.9	4,914,438
Emergency stock "Caucasus"		287,806	42.6		2,077,037	559.8		2,364,843	602.4	2,364,843
LATIN AMERICA		136,537	19.4	369,130	279,895	85.8	369,130	416,432	105.2	785,562
Chile				1,772			1,772			1,772
Colombia				52,250	29,922	17.6	52,250	29,922	17.6	82,172
Cuba				6,975	55,285	4.6	6,975	55,285	4.6	62,260
Haiti				6,270			6,270			6,270
Nicaragua				89,040			89,040			89,040
Peru		136,537	19.4	212,823	194,688	63.6	212,823	331,225	83.0	544,048
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	2,070	81,267	5.6	1,255,350	1,340,493	768.3	1,257,420	1,421,760	773.9	2,679,180
Iraq	2,070			643,036	178,076	200.2	645,106	178,076	200.2	823,182
Israel and the occupied territories		81,267	5.6	98,340	720,132	320.7	98,340	801,399	326.3	899,739
Jordan					8,541	1.4		8,541	1.4	8,541
Lebanon				468,727	421,527	243.8	468,727	421,527	243.8	890,254
Syria				45,247			45,247			45,247
Yemen					12,217	2.2		12,217	2.2	12,217
GRAND TOTAL	7,352,863	131,737,412	179,018.0	27,577,021	128,915,743	126,919.9	34,929,884	260,653,155	305,937.9	295,583,039

CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC IN 1993

(divided by donors and purchases, according to stock entry date)

DONORS	FOOD (Tonnes)	SEEDS (Tonnes)	BLANKETS (Units)	TENTS (Units)	KITCHEN SETS (Units)	CLOTHES (Tonnes)	OTHER RELIEF GOODS (Tonnes)	TOTAL RELIEF (CHF)	MEDICAL (CHF)	GRAND TOTAL (CHF)
NATIONAL SOCIETIES	19,039.1	0.6	222,017	215	6,020	235.4	1,325.7	33,008,029	4,062,439	37,070,468
Austria	2,657.6							3,147,905		3,147,905
Belgium	129.7							51,354	599,783	651,137
Canada						20.6		341,298		341,298
Denmark ⁽¹⁾	555.0		10,980	115			19.5	1,212,181		1,212,181
Finland			10,020			37.9		327,549		327,549
France ⁽¹⁾	414.3							705,469		705,469
Germany ⁽¹⁾	8,049.0		104,327	100	2,000	90.5	656.9	10,508,630	350,285	10,858,915
Greece ⁽¹⁾	435.0							886,712		886,712
India									680	680
Italy	5.8							2,016	246,415	248,431
Japan	51.0							73,950		73,950
Malaysia			1,700			8.5		98,600		98,600
Netherlands ⁽¹⁾	1,588.0		35,040		500		42.8	3,057,155		3,057,155
Norway	100.0						102.9	1,379,589	220,140	1,599,729
Portugal			8,700					86,552		86,552
Qatar			6,250			15.2	14.0	175,100		175,100
Spain	74.4							165,847	229,441	395,288
Sweden	107.1					6.5	80.0	1,024,554	139,653	1,164,207
Switzerland	545.0		29,000		3,520	15.9	63.2	1,657,121	843,450	2,500,571
Turkey	886.4							856,880		856,880
United Kingdom ⁽¹⁾	2,590.8		15,000			39.1	346.4	6,653,687	1,357,116	8,010,803
United States	850.0							584,676	75,476	660,152
Others ⁽²⁾		0.6	1,000			1.2		11,204		11,204
GOVERNMENTS	45,588.0	253.2	59,185				534.2	38,047,767	3,201,714	41,249,481
Belgium	651.0							292,950		292,950
Canada	1,564.0							1,832,486		1,832,486
Germany			9,690				72.0	787,987		787,987
Italy	1,280.0		5,000				49.9	904,240		904,240
Norway									3,201,714	3,201,714
Sweden	2,882.0						320.0	3,987,179		3,987,179
Switzerland	105.0	253.2					25.3	363,614		363,614
Thailand	200.0							90,000		90,000
United Kingdom							8.0	176,800		176,800
United States	38,241.3		44,495				59.0	29,325,410		29,325,410
Various governments ⁽³⁾	664.7							287,101		287,101
VARIOUS DONORS	111,468.5	15.9	4,341	600		1.1	48.1	60,681,616	88,710	60,770,326
European Union	36,735.7						12.0	19,763,234		19,763,234
United Nations (WFP,HCR,...)	65,590.0	0.1		600			10.7	36,768,490		36,768,490
Other donors	9,142.8	15.8	4,341			1.1	25.4	4,149,892	88,710	4,238,602
TOTAL GIFTS IN KIND	176,095.6	269.7	285,543	815	6,020	236.5	1,908.0	131,737,412	7,352,863	139,090,275
ICRC PURCHASES (non-earmarked)	14,396.8	54.1	155,447		3,005	167.5	4,551.4	28,550,972	27,465,873	56,016,845
ICRC PURCHASES (cash for kind)	101,001.3	2,081.4	862,185		9,200	600.8	2,532.5	100,364,771	111,148	100,475,919
TOTAL ICRC PURCHASES	115,398.1	2,135.5	1,017,632		12,205	768.3	7,083.9	128,915,743	27,577,021	156,492,764
GRAND TOTAL	291,493.7	2,405.2	1,303,175	815	18,225	1,004.8	8,991.9	260,653,155	34,929,884	295,583,039

⁽¹⁾ Partly financed by the European Union (CHF 12,449,236)

⁽²⁾ Goods from stocks of local National Societies, original donors not determined.

⁽³⁾ via Embassy of Rwanda in Kampala.

RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1993

COUNTRIES	MEDICAL (CHF)	RELIEF		TOTAL (CHF)
		(CHF)	(Tonnes)	
AFRICA	6,859,939	156,617,252	238,557.1	163,477,191
Angola	201,580	20,868	17.6	222,448
Burundi	173,898	369,927	94.7	543,825
Cameroon	216	51,254	38.1	51,470
Chad	39,036	218,834	472.2	257,870
Central African Republic		75,519	111.6	75,519
Congo		7,056	0.5	7,056
Côte d'Ivoire	2,151	30,092	4.7	32,243
Djibouti		26,039	4.4	26,039
Eritrea	183,429	163,012	15.1	346,441
Ethiopia	398,087	580,417	191.5	978,504
Guinea	967			967
Kenya		77,728	143.4	77,728
Liberia	65,261	1,457,799	1,073.6	1,523,060
Malawi	95,334	45,317	10.8	140,651
Mali	134,885	88,696	73.6	223,581
Mozambique	522,234	8,330,465	13,460.8	8,852,699
Niger	1,480	3,698	0.8	5,178
Rwanda	401,555	64,751,161	115,990.5	65,152,716
Senegal		81,881	87.8	81,881
Sierra Leone	41,660	898,462	1,223.7	940,122
Somalia	3,062,330	71,156,674	98,501.1	74,219,004
South Africa		876,000	278.3	876,000
Sudan	317,989	822,043	643.0	1,140,032
Sudan (south via Kenya)	1,167,768	920,565	254.6	2,088,333
Togo	390			390
Uganda	6,334	756,887	176.2	763,221
Zaire	43,355	4,802,812	5,681.7	4,846,167
Zambia		1,194	1.0	1,194
Zimbabwe		2,852	5.8	2,852
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	4,556,887	1,100,572	805.1	5,657,459
Afghanistan	2,389,196	651,614	524.4	3,040,810
Bhutan		2,152	0.3	2,152
Cambodia	1,225,821	62,223	43.4	1,288,044
Indonesia	22,671	27,246	7.1	49,917
Myanmar	133,955			133,955
Pakistan (conflict in Afghanistan)	341,044	133,228	125.0	474,272
Philippines		21,024	13.2	21,024
Sri Lanka	203,660	203,085	91.7	406,745
Vietnam	240,540			240,540
WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE	21,201,558	80,211,085	49,354.9	101,412,643
Former Yugoslavia	21,201,558	80,211,085	49,354.9	101,412,643
EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	778,731	9,888,846	5,057.6	10,667,577
Armenia	36,194	2,550,050	874.2	2,586,244
Azerbaijan	194,725	1,982,746	688.4	2,177,471
Georgia	304,339	809,589	333.5	1,113,928
Russian Federation	56,933	456,439	204.1	513,372
Tajikistan	186,540	4,090,022	2,957.4	4,276,562
LATIN AMERICA	369,371	357,526	100.1	726,897
Chile	1,772			1,772
Colombia	52,250	29,922	17.6	82,172
Cuba	6,975	61,973	6.4	68,948
Haiti	6,270			6,270
Nicaragua	89,040			89,040
Peru	213,064	265,631	76.1	478,695
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	1,240,559	1,530,816	751.8	2,771,375
Iraq	645,106	310,991	138.2	956,097
Israel and the occupied territories	98,340	784,270	324.7	882,610
Jordan		8,541	1.4	8,541
Lebanon	451,866	394,111	280.3	845,977
Syria	45,247	20,686	5.0	65,933
Yemen		12,217	2.2	12,217
GRAND TOTAL	35,007,045	249,706,097	294,626.6	284,713,142