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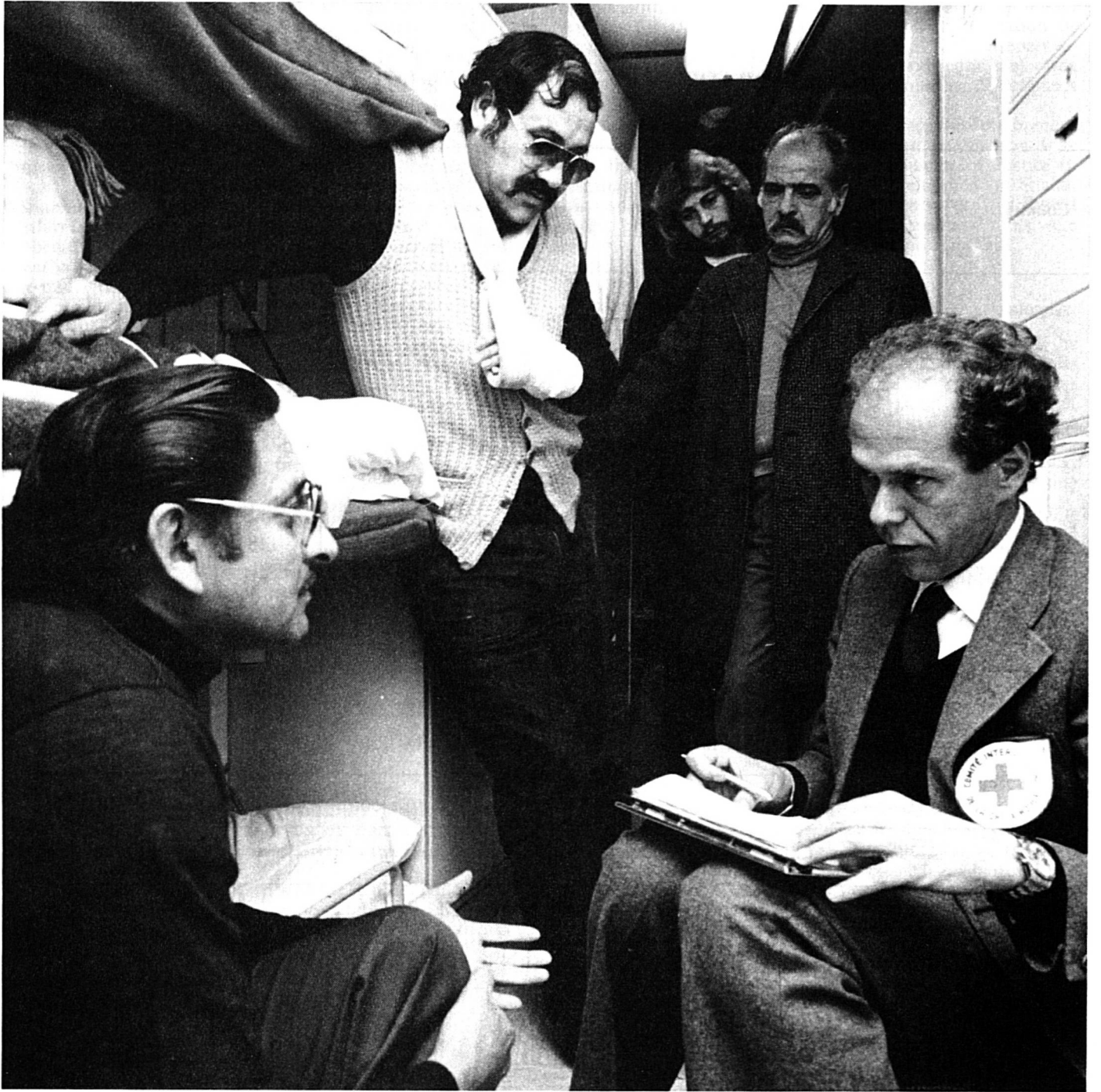
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Visit to Argentine prisoners of war aboard ship bound for Uruguay, where they will be taken in charge by their country's representatives (photo Luc Chessex)

LATIN AMERICA

During 1982, the activities of the ICRC in Latin America were marked by the institution's involvement in the Falkland Islands conflict. Throughout this war, the ICRC conducted large-scale protective activities on the basis of the mandate conferred on it by the Geneva Conventions.

As in the previous year, the ICRC also concentrated its efforts to assist and protect people detained in Latin America. Delegates visited places of detention in Argentina, Chile, Nicaragua, Peru, El Salvador and Surinam.

In 1982, material and medical assistance provided in Latin America by the ICRC to detainees, their families and displaced persons represented 7.8 million Swiss francs (see Table on p. 37).

In addition, the ICRC pursued its efforts aimed at the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross among the armed forces, universities and National Societies (*see also the chapter entitled "General Affairs" in this Report*).

In order to successfully carry out its activities in Latin America, the ICRC maintained its permanent delegations in Managua and San Salvador, and the regional delegation in Buenos Aires for the Southern Cone. The latter had to be reinforced temporarily due to the ICRC's involvement in the South Atlantic conflict.

The regional delegation at Bogota which had been placed on a stand-by footing in October 1981 was reactivated in July 1982; it provides for the presence of the ICRC in the Andean countries, Guyana and Suriname.

A regional delegation was opened in May at San José, Costa Rica, for the Central American countries and Mexico where the ICRC has no permanent delegation. Immediately after the new regional delegates took office, they carried out missions in various countries with a view to maintaining and fostering relations with the governments and the National Red Cross Societies.

The South Atlantic conflict

From the beginning of the crisis that arose between Argentina and Great Britain over the Falkland Islands, the ICRC reminded the two sides of their obligations and offered its services to intervene on behalf of civilians, sick or wounded combatants, the shipwrecked and prisoners of war, and to take appropriate steps to protect the civilian population in the archipelago and the towns and villages of Patagonia.

Protection

IN AID OF PRISONERS OF WAR. — From the month of April, the ICRC began to concern itself with the fate of the British soldiers and some civilians captured by the Argentine forces when they landed on the Falkland Islands and on the island of South Georgia. However, no intervention proved necessary, the prisoners having been released via Montevideo (Uruguay) where they were handed over to the British authorities. In May and June, on the other hand, the ICRC took part in several operations. The first took place on 13 May: 189 Argentine soldiers and civilians, taken prisoner by the British troops in South Georgia, were transported by an ICRC aeroplane from Ascension Island to Montevideo and handed over to representatives of the Argentine government. Three ICRC delegates, including a doctor, had previously talked to these prisoners aboard the two British ships on which they had made the journey from South Georgia to Ascension Island. Another Argentine prisoner, also captured in South Georgia, who had been detained by the British authorities, was visited on three occasions by the ICRC before his release and repatriation on 10 June via Rio de Janeiro.

On 2 June, two delegates sent from Geneva visited, on board the British hospital ship "Hecla", 23 Argentine civilians and one Argentine soldier who had been captured after the attack on the trawler "Narwal". The ICRC handed these prisoners over to representatives of their government when the "Hecla" arrived at Montevideo.

On the same day, an ICRC delegate visited a British pilot captured in the theatre of operations then transferred to the mainland. This prisoner of war was seen on two more occasions before being taken to Montevideo on 8 July to be handed over to his country's representatives under the auspices of the ICRC.

On 12 June, a team of six delegates, including two doctors, went aboard the British ship "Norland" which was carrying 1,013 Argentine soldiers captured during the battles of Goose Green and Port Darwin. The ICRC visited and registered every one of the prisoners before handing them over to representatives of their country in Montevideo.

Between 19 and 26 June, 9,896 Argentine prisoners of war were released and transported aboard British and Argentine ships to the ports of Puerto Madryn, Ushuaia and Bahía Blanca in Argentina. ICRC delegates accompanied the prisoners of war on four of the five operations, drawing up a list of the names and numbers of the prisoners.

The ICRC remained present on the Falkland Islands until the last of the Argentine prisoners of war were released: on 7 July, the three delegates still in the capital left the islands. A fourth delegate who had gone aboard the "St. Edmund",

where the last group of 593 Argentine prisoners of war were detained, escorted these captives to Puerto Madryn where they were handed over to the Argentine authorities on 14 July.

Some 12,000 prisoners of war were thus visited and registered by ICRC delegates between 13 May and 14 July. As usual, the ICRC sent the British and Argentine governments confidential reports drawn up by its delegates.

IN AID OF CIVILIANS. — On 28 April, the ICRC sent the two countries an offer of help, referring to Articles 14 and 15 of the Fourth Convention which provide for the setting up of medical and safety areas and localities, and neutral zones. The two parties having replied positively to this request, a mission was organized to assess the humanitarian needs and the means for protecting civilians both on the Patagonian coast and on the islands. Although the delegates were able to carry out the first part of the mission involving the coastal regions in southern Argentina, they were unable to undertake the second part which would have taken them to the archipelago. Concerned with the situation of the civilians on these islands, the ICRC therefore pursued its efforts to get there throughout May and early June. Finally, on 9 June, another team of delegates who had sailed from Montevideo aboard a British hospital ship reached the islands.

Shortly after its delegates had landed, the ICRC proposed the setting up of a neutral zone in the capital and this was accepted by both parties on 13 June. As stipulated in Article 15 of the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding the protection of civilians in wartime, such a zone is intended to ensure the safety of sick and wounded combatants or non-combatants, and civilians not taking part in the hostilities and not engaging in any work of a military nature during their stay in this zone. However, it was not necessary to make use of such a zone, a cease-fire having come into force in the meantime.

Activities of hospital ships

At the request of both parties, the ICRC dispatched an expert to the South Atlantic, to visit the six hospital ships (4 British and 2 Argentine) engaged in the Falklands conflict in pursuance of Article 31 of the Second Convention. His mission was to check that the installations of these ships complied with the Second Geneva Convention which specifies the rules concerning hospital ships.

The conclusions of this mission established the need for new provisions so that the identification of medical transport facilities might be improved and better adapted to present-day combat techniques. The usefulness of the Regulations concerning Identification, annexed to Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions, was demonstrated in the course of the mission. (*See also the chapter headed "General Affairs" in this Report*).

Assistance

Throughout its action in this conflict, the ICRC worked closely with the Argentine Red Cross and the British Red Cross.

During a working session with the Argentine Red Cross on 10 May in Buenos Aires, it was decided to set up emergency assistance facilities to enable the National Society to deal with the most pressing needs if the conflict spread to Argentina. The ICRC was charged with co-ordinating assistance activities, in accordance with the mandate devolving upon it in armed conflicts.

From 3 May, during their mission of assessment in southern Argentina, delegates visited local sections of the Red Cross at Rio Gallegos, Puerto Deseado and Comodoro Rivadavia in order to work out with those in charge of these branches the steps that should be taken to ensure them sufficient operational capacity in the circumstances at that time and in the case of the situation's deteriorating. Three programmes were devised and carried out jointly by the ICRC and the Argentine Red Cross:

- A blood donating unit
- First aid posts
- Training of volunteers

To help the Argentine Red Cross implement these programmes, the ICRC provided them with a vehicle, with all the necessary equipment, for use as a blood collecting unit. The Colombian Red Cross donated blood transfusion material.

Ten field first aid posts, with all the necessary equipment, were set up. Each unit was staffed by 16 volunteers from the National Society.

In addition, the ICRC supplied the Argentine Red Cross with teaching material to help it disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross both within the Red Cross itself and among the armed forces. The League, for its part, sent material prepared for the training of Red Cross volunteers and sent one of its delegates to conduct this programme. The value of the aid supplied to the Argentine Red Cross by the ICRC amounted to 133,000 Swiss francs.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency in Buenos Aires registered all prisoners of war captured during the conflict and visited by ICRC delegates, a total of 11,692 people. On this basis, the Agency was able to send the authorities in the country of origin full information regarding prisoners of war, the wounded or soldiers who had died — i.e. lists of prisoners, of dead, and grave sites — death certificates and personal belongings found on the bodies. In addition, numerous enquiries were made to ascertain the fate of missing soldiers.

The families of some 800 captives received news of their relatives through the Tracing Agency which also arranged for

the exchange of family messages between the prisoners of war and their families.

The Central Tracing Agency in Geneva also worked in close co-operation with the national information office opened in London by the British government at the outbreak of the war.

Personnel

A team of eight delegates, including three doctors, was sent from Geneva to carry out humanitarian tasks aboard the hospital ships, ships transporting prisoners, and in the islands.

To back up this operation, three delegates attached to the ICRC regional delegation for the countries of the Southern Cone, based in Buenos Aires, were also sent out to the archipelago. Eleven delegates were thus at work in the theatre of military operations.

Central America and the Caribbean

El Salvador

For the third consecutive year, the ICRC pursued its protection and assistance activities on behalf of victims of the internal conflict which is tearing the country apart. During the year, delegates responsible for the distribution of relief supplies enjoyed greater freedom of movement, enabling them to gain access to all zones affected by the fighting.

Two fund-raising appeals were launched in 1982, the first in February and the second in August. The total funds sought, in order to carry out assistance and protection programmes throughout the year, amounted to 10.7 million Swiss francs.

Over and above the regular representations made by the head of the San Salvador delegation to the competent authorities, various missions were organized from Geneva. The Director of Operational Activities and the delegate-general for Latin America visited San Salvador from 14 to 17 April. They had talks with the Minister of Defence, General José Guillermo García, about problems relating to the protection activities of the ICRC. From 30 May to 5 June, the delegate-general was again in El Salvador to meet the principal authorities, namely Dr. Alvaro Magaña, President of the Republic, Dr. Rafael Moran Castaneda, First Secretary of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Arturo Mendez Azahar, Minister of Justice, and General José Guillermo García, Minister of Defence. In December the delegate-general once again visited San Salvador where he had a second discussion with the President of the Republic.

Protection

In 1982, ICRC delegates continued to make regular visits to persons detained in connection with the events. 1,296 visits

were carried out in 171 places of detention; 1,278 detainees were registered and seen for the first time. The detention centres visited were controlled by the Ministry of Defence (national police, National Guard, *Hacienda* Police, Armed Forces) and the Ministry of Justice (Penitentiary Department). The results of these visits were periodically assessed and formed the subject of confidential summary reports and notes which were forwarded to the government.

The negotiations initiated by the ICRC in 1981 regarding conditions under which detainees were held continued (*see the 1981 Annual Report, p. 26*). In this connection, the ICRC proposed to the authorities the setting up of a notification procedure whereby ICRC delegates would be systematically informed of the identity of detainees immediately following their arrest. This ICRC proposal was accepted by the government but, by the end of 1982, there was still a long way to go before obtaining the strict and systematic application of this notification procedure aimed to improve the protection of detainees during the initial phase of their detention.

The co-operation which the ICRC hoped to establish with the Control Commission under the Ministry of Defence did not materialize during the course of the year.

In 1981, the ICRC had already voiced its concern regarding the plight of soldiers captured by the "Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front" (FMNL). On 8 August 1982, protective action started, the ICRC having obtained the guarantees necessary to go into the fighting areas. From that date and until the end of the year, delegates carried out nine visits to four groups of prisoners. All of these prisoners, except for one, and others captured afterwards, were subsequently released. By 31 December, 244 soldiers had been thus handed over to the ICRC delegates by members of the FMNL. These soldiers were escorted to their barracks by the ICRC.

Relief

In close co-operation with the El Salvador Red Cross, the ICRC continued its assistance activities in aid of the civilian population displaced because of the military situation. A total of 4,403 tons of relief supplies, mainly food but also including clothes, blankets and various basic necessities, was distributed under the supervision of ICRC delegates; about fifty voluntary relief workers from the National Society took part in these distributions which were organized fortnightly. The value of the relief material distributed amounted to 5.4 million Swiss francs. During the year, a monthly average of about 60,000 displaced persons living in twenty or so villages in the departments of Chalatenango, Cabanas, San Vicente, Cuscatlan, Usulután, San Miguel, Morazan and La Unión benefited from ICRC assistance.

Depending on the evolution of military operations, ICRC activities were sometimes interrupted throughout the year. But in spite of the dangers to which they were exposed, ICRC delegates were able to extend their assistance activities to fighting areas previously inaccessible to them. The programme for the dissemination of knowledge of international humani-

tarian law and the principles of the Red Cross, which the ICRC had undertaken in the country, also significantly contributed to the improvement in delegates' safety.

Because of the danger, and in order to achieve better co-ordination of its relief activities, the ICRC developed the radio communication network used by the El Salvador Red Cross.

Over and above its programme of food and material assistance, the ICRC carried out several special assignments. In the region of Cacaopera, for instance, in June, it provided equipment with which groups of Salvadoran refugees returning from Honduras could build temporary shelters for the neediest among them.

Medical assistance

During the first three months of 1982 and following a reappraisal of the situation, the ICRC decided to assign two more doctors and two more nurses to the medical team. From April, it was therefore possible to form a second mobile medical team, helped by locally recruited medical personnel (doctors, nurses and first-aid workers). In 1982, the medical personnel of the ICRC (fifteen people in all) provided regular medical care in a score of villages inside the fighting areas in the centre, east and north of the country, giving about six consultations each week to some 200 to 300 patients. As in the case of food assistance, delegates were able to reach civilians isolated in fighting areas and provide the medical care they needed. During these visits, the first-aid workers of the El Salvador Red Cross, trained by ICRC doctors for this purpose, paid particular attention to giving civilians basic training in preventive medicine in order to improve conditions of hygiene and thus curb the main diseases encountered in these areas.

On several occasions, ICRC delegates, under the protection of the emblem, evacuated seriously sick patients requiring rapid admission into hospital.

In addition to the work of co-ordinating the medical teams, medical delegates took part in the protective activities of the ICRC by going regularly to the places of detention visited by the delegates.

The blood donating centre of the ICRC and the El Salvador Red Cross, inaugurated on 8 May 1981, continued functioning throughout the year and the number of blood donors constantly increased to reach an average of 200 people each month. This centre is entirely administered by the National Society of the Red Cross while the running expenses (approximately 160,000 Swiss francs annually) are financed by the ICRC.

The total value of medicaments and medical equipment distributed by the ICRC to civilians and people detained in prisons amounted to 270,260 Swiss francs.

Aid to the Salvadoran Red Cross

Because of the National Society's increased activities, and in order to enable it to maintain and extend its services on behalf

of victims, the ICRC granted it financial support amounting to approximately 1,170,000 Swiss francs in 1982. The ICRC provided the El Salvador Red Cross also with emergency relief supplies so that it could help victims of the serious floods that occurred in May.

During the last few months of the year, the ICRC, in collaboration with the League, examined an emergency plan to increase the National Society's operational capacity in emergencies and reinforce its regional branches in the fighting areas.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency in the ICRC delegation at San Salvador worked with the help of the two regional offices set up in Santa Ana and San Miguel, in the west and east of the country. Two delegates and eight local employees received the people who came daily to ask for news of missing or detained relatives. Some 3,000 requests for enquiries submitted by families were handled and about 700 cases were settled.

In addition, the Tracing Agency continued to register all the detainees visited by ICRC delegates. It also noted transfers of detainees from one place of detention to another. A mission by the head of the Latin American section of the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva was carried out with the aim of achieving satisfactory co-ordination of tracing activities and protective action, in line with the new notification procedures.

Dissemination

Taking into account the internal situation of El Salvador, and with a view to assisting all civilians affected by the events, the ICRC continued its efforts to spread knowledge and understanding of its humanitarian work and thereby increase the safety necessary for the accomplishment of its operations. In order to improve the deteriorating conditions of safety, frequent contacts were made with the military authorities in the field. At the same time, conferences were organized in the barracks to explain the activities of the ICRC, the principles of the Red Cross and the fundamental provisions of the international humanitarian law protecting civilians not taking part in the hostilities as well as wounded or captured combatants. These dissemination activities were also carried out among the members of the FMNL.

Nicaragua

During 1982, the ICRC delegation in Managua continued its work of protecting and assisting detainees and their families. Detainees receiving help from the ICRC are divided into three categories:

- members of the former National Guard imprisoned after the fall of the Somoza régime;
- civilians accused of having collaborated with the former government;
- persons detained after the setting up of the revolutionary government and accused of counter-revolutionary activities or activities prejudicial to State security.

By 31 December 1982, the ICRC had visited 2,700 people from the two first groups, the great majority of whom had been judged and sentenced, and 900 people from the third category, accused or sentenced. 1,300 families of detainees received regular food assistance from the ICRC.

The ICRC also continued its endeavours to extend its protective work to persons under interrogation or detained by the Director General for State Security, and to persons detained in the Atlantic coastal region. Unfortunately, these endeavours were to no avail.

The ICRC concerned itself with the Miskitos displaced from the shores of the Rio Coco to the hinterland as a result of the increased tension along the frontier with Honduras.

Three missions by the delegate-general for Latin America in January, June and December enabled him to assess the activities of the delegation and to take up these problems with the authorities. In particular, he had talks with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Nora Astorga; the Deputy Minister of the Interior, Commander René Vivas Lugo; Dr. R. Cordova Rivas, a member of the governing Junta of National Reconstruction; the Minister of Health, Mrs. Lea Guido; and Captain Raul Cordon, Director of the National Penitentiary Service (NPS).

Protection

In 1982, ICRC delegates visited four places of detention controlled by the National Penitentiary Service, six detention units controlled by the Sandinist police, three penal farms, and six hospitals or health centres occasionally housing detainees. Visits to the NPS prisons took place once every three months. Attention was concentrated on the two main places of detention in the capital, the Tipitapa and Zona Franca sections of the NPS which house over 80% of the detainees visited by the ICRC. Because of the size of the prison population in these two centres, these visits lasted on average three weeks.

In the provinces also, the delegates had regular access to the NPS detention centres in Granada, Matagalpa and Chinandega; on the other hand, they were not allowed access to the detention unit of Ocotol. As for the detention centres in the provinces controlled by the Sandinist police, the ICRC was able to make some visits to the police stations in Juigalpa, Rivas, Esteli and Somoto on the basis of an agreement made with the Deputy Minister of the Interior in 1981. These visits could not be carried out on a regular basis, however, the authorities refusing permission in areas which were declared of

military emergency (“emergencia militar”) along the country’s northern frontier.

The ICRC was not allowed access to persons under interrogation or detained by the State Security Services, despite repeated requests to the authorities by both the Managua delegation and the delegate-general during his missions to Nicaragua. These detainees could only be visited several weeks, or even months, after their arrest, after they had been sentenced and transferred to places of detention controlled by the NPS. This was the case also for the Miskitos arrested in the Atlantic coastal region, who were finally visited in a detention centre in Managua.

All visits carried out by the ICRC formed the subject of detailed confidential reports to the authorities and the problems were raised and thoroughly discussed with the competent authorities with a view to finding satisfactory solutions.

Relief

Throughout the year, the ICRC continued its programme of aid to detainees in the form of individual monthly parcels. Under this programme, begun in 1981, food and toiletries were distributed directly to the detainees. Other relief material also (clothing, articles for leisure activities, educational material, cleaning products and various appliances) was supplied to the prisons.

Assistance to needy families of detainees was considerably stepped up in 1982 and about 1,300 such families received a monthly parcel containing 16 kilos of food. In addition, the ICRC paid the travel expenses from the Atlantic coast to Managua for people wishing to visit their relatives, detained in the capital.

In 1982, the value of the material aid distributed to detainees and their families amounted to 812,000 Swiss francs.

Medical assistance

The ICRC continued its medical assistance programmes in prisons, and particularly in the two main detention centres in Managua. Medical personnel from the ICRC (a doctor and a nurse) throughout these visits paid particular attention to all matters concerned with the medical treatment of the detainees and were constantly in contact with senior medical staff in the prison administration. During their visits, the ICRC medical team gave consultations to a great number of detainees, supplied medicaments, medical, dental and laboratory equipment, organized courses in general medicine for prison paramedical staff and conducted a programme of optometrical consultations which involved supplying 750 pairs of spectacles.

The medical delegate submitted to the authorities a certain number of cases of detainees whose state of health required their release or transfer to hospital. On the recommendations of the ICRC, 15 detainees were freed on medical grounds.

In 1982, the value of the medical aid provided in prisons by the ICRC amounted to 111,030 Swiss francs.

Displaced Miskitos

Owing to the growing tension which prevailed in the north of the department of Zelaya, the scene of clashes between government troops and counter-revolutionaries, the Sandinist government decided in February to move into the hinterland approximately 9,000 Miskito Indians who were living in the regions bordering the Honduras frontier. As soon as these displaced persons were resettled in the camps of Tasba Pri, the ICRC delegation requested permission to assess their need of assistance.

However, it was not until November that the ICRC was authorized to go to Tasba Pri. Following this mission, the ICRC examined the possibility of setting up a service for the transmission of family messages between the Miskitos in Tasba Pri and their relatives who had taken refuge in Honduras (*see also the chapter on Honduras*).

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency in Managua registered all detainees visited, carrying out a comprehensive census of the penal population at regular intervals. It also maintained contact between detainees and their families, transmitting 2,307 family messages in the course of the year.

Other countries

COSTA RICA

In May, a regional delegation was opened in San José, Costa Rica, for the purpose of serving the countries in Central America where the ICRC has no permanent delegation. Apart from Costa Rica, these countries are Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and Panama.

The regional delegate carried out missions in all the countries of his area in order to make contact with the governments and the National Red Cross Societies.

GUATEMALA

From 25 October to 6 November, the regional delegate based in Costa Rica went to Guatemala City in order to discuss with the Guatemalan authorities the question of possible ICRC action in that country.

He met Mr. Eduardo Castillo Arriola, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Oscar Humberto Mejia, Minister of Defence; Mr. Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, Minister of the Interior; and members of the governmental committee examining the problems of civilians living in fighting areas.

These discussions did not provide any concrete results.

The ICRC nevertheless intends to pursue its efforts to secure agreement to carry out humanitarian protection and assistance activities in Guatemala in aid of detainees and civilians affected by the tragic events ravaging the country.

HONDURAS

As part of ICRC efforts to set up a service for transmitting family messages between the Miskitos from Nicaragua and their relatives who had taken refuge in Honduras, a mission was undertaken to Tegucigalpa to make contact with the authorities in Honduras, the Honduran Red Cross and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, responsible for the Mocoron camp, in which there were approximately 9,000 Miskito refugees.

Following this mission, the ICRC examined the possibility of collaborating with the National Society in the setting up of a service for transmitting family messages for the benefit of separated families. This service should come into operation in the course of 1983.

Andean countries, Guyana and Suriname

Colombia

Reduced to a minimum at the end of 1981, the ICRC regional delegation for the Andean countries, Guyana and Suriname, situated in Bogota, was reactivated from 26 July 1982.

The new regional delegate had talks concerning the project of new visits to security detainees with Mr. B. Gatan Mahecha, Minister of Justice, and Mr. Fernando Landagabal, Minister of Defence. The ICRC was granted authorization in principle to visit places of detention controlled by the Ministry of Justice.

Peru

The regional delegate's missions to the various Andean countries included one to Lima, from 4 to 7 August. He had talks with Mr. José Gagliardi Schiaffino, Minister of the Interior; Mr. Federico Tovar Freyre, Deputy Minister of Justice; and Mr. Jorge Llosa, Deputy Minister of Foreign

Affairs. After an exchange of views on the internal situation, the delegate offered the services of the ICRC to visit people detained on account of the events.

Authorization in principle having been granted by the authorities during the first meeting, a second mission was undertaken from 14 to 20 October to obtain definite agreement from the government and to draw up a programme of visits. These took place, in accordance with ICRC procedures, from 15 November to 16 December. Four ICRC delegates, including a doctor, visited 456 detainees in eight places of detention, four in the region of Lima (El Fronton, Callao, Lurigancho and Chorillos) and four in the provinces (Ayacucho, Puno, Arequipa and Cajamarca). At the end of this round of visits, relief material such as medicaments, clothing, mattresses, blankets, cooking utensils and toiletries were distributed by ICRC delegates. The value of this aid amounted to 13,000 Swiss francs. As usual, confidential reports on the visits were forwarded to the Peruvian authorities.

Suriname

From 28 October to 7 November, the regional delegate went to Paramaribo to introduce himself to the authorities and to the National Society of the Red Cross, and also to offer the services of the ICRC to visit people detained on account of the events. In particular, he talked with Mr. L. F. Ramdat Misier, the acting President of Surinam; Mr. Frank J. Leeflang, Minister of Justice; and Mr. Badrisein Sital, Minister of Health. The regional delegate outlined the activities of the ICRC in Latin America and requested permission to visit persons detained on grounds of security. He thereby gained access, on 5 and 6 November, to 21 people arrested following the attempted *coup d'état* in March, and detained in four places of detention. These visits took place according to the usual ICRC procedures.

Grenada

On 9 November, the regional delegate based in Bogota visited Grenada where he talked to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Unisson Whiteman. During this meeting, he outlined the activities of the ICRC, its protection activities and the principles by which it is guided.

Other countries

The regional delegate carried out short missions to **Bolivia** (7 to 11 August), to **Ecuador** (11 to 14 August), and to **Venezuela** (14 to 17 August). In these three countries he discussed with the authorities and the National Red Cross

Societies the activities of the ICRC throughout the world, and in particular in Latin America. In addition, the delegate discussed the internal situation of the various countries visited with the authorities and reminded them that the ICRC was available to carry out any activities within its province.

Countries of the Southern Cone

Argentina

From 8 to 13 August, the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America undertook a mission to Buenos Aires. He had talks with various government officials, including Dr. Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Lucas Lennon, Minister of Justice; General Llamil Reston, Minister of the Interior; and with representatives of the armed forces. This mission had two objectives: firstly to take stock of the ICRC's activities in the Falklands conflict and, secondly, to assess the protection activities in aid of persons detained on security grounds. Other subjects were also discussed, such as a project to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces.

Protection

New and more flexible procedures for visiting persons detained on security grounds came into force in November 1981. Apart from complete visits, these procedures also provided for "follow-up" and "emergency" visits.

In the course of the past year, delegates, including a doctor, visited eleven places of detention, some of these being visited several times. On the basis of visits carried out, the ICRC recommended to the prison authorities that a certain number of detainees should be released early or transferred elsewhere due to their state of health. As a result of releases from prison during the year, the number of detainees visited by the ICRC dropped from 1,067 at the beginning of 1982 to 557 at the end of the year.

The ICRC reiterated its concern over the grave problem of missing persons. On 26 February it submitted to the Argentine authorities a list of some 2,300 persons reported repeatedly between 5 September 1977 and 3 August 1981, and concerning whom no significant information had been received. In December 1982, the regional delegate again had talks concerning this matter with the President of the Supreme Court of Justice, the Deputy Minister of the Interior, and with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Assistance

Detainees benefited from medical assistance provided by the ICRC. The neediest also received small sums of money,

enabling them to make a few personal purchases in the prison canteens. In addition, the ICRC paid the travelling expenses for certain families living particularly far away from the prison housing the detainee they wished to visit. Several families continued to receive food aid from the ICRC until the end of October. The total value of this aid amounted to 39,420 Swiss francs.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency of the delegation for the Southern Cone — which also covers Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil — continued to help in the work of the delegation, especially in processing the information collected by delegates during their visits to places of detention. In addition, it continued to maintain its usual contacts with the families of detainees.

Chile

The ICRC regional delegation for the Southern Cone carried on its protective work in Chile on behalf of persons arrested for violating the law on the internal security of the State and the law on arms control. From 23 to 26 March, the regional delegate went to Santiago to deliver to the authorities the report drawn up following the visits made in December

1981. During his discussion with Mrs. Monica Madariaga Gutierrez, Minister of Justice, the ICRC representative informed her of the main findings that had come to light during these visits.

From 3 to 30 November, delegates visited 27 places of detention, in accordance with the usual ICRC procedures. They interviewed without witnesses 220 detainees, 57 of whom they saw for the first time. In conjunction with these visits, the ICRC liaison office in Santiago registered all persons detained and continued to maintain contact between them and their families.

As during past years, medical aid was supplied to the detainees. In addition, 44 families of detainees received food. Finally, the ICRC assisted 46 people relegated to regions far from the capital, helping them either to be visited by a member of their family, or to make the return journey at the end of their sentence.

Other countries

In **Paraguay**, the “Casa del Buen Pastor” prison in Asuncion was visited and four security detainees talked without witnesses to an ICRC delegate.

In **Uruguay**, after discussions which had started over a year previously with the authorities, agreement was finally reached on 23 November concerning the resumption of ICRC visits to security detainees; these should take place in 1983.

**RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE PROVIDED
OR FORWARDED BY THE ICRC IN 1982 ***

LATIN AMERICA

Country	Beneficiaries	Relief		Medical Assistance	Total Sw. Fr.
		Tonnage	Value in Sw. Fr.	Value in Sw. Fr.	
Argentina**	National Society, civilian population, detainees and their families	—	36,920	135,500***	172,420
Chile	Detainees	—	10,070	—	10,070
El Salvador	Displaced civilian population, detainees and their families, sick persons	4,403	5,435,420	270,260	5,705,680
Nicaragua	Civilian population, detainees and their families, sick persons, National Society	473.3	1,078,890	111,030	1,189,920
Paraguay	Civilian population	10	95,880	—	95,880
Peru	Detainees	1	10,720	2,510	13,230
Uruguay	Civilian population	140	651,960	—	651,960
TOTAL		5,027.3	7,319,860	519,300	7,839,160

* Including food aid from the EEC and the Swiss Confederation, aid to National Societies, aid to detainees and their families, and aid provided in the course of activities with special financing.

** In addition, 34.2 tons of relief amounting to 328,420 Sw. Fr., provided from the 1981 stocks, were distributed to the civilian population and detainees' families.

*** Including 133,000 Sw. Fr. to the Argentine Red Cross in connection with the Falkland Islands conflict.