

Support for activities throughout the world

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SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Relief Division

In 1980, 37 countries received material assistance from the ICRC, amounting to 24,993.5 tons, to a value of 53,083 million Swiss francs. The tables given on pages 60, 61, 62 illustrate ICRC relief activities in the year under review.

- The *pecially financed actions* undertaken by the ICRC with the support of governments, National Societies and various organizations amounted to 29,906,900 Swiss francs, for all kinds of relief goods (about 9,030 tons) forwarded to the areas concerned, either by the ICRC, or by the donors themselves under ICRC supervision. In the joint ICRC/UNICEF assistance operation in Kampuchea the ICRC was responsible for conveying relief goods by air from Bangkok to Phnom Penh and distributing some 6,000 tons of rice seed amounting to 3.2 million Swiss francs.
- Thanks to agreements concluded with the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Swiss Confederation, the ICRC supplied, in addition, *food aid* (9,963.5 tons to a value of 17.9 million Swiss francs) to eighteen countries.
- Assistance to *detainees*—mainly political detainees—and to their *families* most in need amounted to 1,212,763 Swiss francs (not including the aid coming under the heading “specially financed actions”).

Data processing and relief delegate's handbook

The Relief Division's task is to operate aid programmes worth several tens of millions of Swiss francs and requiring a large staff of qualified personnel at ICRC headquarters and abroad. In 1980 it attained two objectives which should allow it to provide services more efficiently and expeditiously:

- it worked out, with the co-operation of the Finance and Administration Department, a computer system which will process all the data fed into it concerning material assistance: quantities, values, shipment schedules, storage, details about the distribution of goods and about recipients, etc. The new system will eliminate tedious clerical work, furnish statistics in a minimum of time, automatically produce distribution reports and facilitate centralized checking operations;

- in September, it also published a 200-page handbook for delegates in the field, giving all the necessary elements for planning and carrying out a relief operation. This useful manual gives delegates the possibility of acting promptly should they have to deal with an unforeseen situation, it expedites the flow of information between headquarters and the theatres of operations, it helps standardize administrative procedures, and it serves as a basic textbook for training newly engaged personnel.

HARMONIOUS CO-OPERATION WITH EEC AND SWISS CONFEDERATION

1980 was the tenth year of close and harmonious co-operation between the European Economic Community (EEC) and the ICRC. It was in 1970 that the first agreement on the supply of foodstuffs by the EEC for Red Cross relief programmes was concluded. Since then, successive agreements have been signed each year, providing for the EEC to supply to the ICRC large quantities of cereals, skimmed powdered milk and butteroil, the costs of transport and insurance to a port near the ICRC's theatre of operations being also borne by the EEC. The ICRC undertakes to distribute those goods free of charge to particularly needy groups of inhabitants. In 1980, the volume of EEC food aid amounted to 9,160 tons, to a value of more than 15 million Swiss francs.

An equally fruitful collaboration, but which had commenced well before 1970, was continued by the ICRC and the Swiss Confederation. The latter sets aside every year a certain quantity of cereal and milk products (flour, powdered milk, cheese) for the ICRC relief programmes. In 1980, food aid contributed by Switzerland amounted to 703.5 tons, valued at 2.9 million francs.

Beneficiaries	Total Sw.fr.	Swiss Confederation		European Economic Community	
		Commodities	Sw.fr.	Commodities	Sw.fr.
Africa	2,149,440		719,250		1,430,190
Angola	1,271,400	5 t. animal fat	22,930	80 t. vitaminized sk.-milk powder	297,870
Chad	4,000	0.5 t. whole-milk powder	4,000	30 t. butteroil	278,600
Djibouti	47,200	5 t. whole-milk powder	47,200	600 t. maize meal	672,000
Ethiopia	826,840	70 t. whole-milk powder	634,770	20 t. butteroil	181,720
		3 t. animal fat	10,350		
Latin America . . .	2,373,570		622,330		1,751,240
Argentina	500,100	10 t. processed cheese	69,100	20 t. butteroil	201,000
Chile	321,500	25 t. whole-milk powder	230,000	100 t. sk.-milk powder	321,500
Honduras	93,420	10 t. whole-milk powder	93,420	40 t. sk.-milk powder	160,070
Nicaragua	486,590	15 t. processed cheese	102,850	100 t. rice	145,470
				50 t. rolled oats	78,200
Paraguay	126,960	15 t. whole-milk powder	126,960	50 t. butteroil	504,800
Uruguay	845,000			100 t. sk.-milk powder	340,200
Asia	6,446,270		98,400		6,347,870
Kampuchea	98,400	25 t. sk.-milk powder	98,400	400 t. sk.-milk powder	1,343,560
Philippines	3,748,160			100 t. butteroil	963,000
				1034 t. rice	1,441,600
Viet Nam	2,599,710			1000 t. rice	1,108,250
				1729 t. wheat flour	1,491,460
Middle East	6,932,020		1,434,250		5,497,770
Iran	71,900	5 t. whole-milk powder	71,900		
Israel and occupied territories	5,418,440	500 t. wheat flour	390,000	945 t. rice	1,028,600
				200 t. sk.-milk powder	677,300
				200 t. butteroil	2,020,000
Jordan	469,330			1700 t. wheat flour	1,302,540
Lebanon	220,130	25 t. whole-milk powder	220,130	662 t. wheat flour	469,330
Syria	752,220	90 t. whole-milk powder	752,220		
Total Sw.fr.	17,901,300		2,874,230		15,027,070

* Amounts include freight.

TRANSPORT

Costs of transport organized by the ICRC and charged to the ordinary accounts (subsequently debited, as a general rule, to special actions) were as follows:

1. Consignments by scheduled transport services	Kg.	Sw.fr.
— Surface (sea or land)	521,844	114,561
— Air	134,785	796,668
2. Chartered transport by air		
— Voyage charters: 13 trips	319,768	760,262
— Large aircraft time charters		
Kampuchea Action	10,871,184	18,508,738 ¹
— Small aircraft time charters		
Zimbabwe Action ² , 529 flying hours		
Angola Action ² , 183 flying hours		
Chad Action, 89 flying hours		142,850
Timor Action, 5,020 flying hours		3,815,953
Thailand, internal flights, 158 flying hours		99,866
3. Low cost transport by air (IATA resolution 200)	4,890	11,800
4. Customs clearance charges	34,490	43,724
5. Insurance: on freight		82,898
on passengers		28,651
Total	11,886,961	24,405,971

¹ Estimated cost.

² ICRC planes: cost included in the expenses of Southern Africa Action (see table VI, pages 94-95).

AID TO DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Sw.fr. 1.21 million

(Financed from regular budget)

Latin America	628,790
Argentina	545,500
Bolivia	46,590
Chile	15,400
Uruguay	21,300
Asia	19,320
Indonesia	620
Philippines	18,700
Middle East	569,520
Egypt	1,900
Israel and occupied territories	535,360
Jordan	14,700
Syria	2,900
Yemen (Arab Republic of)	14,660

AID TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Sw.fr. 0.97 million

(Financed by regular budget)

Latin America	6,600
Bolivia	6,600
Middle East	91,050
Israel (for local Red Cross units in the occupied territories)	54,100
Jordan (for various sectors of the population)	14,600
Syria (for various sectors of the population, hospitals, etc.)	12,000
Yemen (People's Democratic Republic of)	10,350

SPECIALLY FINANCED ACTIONS¹

(Relief in kind) Sw.fr. 33,106,900

Africa	9,850,300
Angola	1,563,720
Botswana	124,820
Chad	879,700
Djibouti ²	
Ethiopia	1,544,060
Malawi	7,700
Mozambique	65,700
South Africa	68,050
Sudan (conflict in Eritrea)	4,004,440
Uganda	473,170
Zaire	33,820
Zambia	215,620
Zimbabwe	869,500
Asia	21,302,400
Afghanistan	75,300
East Timor	2,197,000
Kampuchea ³	13,045,000
Pakistan	245,000
Thailand ³	5,740,100
Vietnam ⁴	
Latin America	1,365,900
El Salvador	630,000
Nicaragua	735,900
Middle East	588,300
Lebanon	462,300
Iran	126,000

¹ This table does not include food relief from the EEC and the Swiss Confederation or the figures for aid financed by the regular budget.

² Aid for Djibouti was supplied solely by the Swiss Confederation (see table on page 60).

³ These figures are only the value of relief in kind given by the ICRC, excluding the value of relief of the joint UNICEF-ICRC action.

⁴ Aid for Viet Nam was supplied solely by the EEC (see table on page 60).

Medical Division

In the last few years, ICRC commitments throughout the world have increased to such an extent that it was decided to consider the creation within the Medical Division of a standing corps of specialists who would ensure the continuity and progress of the ICRC's medical activities to protect and assist people in need of medical aid during or after a conflict, such as prisoners of war, political detainees, civilian internees, war-stricken populations, wounded and sick members of armed forces, war disabled soldiers and civilians. As in the case of its other activities, the ICRC provides medical assistance only in emergency situations, or where no other organization is capable of giving effective help. Once the emergency period is over, the ICRC takes steps to hand over the responsibility for medical aid programmes to other institutions or to government bodies.

Activities in 1980

In 1980, the number of doctors, nurses (male and female), physiotherapists, orthopedists and nutritionists sent by the ICRC to take part in ICRC aid programmes in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East was 1,112. Of these, 932 were made available by the National Red Cross Societies of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and USSR. The Thai Red Cross Society also provided the ICRC with an average of sixty doctors and male nurses a month in Thailand.

Compared with 1979 (when total medical and paramedical personnel numbered 511, of whom 388 were made available by National Societies), it will be seen that in 1980 medical staff sent on mission was more than twice as numerous. The increase was mainly in connection with the operations in aid of the victims of the Kampuchea conflict.

Aid to war amputees—manufacture of artificial limbs and rehabilitation of disabled persons—was continued by the ICRC which developed its pilot projects in Angola and Ethiopia (see pages 12 and 17). In addition, wishing to respond to the victims' needs in the most appropriate manner, the ICRC opened three centres of traditional medicine in the camps for Khmer refugees along the Thailand-Kampuchea border. This new venture was a great success.

In 1980, the value of aid furnished by the ICRC in medicaments and medical supplies amounted to 16.2 million Swiss francs, not including costs of services.

ICRC missions and participation in congresses

The ICRC chief medical officer and members of his division carried out several missions in 1980 to assess the ICRC's aid programmes in Asia (Kampuchea, Thailand, Pakistan), Africa (Angola, Ethiopia) and Latin America (Bolivia, El Salvador). The chief medical officer also attended the congress of the World Medical Association in New Orleans and the course on health and relief organization in natural disasters, organized jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and by the University of Louvain research centre on the epidemiology of deserts in October 1980.

STANDARD KITS OF MEDICAMENTS AND MEDICAL MATERIAL

The experience gained when carrying out aid projects in Third World countries has led the Medical Division to prepare standard kits containing medicaments and medical material with the purpose of providing a selection of products adapted to the ability of the recipients of medical assistance to use them. The kits are made up at the ICRC's depots by the staff of the pharmaceutical section. The contents vary, depending on whether they are intended for hospitals, dispensaries, health centres, or prison infirmaries. The pack contains a small range of basic drugs, with careful instructions on their use, written wherever possible in the language of the country of destination. A detailed list of all the items is printed on the outside wrapper of every kit, making it easy to check the contents quickly and accurately. While it is true to say that no perfect system of standardization exists, there is no doubt that any drawbacks to this particular scheme are far outweighed by its advantages, one of which is that it helps the recipients to use the medicaments more judiciously.

Detention Service

The protective activities of the ICRC have considerably expanded in recent years, both in circumstances arising from what might be termed "conventional" international conflicts and in those beyond the range of the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols. The number of countries where the ICRC was able to visit prisoners of war, civilian internees or "political" * detainees increased, for instance, from 60 to 80 between 1971 and 1980; it was given access to some 250 places of detention in 1971, and to 400 in 1980. During the year under review ICRC delegates visited almost 42,800 persons deprived of freedom (see table p. 64) in these places of detention scattered throughout 27 countries, and were able to see many of the detainees several times.

ICRC and visits to places of detention

Besides its traditional activities to help prisoners of war and civilian internees in time of international armed conflicts, consistent with the Third and Fourth Conventions, the ICRC also extends its action to victims of internal tension and disturbances not covered by the Conventions and their Protocols and not considered as armed conflicts.

The ICRC's right to offer its services in such circumstances for the benefit of this latter category, and also the procedure and purpose of so doing, were described in the 1979 Annual Report.

It must be stressed, however, that the ICRC visits places of detention provided its delegates are specifically authorized to:

- see and talk freely and without witness with all detainees;
- have access to all places of detention and to repeat these visits;
- have the list of persons to be visited, or draw up that list during the visit;
- provide, if necessary, material assistance to needy detainees and to families most affected as a result of the breadwinners' detention.

The work of the Detention Service

The main purpose of the Detention Service is to centralize on a systematic basis all work and information concerned with visits to places of internment and detention and all connected activities, whether related to prisoners of war, civilian internees or "political" detainees, for all geographical areas involved.

Its essential functions are:

- to keep the central captivity records up-to-date;
- to process all reports on visits to places of detention;
- to collect documents from various organizations concerned with penitentiary problems;

* In this Report "political", "security" or "assimilated" detainees, used for simplicity, does not imply recognition by the ICRC of the status attributed by the authorities to the prisoners visited.

VISITS BY THE ICRC IN 1980 TO PRISONERS OF WAR, CIVILIAN DETAINEES AND "POLITICAL" DETAINEES		
Countries	Number of places of detention	Number of detainees
Africa		
Angola	1	1
Chad	10	~ 280
Ethiopia	2	38
Mauritania	1	115
Namibia/South West Africa	5	147
Somalia	3	205
South Africa	8	519
Tanzania	2	1,130
Uganda	23	9,649
Zaire	39	2,776
Zambia	1	~ 150
Latin America		
Argentina	19	~ 2,150
Bolivia	19	~ 600
Chile	10	~ 130
Colombia	2	22
El Salvador	95	544
Nicaragua	32	7,100
Paraguay	5	~ 20
Uruguay	19	1,428
Asia		
Afghanistan	1	427
Malaysia	6	602
Philippines	33	1,128
Middle East		
Irak	4	~ 1,500
Iran	17	~ 3,900 *
Israel and occupied territories	26	5,017
Jordan	15	~ 2,600
Yemen Arab Republic	2	630
TOTAL: 27	400	~ 42,800

* Including about 600 prisoners of war

- to carry out historical research relating to captivity;
- to participate in the training of future delegates for visits to prisons.

In 1980, the Detention Service recorded 4,126 visits (3,780 in 1979) to places of detention, consisting of 3,847 visits to "political", "security" or "assimilated" detainees, 228 to infiltrators or persons held in "protected villages" and 51 to prisoners of war and persons treated as such.

In addition the delegate for detention problems took part in 1980 in the sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Delinquents, and also in various missions to Latin America and Africa.

Telecommunication Service

In 1980, the volume of traffic handled by the ICRC Telecommunication Service—by telex, telegram and radio—was 37.8 per cent more than in 1979. The total number of messages sent and received was 41,470.

Radio messages exchanged between Geneva headquarters and delegations in the field numbered 7,454 (8,842 in 1979). Radio traffic between various delegations totalled 20,544 messages, or 52.4 per cent more than in 1979.

These figures do not include conversations by radio telephony, enabling ICRC staff in Geneva to keep in touch, if necessary several times a day, with developments in the field. In 1980, the time taken up by such radio conversations amounted to a total of 4,811 minutes.

Five radio stations were brought into operation in 1980: in Khartoum (Sudan) on 28 January, in Kinshasa (Zaire) on 24 March, in Kampala (Uganda) on 11 June, in Kousseri (Cameroon) on 23 June, and in Pretoria (South Africa) on 31 July. A local station serving as a radiotelephonic link was also set up in February in Kassala (Sudan). The Teheran radio station, which had temporarily ceased operating at the end of 1979, was put back into service on 26 September when the war between Iraq and Iran broke out. The station at Kousseri was closed down on 23 October after the ICRC had decided to suspend its activities in Chad, but radio links with Geneva were resumed on 28 November for the needs of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Ten stations ceased operating in 1980. Six of them were closed down in southern Africa as a result of the ICRC's disengagement when the Rhodesia conflict was brought to an end: in Bulawayo, Gwelo, Fort Victoria and Umtali (Zimbabwe), and in Francistown and Selebi Pikwe (Botswana). The four other stations were those which had

formerly operated in N'Djamena and Faya-Largeau (Chad), El Arish (Egypt) and Sakaeo (Thailand).

At 31 December 1980, the ICRC radiocommunication network was as follows:

