

# Africa

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*Ethiopia/Somalia: repatriation of Somali prisoners of war.*

(Slide: ICRC/P.-H. Morard — SUDAN 12/88)



*Vaccinating cattle in southern Sudan.*

## **AFRICA**

In 1988, Africa was again the continent where the ICRC was most widely represented, with eleven delegations (Addis Ababa, Bujumbura, Kampala, Khartoum, Kigali, Luanda, Maputo, Mogadishu, N'Djamena, Pretoria and Windhoek) and five regional delegations (Harare, Kinshasa, Lagos, Lomé and Nairobi). More than half of ICRC field staff continued to be deployed on the continent, i.e., almost 230 delegates (some 50 of whom were seconded from National Societies) and about 1,000 locally recruited employees.

From these 16 delegations, the ICRC carried out activities to assist hundreds of thousands of victims of armed conflict and internal disturbances and tension. It did this in spite of the many delays and other difficulties caused by security problems and lack of official authorizations. The cost of these activities for 1988 was estimated at 145,098,000 Swiss francs (102,763,900 francs in cash and 42,334,100 francs in kind and services). Taking into account the balance available from the previous period (6,970,800 Swiss francs) and the gifts in kind and services required, the ICRC launched an appeal to raise 158,698,400 francs. In response to this appeal, by 31 December 1988 the ICRC had received 103,587,200 Swiss francs in cash and 42,334,100 francs in kind and services from governments, the European Economic Community, the World Food Programme, various other organizations and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Three of the five regional delegations in Africa (Lomé, Lagos and Kinshasa) were financed under the ICRC's regular budget.

As in 1986 and 1987, the ICRC was invited in May to attend the 48th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the 24th Assembly of Heads of State and Government. It was represented by a delegation led by its President, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga. In November, President Sommaruga went to Dakar to take part in two important meetings for the Movement in Africa. One was the Fourth General Assembly of the Association of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in French-speaking Africa and the other was the Second Pan-African Conference of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

### **Southern Africa**

#### **SOUTH AFRICA**

The ICRC remained concerned about the internal disturbances in South Africa, in particular the arrests made under

the state of emergency, which was once again renewed in June. Invoking its statutory right of initiative, the ICRC pursued its efforts to gain access to all categories of persons arrested in connection with the internal situation. Clashes between various Zulu political movements in Natal province were also a source of serious concern to the ICRC, which endeavoured, in co-operation with the National Society, to bring assistance to those affected, in particular homeless people and families whose bread-winners had been injured or killed.

#### **Representations and activities**

##### ***For prisoners and detainees***

□ An Angolan military pilot who made a forced landing in Namibia/South West Africa on 13 December was captured and interned by the South African authorities. The ICRC delegates in Pretoria visited him on 20 December in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Third Geneva Convention.

A South African soldier captured in Angola and transferred to Cuba for medical care was visited by the ICRC in Havana in June, August and November.

□ Every year from 1969 to 1986, the ICRC conducted a series of visits to sentenced security prisoners and people held in preventive detention under Section 28 of the 1982 Internal Security Act, these being the only categories to which the South African authorities have so far granted the ICRC access. Concerned about the many security detainees to whom it did not have access, the ICRC began negotiations with the South African government in 1986 and stepped up its approaches, in particular to the Ministry of Justice, in 1987. The purpose of these negotiations has been to obtain permission to visit not only sentenced security prisoners but also those sentenced for unrest-related offences. The ICRC also approached the Minister of Law and Order to request access to unsentenced security detainees. Discussions went on throughout 1988, with the ICRC delegates in Pretoria meeting the Minister of Justice in March and the Director-General of the Department of Justice and the Director of the Prison Service in May, without success. As in 1987, they decided against carrying out a series of prison visits, since they would have had access only to sentenced security prisoners. This decision was taken because the ICRC felt that, in view

of the changing situation, it was essential to obtain fresh guarantees in order to clarify and extend the detention-related activities of its delegates in South Africa.

- With fighting continuing in northern Namibia between South African forces and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the ICRC continued its negotiations with the South African government for an agreement that would allow it to discharge its mandate to provide protection (by visiting all prisoners and others interned in connection with the conflict, tracing missing persons and arranging for the exchange of family messages) and assistance to the victims of the conflict.
- As in previous years, the Pretoria delegation was also concerned about security detainees in **Venda, Ciskei, Bophuthatswana** and **Transkei**. In the period under review, delegates went to Transkei three times to meet the authorities and renew an offer of services, made by the ICRC as far back as 1982, concerning visits to persons detained for security reasons. In March they were received by General Holomisa, head of the government, and in June by the Ministers of Police and of Justice, but no progress had been made by the end of the year.
- The ICRC continued its programme to assist former security prisoners and needy families of security prisoners. Relief in the form of vouchers for food and other essential items was distributed to an average of 260 families a month. As in the past, the ICRC also paid travel expenses for people visiting close relatives in detention and financed certain forms of medical treatment.

#### *For the black communities in townships and rural areas*

The delegation in Pretoria endeavoured to keep abreast of developments in the townships, the homelands and other regions affected by the disturbances. During their visits, the delegates sought to foster contacts with regional authorities, the police and the black communities in order to make the role and activities of the ICRC better understood.

The delegates visited mostly the townships in western and eastern Cape Province and eastern Natal. Outbreaks of violence shook the townships in the Pietermaritzburg and Durban areas of Natal from the beginning of 1988 and delegates went there very frequently. Working closely with the South African Red Cross Society, in particular

its "community organizers", the ICRC began in May to set up a relief distribution programme for families in the Pietermaritzburg area whose bread-winners had been killed or badly injured in the violence and families whose homes or property had been seriously damaged. Food parcels, tents, soap, blankets and cooking utensils were distributed as needed by South African Red Cross workers, in the presence of ICRC delegates. The situation in the townships outside Durban also deteriorated in late 1988 to such an extent that a similar programme was launched in Mpumalanga (in the Hammarsdale area) in November. In all, 2,558 people received 25 tonnes of relief supplies during the year under the joint ICRC/South African Red Cross operation in Natal.

#### *For refugees from Mozambique*

As in 1987, the ICRC acted as co-ordinator for various programmes to assist Mozambican refugees in Kangwane and Gazankulu, who numbered 39,000 by the end of the year. The institution did not, however, participate directly in the relief distributions. Instead, delegates regularly took part in meetings of the local relief committees in order to follow developments in the situation. In the period under review, more than 30 tonnes of blankets, cooking utensils, tents and soap were distributed to refugees in various transit centres. The ICRC also supported local organizations providing food and medical assistance to the refugees.

But these Mozambicans, who do not have refugee status in South Africa, are often sent back to their country of origin in perilous circumstances. Very concerned by this sensitive issue, the ICRC did what it could by maintaining contact with both the local authorities and representatives of charitable organizations. The cases of Mozambicans arrested in South Africa were raised with the authorities in eastern Transvaal province. In addition, the ICRC organized a small-scale programme for the exchange of Red Cross messages on behalf of Mozambican refugees in Kangwane and Gazankulu.

#### **Tracing Agency**

The Pretoria delegation handled tracing requests and arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between members of families separated by the events. Working closely with the South African Red Cross, the delegation also dealt with requests from other countries (repatriation requests, various certificates, etc.).

## Co-operation with the National Society

Mr. Rudolf Jäckli, a member of the Committee, travelled to South Africa in June for detailed talks with the South African Red Cross about various matters of concern to the ICRC such as the future of the "community organizer" programme and structural problems within the Society itself. He visited four of the Society's eight regions before meeting national officials in Johannesburg.

### *Activities in the townships*

Since the end of 1985, the South African Red Cross has been running a programme supported by the ICRC to increase its presence and activities in the townships and rural areas. "Community organizers" trained by the National Society have been assigned to those areas. They give first-aid courses, identify needs falling within the Red Cross mandate and endeavour to meet them. They also spread knowledge of the Movement's principles and promote the expansion of humanitarian activities and the setting up of local Red Cross branches. In the period under review, community organizers were at work in some 40 townships and in rural areas of Ciskei, Transkei and Kwazulu. Others took part in relief distributions in the Pietermaritzburg and Durban townships, following the clashes there (see above).

### *Other support programmes*

The ICRC continued to assist various branches of the South African Red Cross with the Society's disaster preparedness programmes. It also increased the level of co-operation with leading national and regional Society officials with a view to setting up new local committees and developing Red Cross activities in the townships and rural areas.

### **Dissemination**

In 1987, the South African authorities gave their permission for a programme to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law in the armed forces. Thus, a seminar was organized at the military academy from 12 to 21 October 1988 and was attended by 16 senior officers. A delegate specializing in dissemination among the armed forces came from Geneva for the occasion. The course was a success and it was agreed that from 1989 the teaching of international humanitarian law would be included in the training of South African army officers.

## NAMIBIA/SOUTH WEST AFRICA

In the first six months of the year, there were still some clashes between South African forces and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in northern Namibia and the international conflict with Angola continued to have repercussions on the civilian population. The second half of the year was marked by events important for the country's future. In August, the negotiations between the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of South Africa — with the United States acting as mediator — ended with an agreement setting out the framework for Namibian independence. All South African troops were withdrawn from Angola by the end of August. On 13 December, the countries concerned signed the Brazzaville agreement, providing for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia and fulfilment of all the necessary preconditions. A peace treaty was then signed in New York under United Nations auspices on 22 December.

The ICRC continued to provide protection and assistance to the principal victims — Namibian civilians and Angolan refugees — and to security prisoners detained in Namibia.

On 6 October, Mr. Toivo Ya Toivo, the SWAPO Secretary-General, visited ICRC headquarters where he met members of the Department of Operations for talks on developments in southern Africa.

### **Representations and activities**

#### *For prisoners and detainees*

As in previous years, ICRC delegates were able to conduct regular visits to sentenced security prisoners and security detainees awaiting trial. Delegates in Windhoek carried out three series of visits, in January, May and September, during which they saw, in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedure, 23, 23 and 27 prisoners respectively who were sentenced or awaiting trial.

But the ICRC was not granted access to any other persons arrested in connection with the conflict (in particular those detained under Decree No. 9 issued by the Administrator General), and all its representations made in both Windhoek and Pretoria were fruitless despite the hopes raised in 1987 by an oral agreement with the Administrator General (see *1987 Annual Report*).

As in previous years, the ICRC provided assistance (educational and leisure items) to the prisoners and detainees

visited. It also continued to offer aid to needy ex-prisoners or prisoners' families along the lines of similar programmes under way in South Africa. Travel expenses for families visiting their relatives in detention were also defrayed in some cases.

### *For the civilian population*

ICRC delegates remained concerned about civilians living in the operational zone in the north of the country (Ovambo, Kavango and Caprivi). During their missions to those areas, they endeavoured to meet representatives of the security police and armed forces and visited religious missions and hospitals.

In the medical sphere, the ICRC physiotherapist assigned in April 1987 to the Oshakati (Ovambo) hospital in April 1987 to organize a physiotherapy service and train local personnel completed his mission and left in June 1988. While at the hospital, he treated 1,056 patients and trained three nurses and three physiotherapists.

The ICRC supplied beds, mattresses and sheets to medical centres and tuberculosis services treating displaced persons in the northern regions. *Ad hoc* distributions of food were made to mission clinics and local hospitals housing undernourished children and elderly people, most of them from Angola. The ICRC helped to organize first-aid courses in Ovamboland and financed the printing of first-aid booklets and the purchase of first-aid kits which were distributed in the villages.

### **Tracing Agency**

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Namibia/South West Africa continued its work, mostly in behalf of two groups of conflict victims: Angolan refugees living in Namibia and their families in Angola, and Namibians affected by the situation or detained in connection with it. In the period under review, tracing files were opened for 1,731 people and 1,001 cases were resolved. Six repatriations and family reunifications took place. In addition, 881 Red Cross messages were collected and 735 distributed.

## **ANGOLA**

A tragic air crash on 14 October 1987 interrupted ICRC activities on the Planalto and they remained suspended into early 1988. After many contacts with all the parties to the conflict, the ICRC obtained security guarantees which it felt were sufficient for it to resume its work although

the international commission of civil aviation experts called in by Angola to carry out an inquiry into the incident did not reach any clear and definite conclusions. On 22 February, the ICRC resumed its activities to assist civilian victims of the conflict living on the high plateaux (Planalto) of Huambo, Bié and Benguela provinces, where government troops were in action against the forces of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola). Security conditions remained precarious; ICRC warehouses, duly marked with the emblem, were looted or destroyed in some towns on the Planalto. In addition, from August to October, the ICRC was unable to go to Bailundo, an important centre in Huambo province, and security conditions prevented the ICRC from travelling to five of its usual destinations in the provinces of Huambo and Bié for a time beginning in November. In spite of these difficulties, the ICRC was able to carry out a large-scale material and medical assistance programme in 1988 and at the end of the year its delegation in Angola numbered 53 delegates, some of whom were provided by various European National Societies and the New Zealand Red Cross Society. ICRC delegates in Angola were assisted by 340 locally recruited employees.

In August, the Angolan government delegation to the four-party talks at the United Nations in Geneva visited ICRC headquarters. Mr. Antonio dos Santos França "Nдалу", a member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA (People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola), Deputy Minister of Defence and Chief of Staff of the FAPLA (Angolan army), Mr. Venâncio da Silva Moura, Deputy Minister of External Relations, and other diplomatic representatives were received by Vice-President Aubert and members of the Directorate and of the Department of Operations. They discussed political developments in southern Africa and humanitarian matters relating to prisoners, displaced persons and refugees. The head of delegation in Luanda remained in close contact with the authorities. In July, he met Mr. Lucio Lara, Secretary General of the National People's Assembly and member of the Central Committee of the MPLA-PT (Workers' Party), and Mr. Kundi Paihama, Minister of State Security and Minister of State for Inspection and Control and a member of the MPLA-PT Central Committee's Political Bureau.

### **Representations and activities for prisoners**

As in previous years, the ICRC endeavoured to carry out the protection activities assigned to it under the Conventions in connection with the fighting in southern Angola,

on the border with Namibia, between South African forces and combatants of the FAPLA, SWAPO and the Cuban armed forces. The ICRC delegation in Luanda had access to a soldier of the "Territorial Forces of South West Africa" captured by the Angolan army in late September 1987. During their two visits, in July and November, the delegates interviewed the prisoner of war without witnesses and an ICRC doctor gave him a thorough medical examination.

In May, a South African soldier was captured in southern Angola and transferred to Cuba for medical treatment. This prisoner of war was visited, in accordance with Article 126 of the Third Geneva Convention, by ICRC delegates in Havana on 24 June, 18 August and 7 November (see section on *Cuba* in chapter entitled *Latin America*).

Finally, an Angolan military pilot who made a forced landing in Namibia/South West Africa on 15 December was immediately taken prisoner by the South African authorities. The ICRC delegates in Pretoria visited him on 20 December in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention.

These three prisoners all exchanged Red Cross messages with their families through the ICRC. Still in connection with the international conflict, the ICRC asked the Angolan authorities for official confirmation of the identity of three South African soldiers presumed killed in Angola. It had not received a reply by the end of the year.

The ICRC also visited prisoners held by UNITA. In February, delegates had access to two Cuban nationals and two members of the African National Congress (ANC) held in south-eastern Angola. The two Cubans were released on 28 October and the release of the two ANC representatives was planned for early 1989. The delegates visited two other Cubans in June and three Angolan prisoners in November. Angolan prisoners held in south-eastern Angola, whether or not they were visited by the ICRC, were able to exchange news with their families by means of Red Cross messages.

In spite of representations made on the spot and from ICRC headquarters in Geneva, in 1988 delegates were once again unable consistently to carry out regular protection activities for all persons held in south-eastern Angola.

And despite repeated approaches over the years, the ICRC was still not allowed to visit persons of Angolan or other nationality being held in Angola in connection with the internal conflict by virtue of the State security law.

### **Tracing Agency**

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Angola continued to work in co-operation with the Angola Red Cross tracing offices

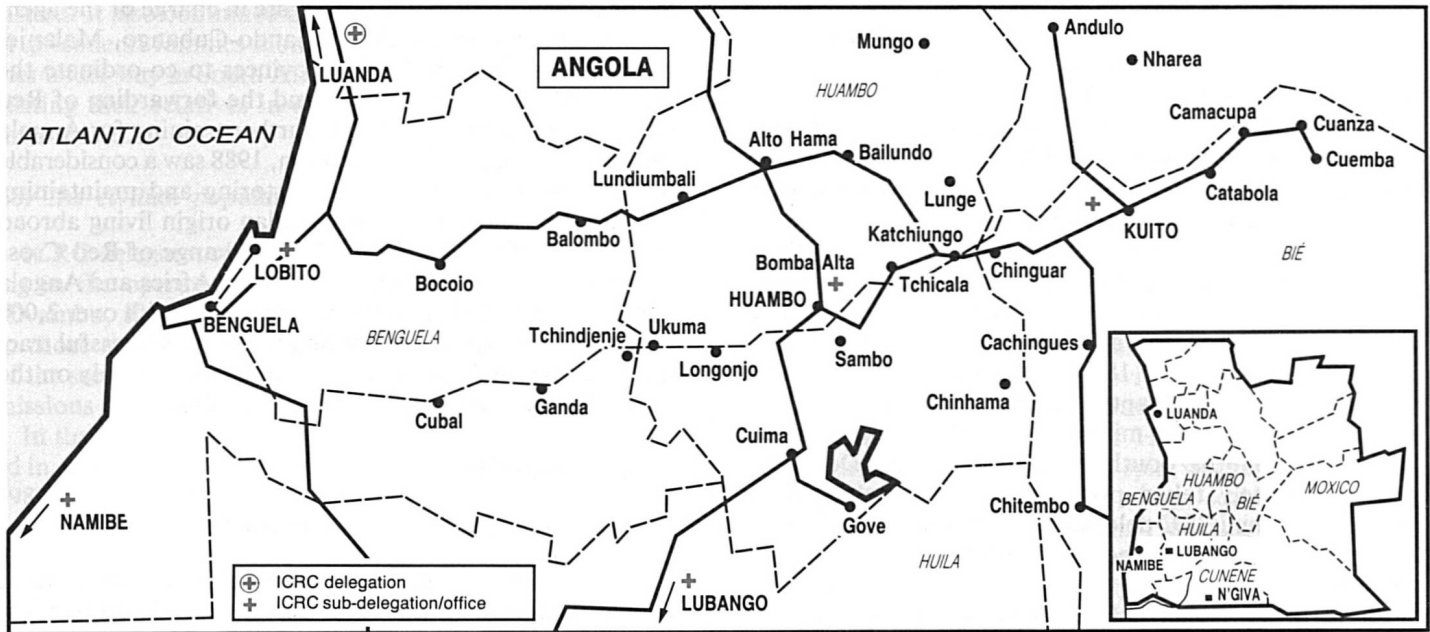
in the provinces. The ICRC delegate in charge of the agency in Luanda went to Uige, Cuando-Cubango, Malanje, Moxico, Namibe and Huila provinces to co-ordinate the processing of tracing requests and the forwarding of Red Cross messages and to provide further training for Angola Red Cross tracing staff. In addition, 1988 saw a considerable increase in activities aimed at restoring and maintaining contact between refugees of Angolan origin living abroad and their families in Angola. The exchange of Red Cross messages between Namibia/South West Africa and Angola played a particularly important role in this, with over 2,000 messages being forwarded during the year. Successful tracing enquiries enabled 117 people in Angola, mainly on the Planalto, to rejoin their families in 1988.

### **Medical activities**

#### *For displaced persons on the Planalto*

When activities were resumed in February, the medical teams' first priority was to assess the population's nutritional status and any effects arising from the suspension of relief distributions during the traditionally critical "lean season" between harvests. From February to April, the situation in 20 towns on the Planalto was systematically evaluated. Local markets were studied and available stocks, crops and children's health were assessed (the nutritional condition of over 13,000 children was measured by the "Quac-stick" method). These studies showed that the situation in many towns was for the most part better than might have been expected after the four-month interruption of relief activities. It was nevertheless necessary to open two feeding centres in Huambo (February-March) and one in Bailundo (March). When harvesting began, the number of children requiring feeding therapy dropped and the centres were closed, on 23 April and 7 and 25 May respectively, after caring for a total of 983 children. Throughout the year, ICRC medical teams continued to monitor the civilian population's medical and nutritional condition.

In order to reinforce existing medical facilities, the teams resumed training programmes, mainly for Angolan medical personnel in dispensaries and health centres. During their visits to these establishments, ICRC nurses worked closely with Angolan personnel to give medical consultations and provide the centres with medicines and basic medical supplies as needed. On its regular trips to the towns receiving assistance in the provinces of Huambo, Bié and Benguela, the ICRC also transported medicines and medical supplies being sent to health centres by the Ministry of Health, and was thus able to make a twofold contribution. In addition,



it provided logistic support for a vaccination campaign organized by the Ministry of Health.

The evacuation by air of people badly wounded in the conflict or otherwise seriously ill to military or civilian hospitals in Huambo, Kuito and Benguela once again represented a major part of the ICRC medical teams' work; 1,277 patients were transferred in this way.

ICRC sanitary engineers continued work on the sanitation systems at the health centres in Huambo and Kuito and elsewhere in the three Planalto provinces receiving assistance. They also sank wells and reinforced existing wells and springs in the same area, with 32 such projects being completed in 25 towns.

#### *For war wounded and amputees*

In addition to evacuating the wounded and sick to provincial civilian and military hospitals (see above), the ICRC continued to manufacture prostheses for disabled people in the orthopaedic centres in Bomba Alta (just outside Huambo) and Kuito (Bié province).

At the Bomba Alta centre, which the ICRC has been running since 1979 in conjunction with the Ministry of Health (the latter having taken over from the Angola Red Cross in August 1983), 949 patients were fitted with prostheses. The centre produced 1,376 prostheses and 1,603 pairs of crutches. The Kuito centre, which has been run

under the same system since it was opened in 1986, fitted 321 amputees in 1988, producing the same number of prostheses. Prosthesis production at the two centres rose by an average of 58% in 1988, thanks to internal restructuring but most of all to the training and the experience acquired by the Angolan technicians and trainees who had already followed theory courses organized by the Ministries of Health and Education when they were taken on. The two centres continued admitting patients, providing them with accommodation and care in "abrigos" until they became sufficiently autonomous to return to their villages. The three ICRC orthopaedic technicians worked throughout the year with 64 locally recruited employees, including 13 trained orthopaedic technicians, seven new trainees and three physiotherapists.

In Luanda, a new orthopaedic centre was set up jointly by the Swedish and British Red Cross Societies and the Angolan Ministry of Health. With technical help from the ICRC, the "Neves Bendinha" Centre began producing prostheses in November.

#### *South-eastern Angola*

Throughout the year, the ICRC maintained contact with UNITA representatives both in Angola and in Europe in order to obtain, as it has from the government authorities, the security guarantees necessary for it to carry out its work



in conflict areas. At the end of 1987, an ICRC medical team (made up of a surgeon, a theatre nurse and an anaesthesia nurse) were working in the Chilembo Chuti hospital after being forced to leave the Luangundu hospital for security reasons in June of that year. But the Chilembo Chuti hospital was far from the front lines and admitted very few people wounded in the fighting (45 operations were carried out there in the first two months of 1988). The ICRC therefore asked to return to Luangundu. It received official permission and returned to resume its surgical work there in early April. In August, the number of wounded brought to Luangundu rose to such an extent that two extra nurses had to be sent to join the ICRC team. Further support proved necessary to deal with the medical and paediatric cases which accounted for the rest of the hospital's activities. The ICRC therefore decided to add a general practitioner to its medical team in November. The team also continued its training programme for local medical personnel, 40 of whom took part during the period under review.

In addition to its medical activities, the ICRC regularly furnished medical supplies and medicines to the Luangundu and Chilembo Chuti hospitals.

The ICRC also transported into south-eastern Angola the necessary equipment for three vaccination centres set up by UNICEF.

At the end of the year, the medical team based in south-eastern Angola comprised a surgeon, two doctors and four nurses.

## **Food and material assistance to the civilian population**

### *Distributions of foodstuffs and basic necessities*

Surveys were carried out as soon as activities resumed in towns in the provinces of Huambo, Bié and Benguela. Food distributions based on the results of those surveys began in March for civilians in Huambo province; the situation in Bié and Benguela was judged to be fairly satisfactory (in those two provinces, only people who had been recently displaced or recently affected by attacks received *ad hoc* assistance). Beginning in early March, therefore, foodstuffs were distributed to people in the most critical circumstances around Huambo, Mungo, Katchiungo and Gove. In April, distributions also began in the towns of Cuima, Chinhama and Gongoinga.

There was an acute shortage of basic necessities in towns cut off from all sources of supply by the conflict and, in May, as soon as it was once again able to use a transport aircraft, the ICRC started flying such items as blankets,

clothing and soap to the Planalto. Distribution of this material assistance took up the months of May and June. At the same time and throughout the rest of the year, food rations continued to be distributed to people who had been victims of attack or who had recently been displaced.

ICRC delegates also monitored the situation of people who had been displaced from the province of Cunene and were now living in camps in Castanheira de Pera in southern Huila province. Beginning in September, they visited the provincial capitals of Huila, Namibe, Cuando Cubango, Moxico, Malanje and Uige to meet provincial authorities and representatives of the Angola Red Cross and find out whether there was any need for material or food assistance. However, security conditions and sometimes lack of transport forced the delegates to restrict their visits to provincial capitals.

### *Agricultural programme*

Since 1985, the ICRC has been distributing seed and farming implements to people able to till the earth. In February 1988, an ICRC agronomist went to the Planalto to assess the results of the previous year's agricultural programme. From July onwards, an agronomist worked full-time in Angola. On the basis of his reports and the results of nutritional surveys, it was decided to distribute more seed and introduce the sunflower, the sesame plant and two types of bean to be grown in alternation with maize, soya and sorghum. Because the planting season is different for different crops, the various programmes were launched between early September and early December. The seed was brought from the Atlantic coast to Huambo and Kuito by a transport aircraft which made four round trips a day, carrying 20 tonnes per trip. Beginning on 5 September, an airlift by Twin Otter aircraft took the seed to the individual towns. By the end of the year, 1,500 tonnes of seed had been handed over to more than 70,000 families in Huambo province and 17,000 families in Bié province. Twenty tonnes were distributed in Benguela province to some 3,400 families.

### **Logistics**

As in previous years, the poor security conditions and the great distances to be covered made it necessary to maintain a fleet of aircraft to transport goods and staff to the provinces receiving assistance. The ICRC twice tried to dispatch relief supplies from Benguela to Huambo by train but gave up after an attack in June in which 55.5 tonnes

were lost. A Hercules was therefore used to supply Huambo, Kuito and Gove over the four-month planting season. The supplies were stored there and four Twin Otter aircraft distributed them according to need to smaller municipalities. In addition to 7,400 tonnes of relief supplies, the aircraft also transported ICRC personnel and evacuated sick and injured people.

For overland transport, the ICRC had some 30 trucks (20 of them with trailers) and a number of other vehicles.

### **Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society**

A great deal of attention was paid in 1988 to promoting knowledge of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and of international humanitarian law. The emphasis was placed on training National Society staff from the provinces to conduct dissemination and information work. After three representatives of the Angola Red Cross took part in a training course in Sao Tomé and Príncipe (see chapter entitled *Dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*), a similar course was organized in Luanda in October for future Angola Red Cross dissemination officers. For two weeks, National Society representatives from 14 provinces studied the structure and principles of the Movement, international humanitarian law, management and tracing methods. The participants from the Luanda and Huambo branches then organized information meetings for local staff in their home areas.

For the general public, films were broadcast on Angolan television and a series of comic strips telling a story that illustrated Red Cross principles and activities was published in a newspaper.

The ICRC also organized dissemination sessions for guards and detainees at the Comarca prison in Huambo.

The ICRC supported the work carried out by the Angola Red Cross in the Society's health centres in Luanda, Huambo and Kuito and the social programmes it was running in those towns and the surrounding areas. ICRC support consisted largely of tents, blankets, medicines, medical equipment and food relief (24 tonnes of foodstuffs were distributed in 1988).

### **Relations with UNITA**

The security problems encountered by delegates traveling in the field were regularly discussed with UNITA

representatives in Europe and in the Angolan town of Jamba with a view to obtaining the guarantees indispensable for a resumption of activities in the conflict areas.

The ICRC also continued taking steps to secure permission to carry out its protection and assistance mandate in favour of all persons, Angolan or foreign, who had been captured by the opposition movement. The ICRC's activities in this area are described above under the relevant headings.

The ICRC remained concerned about the plight of the war-wounded and continued its medical and war surgery work (*see above*). The institution was also concerned by the situation of civilians living in the region of south-eastern Angola to which it had access. Two medical and nutritional surveys were carried out in July and November respectively to the north and east of Mavinga, an area which the ICRC was allowed to visit for the first time. Clothing, blankets and 15 tonnes of seed were distributed to the region's population according to the needs observed during the delegates' surveys. At the end of the year, a second delegate was sent to south-eastern Angola to increase the ICRC's presence there.

## **MOZAMBIQUE**

In late 1987, the failure to renew security guarantees forced the ICRC temporarily to curtail the scope of its activities in Mozambique and limit itself to visiting the provincial capitals by air and very restricted road travel. In early 1988, the ICRC stepped up its representations to the government and the armed opposition movement. In order to explain the ICRC's insistence on maintaining independence and impartiality in its work, and to find acceptance for those requirements, President Sommaruga went to Mozambique and neighbouring countries in February. In Mozambique, where he was accompanied by the Delegate General for Africa, he was received by President Chissano, the Head of State, and by Mr. Jacinto Soares Veloso, Minister of Co-operation, Mr. Mariano de Araujo Matsinhe, Minister for the National People's Security Service and Mr. Fernando Vaz, Minister of Health. The President also met Mrs. Janet Ray Mondlane, Secretary General of the Mozambique Red Cross Society, with whom he discussed ICRC co-operation.

During the ICRC President's mission, the Mozambican authorities, notably President Chissano himself, agreed in principle that the ICRC should have access to all the victims of the conflict, wherever they may be. President



## Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency in Mozambique concentrated primarily on arranging for the exchange of family messages, mainly between Mozambican refugees in neighbouring countries and their families in Mozambique, between members of the same family all living in Mozambique but separated by the conflict and with no other means of communication, and between detainees visited by the ICRC and their families, most of whom were living in Mozambique. Tracing activities continued to be hampered by generally poor security conditions and the lack of access to some regions. Progress was nevertheless made thanks to co-operation from the Mozambique Red Cross. During the year, an official in each of the National Society's provincial branches was given responsibility for tracing work. The ICRC provided the National Society with regular technical and practical support in this area. In August, it organized a course in Maputo to train the provincial officials concerned.

In all, 809 Red Cross messages from Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Portugal and Mozambique itself were delivered in Mozambique and 953 messages were collected there and sent to those same countries as well as to Swaziland and Tanzania.

The Tracing Agency in Maputo registered tracing requests concerning persons reported missing in the conflict zones or outside the country. In the period under review, 379 requests were received and 95 cases resolved. The first family reunification organized under ICRC auspices in Mozambique took place in 1988 when a boy who had taken refuge in South Africa was reunited with his mother whom the ICRC had found in Maputo.

## Relief operations for civilians

### *Food and material assistance*

From 23 April to 19 July, the ICRC was present in many parts of Sofala province. After assessing the needs of local residents and displaced persons, food and other relief supplies were distributed. To prevent any duplication of effort, this was closely co-ordinated with the other organizations providing emergency assistance in the region, in particular the DPCCN (the Mozambican government department set up to prevent and deal with the effects of natural disaster). Those benefiting from food aid received individual monthly rations (maize, beans and cooking oil); the non-food aid consisted of clothing, blankets and soap. Only women, children, the elderly, the sick and the injured

received ICRC assistance. During this period of intense activity, the ICRC was able to help an average of 24,000 people per month in Sofala province.

When its assistance programme in Sofala province was suspended, the ICRC asked the DPCCN to come to the aid of some 18,000 people living in Caia, Casa Banana and Inhaminga — three localities which had received particularly intensive ICRC food assistance — to prevent their nutritional status from deteriorating once again. For this purpose, the ICRC placed at the DPCCN's disposal the 123 tonnes of food stocks which it had in the area.

Throughout the year, the ICRC also worked with the Mozambique Red Cross to assist people living in the centres for displaced persons outside Quelimane in Zambezia province.

Elsewhere in the country, the ICRC supported the National Society in its relief work in Zambezia, Nampula, Manica and Sofala provinces. It handed over to the National Society 90 tonnes of food, 2,675 blankets, 313 tents and a quantity of clothing. The ICRC also took over responsibility for a relief operation launched by the League in Manica province in 1987. From January to May, it used commercial transport to send in some 100 tonnes of relief supplies which were distributed by the Mozambique Red Cross in Mungari.

In 1988, the total amount of relief supplies distributed, placed at the disposal of the DPCCN or handed over to the Mozambique Red Cross came to 1,566 tonnes of food and 162 tonnes of non-food assistance.

### *Medical activities*

During the period from 23 April to 19 July, when the ICRC was able to carry out protection and assistance activities for the victims of the conflict in Sofala province (both in government-controlled areas and those outside its control), ICRC teams made up of nurses, nutritionists and sanitary engineers conducted surveys in nine localities in preparation for setting up assistance programmes. The need for food and other material assistance varied from place to place but it was not necessary to set up feeding centres; food distributions were enough (see under *Food and material assistance* above). However, medical needs were observed in all the places visited and technical and material support proved necessary. In addition to providing basic medicines and other medical supplies, the ICRC nurses advised the staff of the hospitals and dispensaries they visited on medical consultations and feeding programmes for undernourished children. The ICRC contributed to public health programmes by flying vaccination teams and health

workers into remote areas so that they could take up their posts. It also flew more than 2,000 kg of medicines and other medical supplies for the Ministry of Health to treatment centres which, because of the conflict, could not otherwise be restocked. During ICRC visits badly injured and very sick people were evacuated to Beira hospital.

Throughout the year, the ICRC remained concerned about the victims of the conflict living around the capitals of Nampula and Zambezia provinces. Mozambique Red Cross workers assisted by an ICRC nurse set up a programme to eradicate scabies in the area around Nampula, where a large number of displaced persons was living, and in the three assembly transit centres in Zambezia province. While other organizations were working to meet the urgent needs of the recently displaced persons around Nampula, the ICRC found that there were food shortages in the assembly centres in Zambezia province. National Society volunteers supervised by an ICRC nurse distributed food and prepared extra-nourishing meals for children, especially in the Mocupia transit centre. By the end of 1988, the Mocupia centre alone had received 52 tonnes of food, as well as clothing, blankets and soap.

Other medical activities included the sinking of wells and the building of latrines and waste water evacuation systems.

### Logistics

As in the past, the poor security conditions and the sheer size of the country made it necessary for the ICRC to transport relief supplies and staff by air both between the provincial capitals and to the areas where it was working in the field. During the months of intense activity, from April to July, the ICRC used five aircraft (an Islander, two DC-3s and two Cessna Caravans). From 19 July onwards, the Islander, one DC-3 and one Caravan were enough to transport staff, relief and medical supplies to the provincial capitals of Nampula, Sofala and Zambezia.

Some relief supplies were, however, transported by road over short distances, by means of nine trucks, including one tanker. For transport between Quelimane and Inhassunge on the coast, the ICRC chartered a small boat.

### Assistance to war disabled

The ICRC continued the work for war-disabled Mozambicans which it had been carrying out since 1981 in conjunction with the Ministry of Health. Prostheses continued to be manufactured and fitted to war amputees both in the main workshop in Maputo and in the Beira and

Quelimane centres. Two ICRC orthopaedic technicians worked closely with 51 Mozambican employees, including 13 orthopaedic technicians and a physiotherapist who had received training in prosthesis production. In the period under review, 302 amputees were fitted with prostheses. In the workshops, 571 prostheses, 30 wheelchairs and 2,186 pairs of crutches were manufactured.

At the end of 1988, the new prosthesis centre in Nampula had been completed but production had not yet begun because not all the necessary equipment had been delivered.

### Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

A programme was drawn up and run jointly by the ICRC and the Mozambique Red Cross to make the respective activities of the two institutions better known, both in the provinces and the capital, to a very diverse public. Special events were organized to mark the National Society's seventh anniversary and an exhibition entitled "The Red Cross as seen by children" was shown with great success throughout the country. A documentary on the Red Cross made by the National Film Institute was shown for a month in all the country's cinemas.

In September, the ICRC organized a course for dissemination officials from the Society's 12 regional branches.

After receiving permission from the Ministry of Defence, the ICRC and the National Society jointly set up a programme to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles among armed forces personnel. Beginning in July, dissemination meetings were organized, mostly for army and air force officers. Beginning in September, a similar programme was launched for members of the Mozambique People's Police. By the end of the year, over 1,400 officers of the armed forces and the People's Police had attended dissemination courses in Maputo and in the provinces of Sofala, Zambezia, Manica and Inhambane.

Throughout the year, the ICRC was active in its support of the Mozambique Red Cross Society, which was officially recognized in September (see chapter entitled *Co-operation within the Movement*). In addition to providing emergency relief supplies (see under *Food and material assistance* above), the ICRC gave the Mozambique Red Cross material and financial aid and held working sessions with the National Society to identify priorities in providing more regular and long-term support to strengthen its operational capacity. The ICRC also provided technical assistance and organized courses in administration, vehicle maintenance and radiocommunications.

## ZIMBABWE

The President of the ICRC concluded his mission to southern Africa in February with a visit to Harare. Accompanied by the Delegate General for Africa, he was received by President Mugabe, who is also President of the Non-Aligned Movement, and had an exchange of views with him on the activities of the ICRC in Africa, particularly in Mozambique. Mr. Sommaruga also met the leaders of the National Society.

In October, Dr. Hove, National Chairman of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society and a member of the Standing Commission, paid a return visit to President Sommaruga at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

The regional delegation in Harare which, in addition to Zimbabwe itself, also covers Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zambia, continued to provide operational support for the ICRC's emergency operations in Angola and Mozambique; it also helped implement dissemination programmes on international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross in countries within the region.

In co-operation with the National Society, the delegation organized an aid programme in Zimbabwe itself for displaced people living near the Mozambique border whom hazardous conditions had compelled to leave their homes. Distributions of relief supplies (seed, hoes) began in August 1988 in the Chiredzi district and by the end of the year three border areas, Chiredzi, Mudzi and Rushinga, were being aided. The Harare delegation also continued to distribute relief supplies to Mozambican and South African refugees who were not receiving assistance from any other organization. In addition, it provided material assistance to former detainees in need and to their families.

Despite an agreement in principle reached with the authorities at the end of 1987 authorizing the ICRC to visit detainees arrested under the Emergency Powers (Maintenance of Law and Order) Regulations, it was not able to conduct such visits in 1988 because the authorities declared a general amnesty in April and thereafter considered ICRC visits unnecessary.

### Orthopaedic workshop in Bulawayo

The orthopaedic workshop in Bulawayo, set up in conjunction with the Ministry of Health under a co-operation agreement concluded at the end of 1984, fitted 247 patients with prostheses in 1988 and manufactured 1,424 pairs of crutches. The workshop was run by a chief technician and two orthopaedic technicians from the ICRC, who were assisted by locally recruited and trained technicians.

As part of the plan gradually to hand over management of the workshop to the Ministry of Health, a two-year training course started in 1987; the following year, the first ten local technicians finished training and passed their exams. Throughout the year, two Burmese trainees from the ICRC's two orthopaedic centres in Rangoon followed a course of technical training in Bulawayo.

### Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

Under the co-operation agreement signed in June 1986 between the ICRC and the Zimbabwe Red Cross, the Harare delegation helped with the National Society's development, in particular as regards information and the dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Movement, tracing activities and the training of first-aid teams. Numerous lectures were given in various parts of the country to a wide range of audiences, including local and provincial administrative officials.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

**BOTSWANA** — ICRC specialists based at the orthopaedic workshop in Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) continued to assist the Botswana Ministry of Health in its rehabilitation projects for war amputees. The purchase of machines for the future orthopaedic workshop in Gaborone was financed by the ICRC, and the local official who will be in charge of it was trained at the Bulawayo workshop.

**MALAWI** — While on mission in southern Africa in February the ICRC President was received by Dr. H. Kamuzu Banda, President of the Republic. Their discussions centred mainly on Mozambican refugees in Malawi and the Mozambique conflict. Mr. Sommaruga attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Malawi Red Cross and had talks with the National Society's leading officials.

During the course of the year, the regional delegates based in Harare went several times to Malawi to monitor the situation of Mozambican refugees there. The ICRC supported the activities of the National Society by providing sets of medicines for dispensaries and helping to expand its tracing work. The dissemination of international humanitarian law was increased to some extent in 1988: in May, a training seminar for army officers was held at Kamuzu Military College in Salima and a delegate specialized in dissemination to the armed forces travelled from Geneva to par-

ticipate. At the same time, members of the National Society and government officials took part in another dissemination seminar organized by regional delegates from the ICRC and the League.

**ZAMBIA** — During a mission to several countries in southern Africa the President of the ICRC went to Lusaka in February and was received by Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda, Head of State and also current Chairman of the OAU. Various questions of mutual interest were discussed, mainly as regards the work of the ICRC in Africa.

Mr. Sommaruga also met representatives of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the African National Congress (ANC). He furthermore had a working meeting with the National Executive Committee of the Zambia Red Cross and met the Society's leaders.

In April, a course on the law of war was organized for senior officers of the Zambian armed forces in Lusaka. A delegate specialized in dissemination to the armed forces travelled from Geneva to hold this course and was assisted by regional delegates based in Harare.

One of the regional delegates again went to Zambia in October to help the National Society in its assistance programme for Mozambican refugees.

## East Africa

### **ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA**

#### **Activities in connection with the consequences of the Ogaden conflict**

Almost 4,000 people, most of whom had been detained in Ethiopia and Somalia for almost 11 years, were released and repatriated in 1988. On 3 April Ethiopia and Somalia signed an agreement normalizing their relations and providing for the repatriation of all prisoners of war and civilian internees.

The ICRC had been trying for years to persuade the two governments to repatriate all prisoners of war, with priority being given to the seriously wounded and sick, in accordance with Articles 109, 110 and 118 of the Third Convention. In a note verbale dated 14 March 1988 and addressed to both governments the ICRC again requested them to do so. After hearing that an agreement had been signed on 3 April, the ICRC renewed its offer of services to organize the repatriation operation. The offer was ac-

cepted by both parties and the ICRC was authorized to visit the places of detention to interview each of the detainees, register them and check that they wanted to be repatriated. The actual repatriation took place in August.

#### *Visits to Somali prisoners of war*

Since the series of visits to 238 Somali prisoners of war carried out between 28 October and 4 November 1987 the ICRC had not been allowed to see these prisoners again in accordance with its customary criteria as defined in Article 126 of the Third Convention. On the other hand, it was able to continue providing them with food and material assistance. Between January and August 1988 ICRC delegates visited the three places of detention on several occasions (the Hararge regional prison, the military camp in Harar and the Sidamo regional prison in Awasa) to hand over a total of 66 tonnes of relief supplies.

On 18 August the Ethiopian authorities agreed to allow the ICRC to arrange for the repatriation of these prisoners of war and at the same time authorized the ICRC to interview them individually to check that they wanted to be repatriated. During the last visit, which was to Dire Dawa two days before the actual repatriation operation began, a further 16 prisoners of war who had never previously been visited were registered.

#### *Visits to Ethiopian prisoners of war and civilian internees*

Despite repeated representations since 1984, the ICRC was unable to visit Ethiopian prisoners of war in accordance with the criteria set out in the Geneva Conventions; it could only make visits every two months to provide aid. The delegates regularly went to three places of detention (the camp in Gezira, the main prison in Mogadishu and Laanta Bur prison in Afgoi), bringing fresh fruit and vegetables, and at times recreational items and toiletries, for a total of 266 Ethiopian prisoners of war and one Cuban; they were however unable to interview the prisoners without witnesses. When the Somali/Ethiopian agreement of 3 April was announced, the Somali authorities accepted the ICRC's offer to arrange for the repatriation and allowed its delegates to go to all the places of detention. There they registered all the people being detained, both civilian and military, and interviewed them without witnesses to ensure that they wished to return to Ethiopia.

Once the arrangements had been finalized, an ICRC team of six delegates and one doctor went to Somalia at the end of June and visits to four places of detention took

place throughout the month of July; more than 3,500 people were visited. In Laanta Bur, the delegates once again saw the Cuban prisoner of war, who had been known to the ICRC since 1982, and registered a further 654 Ethiopian prisoners; 172 people already registered by the ICRC before 1984 were visited in Gezira and, in the main prison in Mogadishu, the delegates visited 84 prisoners, 31 of them for the first time. In Hawa, at a camp which hitherto had never been visited, the ICRC delegates visited and registered 2,659 internees; for most of these people the visit was their first contact with the outside world for eleven years. The visits were supplemented by a medical and food aid programme: the ICRC doctor examined and began treating the sick, medicines were distributed and a food programme was set up. During July, 23 tonnes of food were distributed at the four places of detention, together with soap and other articles of hygiene.

Thanks to the registrations 300 families, whose members had been separated on capture and placed in different camps, were reunited in July.

These ICRC visits were also the subject of written reports and talks with the authorities, quite apart from the preparations for repatriation.

#### *Repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees*

Between 23 August and 1 September, an aircraft chartered by the ICRC made 20 flights between Mogadishu and Dire Dawa, in Ethiopia, to transport a total of 3,543 Ethiopian prisoners of war and civilian internees (including 530 children and adolescents) and one Cuban prisoner of war from Somalia to Ethiopia and 246 Somali prisoners of war from Ethiopia to Somalia.

Because of the large number of people to be repatriated from Somalia to Ethiopia, a transit camp had to be set up near Merka, to the south of Mogadishu; groups of 150 to 180 people were taken there as the operation progressed. This camp was run in conjunction with the authorities and the Somali Red Crescent Society.

In Ethiopia, the repatriated people were received and given shelter by the Ethiopian Red Cross in hospitals and other premises in Harar until their return home.

In both countries, the National Societies helped to trace the families of repatriated people, just as they had helped to distribute family messages until the end of June. (Despite the difficulties inherent in this kind of work, from January to the end of June the Tracing Agency office in Mogadishu forwarded 542 Red Cross messages to Ethiopian prisoners of war and collected 394; in Ethiopia, between January

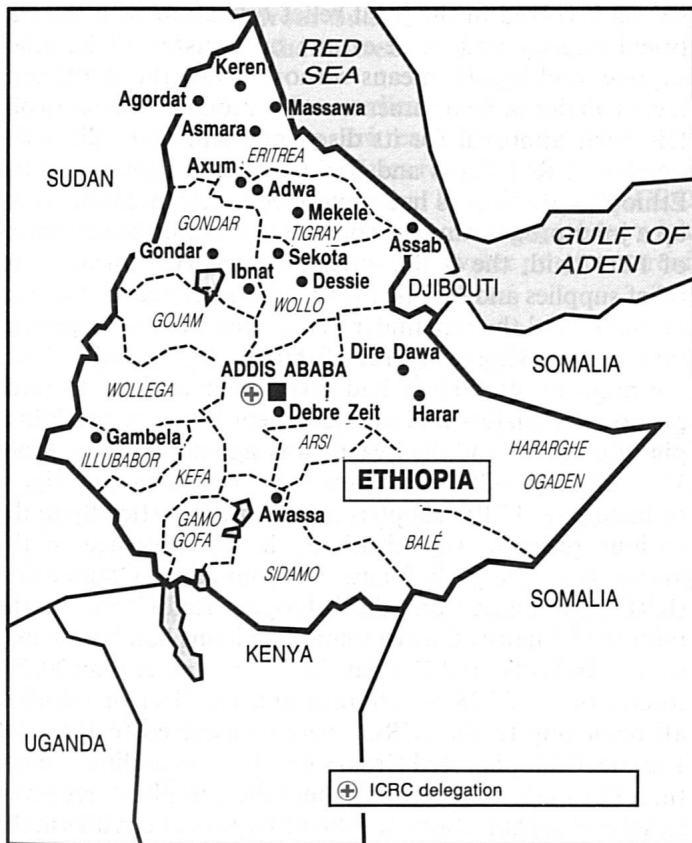
and the end of April, 182 Red Cross messages were collected from Somali prisoners of war and 478 messages from their families were delivered).

In October, the Somali authorities decided to amnesty Ethiopian prisoners who had not benefited from prisoner-of-war status, and the ICRC arranged for their repatriation. After delegates had visited and registered them, an ICRC-chartered aircraft made four flights in October and November to take 24 people back to Ethiopia.

## **ETHIOPIA**

The previous year had ended with the signing of an agreement to strengthen co-operation between the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross, both in the joint relief operation in the north of the country and by setting up a plan of action in the field to help the victims of a new period of drought until the 1988 harvest. The "open roads for survival" strategy, launched in November 1987, proved its worth for almost three months and by February 1988 the ICRC had assisted some 500,000 people. As from March, however, and even February in Tigray, the open roads policy was undermined by deteriorating security conditions and refusals to issue authorizations, seriously hindering all operations in both northern provinces and making it increasingly difficult to supply the distribution points. On 14 March the ICRC issued a press release voicing its concern, but on 6 April the Ethiopian government ordered the withdrawal of all foreign relief organizations, including the ICRC, from the provinces of Eritrea and Tigray, citing major army operations as the reason. The ICRC's repeated written and oral requests to be allowed to continue and even step up its special activities in this region so severely affected by conflict were to no avail. On 15 April, all delegates based in Eritrea and Tigray returned to Addis Ababa, the warehouses were closed and the trucks immobilized. Then on 7 May the Ethiopian Red Cross withdrew from the joint operation with the ICRC, although this was still continuing in Gondar province. On 21 May, the Minister of Foreign Affairs ordered the ICRC to recall all its personnel involved in the joint relief operation and to transfer all its property, relief supplies and logistic means either out of the country or to other organizations. Frequent representations by the ICRC and discussions held in Addis Ababa alongside the OAU summit from 24 to 29 May by the President of the ICRC and the Delegate General for Africa failed to bring about a solution, and the ICRC had to begin in June to arrange for the transfer of its property to other aid organizations. In the end, most





of the ICRC's relief supplies and logistic means were handed over to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which began a joint operation with the Ethiopian Red Cross on 1 July, the date when the agreement was signed between these two bodies.

At the same time, the ICRC continued its activities in Ethiopia relating to the consequences of the Ogaden conflict. These activities, which stem from the Geneva Conventions, are described in the section headed *Ethiopia/Somalia* above.

#### The delegation's infrastructure and logistics

To prepare for assistance activities in 1988, the ICRC had already expanded its logistic infrastructure before the end of 1987. The number of vehicles then rose still further from some 60 trucks at the end of 1987 to a total of 108 vehicles (including 71 trucks and 63 trailers) at the height of the operations. In addition, the ICRC rented some 50 trucks from an Ethiopian company.

The ICRC fleet of aircraft was also increased at the end of 1987. An indispensable back-up for land vehicles, to

transport both personnel and emergency relief supplies and to reach otherwise inaccessible places, it consisted of a Hercules placed at the ICRC's disposal by the Belgian government, plus three Pilatus Porters, one Twin Otter and a helicopter. The large transport aircraft was used mainly to ferry stocks from the coast to Asmara and then on to Mekele to replenish the warehouses, while the light aircraft and helicopter flew supplies to the distribution points and transported personnel locally.

In addition, the ICRC had two storage depots in the north of the country and in the port of Assab.

At the height of the operations, the ICRC delegation consisted of some 50 people helped by almost 600 locally recruited employees. After the withdrawal from the north of the country and until the end of the year, only four delegates remained in Addis Ababa.

#### Food distributions: joint operation with the Ethiopian Red Cross

The food aid programme launched in accordance with a joint ICRC/Ethiopian Red Cross plan of action in December 1987 for civilians affected by the drought in the conflict regions in the north of the country began well. The ICRC distributed monthly food rations to people registered during the surveys and a medical team took part in all the distributions, monitoring the recipients' general state of health and checking on the children's nutritional status by means of the "Quac-stick" method of measurement. In January, more than 360,000 people received monthly rations (18.5 kg) and in February as many as 540,000 recipients benefited from this ICRC programme.

Then in March military operations increasingly hindered relief work and all activities soon had to be suspended (beginning of April for Eritrea and Tigray, mid-May for Gondar).

In **Tigray**, large-scale distributions were organized in Idaga Hamus (162,900 recipients), Adi Gudum (32,200 recipients), Wukro (82,100 recipients), Mekele (43,000 recipients), and on a smaller scale in Dalu and Kilde Belesa. On average, 22,000 people received ICRC food aid every month. Hostilities intensified from February onwards and on several occasions violent clashes prevented the passage of relief convoys and the replenishment of stocks. Consequently, many distributions were delayed or even cancelled because reserve stocks were exhausted.

In **Eritrea**, surveys carried out in December 1987 had pinpointed the Akele Guzaï region in the south-east of the province as an area in need. In January, the ICRC began

distributing monthly rations there to 115,000 people. These were the first ICRC distributions in the region since April 1986. The Bellesa region also received food aid for 37,000 people especially hard hit by the situation. An average of 75,000 people in Eritrea were given food aid each month.

The ICRC also mounted a joint operation with the Ethiopian Red Cross in **Gondar**. An average of 78,000 people there received monthly food rations until mid-May.

Despite numerous representations the ICRC was unable, even during the first months of the year, to undertake relief operations in **Wollo**, although certain areas seriously affected by drought were also conflict areas. It did manage, however, to keep up a logistic base in Dessie to support its activities in Gondar.

From January to May, the ICRC distributed a total of 22,866 tonnes of food supplies worth 11,217,000 Swiss francs.

### **Seed distributions**

The ICRC had planned to distribute a total of 5,000 tonnes of seed between April and June to 500,000 people, to ensure a good harvest at the end of the year. Since it was obliged to suspend its activities in the north of the country, the ICRC was able to supply only 67 tonnes of seed, mainly in Gondar, a region to which it was still allowed access in April, and had to abandon the remainder of the programme.

### **Sanitation and water programmes**

Although the programme to sink and improve wells was held up in the north of the country because travel was so difficult, some projects were nevertheless successfully completed thanks to very real co-operation on the part of the local population.

The ICRC continued to distribute drinking water in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, especially to hospitals, the prison and schools. The distribution of water had begun in May 1987 because of a severe shortage; during the early months of 1988 the ICRC handed over this responsibility to the Ethiopian Red Cross and the city authorities. From May 1987 to April 1988, more than 55,000 litres of water were supplied to Asmara by the ICRC.

### **Disengagement and transfer of property**

In line with the wishes of the Ethiopian government which, on 21 May, ordered the ICRC to recall all its per-

sonnel involved in the joint relief operation with the National Society and to re-export or transfer all its relief supplies and logistic means without delay, the ICRC contacted all donor governments and National Societies to obtain their approval for its disengagement plan. Since the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Ethiopian Red Cross had announced their intention to set up a joint programme for some of the former beneficiaries of ICRC aid, the ICRC suggested that two thirds of its relief supplies and logistic means be transferred to that programme, and the remainder distributed to relief organizations still working in northern Ethiopia. By the end of June, the majority of donors had given their consent to these proposed transfers and an agreement between the Ethiopian Red Cross and the League was signed on 1 July. From 18 to 24 July, ICRC delegates went to Eritrea and Tigray to hand over ICRC supplies and property officially to the various recipient organizations, in the presence of the authorities, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), the League and the Ethiopian Red Cross. By the middle of August, the last remaining items had been handed over in Wollo and Gondar. In this way more than 20,000 tonnes of food, 28 warehouses and the fleet of vehicles, all belonging to the ICRC, were transferred to the joint League/Ethiopian Red Cross operation. In addition, more than 12 tonnes of food and other relief supplies were given to several organizations for their assistance activities in the north of country. The total value of the property handed over was 31,100,000 Swiss francs.

### **Programmes for the disabled**

As in previous years, the ICRC continued to assist the orthopaedic centres in Harar and Asmara, providing equipment and technical expertise. In particular, it undertook to help with the work of the Prosthetic/Orthotic Centre in Addis Ababa: a team of ICRC orthopaedic technicians arrived in Ethiopia for this purpose in October 1988.

### **Dissemination**

By mid-April, two locally recruited employees had conducted more than 170 dissemination meetings in Eritrea and Tigray and in the regions of Gojam, Kafa, Sidamo and Hararge in the south. These meetings were attended by some 150,000 people from various walks of life: government and party officials, representatives of the armed forces and the police, medical personnel, teachers, students and employees of the National Society.

### **Activities conducted from Sudan for people affected by the Eritrean and Tigrayan conflicts**

The ICRC continued its medical assistance to dispensaries and health posts in Eritrea and Tigray. In both regions, a total of 124 dispensaries received medicines and medical supplies every three months. In addition, the ICRC provided ten hand-pumps for wells together with maintenance equipment to complete a water project started in Eritrea in 1986.

#### *For Ethiopian prisoners in the hands of the EPLF*

Since it was not authorized by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) to visit prisoners detained by that movement, the ICRC sent medical supplies to the Eritrean Relief Association (ERA) for the dispensaries in the prison camps. Throughout the year, the ICRC continued to seek permission — but to no avail — to interview prisoners without witnesses and to register them, or at least to be given lists of names.

#### *For the disabled*

The orthopaedic centre in Kassala, which opened in 1984, continued to treat Eritrean and Tigrayan war amputees and Sudanese disabled. In 1988, 150 new patients were fitted with artificial limbs or appliances. Seven local technicians, trained on the spot by the ICRC, assisted the orthopaedic technician in his work.

## **SOMALIA**

Since 1982, the ICRC has had a permanent delegation in Mogadishu working mainly in connection with the conflict in the Ogaden and its consequences (see under *Ethiopia/Somalia* above).

In May 1988, the sudden deterioration of the situation in the north-west of the country prompted the ICRC to offer its services, in accordance with Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, to assist the wounded and protect the civilian population affected by the conflict.

The ICRC maintained regular contact with the relevant authorities in Mogadishu. Questions relating to its humanitarian work were also discussed when President Siad Barre and Mr. Sommaruga met on 25 May while attending the OAU summit in Addis Ababa. In addition, the President of the Somali Red Crescent visited ICRC headquarters

in Geneva on 9 December and was received by President Sommaruga and staff members.

### **Missions to the north-west of the country**

In response to the fighting which broke out in the north-west of the country in May, the ICRC immediately asked the Somali authorities for permission to go to the areas affected to determine possible needs for assistance. On 9 June a Red Cross team of ICRC delegates and representatives of the League and the Somali Red Crescent went to Garoe and Las Anod, in regions close to the conflict area. Hospitals in both these places were visited on 27 June. An ICRC doctor, accompanied by a League representative, returned to these two towns to deliver medical supplies and medicines to hospitals caring for war casualties.

Despite repeated requests, the ICRC could not obtain authorization to return to the region before November. From 19 to 21 November a team of ICRC delegates assessed the situation, mainly from a medical angle, in Garoe, Las Anod, Berbera and Burao. On the basis of their findings, the ICRC suggested to the authorities that a programme be set up, in conjunction with the Somali Red Crescent, to provide medical and surgical aid and evacuate the wounded. Before the end of the year the authorities had responded favourably to these proposals.

### **Activities for war casualties**

On hearing of clashes in the north-west of the country, the ICRC attempted to assist the wounded. It sent a doctor from Geneva in early June, who visited the hospitals in the capital treating casualties from the north, assessed their requirements and delivered medical supplies and basic medicines. In response to an influx of several hundred wounded, frequently in a very serious condition, at the Martini Hospital, the ICRC immediately sent a medical team consisting of one surgeon, an anaesthetist, a theatre nurse and six other nurses, together with a medical co-ordinator. After reorganizing the hospital with the help of Somali Red Crescent volunteers, the ICRC medical team operated on war casualties evacuated from the front from mid-July to the end of November, the date when this emergency assistance programme ceased. A total of 441 war wounded were admitted to the hospital and treated during this period.

From 31 July to 3 August an ICRC surgeon gave a seminar on war surgery for more than 30 civilian and military surgeons from hospitals in Mogadishu.

In addition, ICRC delegates helped with first-aid courses organized by the National Society throughout the year. The first-aid workers also learned about the Movement and the Geneva Conventions.

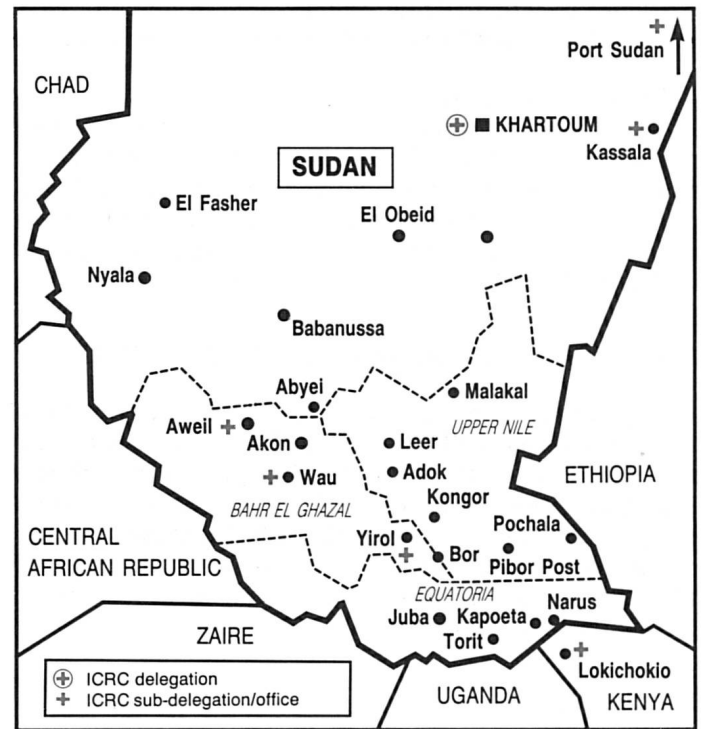
## SUDAN

In 1988 the ICRC conducted several operations in Sudan. Seriously concerned about the conflict in the south, it made every effort throughout the year to begin an assistance operation for displaced civilians in the areas most severely affected by the fighting; relief activities were finally able to get under way in December. The ICRC also continued to try to help people affected by the situation in Eritrea and in Tigray but who could not be reached from areas under the control of the Ethiopian government, especially prisoners held by the Ethiopian opposition movements (see under *Ethiopia* above).

### Activities for civilians affected by the conflict in the south

The ICRC kept up its efforts throughout the year to bring protection and assistance to the victims of the conflict in southern Sudan. ICRC representations were based in particular on Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and the right of initiative it confers on the institution. They finally led to the implementation in early December of a material, food and medical assistance operation in the south of the country, both in areas controlled by the Sudanese government and in those under the control of the SPLM/SPLA (Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army) opposition movement. The actual operation had been preceded alternately by surveys of the situation and long periods of waiting and negotiation. The head of the ICRC delegation in Khartoum met the Sudanese Prime Minister, Mr. Sadiq el Mahdi, on 13 February and outlined ICRC projects, after which a first plan of action was submitted to both parties involved on 17 February. It proposed simultaneous surveys of the situation in areas controlled by either party. In May, the ICRC Director of Operations was received in Khartoum by the Prime Minister, and the Delegate General for Africa presented the ICRC plan of action to the head of the SPLM/SPLA, Mr. John Garang, in Addis Ababa.

Both parties having given their approval, an initial survey was carried out in the government area in June. It proved impossible, however, to do the same in areas controlled by the opposition; the survey was therefore cut short, as



the entire operation had to be based on a balanced and simultaneous approach. Following renewed representations, surveys of civilian needs resumed in mid-July in both government and opposition areas. The ICRC then submitted a new plan of action, suggesting food, material, medical and veterinary assistance activities, and protection work for detainees and the civilian population in general. After a final survey in Akon, a town controlled by the SPLM/SPLA, in early November, the ICRC plan of action was accepted by both parties and relief activities began in December from Khartoum, Lokichokio (Kenya) and Entebbe (Uganda).

In addition to the high-level meetings mentioned above, the ICRC maintained contact throughout the year with the Sudanese authorities concerned, with representatives of the SPLM/SPLA, and with the governments of neighbouring Kenya and Uganda.

### Activities from Khartoum

Its first plan of action having been well received by both the Sudanese government and the SPLM/SPLA, the ICRC sent a team comprising delegates, a doctor, a nurse specialized in nutrition, a sanitary technician and an agronomist to Wau on 13 June. The team's mission was to assess the

medical and nutritional situation in Wau and to set up a sub-delegation to conduct assistance activities for needy displaced persons. The ICRC was unable, however, to conduct a similar mission in the areas controlled by the SPLM/SPLA, and so was forced to recall the team to Khartoum on 23 June in spite of the serious situation it had observed in Wau. Following renewed representations, ICRC teams conducted further surveys during the first half of July in Malakal and Juba, both controlled by the government. Lengthy negotiations followed and it was only at the beginning of December that assistance activities started: on 4 December, a team of delegates returned to Wau and set up a sub-delegation. They immediately began assistance activities for 5,000 particularly destitute displaced persons, who received food and material relief supplies (soap, blankets, cooking utensils, clothing). During December, the delegates also provided food and other items to orphanages and to Wau prison, and ICRC medical staff visited hospitals, dispensaries and health posts, providing them with the necessary medical supplies and medicines in addition to food and other relief.

From Wau, the delegates also went to Aweil to do the groundwork for a relief operation to start in January 1989.

#### *Activities from Kenya and Uganda*

The ICRC was not able to start surveys of the situation in areas controlled by the SPLM/SPLA until the second half of July, when teams of delegates travelled to Kongor, Pochala and Yirol from Lokichokio, the ICRC base in Kenya. The teams stayed in Yirol until mid-August and in Kongor until early September, then returned to Kenya since they were not able to begin their relief work. In November, the ICRC went to Akon for one day to assess the situation and provide medical assistance.

When it was able to start relief activities in the SPLM/SPLA zone, in early December, the ICRC went first to Akon and Yirol, using Adok/Leer as a logistic base. It provided the materials needed to rebuild the dispensary in each town and the medicines and basic medical supplies each dispensary needed to function. Assistance in the form of medicines was also given to the dispensary in Tir Aleit, a village near Akon.

Some emergency relief was distributed to displaced persons, but the ICRC concentrated in December on registering potential beneficiaries on the spot and on organizing the build-up of supplies by air from Kenya and Uganda. By the end of December, 15.4 tonnes of relief had been distributed.

During their initial surveys in July, the delegates had observed that the livestock, which provides 60 to 80% of the civilian population's food requirements, was in urgent need of vaccination. The most recent immunizations against cattle plague in this conflict area dated back to 1983. Three vehicles were specially fitted for the operation, in particular with refrigeration, and the campaign, providing for the vaccination of hundreds of thousands of cattle, started in the last week of the year. By 31 December, ICRC and local veterinarians had immunized 5,000 cattle near Yirol and 20,000 in Akon, and had treated several hundred sick animals.

In all, 165 tonnes of food and about two tonnes of material relief had been distributed in southern Sudan by the end of the year.

#### *Surgical hospital in Lokichokio*

The ICRC hospital in Lopiding, Kenya, near Lokichokio, admitted many wounded in 1988. The 50-bed hospital, which is run by the Finnish Red Cross, treated a total of 495 patients (370 Sudanese war wounded, 74 sick or injured Sudanese and 51 sick Kenyans).

#### *Logistics*

Starting on 4 December, a Hercules aircraft made six round trips per week between Khartoum and Wau. Lighter aircraft were used to transport personnel and relief supplies from Wau to Aweil.

From Lokichokio, three light aircraft were used to reach Yirol and Akon, and a large Transall transport aircraft was used to airlift supplies to these towns from Entebbe (Uganda). The Transall started making two flights a day on 26 December. The ICRC fleet of vehicles comprised 54 trucks, 43 of which had trailers.

The number of staff rose sharply at the end of the year as relief operations began: 21 delegates assisted by 225 local employees were working in areas under government control; 21 other delegates were based in Kenya and working in areas under SPLM/SPLA control.

#### *Persons detained because of the internal situation*

The ICRC made an offer of services, initially in 1986, then again in 1987 and 1988, to visit persons being held as a result of the internal situation either by the government or by the SPLM/SPLA. This offer did not receive a favourable response. The ICRC was not notified of any captures nor did it have access to any prisoners. It was,

however — and this was its only detention activity throughout the year — contacted by the SPLA to arrange for the return to Khartoum of a Sudanese army officer the SPLA had captured in 1987. On 21 July, an ICRC delegate and a doctor went to Pibor, where they took charge of the released prisoner.

### **Tracing Agency**

The Tracing Agency in Khartoum continued to deal with refugees from Ethiopia, Uganda and Zaire, and to a lesser extent with those from Chad, with the help of its offices in Port Sudan, Kassala, Juba and Yei. Most of the work had to do with the exchange of Red Cross messages and requests to trace missing persons or to reunite families.

### **Co-operation with the National Society**

The ICRC kept up its support for the assistance programme undertaken by the Sudanese Red Crescent in 1987 for displaced persons who had fled the fighting in the south and were arriving in the capital. The programme was designed to provide limited aid to new arrivals as they reached Khartoum and benefited a monthly average of about 750 people. A total of 25.2 tonnes of food and 5.8 tonnes of material aid, financed and made available by the ICRC, were distributed in 1988.

The ICRC also organized a programme to distribute water to almost 30,000 displaced persons from southern Sudan in the capital. From May to the end of the year, two ICRC tankers provided 30,000 litres of water per day in six villages and camps for displaced persons in Khartoum and the surrounding area.

In early August, torrential rainfall seriously affected more than one million people in the Khartoum area. The ICRC immediately made available to the Sudanese Red Crescent 15 delegates and members of its medical staff, 222 tonnes of food, plastic sheeting and three trucks.

## **UGANDA**

The ICRC delegation in Uganda expanded its protection and assistance activities for detainees, starting visits to persons held under the authority of the army in military barracks. It encountered difficulties, however, in implementing its programmes to protect and assist displaced persons in northern and eastern Uganda, essentially because the authorities were reluctant to allow it free access to these areas and because of the poor security conditions.

On several occasions the head of the delegation met with various members of the government, in particular the ministers most concerned with the ICRC's work, i.e., the Ministers of State for Justice, Internal Affairs, Defence and Foreign Affairs and the Army Commander. The Delegate General for Africa went to Uganda in October and met with the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Erya Kategaya, and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tarsis Kabwegyere. On 3 November the head of the delegation was received by President Museveni, the Head of State. They discussed authorization for the ICRC to visit detainees in places of detention under the direct authority of the army, military barracks in particular, and ICRC programmes to provide assistance and protection to displaced persons in northern and eastern Uganda. The head of delegation also described the activities the ICRC was planning to carry out in southern Sudan; President Museveni agreed to allow the ICRC to go into the area concerned from Ugandan territory (see under *Sudan* above).

### **Representations and activities for detainees**

On coming to power in 1986, President Museveni had given his agreement for ICRC visits to persons held by the National Resistance Army (NRA), which then became the government armed forces. Since then, the ICRC had made repeated requests for access to military barracks being used as places of transit for persons arrested by the army. In 1988, on the basis of the headquarters agreement signed on 29 December 1987 giving it access to all military places of detention, the ICRC continued to make representations to the competent authorities. On 3 November, the Head of State, meeting with the head of delegation, gave his agreement in principle to ICRC visits to military barracks. A first series of visits took place from 17 November to 14 December: delegates visited eight barracks, three in Kampala and five in the east of the country, registering 135 detainees and interviewing them without witnesses.

The Ministry of Defence authorized the ICRC to visit Kiburara Re-education Camp. The visit took place in May and ICRC delegates were able to see, in accordance with standard ICRC procedure, 2,887 persons transferred to the camp after having given themselves up to the authorities under the Amnesty Bill.

Throughout the year, the ICRC continued to visit most places of detention run by the civilian authorities but holding persons arrested and detained under army responsibility. ICRC teams comprising delegates and doctors or nurses saw, in accordance with standard ICRC procedure, 5,643 persons held for reasons connected with the coun-

try's internal situation, in 15 places of detention (eight prisons and seven police stations in Kampala and in eastern and south-eastern Uganda). A series of complete visits was made to the seven police stations in the capital from 5 April to 12 May. During the second half of the year, ICRC delegates visited the seven police stations in the capital once a week from June to September, then twice a month until the end of the year. The only exception was the Central Police Station, which they continued to visit each week until the end of the year. Two complete visits and a number of interim visits were made to the prisons during the year.

During complete visits, ICRC delegates not only registered each new prisoner, they also called the roll of all detainees previously registered and had the opportunity to speak without witnesses to anyone wishing to talk to them. ICRC specialists (sanitary engineers, nurses and nutritionists) examined all the premises in each prison. On the basis of their conclusions, measures were suggested to the prison administration with a view to improving conditions of detention, with ICRC support. Feeding programmes, work to improve hygiene (installation of showers, sewage disposal, disinfection of premises, etc.) and various medical programmes (in particular to control tuberculosis and diarrhoea) were implemented with the co-operation of the authorities. Finally, prison medical staff were trained, medicines and medical supplies provided to the prison dispensaries, and individual cases dealt with (medical transfers, special diets, etc.).

The detainees also received second-hand clothes, blankets, educational and recreational articles.

In response to ICRC representations, the Ministry of Defence announced in March that it intended to release children under the age of 13, most of whom were being held in Luzira prison. The ICRC made every effort to find their parents or other relatives who could take them in, through the Tracing Agency. On 22 April, a group of 94 children was released; they all received blankets and clothes from the ICRC before being taken back to their places of origin by the authorities.

On 17 June, 1,515 adult detainees were released by the NRA; another group of 944 detainees was released on 6 October. The detainees all received blankets, clothes, food and soap from the ICRC on leaving the prison.

### **Representations and activities for civilians**

Discontinued at the end of the first half of 1987 for security reasons, ICRC activities in northern and eastern Uganda resumed in 1988 by fits and starts. After a nine-month absence, teams of delegates went to Soroti, Gulu, Lira and

Kitgum in March. On the basis of their observations, the delegation drew up plans for emergency medical and material assistance for displaced persons in those areas.

The district of **Gulu** was the most seriously affected, with 15,000 displaced persons, and an ICRC office was opened there. In May, a second mission focusing on medical needs revealed that most medical facilities were suffering from an acute shortage of staff and medicines. The ICRC wanted to remedy this situation and keep the health of the civilian population from deteriorating by setting up a mobile clinic programme. It was unfortunately impossible to do so as the delegates were prevented from leaving the town of Gulu by military operations. The ICRC team, unable to act, returned to Kampala in July. When the delegates were able to return to Gulu in mid-November, the number of displaced persons had increased fourfold. The delegates provided medical supplies and medicines to the government hospital and set up an *ad hoc* assistance programme for displaced civilians suffering from malnutrition. Food, blankets and cooking utensils were thus distributed to 1,200 persons in December.

The initial surveys in **Kitgum** in March and May revealed no urgent needs. The delegates were not able to reach the rural areas outside the town, however, for reasons of security. When they returned to Kitgum in November, about 2,000 people from southern Sudan had taken refuge there. The ICRC immediately provided them with emergency food and material assistance, until the UNHCR took charge of the operation.

In-depth surveys conducted in the **Soroti** district in March, June and September first revealed a situation which was on the whole satisfactory. At the beginning of December, however, a delegate and a nurse were able to go to Amuria, in the north of the district, where about 20,000 displaced persons had been assembled in six camps. In two of the camps the food situation was such that an assistance operation for 8,000 people was planned for January 1989.

### **Tracing Agency**

As part of the delegation's activities in places of detention in Uganda, the delegates registered new detainees, dealt with tracing requests and distributed family messages exchanged between prisoners and their relatives.

Close co-operation was maintained between the Uganda Red Cross Society tracing service and the ICRC's Tracing Agency office in Kampala, especially for the distribution of family messages.

## Activities for the disabled

In October 1988 an orthopaedic programme for war disabled was set up at Mulago Hospital in Kampala in co-operation with the Ministry of Health, the Uganda Red Cross Society and the British Red Cross. The orthopaedic workshop at Mulago Hospital was refurbished and a team of two orthopaedic technicians (one from the ICRC, the other from the British Red Cross) started to produce artificial limbs at the end of the year.

## Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society

As was the case for assistance and tracing work, the delegation's activities to disseminate knowledge of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and of international humanitarian law continued to be conducted in close co-operation with the Uganda Red Cross Society, in particular with the National Society's ten regional field officers. The two mobile dissemination units (vehicles equipped with projection material, documentation, etc.) were used throughout the year to organize dissemination sessions in towns and rural areas for different target groups (members of the Red Cross, the armed forces, the police, administrative and medical personnel, schoolchildren, etc.).

The Minister of State for Defence and the Army Commander gave their agreement for the ICRC to organize a dissemination programme on international humanitarian law for the armed forces. A seminar for senior army officers was held in July; a delegate specialized in dissemination to the armed forces was sent from Geneva to help. Dissemination sessions were regularly held thereafter in the barracks for officers and soldiers.

Talks on international humanitarian law and the principles and activities of the Red Cross were also given in two re-education camps to 13,000 men, members of the previous government's armed forces who might join the ranks of the NRA.

Lectures on international humanitarian law were given to law students at Makerere University.

Last but not least, the public was informed about the Red Cross by means of seminars, radio broadcasts, television programmes and articles in the Ugandan press.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

**KENYA** — The ICRC maintained its regional delegation in Nairobi in order to keep in regular contact with the

authorities, the National Societies and the media in Kenya, the Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Seychelles and Tanzania. The regional delegation also served as a vital logistics base for operations conducted in Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Somalia.

The regional delegation and the Tracing Agency co-operated closely to process tracing requests, forward family messages and issue travel documents.

In Kenya, the regional delegates continued their activities to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and to promote the Additional Protocols, in co-operation with the Kenya Red Cross Society. Talks and lectures were given throughout the year to National Society staff, students at the law faculty of Nairobi University and officers from the Kenyan armed forces.

**COMOROS** — The regional delegate went to the Comoros in March and September to support National Society work and to meet the authorities, in particular to organize lectures on international humanitarian law for the armed forces. In March, the delegate met the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Omar Tamou.

**DJIBOUTI** — The ICRC regional delegate was in Djibouti in June and in November with a view to encouraging the National Society's development efforts, in particular its activities to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law. During his second mission, the delegate gave talks to officers from the national police force and from the armed forces of Djibouti and France. During his meetings with representatives of the government authorities, the delegate also raised the question of the ratification of the Additional Protocols.

**MADAGASCAR** — The regional delegate was in Madagascar three times in 1988, in January, May and October. During his missions he took steps to encourage the development of the National Society, visited the National Society branch offices in Sambava, Antsiranana and Mahajanga, and made contact with the armed forces and the university with a view to fostering the dissemination of international humanitarian law. He gave talks to officers from the armed forces and the national police force, and to law students, not only in the capital but also in northern and western Madagascar. Meetings with government authorities focused on the ratification of the Additional Protocols.



**MAURITIUS** — The regional delegate was in Mauritius in April. He met National Society leaders and representatives of the authorities. He gave talks on international humanitarian law to members of the police and the armed forces and to members of the prison service.

**SEYCHELLES** — The Seychelles were visited twice in 1988, in March and in November, with a view to assisting the emerging National Society's development efforts. During the missions, talks on international humanitarian law were given to the armed forces and to a group of representatives from different ministries.

**TANZANIA** — In February, while on a mission to Africa which also took him to several southern African countries, the ICRC President went to Dar es Salaam, where he was received by the Head of State, Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi. Mr. Sommaruga also met the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Amina Ali. The discussions focused on the situation in southern Africa, the ICRC President outlining the institution's activities and difficulties in the area. Mr. Sommaruga also visited the headquarters of the National Society and met its leaders, and contacted representatives of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC).

Regional delegates from Nairobi and Harare conducted several missions to Dar es Salaam during the second half of the year to discuss the setting up of a Tracing Agency network for Mozambican refugees. In July, they gave talks on international humanitarian law to armed forces officers, aided by a specialized delegate who had travelled from Geneva for the purpose.

## Central and West Africa

The ICRC's activities in Central and West Africa continued to be conducted by the regional delegations covering the following countries:

- **regional delegation in Lomé:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo;
- **regional delegation in Lagos:** Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone;
- **regional delegation in Kinshasa:** Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Zaire.

These regional delegations continued their work, focusing on co-operation with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in particular as concerned dissemination of knowledge of Red Cross principles and international humanitarian law.

In **Chad**, where the ICRC has been present since 1978, the delegation in N'Djamena continued its activities in 1988.

Finally, during the last months of the year delegations were opened in **Rwanda** and **Burundi** after ethnic clashes in Burundi in August forced tens of thousands of people to flee to Rwanda.

## **CONFLICT BETWEEN CHAD AND LIBYA**

As a consequence of the clashes between Chad and Libya, in particular during 1987 until the cease-fire on 11 September of that year, all the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, to which both parties had acceded, were applicable. In spite of this, ICRC representations made with a view to discharging its mandate, especially for prisoners of war on both sides, were not entirely successful. Although in 1988 the ICRC witnessed the repatriation of 214 Chadian prisoners of war held in Libya after having visited some of them beforehand, in Chad it was only able to provide food and medical assistance to Chadian prisoners held at N'Djamena Detention Centre until their release and was not permitted to interview them without witnesses. It did not succeed in gaining access to Libyan prisoners of war or prisoners of war of other nationalities, nor was it even notified of their capture.

Moreover, authorization for the ICRC's delegates in Chad to leave N'Djamena, revoked in October in 1987, was not renewed in 1988.

### **Representations and activities for prisoners held in Chad**

#### *Chadian prisoners*

The Chadian prisoners held since the clashes of 1983 at N'Djamena prison did not benefit from protection visits conducted in accordance with standard ICRC procedure. Visits of that kind were suspended by the Chad authorities in June 1986, when they withdrew the authorization for ICRC delegates to interview the prisoners without witnesses. In spite of the ICRC's repeated representations, the visits did not resume in 1988. As in 1987, however, the some 450 prisoners did receive medical and material assistance: the ICRC nurse went to the prison every week to check

on their health and make sure they received the necessary medical care. She vaccinated the entire prison population against meningitis when an epidemic broke out in March. The ICRC also continued its extensive food and material assistance programmes for these prisoners.

At the end of the year, 312 prisoners were released; the remaining 140 were to be released at the end of January 1989.

### *Prisoners of war from Libya and other countries*

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 70 and 126 of the Third Geneva Convention, which give the ICRC a mandate to visit all persons captured during an international conflict, the ICRC made repeated representations to the Chad authorities throughout the year for access to prisoners of war from Libya and other countries (Mauritania, Sudan, Algeria, Mali, etc.) held by the Chad National Armed Forces, to no avail. The head of delegation in N'Djamena met representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence on several occasions, and the delegate in charge of visits to Chadian prisoners of war in Libya went to Chad twice to inform the Chad authorities about the visits (handing over reports on the visits, lists of the Chadian prisoners of war visited, and Red Cross messages written by them for their families) and, most importantly, to remind them of their obligation to authorize similar visits for all prisoners of war in their hands. In June, the President of the ICRC wrote a letter to President Hissène Habré on the same subject.

At the end of the year, no progress had been made towards obtaining access to Libyan prisoners of war and prisoners of war of other nationalities held in Chad.

### **Representations and activities for prisoners held in Libya**

Following approaches made in 1987, authorization was obtained to visit Chadian prisoners of war held in Libya, in accordance with the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention. Thus, in January 1988 an ICRC team comprising three delegates, one of them a doctor, visited 52 Chadian prisoners of war, 36 of them held in Tripoli, the other 16 in Sebha. A fifty-third Chadian prisoner of war was seen during another mission to Tripoli in July. All the prisoners of war were registered and were able to write Red Cross messages for their families in Chad.

When the Libyan authorities released 214 Chadian prisoners (including the 52 visited by the ICRC in January) on 22 September, they authorized the ICRC to speak to

each prisoner individually so as to ensure that no prisoner was being repatriated against his will. The prisoners of war were then handed over to representatives of the OAU, who organized their return to Chad. The Chadian prisoner of war visited by the ICRC in July was to return to Chad in early 1989.

### **Tracing Agency**

The workload of the Tracing Agency in N'Djamena eased once more in 1988, given that it was impossible for ICRC delegates to leave N'Djamena and to visit prisoners elsewhere in Chad.

The Red Cross messages written by the 53 Chadian prisoners of war visited in Libya were handed over to the Chad authorities, as were messages written by the families of Libyan prisoners of war held in Chad. Death certificates for Chadian soldiers received from the Libyan authorities were also transmitted to N'Djamena. As in previous years, former Chadian prisoners visited by the ICRC in the past and then released came to the delegation to request certificates of captivity to support applications for government pensions.

### **Activities for war amputees**

The ICRC continued to co-operate with the orthopaedic centre run by "Secours catholique et développement" (Catholic Development Fund) in Kabalaye, N'Djamena, where two orthopaedic technicians were in charge of producing and repairing artificial limbs, orthopaedic devices and crutches. In 1988 they also started to train Chadian apprentices. Throughout the year 122 war amputees were fitted, and 123 artificial limbs, 62 orthopaedic devices and 97 pairs of crutches were produced.

The ICRC also financed and supervised the construction of an annex to the orthopaedic centre. The project cost 200,000 Swiss francs.

### **Dissemination and co-operation with the National Society**

In co-operation with the Red Cross of Chad, which became the 146th National Society on 15 April 1988, the ICRC continued its dissemination activities for members of the National Society, schoolchildren and the general public. One of the delegation's local staff members took part in the first-aid courses organized by the National Society in several parts of the country.

When torrential rainfall at the end of August led to flooding in the capital, the ICRC gave the Red Cross of Chad 1,000 blankets for the homeless and lent it three vehicles for its activities.

On 15 September the President of the Red Cross of Chad, Mr. Abderaman Dadi, visited ICRC headquarters where he was received by President Sommaruga.

## BURUNDI

As soon as it learned of the ethnic strife which broke out in mid-August in northern Burundi, the ICRC dispatched its regional delegate in Kinshasa to Burundi to offer the institution's services. By agreement with the authorities, the delegate went to the areas most severely affected by the events on 17 August to assess the needs of the population. A relief programme was set up and continued until the end of the year. Tracing work made it possible to restore family ties and visits were conducted to persons arrested because of the events.

At the end of October almost all the displaced persons in the assembly centres had returned to their homes, and in mid-November those who had fled to Rwanda started to come back in their thousands. By the end of the year, almost all the displaced persons had returned to their homes and settled down.

The regional delegate based in Kinshasa supervised all the activities in Burundi for the victims of the clashes and remained in contact with the country's highest authorities during the final months of the year. He saw the Prime Minister and Minister of Planning, Mr. Sibomana, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Niyonkuru, and the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Kadoyi, more than once. A delegate in the field met the Head of State, President Pierre Buyoya, who was on a visit to Ntega.

### Activities for detainees

#### *Before the events of August*

From 24 February to 9 March, two delegates, one of them a doctor, completed the series of visits to places of detention started in November 1987, visiting three further prisons. As had been the case in 1987, the prisons visited no longer held any security detainees (following the *coup d'état* of 3 September 1987 all security detainees had been released). The delegates also paid another visit to Mpimba

prison, where sanitation work was under way following a mission by an ICRC sanitary engineer at the end of 1987.

#### *After the events of August*

When ethnic strife broke out in August, the delegate in Burundi immediately suggested to the authorities that the ICRC visit persons arrested as a result of the events. A team of delegates which included a doctor started a series of visits to places of detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice on 7 December. The programme covered 11 prisons and was to be completed by the very beginning of 1989. During the visits, which were conducted in accordance with standard ICRC procedure, the delegates registered 78 security detainees. *Ad hoc* relief supplies were provided as needed.

#### *Assistance for displaced persons*

When the delegate visited the regions affected by the fighting for the first time, over 6,000 persons displaced from the Ntega and Marangara districts had been assembled in eight centres. In early September, a doctor and a sanitary engineer from the ICRC conducted an in-depth survey which revealed that the displaced persons' needs in terms of food, health care and sanitary facilities had been met. They had lost their possessions, however, as a result of looting and destruction, and needed clothing, blankets and hoes so that they could become self-sufficient again when they returned to their homes. These relief supplies were transported to the centres by means of a convoy of trucks organized by the ICRC delegation in Kampala, and a small logistics base was set up in Ngozi, near the places most hard hit by the events. After having identified and registered the beneficiaries, the delegates, in co-operation with relief workers from the Burundi Red Cross, started to distribute relief supplies in the centres for displaced persons on 16 September. At the same time, they continued to assess needs in the hills which had been the scene of the events in August, and the assistance programme was gradually extended to cover the people slowly returning to their places of origin, either from Rwanda or from centres in Burundi itself.

The permanent presence of delegates in the hills most severely affected by the events made it possible not only to do relief and tracing work but also to follow the situation and provide a measure of protection to the civilian population.

By the end of the year, almost 26,500 people had received material assistance from the ICRC.

## Tracing Agency

At the end of August two tracing offices were opened, one in Burundi and the other in Rwanda, to which almost 50,000 people had fled. Red Cross messages were soon being collected in Burundi during distributions of relief supplies. In the refugee camps in Rwanda, during the delivery and collection of family messages the presence of unaccompanied children quickly became evident. The delegates made every effort to find the families and return the children to them. About 50 families were reunited in this way.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

**BENIN** — In the course of regular missions to Cotonou throughout the year, the regional delegates based in Lomé were able to maintain close contact with the Red Cross of Benin and the authorities. In February, one of the regional delegates was received by the Head of State, Mr. Mathieu Kerekou, and by the Minister of the Interior, Public Security and Territorial Administration, Mr. Edouard Zodehougan. She was authorized to visit security detainees in accordance with standard ICRC procedure. The visits, the first of the kind in Benin, were conducted from 12 to 28 April in eight places of detention. ICRC delegates, one of whom was a doctor, had interviews without witnesses with 162 security detainees out of a total of about 2,000 detainees. Medical and material assistance was provided to the detainees in the places of the detention visited. In May, an ICRC sanitary engineer went to Benin to examine the quality of water and the hygiene conditions in the eight places of detention already visited, and improvements in the water supply and waste disposal systems were immediately made. President Kerekou and the Minister of the Interior received the regional delegate again in October, when she delivered the reports on the visits. In December, the regional delegate discussed detention matters with the Minister of Justice, Mr. Saliou Aboudou.

As it has since 1984, the ICRC engaged in various activities in co-operation with the Red Cross of Benin. An exhibition was organized jointly by the ICRC and the National Society in February on the theme of 125 years of Red Cross action. Talks were given during the exhibition, which was the subject of reports in the media.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** — Missions to maintain contact with the authorities and the National Society were conducted from the regional delegation in Kinshasa.

In addition, an ICRC lawyer gave two lectures in Bangui in January, one for senior ministry officials concerned with international humanitarian law, the other to about 80 senior armed forces officers.

**CONGO** — A number of activities to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law took place in 1988. In January, an ICRC lawyer gave a lecture on international humanitarian law to 120 law students from Marien Ngouabi University. From 26 to 30 April, 28 officers from military zone No. 1 met in Pointe Noire for a seminar organized jointly by the Congolese Red Cross and the ICRC under the patronage of the Congolese National People's Army. A delegate specialized in dissemination to the armed forces came from Geneva for the occasion. In addition, the Congolese Red Cross and the ICRC organized a photo exhibition in March in Sibiti, in the Koumou area. Talks were given on the same occasion to different target groups: political and administrative authorities, students and schoolchildren, soldiers.

**COTE D'IVOIRE** — ICRC co-operation with the National Society led to the organization at the end of June of a seminar on the law of armed conflict for officers from the armed forces of Côte d'Ivoire. A delegate specialized in dissemination among the armed forces was dispatched from Geneva for the seminar. The regional delegation in Lomé provided support for an exhibition on the Movement mounted by the National Society for a major fair in October.

**GAMBIA** — The regional delegate based in Lagos and a medical delegate were in Banjul from 30 January to 7 February, visiting detainees in the central prison. The visit, involving 58 detainees, was conducted in accordance with standard ICRC procedure. The ICRC had not conducted a complete visit to the prison since December 1985 (in 1987 it had only registered detainees).

**GHANA** — The Ghana Red Cross Society and the regional delegation in Lagos organized a seminar from 14 to 17 June on international humanitarian law for prison service officers. All those in charge of the different prisons throughout the country took part.

**MALI** — The regional delegation in Lomé remained in contact with the National Society and the authorities with

a view to encouraging the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the ratification of the Additional Protocols. After the Pan-African Conference in Dakar in November, a "train of humanity" travelled to Bamako, carrying an exhibition on the Movement and its activities set up jointly by the National Societies of Senegal and Mali to spread knowledge of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law to people in both countries.

On 2 May, the Minister of Health of the Republic of Mali, Mr. Dembele, visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva. He was received by the President, the Vice-President and members of the ICRC administration.

**NIGERIA** — On 15 June, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the ICRC signed a headquarters agreement making the presence of the regional delegation in Lagos official. The Minister of Foreign Affairs took part in the ceremony, which received widespread coverage in the local media. In July, the ICRC reached a co-operation agreement with the Nigerian Red Cross Society aiming to encourage activities to disseminate international humanitarian law and provide information to different target groups.

**RWANDA** — In connection with the arrival in Rwanda of tens of thousands of people fleeing the disturbances in northern Burundi, the ICRC set up a delegation in Kigali so as to be able to respond rapidly to the needs of people wishing to renew family contact. Delegates in Rwanda delivered and collected Red Cross messages and engaged in various tracing activities, in particular tracing the parents of unaccompanied children. (See also under *Burundi* above.)

On 26 September, the Rwandese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ngarukiyintwali, was received at ICRC headquarters in Geneva by President Sommaruga. They discussed both the plight of Burundi refugees in Rwanda and the ICRC's desire to resume discussions with the Rwandese authorities on visits to places of detention, interrupted in 1987.

**SENEGAL** — ICRC regional delegates conducted many missions to Senegal to discuss the opening of a regional delegation for West Africa in Dakar, and preparations for the Fourth General Assembly of ACROFA and for the Second Pan-African Conference of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (see chapter on *Co-operation within*

*the Movement*). The President of the ICRC attended both meetings in Dakar, where he was received by the Head of State, Mr. Abdou Diouf, with whom he discussed ICRC activities in Africa. Mr. Sommaruga also met the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ibrahima Fall, who confirmed that the Senegalese government agreed to the opening of a regional delegation in Dakar.

The November meetings also provided opportunities for a number of dissemination activities: in co-operation with the National Societies of Senegal and Mali, the ICRC organized a "train of humanity" which travelled from Dakar to Bamako, carrying an exhibition on the activities of the Movement's various constituent bodies.

**SIERRA LEONE** — From 12 to 15 April, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society and the ICRC regional delegate based in Lagos conducted a seminar on international humanitarian law for 24 police officers in Freetown. From 20 to 22 June, 24 newspaper, radio and television journalists participated in a seminar organized for their benefit by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society and the regional delegation in Lagos. Different aspects of Red Cross activities and principles and international humanitarian law were presented.

**TOGO** — On 6 January, the regional delegate was received by the Head of State, General Eyadema, with whom he discussed the ICRC's 1987 visits to prisons run by the Ministry of the Interior. Throughout the year, the delegation supported the National Society's efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law, participating in training seminars for disseminators organized by the Togolese Red Cross Society.

**ZAIRE** — ICRC delegates continued to visit places of detention in Zaire whenever they were authorized to do so. They made only one visit to the "Military Action and Information Service" (SARM), on 31 August. Places of detention under the responsibility of the National Police Force (B2) were not accessible to the delegates for over two months. Only one visit was made to the civil guard.

However, nine visits were made to the "National Documentation Agency" (AND) building in Kinshasa and the other places of detention in the capital run by the Kinshasa military division (BSRS, S2, Mobile Brigade), the Judiciary Council and the Military Office (Makala prison and N'Dolo military prison) were visited twice a month, monthly or every three months.

The delegates also conducted a series of visits elsewhere in the country. Haut-Zaïre and Kivu were visited during

the first three months of the year, Shaba during the following three months. Visits were conducted to places of detention under the responsibility of the AND, the Judiciary Council and the Military Office, the armed forces and the national police, and one place in Shaba run by the SARM.

In 1988, delegates saw a total of 312 detainees within the purview of the ICRC in 44 places of detention, on one or several occasions.

After the visits, the ICRC provided assistance (food, blankets, toilet and leisure articles) to the detainees and delivered medical supplies to prison dispensaries. In addition, the needy families of detainees and former detainees received *ad hoc* food aid.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Kinshasa registered security detainees visited for the first time, informed families of their relatives' imprisonment and arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between detainees and their relatives.

The delegation in Kinshasa also maintained close contact with the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zaire: National Society lecturers gave a number of talks in the country and a training seminar was organized in June for those working in the capital. The ICRC delegate in charge of dissemination work visited local Red Cross branches in Shaba and Bas-Zaïre. As in 1987, the ICRC and the National Society joined forces to set up a stand, this time

at the Fifth Pan-African Fair of the OAU, held on the premises of the Kinshasa International Fair (FIKIN) during the second half of July.

From March to June, a seminar on international humanitarian law was organized by the University of Kinshasa with the participation of the ICRC for students from the law faculty. A lawyer was dispatched from Geneva for the opening of the seminar. Before that, in January, Kinshasa University and the ICRC had organized a seminar on the law of armed conflicts and humanitarian work for university specialists who came not only from Zaire, but also from the Congo and the Central African Republic. An ICRC lawyer led the discussions.

Last but not least, a delegate specialized in dissemination of international humanitarian law among the armed forces gave two talks to 140 officers in training at the military academy.

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With a view to maintaining and strengthening its relations with governments and the National Societies, and to encourage and support them in their dissemination work, the ICRC's regional delegates in Lome, Kinshasa and Lagos also went on several missions to **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Niger.**

## RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1988

### AFRICA

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Recipients	Relief		Medical assistance	Total Sw. fr.
		Tonnes	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	
South Africa .....	Detainees' families, refugees and civilians	217	372,940	—	372,940
Angola .....	Displaced civilians and the disabled	4,383	5,491,448	338,655	5,830,103
Angola (south-east) .....	Displaced civilians	30	76,901	239,788	316,689
Benin .....	Detainees	9	26,653	1,760	28,413
Burundi .....	Displaced civilians and detainees	80	218,904	—	218,904
Ethiopia .....	Displaced civilians and prisoners of war	29,991	18,210,009	88,723	18,298,732
Ethiopia (Tigray and Eritrea, via Sudan) .....	Displaced civilians, the disabled and prisoners of war	32	7,787	381,337	389,124
Gambia .....	Detainees	—	—	3,390	3,390
Malawi .....	National Society and refugees	3	31,840	4,696	36,536
Mozambique .....	Displaced civilians and the disabled	1,728	1,597,657	220,654	1,818,311
Namibia .....	Detainees, their families and civilians	33	53,885	—	53,885
Uganda .....	Displaced civilians, refugees and detainees	220	438,665	196,987	635,652
Rwanda .....	Refugees	—	2,105	8,715	10,820
Somalia .....	Prisoners of war	160	335,777	250,383	586,160
Sudan .....	Displaced civilians	401	259,124	182,686	441,810
Sudan (conflict in southern Sudan, via Kenya) .....	Displaced civilians and the war-wounded	25	24,927	423,485	448,412
Chad .....	Detainees, the disabled and civilians	263	369,915	95,977	465,892
Togo .....	Detainees	1	4,530	17,456	21,986
Zaire .....	Detainees and their families	21	59,645	9,749	69,394
Zimbabwe .....	Displaced civilians and the disabled	76	65,633	102,128	167,761
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>37,673</b>	<b>27,648,345</b>	<b>2,566,569</b>	<b>30,214,914</b>