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## LATIN AMERICA

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The ICRC's activities in Latin America were principally concerned with protection: visiting detainees in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Paraguay. In addition, a large-scale relief and medical assistance operation on behalf of the displaced civilian population was carried out in El Salvador.

The material and medical assistance supplied by the ICRC to Latin America for detainees, their families and displaced persons amounted to 9.2 million Swiss francs in 1981 (see Table, p. 32).

A programme for the dissemination of international humanitarian law, principally aimed at the armed forces and universities, was undertaken in several Latin American countries (see also chapter "Principles and Law").

In order to carry out its activities successfully in this part of the world, the ICRC maintained its permanent delegations in Managua and San Salvador, and its regional delegation in Buenos Aires for the Southern Cone. The work of the regional office for the Andean countries, Guyana and Surinam, was suspended in October.

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While on an official visit to Switzerland, Mr. Herrera Campins, President of the Republic of Venezuela, was received at ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 12 June.

### Central America and the Caribbean

#### El Salvador

Greatly disturbed by the armed confrontations between government forces and the FMNL (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) guerrillas, as well as by the atmosphere of violence reigning in El Salvador in 1981, the ICRC increased its protection and assistance activities on behalf of those detained for security reasons, those reported missing and people displaced in the areas of the fighting.

In support of its protection and assistance activities, the ICRC undertook an extensive information campaign and programme for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law. Due to the situation of conflict reigning in El Salvador, it was particularly important to put across the message of basic humanitarian principles by urging all those engaged in the fighting to respect the civilian population, the wounded and prisoners, as well as the emblem and personnel of the Red Cross.

This campaign was twofold:

- messages on the theme of the Red Cross and aimed at the general public were broadcast by radio, television and in

the press; posters were distributed illustrating the work of the Red Cross;

- a series of lectures on international humanitarian law was organized for the armed and security forces. In support of these activities by the local delegation, delegates specialized in the dissemination of information and the delegate to the armed forces went on mission to El Salvador.

In order to be able to continue its protection and assistance activities in El Salvador, the ICRC launched a fund-raising appeal, on 17 June, for 4.9 million Swiss francs for the second half of 1981 (an appeal for 4.1 million Swiss francs had been launched on 5 December 1980 to cover its activities during the first half of the year).

Several missions were organized from Geneva to examine developments and needs in El Salvador, to discuss with the authorities current activities and the most disturbing problems encountered, especially as regards protection (see below), and to maintain close relations with the El Salvador Red Cross. Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of the Operations Department, visited El Salvador from 27 February to 5 March, accompanied by Mr. André Pasquier, delegate-general for Latin America; they had talks with Mr. Antonio Morales Ehrlich and Mr. Ramon Avelas Navarrete, members of the governing junta, with Colonel José Guillermo García, Minister of Defence, with the commanding officers of the security forces and with representatives of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Mr. Pasquier returned to El Salvador in July and October; he was able to have talks on current problems with the President of the junta, José Napoleon Duarte, Colonel J.-A. Gutierrez, Vice-President and Chief of the Armed Forces, and the Minister of Defence. Dr. Athos Gallino, a member of the Committee, together with Mr. Pasquier and Dr. Rémi Russbach, head of the Medical Division, went on mission to El Salvador, from 16 to 20 November, to take stock of the ICRC's protection and assistance activities: they met President Duarte, the Minister of Defence, the commanding officers of the security forces, and other officials.

Two painful events befell the El Salvador Red Cross in 1981: the kidnapping of the Vice-President of the National Society, on 8 May, and the assassination of one of the El Salvador Red Cross employees working in a relief depot in San Miguel, on 3 June. In both cases, the ICRC launched an urgent appeal for respect for the civilian population, and for the Red Cross personnel and its humanitarian mission. Fortunately, the Vice-President was released on 19 October.

#### Protection

*DETAINEES.* - In October 1979, the ICRC had obtained extensive facilities from the first governing junta, after the

*coup d'état*, allowing its delegates in principle to visit all the permanent and temporary places of detention, both civil and military, without prior notice and as often as necessary, to talk with all detainees without witnesses and to give them whatever aid they needed. In conformity with this agreement which had been endorsed by succeeding juntas, the ICRC endeavoured to continue protecting persons detained on security grounds in 1981. However, this action ran into difficulties, especially as regards access to detainees held for interrogation. The ICRC delegates were, in fact, often refused entry to the places of detention controlled by the security forces, and to military barracks and garrisons.

On the other hand, the delegates were able to visit, under the proper conditions, the penal centres controlled by the Ministry of Justice, where about 400 security detainees were awaiting trial.

The ICRC delegates thus carried out 1,211 visits to 207 places of detention, where they first saw and registered 1,540 detainees in 1981. Given the fact that some detainees were visited several times, the cumulative total of those visited by the ICRC was 10,232. These visits formed the subject of confidential summary reports which were forwarded periodically to the authorities.

The ICRC concentrated, in its work of protection, on the temporary places of detention, visiting them several times a week, especially those controlled by the security and armed forces, in order to protect and register detainees as soon as possible after their arrest. However, as indicated above, this action ran into difficulties.

In addition to forwarding the confidential reports to the authorities, the ICRC representatives had numerous talks with the El Salvador authorities, including President Duarte and the Minister of Defence, in order to bring up certain problems observed in the places of temporary detention where the interrogations took place. The ICRC proposed the setting-up of an internal military commission of control to study the special files drawn up by delegates following their visits to the places of detention. This commission, set up on 28 July by the Ministry of Defence, seems, unfortunately, never to have been operational as the ICRC never received any reply to the files it sent it.

As there was no improvement in conditions in the places of temporary detention, the ICRC sent one of its members, Dr. Gallino, to San Salvador, from 16 to 20 November, to make an appraisal of the protective work, to examine it with the highest El Salvador authorities and to request again that appropriate measures be taken to remedy the situation. On that occasion, Dr. Gallino let it be understood by the authorities that if there was no improvement, the ICRC might reconsider continuing its humanitarian and protective work in El Salvador in 1982.

The ICRC was also concerned with the fate of members of the government forces who had fallen into the hands of the rebel armed groups. It informed the El Salvador authorities that it was willing to undertake protective action on their behalf. In August, it received, from the FMNL, a list of sixteen soldiers captured in the department of Morazan and,

having been assured that it could visit them, the ICRC requested the El Salvador authorities to assist and guarantee the safety of its delegates who would go into the area of the fighting where it had been informed these prisoners were held. The ICRC several times asked, including in two messages from President Hay to President Duarte in September and October, the El Salvador authorities to co-operate, to enable it to carry out this humanitarian work, but as it was unsuccessful, the ICRC delegates were unable to visit the soldiers captured by the rebel forces.

**CIVILIAN POPULATION.** – In the violence prevalent in El Salvador, the ICRC was constantly concerned about protecting the civilian population and this was emphasized in its information campaign. In co-operation with the El Salvador Red Cross, the ICRC several times evacuated a number of civilians from danger areas to safer regions.

### Assistance

The ICRC continued its relief action, consisting primarily of food, for the benefit of the displaced population. In October 1980, together with the El Salvador Red Cross, it had devised an aid programme for 45,000 persons caught in the areas of hostilities and it had begun its first distributions at the end of 1980 (see Annual Report 1980, p. 30). This action greatly increased in 1981. With the help of transport and personnel provided by the El Salvador Red Cross, the ICRC assisted persons displaced by the fighting. These were mainly peasant families forced to leave their homes and farmlands. This action was primarily concentrated in the fighting areas situated in the north, centre and east of the country, i.e. in the departments of Chalatenango, Cabanas, San Vicente, Cuscatlan, Usulután and Morazan.

Nevertheless, during the early part of the year, this assistance had to be temporarily stopped in certain regions of the departments of Morazan and Chalatenango where the military operations were too great a danger to the personnel and the convoys of the Red Cross. The ICRC had to limit its action to the "semi-fighting" areas, where there were some 21,000 displaced persons. It informed the authorities of this and requested them to take steps to meet the needs of the population in the areas closed by military operations.

As from the end of May, it was considered safe enough for the ICRC to venture again into some of those areas. In the north of Morazan about 25,000 displaced persons then received regular weekly aid from the ICRC. In July, at the time of the mission of the delegate-general for Latin America, the ICRC obtained permission to extend its relief action to the disputed areas previously inaccessible in the north of the department. On the other hand, as roads had been cut, many bridges destroyed and conditions were unsafe, the ICRC convoys were unable to reach the localities in north-east Chalatenango until December when, conditions of

transport and safety having somewhat improved, some relief action was possible to the locality of Las Vueltas.

Despite difficulties of transport and the danger which hindered the assistance activities throughout the year (even in the "semi-fighting" areas), the joint ICRC – El Salvador Red Cross operation covered 44 villages (including 25 in Morazan) where the displaced persons were concentrated. There were no fewer than 550 distributions, totalling 2,530 tons of food, either bought by the ICRC or donated by the WFP and the EEC (to a value of 2.9 million Swiss francs). The ICRC also provided some displaced persons with tents, blankets and clothings. The distributions were organized from San Miguel, where the ICRC had set up a permanent sub-delegation to cover the department of Morazan and the east of the country, and, from the capital, for the centre and the north.

In its concern to dispel any misinterpretation of its role or action in El Salvador, the ICRC emphasized that, in accordance with its basic principles of neutrality and impartiality, its humanitarian aid should be of benefit to all displaced civilians not taking part in the fighting, whatever their social origin, their political opinions or their location. The ICRC specified, moreover, that, in all its operations, one of its rules was to ensure, through the presence of its delegates in the field, that its assistance reached all those in need for whom it was intended.

### Medical assistance

The ICRC's medical activities were numerous and varied. In order to ensure better supervision, a medical delegate was assigned to the San Salvador delegation as from May.

Following on the mission, at the beginning of the year, of a doctor from Geneva, the ICRC set up a mobile medical team of locally recruited personnel to give medical attention to the displaced persons and inhabitants of the department of Morazan; five villages, i.e. some 11,000 persons were visited regularly. In addition, an El Salvador Red Cross medical team took part in actions carried out by the ICRC in the centre and north of the country.

In addition to the work of co-ordinating the medical teams, the ICRC medical delegate took part in visits to places of detention.

A blood-donating centre devised, financed and set up by the ICRC, was put into operation in San Salvador at the end of April, and officially inaugurated on 8 May, World Red Cross Day. This centre, which was administered by El Salvador Red Cross personnel, supplied blood free to the civilian hospitals.

The ICRC granted material and financial aid to the National Red Cross for its ambulance service and first-aid posts.

The total value of medicaments and medical equipment distributed by the ICRC amounted to 235,490 Swiss francs.

### Tracing Agency

Opened in July 1980, the San Salvador office of the Tracing Agency continued to register all the detainees visited by the ICRC, to keep up relations with their families and to trace persons presumed detained or missing. The number of cases to be handled considerably increased in 1981: the Agency received nearly 3,000 requests for enquiries or news and settled some 720 cases.

The Agency opened two offices in Santa Ana and San Miguel, in the west and east of the country, to enable the inhabitants to submit their requests without having to go as far as San Salvador.

### Nicaragua

The ICRC opened an office in Managua, under an agreement which was signed in November 1980 and came into force in February 1981. The ICRC's principal activities in Nicaragua were the protection of detainees and assistance to them and their families.

An information campaign on the Red Cross and a programme for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law were also undertaken. ICRC delegates gave several lectures on humanitarian law to those responsible for penitentiary administration, to prison personnel and in schools. In addition, the delegate to the armed forces went on mission to Nicaragua, in November, to lecture on the same subject to officers of the land, sea and air forces, general staff and military justice officers.

In February and July, the delegate-general for Latin America went to Nicaragua in order to survey ICRC activities, direct their future development and discuss with the authorities certain problems concerning protection.

In November, Dr. Athos Gallino, a member of the Committee, also visited Nicaragua with Dr. Russbach, head of the Medical Division, and the delegate-general. During these missions, they had talks with several senior officials of the Ministry of the Interior, the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the national penitentiary service (NPS), and with Mr. Rafael Cordova Rivas, a member of the governing Junta of National Reconstruction. They also kept up relations with the leaders of the National Red Cross.

### Protection

The ICRC's protective work extended to persons captured at the end of the hostilities which brought about the change of government in July 1979, and to those arrested later on suspicion of counter-revolutionary activities and detained in the same prisons, i.e. the places of detention controlled by the NPS.

The ICRC delegates visited, in accordance with standard procedures and at the rate of about one visit a month, the two main places of detention in Managua, i.e. the *Jorge Navarro* and *Héroes y Mártires de Nueva Guinea* "rehabilitation centres" where most of the prisoners of concern to the ICRC were held. The ICRC delegates also carried out regular visits to the *Comunidad Terapéutica Francisco Meza Rojas* in Managua, which houses detainees who are under age and undergoing social reinsertion, and, in the provinces, to the "rehabilitation centres" of *Orlando Betancourt* in Chinandega and *Ruth Rodríguez* in Granada. Moreover, shorter interim visits were paid to all these places for the distribution of aid and the treatment of special cases. The ICRC delegates also had access to detainees in various hospitals and to detainees who had been temporarily transferred from the two Managua prisons to agricultural concerns to help with the cotton harvest.

The ICRC endeavoured to extend its protective work as soon as possible to persons after their arrest, i.e. before their transfer to NPS places of detention. In July, at the time of the mission of the delegate-general for Latin America, the Deputy Minister of the Interior granted the ICRC permission to visit the temporary detention units controlled by the Sandinist police (some of these places had been visited at the beginning of 1980 before the process of grouping detainees had begun). The first visit to a police unit in Matagalpa took place at the beginning of October and was later repeated.

On the other hand, the ICRC was not allowed access to the interrogation centres controlled by State Security services. At the end of 1980, the ICRC had proposed to the Nicaraguan authorities, in a letter from President Hay to the Minister of the Interior, that detainees held by the security forces be visited two weeks after their arrest (see Annual Report 1980, p. 31). On 16 January, the ICRC was officially informed that the authorities could not comply with this request as the interrogation period should not, in principle, be longer than one week after the arrest. Despite the ICRC's repeated efforts, the Nicaraguan authorities maintained their decision, although they accepted that cases known to the ICRC of detainees held for interrogation for longer than a week be submitted to them.

The ICRC had access to some 3,650 detainees in Nicaragua in 1981. Confidential reports on the ICRC's visits were sent solely to the authorities as customary.

The ICRC continued to request the release of aged or sick detainees before the end of their sentences or that they be given the benefit of a commutation of penalty. In 1981, 45 detainees, the subject of special requests by the ICRC, were thus liberated.

## Relief

During the first three months of the year, the ICRC continued its action of supplying food to prisons, begun in 1979 but decreased after September 1980: during that period, it had provided 78.3 tons of food (rice, peas, powdered milk,

cheese) to the prisons visited. This collective food aid was stopped at the end of March to be replaced by a more individual type of relief, and as from April all the detainees visited received an individual parcel every month containing fruit and toiletries. Other forms of relief, such as clothing and articles for leisure use were also supplied to the prisons.

At the same time, the ICRC provided assistance to the needy families of detainees. No fewer than 700 families each received a monthly parcel of 16 kg of food.

In addition, the ICRC paid for the transport of detainees who had been released to enable them to return home and also for the transport of families wishing to visit their relatives in prison.

## Medical assistance

The medical assistance programme to prisons steadily continued throughout 1981. A medical delegate and a nurse took part in all the visits to places of detention, which enabled them to follow closely the medical and sanitary conditions and to recommend the transfer of sick detainees to hospital. They encouraged and shared in the training of medical assistants amongst the prison personnel and detainees. Medical and nursing personnel among the prisoners also shared in the running of the system of medical treatment set up by the authorities. The ICRC's medical delegates also gave courses in hygiene and basic medicine in the two main prisons in Managua.

The ICRC provided large supplies of medical equipment (including dental equipment) and medicaments, which amounted to 107,700 Swiss francs.

## Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency office in Managua regularly recorded details of the detainees visited, forwarded some 600 family messages between detainees and their relations and replied to families' requests for news.

## Other countries

### COSTA RICA

In July, the delegate-general for Latin America went on a short mission to Costa Rica, where he had talks with the leaders of the National Red Cross. He also took part in a work meeting with delegates of the regional office for Latin America of the League of Red Cross Societies, during which he gave an account of the ICRC's activities in Latin America



and of its programme for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

## GUATEMALA

While on mission to several Central American countries, the delegate-general for Latin America went to Guatemala, in July, to make contact again with the Guatemalan Red Cross; he had talks with its President, to whom he expressed the concern of the ICRC as regarded the fate of the victims of the events. He also reminded him that the ICRC was ready to undertake any necessary protective work, but there was no follow-up to this offer in 1981.

## HAITI

Following on the Haitian Government's public announcement, on 19 February, that it had given the ICRC permission to review the situation of its political detainees, the ICRC regional delegate, based in Bogota, went to Port-au-Prince, on 27 April, to establish with the authorities concerned the procedures for visiting the places of detention, according to the ICRC's standard procedure. He had talks with Mr. Edouard Francisque, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Edouard Berouet, Minister of the Interior and National Defence, and Mr. Rodrigue Casimir, Minister of Justice.

Once permission had been confirmed, the visits actually began on 29 April and continued until 6 May (previous visits in Haiti dated back to 1976). The ICRC delegate visited three places of detention holding a total of 710 detainees, including 52 for security reasons. The latter were all registered and interviewed without witness; in co-operation with the Haitian Red Cross, aid, in the form of toiletries and clothing, was distributed to them.

At the end of these visits, the regional delegate was received in audience by the President of the Republic, Mr. Jean-Claude Duvalier, who granted the ICRC permission to repeat this protective action.

During this mission, the ICRC regional delegate also had talks with the President and other leaders of the Haitian Red Cross, and visited its blood transfusion centre.

## HONDURAS

An ICRC delegate, based in San Salvador, twice went to Tegucigalpa, at the end of March and in June, to enquire of the Honduran authorities whether any Salvadorian citizens were being detained in Honduras and, if so, to arrange for the ICRC to visit them. In July the delegate-general for Latin America went to Honduras for the same purpose, and had talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of the Interior and of Justice. These measures did not succeed. Nor was the ICRC able to obtain information from the authorities confirming or denying the detention for security reasons of Salvadorian citizens or other persons.

## Andean countries

### Bolivia

Opened in La Paz after the *coup d'état* of July 1980, the ICRC delegation had been closed in the middle of December of the same year, as those detained due to the coup had been either liberated, placed under house arrest or expelled from the country.

At the beginning of 1981, following on new arrests, the Bolivian Red Cross found it impossible to reply to the numerous requests for news from families and asked the ICRC for help. The regional delegate for the Andean countries went to La Paz, on 17 February, to make contact again with the highest authorities and especially to enquire about the persons newly arrested. As the Government had renewed the authorization granted in 1980, the ICRC delegate was able, from 9 to 20 March, to carry out eleven visits to five places of detention, where about twenty detainees were held, and distribute aid to them.

The regional delegate for the Andean countries undertook another mission to Bolivia in July when the general situation there had again deteriorated and new arrests been made, most of them of trade union leaders. The ICRC was authorized to resume its protective work: several visits were made to two interrogation centres in La Paz, and to a hospital where a trade union leader, severely wounded at the time of his arrest and suffering from paraplegia, was being held. The ICRC intervened to enable this detainee to receive the necessary medical treatment and, with the consent of the Bolivian authorities, found him a country of asylum; the ICRC regional delegate and a Bolivian Red Cross doctor accompanied this patient to the United States where he was received into hospital.

All the detainees visited in Bolivia in 1981 were registered by the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

### Colombia

Visits to places of detention in Colombia had been stopped in July 1980, as the ICRC considered that its delegates based in Bogota were more urgently needed in El Salvador and Bolivia (see Report 1980, p. 29). In 1981, however, the ICRC continued to be concerned about the persons detained in Colombia for security reasons: in April it obtained permission from the Minister of Justice to resume its visits to the civilian prisons and from the Minister of Defence to visit detainees in places of detention controlled by the military authorities.

From the middle of May to the middle of July, the ICRC delegates visited newly arrested detainees in the Ipiales prison in the south of the country; they had access to two prisons and a barracks in Bucaramanga in the north-east and



*Red Cross relief convoy somewhere in Chalatenango Department (El Salvador)*

to the La Picota prison in Bogota. In all, the ICRC thus visited 215 security detainees. Aid was distributed during these visits and the detainees visited were registered by the Central Tracing Agency.

The ICRC also maintained contact with the Colombian Red Cross and delivered lectures on international humanitarian law.

The ICRC's activities in Colombia were again interrupted, in July, due to the situation in Bolivia. The regional delegation in Bogota was temporarily closed.

## **Countries of the Southern Cone**

### **Argentina**

The ICRC maintained its protection and assistance action for persons detained for security reasons. Its delegates had

regular talks with the Argentinian authorities, both before and after the change of government at the end of March, especially with the retiring Ministers of the Interior and of Justice, General Albano Harguindeguy and Dr. Rodriguez Varela, respectively, and with the new Minister of Justice, Dr. Amadeo Frugoli.

### **Protection**

The ICRC delegates, some of them doctors, visited, in 1981, eighteen places of detention and three hospitals where persons suspected of subversion and detained on security grounds were held, including the four main Argentinian prisons: "Villa Devoto" and "Caseros" in Buenos Aires, and "Rawson" and "La Plata" in the provinces, where most of the security detainees were being held. "Villa Devoto" was visited five times, and the three other prisons, three times. Due to subsequent releases from prison, the number of detainees visited by the ICRC dropped from about 1,700 at the beginning of the year to 1,067 at the end of 1981.

At the end of 1980, the ICRC had proposed to the Argentinian authorities that it should only carry out one complete visit a year to each place of detention, followed by shorter inspections when only some of the detainees would be interviewed without witnesses. This new type of visit started a year later, at the beginning of November 1981.

In May 1980, a new decree had been issued concerning the material conditions of detention of security detainees. As for the previous decree, the ICRC drew the attention of the Argentinian authorities several times to the unequal application of this new decree in different prisons, even suggesting, in its concern that all detainees everywhere might benefit from the same advantages, that certain clauses be altered. The Argentinian authorities, in the course of various discussions, assured the ICRC that they would study its proposals.

The ICRC also broached the question of the legal position of detainees with the authorities.

The ICRC continued to forward to the authorities requests for the release or transfer of detainees due to their state of health. Among the security detainees released in 1981 were several persons for whom the ICRC had submitted special requests.

No more missing persons were reported by families to the ICRC in 1981, and the ICRC did not receive any significant information concerning the some 2,300 missing persons it had reported to the Argentinian authorities in previous years.

## Relief

Owing to a reduction in the number of detainees, as a result of releases in 1981, and because other voluntary organizations had set up relief programmes for detainees and their families, the ICRC's work in this field decreased in 1981. The ICRC helped the most needy detainees, by putting small sums of money at their disposal for purchases in the prison canteens, and by providing them, when necessary, with special medicaments, spectacles, dentures, clothing, etc. The impoverished families of some 700 detainees each received a monthly parcel of food, donated by the Swiss Confederation and the EEC; these parcels were distributed with the help of Caritas or local sections of the Argentinian Red Cross.

## Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency office in Buenos Aires, which also covers Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, systematically registered the detainees visited, including information on them (transfers, releases); it kept up links between families and detainees, replying to requests for news and forwarding written or oral family messages.

## Chile

From the end of January to mid-February and in December, there were two missions to Chile to visit persons arrested for violating the law on the internal security of the State (those still detained after the 1978 releases or newly arrested). A doctor took part in the December visits. In all, in 1981, the ICRC delegates carried out fifteen visits to eleven places of detention holding 106 detainees in Santiago and the provinces. All the detainees visited were registered and the ICRC kept up contacts with the detainees' families.

In addition, the ICRC helped detainees, to whom it supplied food and, where necessary, medicaments and spectacles; it also financed dental treatment. It gave assistance also to 33 persons relegated to regions far from the capital, making possible either the visit of a member of the family, or the return journey of the person relegated once he had finished his sentence.

## Paraguay

The ICRC endeavoured to continue its protective work on behalf of all the security detainees in Paraguay.

In July, the regional delegate based in Buenos Aires had access, according to standard ICRC procedures, to three security detainees in the Tacumbu penitentiary and the "Buen Pastor" prison in Asuncion. He went also to the "Central de Policia", which was empty. He also visited ten persons who had been arrested in the Caaguazú region in March 1980 (see Annual Report 1980, p. 32). On the other hand, the ICRC delegate did not visit the security detainees imprisoned in the Tacumbu "Guardia de Seguridad", as he was not allowed interviews without witnesses. Approaches were made at once to Mr. Sabino Augusto Montanaro, Minister of the Interior, and to the Chief of Police. As the regional delegate did not succeed, the ICRC President sent a note, at the end of November, to the Head of State, requesting that the ICRC be authorized to carry out its protective work according to standard ICRC procedures, as in the past. At the end of the year, no reply had yet been received by the ICRC.

## Uruguay

In 1981, the ICRC continued the negotiations entered into with the Uruguayan authorities for the purpose of resuming its protective work for security detainees. The ICRC President wrote to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in February and in July. The regional delegate, based in Buenos Aires, visited Uruguay several times for talks with General Hugo



Medina, Army Chief of Staff. A draft agreement was submitted to the authorities in October, but, as certain of the ICRC's procedures had not been approved, more talks in Montevideo were scheduled for the beginning of 1982.

In addition, the ICRC was informed, in 1981, of the release of several detainees, for whom it had submitted special requests owing to their state of health, after visiting them in 1980.

**RELIEF AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED  
OR FORWARDED BY THE ICRC IN 1981 \***

*LATIN AMERICA*

Country	Beneficiaries	Relief		Medical Aid	Total (Sw.fr.)
		Tonnage	Value (Sw.fr..)	Value (Sw.fr.)	
Argentina . . . . .	Detainees and their families, National Society	87	897,390	—	897,390
Bahamas . . . . .	National Society	—	6,390	—	6,390
Bolivia . . . . .	Detainees and their families	0.1	2,980	—	2,980
Chile . . . . .	Detainees and their families	—	10,870	—	10,870
Colombia . . . . .	Civilian population, detainees, National Society	50.2	166,760	—	166,760
El Salvador . . . . .	Displaced civilian population, detainees, sick persons	3,447.4	6,086,800	235,490	6,322,290
Haiti . . . . .	Detainees and their families, National Society	0.1	4,950	—	4,950
Nicaragua . . . . .	Civilian population, detainees, sick persons	284.9	736,030	107,700	843,730
Paraguay . . . . .	Civilian population	10	84,200	—	84,200
Uruguay . . . . .	Civilian population	165	945,800	—	945,800
TOTAL		4,044.7	8,942,170	343,190	9,285,360

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