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The ICRC continued its action in Kampuchea, at the same time gradually readjusting its assistance programmes as the situation and the needs of the people evolved. It also carried out a major operation for Afghan refugees in Pakistan and displaced civilians in East Timor, and undertook protection actions in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. In addition, the fate of the "boat people", victims of piracy, continued to concern the ICRC and, in close collaboration with the UNHCR, it tried to ensure them greater safety.

In order to carry through all its tasks, the ICRC maintained its regional delegation in Kuala Lumpur, and its delegation and sub-delegations in Indonesia, Kampuchea, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam, with a total staff of approximately 150 people, of whom about 80 had been put at its disposal by a dozen National Red Cross Societies.

The total value of material assistance and medical aid supplied by the ICRC to Asia in 1981 amounted to 13.1 million Swiss francs (see Table p. 43).

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Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, was received at ICRC Headquarters on 6 May, while on an official visit to Geneva.

Conflict in Kampuchea

Taking into account the ICRC's mandate, the periodical surveys of the situation and the relief activities which could be undertaken by other voluntary organizations, the ICRC gradually readjusted the programmes and staffing of its activities in Kampuchea and along the frontier between Kampuchea and Thailand during 1981. As the emergency of 1980 was over, the joint ICRC-UNICEF food aid action came to an end on 31 December 1980. The ICRC subsequently concentrated on its traditional tasks: protection, tracing and medical assistance.

The scale of the ICRC's medical action gradually decreased as there was less need than in 1980 and other organizations had undertaken some medical activities. The ICRC's major relief operation which, in 1980, had required the co-operation of some 700 people (delegates, medical personnel placed at its disposal by National Societies and local helpers) in the Thai and Kampuchean delegations, was, therefore, substantially reduced. By the end of the year 240 people were still engaged in this action.

Missions

Various missions were organized to Kampuchea, Thailand and New York to deal with the problems of financing the ICRC's action and, due either to the emergency situation or to the insecurity of the assisted regions, to conduct periodical surveys of aid programmes.

In March, May and November, therefore, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of the Operations Department, visited the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Mr. Jean de Courten, delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, stayed in Thailand from 20 to 25 January where he met representatives of the General Staff, the National Security Council, the Foreign Ministry and the Thai Red Cross. The delegate-general and the Director of the Operations Department subsequently took part in the conference of ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) National Red Cross Societies held in Bangkok from 6 to 8 May. Mr. de Courten then continued to Phnom Penh where he met officials of the Foreign Affairs and Health Ministries.

In October, the delegate-general and Dr. Rémi Russbach, Chief Medical Officer, who had again been to the Thai frontier and to Kampuchea, met the Director of Operations in Bangkok to assess the ICRC's programme of action and to decide with the delegations concerned its aims for 1982.

Financing the action

The financing of the relief action for the Khmer peoples was the subject of a meeting of the organizations engaged in the operation (ICRC, UNICEF, UNHCR, FAO, WFP), on 8 January in Geneva, under the auspices of UNICEF. After reviewing the results of the meeting of donor countries held on 10 December 1980 in New York, these organizations decided to reduce the budget for their activities in Thailand and Kampuchea for 1981 from 200 to 180 million dollars. The ICRC fixed its own at 26 million dollars by limiting its interventions to emergency and protection activities. The donor countries met on three more occasions, on 6 March, 28 May and 25 November in New York. During their last meeting on 25 November, the ICRC presented its programme and budget amounting to about 13 million Swiss francs for the first half of 1982.

Many meetings and conferences were held periodically throughout the year to keep donor countries and organizations regularly informed about progress, difficulties and new developments in the operation.

As of 31 December, the ICRC had received cash contributions amounting to 37.4 million Swiss francs; expenses for

its aid programmes in Kampuchea and Thailand in 1981 amounted to 34.2 million Swiss francs, to which should be added the total amount of contributions in kind and in services.

Activities in Kampuchea

Medical assistance

Kampuchea's need for medical assistance in 1981 was still very great. However, especially during the latter half of the year, the situation no longer warranted emergency ICRC action. Consequently, the ICRC began to phase out its operations, but continued providing regular supplies of medicine and basic medical equipment throughout the year. It also maintained a minimum medical staff (a doctor and a nurse) and continued to fly in blood until the new blood bank in Phnom Penh was fully operational.

During the first few months of the year, four medical teams (26 persons in all, specializing in surgery, pediatrics and general medicine) continued to work in Kampuchea (five teams in 1980). These were successively withdrawn: first, the Soviet Red Cross team at the Takmao hospital, on 15 April; then that of the Hungarian Red Cross at Kompong Speu, on 25 May; the members of the Swedish Red Cross in Svay Riyeng, on 15 June; and the Polish Red Cross team in Kompong Cham, on 23 June.

Having been working in Kampuchea since the beginning of 1980 in association with the ICRC, these teams left behind them hospitals and dispensaries in working order which the local nursing personnel they had trained could operate. In addition, the ICRC sent a specialist in hygiene and public health who undertook technical work such as the repairing of sanitary installations, the water supply and the improvement of the waste disposal system.

In association with the Ministry of Health and the local Red Cross the ICRC kept up its supplies of medical equipment throughout the year. Medical aid amounting to 5,166,670 Swiss francs was provided in order to alleviate the most urgent needs in some 800 village health posts (*khums* health posts), 124 provincial centres (*sroks* dispensaries) and 13 provincial hospitals. The regular delivery of these medicaments and basic medical equipment as required helped to restore a medical infrastructure to the country.

Medical assistance to the three hospitals in Phnom Penh and to about ten provincial hospitals consisted in renovating buildings, restoring essential facilities (water supply, electricity, provision of beds, etc.), improving hygienic conditions, providing medical and surgical instruments and basic equipment. Thanks to the Japanese and Australian National Societies, the principal Kampuchean hospitals continued to receive regular supplies of blood in 1981. In fact, the Bangkok-Phnom Penh airlift delivered 200 blood cell packs every

week. This activity gradually decreased in volume after 25 August, when the new Phnom Penh blood bank was inaugurated. The delivery of blood by the ICRC finally stopped in November when, after certain initial difficulties, the Phnom Penh blood bank became operational.

Material assistance and logistic support

DELIVERY BY AIR. – During the year, 150 shuttle flights from Bangkok to Phnom Penh conveyed 744 tons of medicaments and miscellaneous relief materials, of which 192 tons were for other organizations, mainly UNICEF and the UNHCR. The value of aid thus delivered amounted to about 4.4 million Swiss francs, not including the operational expenses of the airlift and the supplies delivered for other organizations.

PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE TO ORPHANAGES. Following on the survey carried out in November by delegates to eight orphanages in the provinces of Pursat, Pray Veng and Svay Riyeng, a special programme of assistance was set up. Simple relief (bedding, kitchen and sanitary equipment, etc.) was handed over before the end of the year and the programme was scheduled to spread to a greater number of places in 1982.

Protection

A memorandum summarizing the ICRC's role as regards protection, and requesting permission to exercise its traditional activities such as visiting certain categories of prisoners (persons taken prisoner while in possession of arms, civilians arrested in connection with events, and foreign citizens having no diplomatic protection) was handed to the Phnom Penh authorities in January 1981. In May, and at the end of October, the delegate-general for Asia and Oceania again raised the question of protection with the authorities concerned. By the end of the year the ICRC was still awaiting a definite reply to its offer of services.

The presence of the ICRC in Phnom Penh helped make it easier to repatriate an Australian citizen, freed on 22 January, and taken to Bangkok on board an ICRC plane.

Tracing Agency

The ICRC delegation in Phnom Penh also dealt with problems relating to the traditional tasks of the Central Tracing Agency. One of the most urgent questions to be dealt with in 1981 concerned the work inside Kampuchea to locate the families of the unaccompanied minors housed in camps in Thailand (see also the chapter *Activities in Thailand*).

Approached on this subject in 1980, the Phnom Penh authorities notified the ICRC in September 1981 that they accepted the principle of this work. Two Kampuchean Red Cross teams were then given permission to comb the provinces in search of families, with technical advice from the ICRC.

During the year, the ICRC handed over to the Phnom Penh authorities 603 files concerning 733 unaccompanied children of whom it was trying to trace the parents; 72 families were reported to have been found, and questions connected with the ICRC's usual control of procedures for reuniting families were being studied by the authorities at the end of 1981.

Personnel

At the beginning of 1981, the ICRC staff numbered 34 persons including 21 members of medical teams placed at its disposal by National Red Cross Societies. After the departure of the medical teams and the gradual reduction in staff, the delegation numbered only six persons at the end of the year.

Activities in Thailand

While taking part in the National Society's assistance action on behalf of the Thai people affected by the events in Kampuchea, the ICRC continued its protection, research and assistance activities in 1981 for Khmer and Vietnamese victims along the frontier between Kampuchea and Thailand. In May and June, the ICRC's action was temporarily impeded by armed confrontations not far from the refugee camps, and by difficulties arising with the local and Thai authorities.

Medical assistance

The medical situation improved in the border region in 1981. However, although the general situation was no longer that of an emergency, it remained tense and unstable and justified keeping up the ICRC's medical action throughout the year.

Begun at the beginning of 1981, the gradual withdrawal of personnel continued and by the end of the year the staff consisted of two medical teams, one to the north and the other to the south of Aranyaprathet, and a surgical team assigned to the Khao-I-Dang hospital.

The co-ordination of activities carried on by the ICRC for 18 months, i.e. from the beginning of 1980, was handed over in July 1981 to the Border Medical Co-ordination Group, an

organization officially recognized by the Thai authorities, to which the ICRC, UNICEF and various other voluntary agencies belong.

NORTH OF ARANYAPRATHET, the ICRC's medical activities in the Ban Sa Ngae, Kok Tahan and Phnom Chat camps were concentrated on the training of paramedical personnel (courses in medicine, anatomy, public health, etc.). The ICRC team, consisting of a doctor, two nurses and a midwife, installed a pre- and post-natal unit in Kok Tahan and Phnom Chat. The medical team set up by the Italian Government carried out the same type of work in the Ban Sa Ngae region, the ICRC continuing to evacuate the sick and badly wounded to the Italian hospital in Ta Praya.

In Samet, medical assistance was provided by the American Rescue Committee team, the ICRC just contributing medicines and logistic support. In Nong Chan, between July and the beginning of December, the ICRC had to take over the camp's medical activities; by the end of the year, the *Médecins sans frontières* organization had again assumed this task which it had carried out during the first half of the year.

Throughout the whole year, from Samet and Nong Chan, the sick and wounded in need of hospital treatment were transferred to the hospital in Khao-I-Dang.

SOUTH OF ARANYAPRATHET, an ICRC medical team regularly visited the dispensaries in Taprik and Nong Pru; the worst cases were taken to Khao-I-Dang. In this region, where malaria works havoc, numerous cases had to be treated in Nong Pru and Taprik.

KHAO-I-DANG CAMP. – Already in 1980 the Khao-I-Dang hospital had been chosen as a rear base for the medical activities carried out along the frontier between Kampuchea and Thailand. It continued this rôle throughout 1981, giving priority to the treatment of the war wounded. In February, a fire laid waste the hospital, completely destroying the ICRC's surgical block. During the period of reconstruction, medical and surgical activities continued thanks to the co-operation of the Italian surgical team from Ta Praya.

The ICRC's Khao-I-Dang surgical team of 11 people, made available by National Societies, performed its activities in association with a team sent by the Japanese Government and a team from the Order of Malta.

Thanks to help from the Japanese, American, Australian and Dutch National Societies, the ICRC was able to deliver stocks of blood throughout the year, not only to the Khao-I-Dang and Ta Praya hospitals but also to that of the Thai Red Cross. The cost of this action was 301,500 Swiss francs.

IN ARANYAPRATHET, the ICRC's dispensary supplied medicine and medical equipment not only to the Khao-

I-Dang team, but also to the American Rescue Committee team in Samet and to the *Médecins sans frontières* team in Nong Cham. The total amount of this contribution was estimated at a million Swiss francs for the year.

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE. – The ICRC continued its traditional medicine programme, begun the previous year, until the end of July 1981. After that date, the French Order of Malta hospital charity organization took over this activity. In 1981, the rate of attendance at the three reception centres (Kamput, Sakeo and Khao-I-Dang) remained very high, the number of patients coming for consultations varying between 1,000 and 1,500 a month per centre. This medicine, used especially in the treatment of psychosomatic troubles, was applied with close collaboration between the camp refugee practitioners of traditional Khmer medicine (*krou khmers*) and the Western medical personnel in charge of supervising this action and supplying the essential basic products (medicinal plants).

Protection

The ICRC's protection work in Thailand consisted mainly in caring for Vietnamese citizens in a hostile environment and who, until June, were grouped together in the Prasak Sarokok camp (NW9) controlled by the Thai Army.

In June, the Thai Government forbade access to NW9 to new arrivals and the camp was definitely closed at the end of the first half of the year. Since being opened in April 1980, it had received a total of 5,362 refugees. During those 15 months, the delegates afforded them real protection by their constant presence in the camp. Food relief and medical aid were regularly provided by the ICRC. Throughout the year, the ICRC continued to make approaches to the Bangkok authorities with a view to the transfer of these refugees to camps situated further inside Thailand, to ensure them greater safety than on the border.

After the closing of NW9, the ICRC increased its interventions in order to solve as quickly as possible the problem of the Vietnamese refugees held up on the border. In December, the Thai authorities informed the ICRC of their decision to group together all civilian Vietnamese in the Samet camp. At the request of the Thai authorities, the material assistance needed for creating decent lodging conditions for these people was supplied by the ICRC, which emphasized yet again the provisional nature of such a solution, before the transfer of the refugees to a place of greater safety.

The new camp, essentially composed of tents, set up between 10 and 31 December and christened NW 82, was due to be inaugurated on 1 January 1982. As on the border, the ICRC, in association with other voluntary agencies, will provide water, food and medical aid for the refugees of NW 82.

ICRC delegates visited illegal immigrants in prisons at the military base of Aranyaprathet. Visits were also made to

prisons along the border controlled by Cambodians in Samet, Nong Chan and in the Phnom Chat camp.

Tracing Agency

The Tracing Agency in the Bangkok delegation carried out intensive work requiring a large staff. In association with the Tracing and Mailing Service of the Thai Red Cross, it had to deal with problems relating to the "boat people" (see chapter *Refugees in South-East Asia*), but the main part of its activities was concerned with the civilians arriving from Kampuchea by land (people in camps inside Thailand or on the border). Among these civilians, mainly Khmer, were a number of unaccompanied minors and Vietnamese refugees ("land people").

The services rendered to these categories of victims were the following:

- transmission of refugees' messages between the camps, the border and the countries of resettlement; this activity was first carried out by the ICRC, but then gradually taken over by other organizations, with the exception of certain categories of people (the Vietnamese "land people", for example);
- processing of data for the tracing of missing persons or the reuniting of families (Khmer or Vietnamese);
- handling tracing requests: 6,571 new files, containing nearly 24,000 names, were opened in 1981; 2,330 had been closed by the end of the year;
- unaccompanied minors: in addition to identifying these unaccompanied Khmer children, 603 detailed files concerning 733 children were prepared with a view to tracing activities in Kampuchea, with the help of the UNHCR and other voluntary agencies. Tracing was undertaken not only in the countries of resettlement, but also inside Kampuchea (see above);
- delivering documents, for example, 98 travel documents.

In addition to activities for the Khmer and Vietnamese victims, the ICRC Thai delegation, with the help of the Hanoi delegation, organized the repatriation, by way of Bangkok, of citizens of countries not having any diplomatic representation in Viet Nam: 901 people were thus able to reach Taiwan on six flights. (Cost of the operation: 131,100 Swiss francs)

Personnel

The total number of people, on 1 January 1981, in the ICRC delegation in Thailand (including members of National Societies and local helpers) was 432; by the end of the year, this figure had fallen to 234 employees at Bangkok, Aranyaprathet and Chantaburi. Of these 234, 178 were local helpers, 41 were ICRC personnel and 15 were specialists lent by National Societies (medical teams, administrators, etc.).

The Bangkok delegation continued to be the logistics base for the ICRC relief action in Kampuchea in 1981.

Other activities in Thailand

APPROACHES WITH A VIEW TO VISITING DETENTION CENTRES. – Besides its work arising out of the Kampuchea conflict, the ICRC made approaches to the authorities as from January 1981 with a view to obtaining access again to certain detention centres in Thailand. It had ceased this activity in 1979 owing to the emergency nature of its humanitarian action in the Kampuchea conflict.

The National Security Council, in its reply on 25 March, agreed in principle to the ICRC's resumption of these visits. After negotiations on procedures, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 3 September, handed over the Thai Government's agreement to the resumption of visits to security prisoners in the detention centres belonging to the Ministry of the Interior and in the rehabilitation centres under the control of ISOC (Internal Security Operations Command). ICRC delegates made their first visit to a detention centre in Bangkok at the end of October. These visits were due to be taken up again at the beginning of 1982, as certain forms of procedure still had to be settled with the penitentiary authorities.

Conflict in Afghanistan

Despite new approaches to the parties militarily involved in the Afghanistan conflict, the ICRC still found it impossible to carry out its protection and assistance mission in this country for the benefit of all the civilian and military victims.

On the other hand, the ICRC could continue its medical assistance action in Pakistan for the Afghan refugees.

The joint ICRC-League action for these refugees, carried out in association with the Pakistan Red Crescent, came to an end in March, i.e. a year and a month after it began. The two organizations continued their aid programmes independently. On 23 April, in order to maintain and develop its own activities, the ICRC launched an appeal to the international community for 4.8 million Swiss francs for the period 1 March 1981 to 28 February 1982. The delegate-general for Asia and Oceania twice went to Pakistan, in July and December, to assess the action for Afghan refugees and to take up the question of the protection of prisoners captured by Afghan opposition movements. He had talks with government officials for refugees, leaders of the National Red Crescent Society, representatives of the SAFRON (States and Frontier Regions Division), responsible for administration of the provinces in northwestern Pakistan, as well as with the Afghan opposition movements.

The ICRC delegation in Pakistan was moved from Islamabad to Peshawar because of the extent of the activities undertaken in and from that locality.

Protection

The ICRC maintained contact with the different parties to the Afghan conflict with the object of carrying out a protection action for the benefit of all the people captured during the fighting, i.e. in favour of prisoners held both in Afghanistan itself and by Afghan opposition movements. It proposed to all the parties involved that the prisoners be interned in a neutral country.

The ICRC approached the Afghan authorities several times, especially through their representative in Paris, to request permission to send a mission to Kabul and especially to visit people captured during the fighting and security prisoners. This offer of help, made on 9 January, was renewed on 23 October 1981 direct to President Babrak Karmal. The Afghan authorities replied in the negative, stating that the Geneva Conventions had no bearing on the situation in their country.

As in 1980, the ICRC also intervened with the Soviet Union, by reason of the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. Approaches were made to representatives of the Soviet Union in Geneva, Pakistan, and in Moscow itself, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the mission which Mrs. Bindschedler-Robert, member of the Committee, and the delegate-general for Europe made there in December (see the chapters *Europe* and *Principles and Law*). As to the ICRC's returning to Kabul, the Soviet Union replied, as it had in 1980, that the ICRC should take up this question directly with the Afghan Government. On the other hand, a dialogue was started on the subject of internment in a neutral country of Soviet prisoners captured by the Afghan rebels; a memorandum on this subject was handed to the Soviet Union on 31 March.

The ICRC finally took up the question of protection with the Afghan opposition movements, which it had reminded of the basic principles of international humanitarian law on many occasions. At the request of the Pakistan authorities, the ICRC visited on 14 February a Soviet prisoner captured by the rebels and held in Pakistan. He was handed over to the Soviet consular authority.

Medical assistance in Pakistan

In 1981, the ICRC's medical assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan was still considerable. It was divided into two main periods: assistance in refugee camps through mobile medical teams during the first half of the year; the undertaking of war surgery as from June, with the setting up of a hospital in Peshawar.

The three mobile medical teams, set up in 1980 and each comprising a doctor and two local male nurses, continued to visit regularly about ten refugee camps situated on the frontier between Pakistan and Afghanistan and comprising some 157,000 persons; one team covered North Waziristan from Miram Shah; the other two the Kurram region, from Peshawar. They carried out curative and preventive medicine. In

order to increase this medical action, particularly for the benefit of the most needy categories of the population (young children, pregnant women, nursing mothers, sufferers from tuberculosis), fixed dispensaries manned by male nurses recruited locally were installed in the camps and visited regularly after November 1980. These dispensaries were supplied with medicaments and medical equipment by the ICRC's mobile teams.

As from the middle of February, the ICRC assigned a fourth medical team to the Adisai camp, located not far from Peshawar, in which there were 8,000 refugees. Its task was to do a detailed study of the health of the refugees, to make its results available to the other camps and to give the other mobile teams further training. Those to benefit first from the medical centre installed in this camp were the women and children.

To co-ordinate medical action, the Pakistan authorities in charge of aid to the Afghan refugees subsequently decided to hand over the control of public health to government teams supervised by the UNHCR. The ICRC, therefore, withdrew its three mobile teams from Kurram and North Waziristan during June, only keeping on the one in the Adisai camp.

After receiving the agreement of the Pakistan authorities for a war surgery programme, the ICRC opened a surgical hospital in Peshawar on 15 June for civil and military Afghans victims of the fighting inside Afghanistan. Equipped with two operating theatres, an X-ray unit and a laboratory, the hospital gradually doubled in capacity (almost 120 beds by the end of the year); it also had a section for the treatment of out-patients. By 31 December, the Peshawar hospital had treated 900 patients (both in- and out-patients) and carried out 1,489 operations; two surgical teams worked there.

The ICRC also undertook the transport of the wounded from the frontier to Peshawar. Jointly with the Pakistan Red Crescent, it formed three first-aid teams, each comprising a doctor, a local male nurse and a driver, and each equipped with an ambulance. The function of these teams, based in Parachinar, Miram Shah and Dir, was to give first-aid to the wounded arriving from Afghanistan and to transport them to the hospitals in Peshawar. The ICRC was responsible for the salaries of these teams and for supplying them with medicine and medical equipment. The teams began work at the end of September.

In November, in order to complete the Peshawar hospital, the ICRC opened a workshop to make artificial limbs for the war amputees (more than 400 cases), from the simple means available on the spot. The ICRC also gave particular attention to the paraplegic cases (about 20) for whom it furnished a special unit in its hospital.

Throughout the year, the ICRC provided first-aid parcels and basic medicines to the various organizations helping the victims of the Afghan conflict. The ICRC's medical assistance amounted to a total of 1,366,310 Swiss francs.

Starting with one doctor at the beginning of the year, the ICRC's medical staff in Pakistan grew to 15 by the end of 1981. Part of this medical personnel was placed at the dis-

posal of the ICRC by the Red Cross Societies of the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, Finland and New Zealand. The development and reorientation of its medical activities made it necessary to organize, in addition to the delegate-general's missions, two missions by a doctor from headquarters, in March and September, and another by a rehabilitation specialist, from the end of July to the beginning of September.

Central Tracing Agency

The Central Tracing Agency forwarded a request for news, which it had received from the Soviet Union, to the Afghan Red Crescent, without obtaining a reply. It also forwarded a message from the Soviet prisoner visited in Pakistan (see above) to his family. It issued travel documents, mainly for Afghan citizens emigrating from Pakistan to permanent countries of asylum.

Refugees in South-East Asia

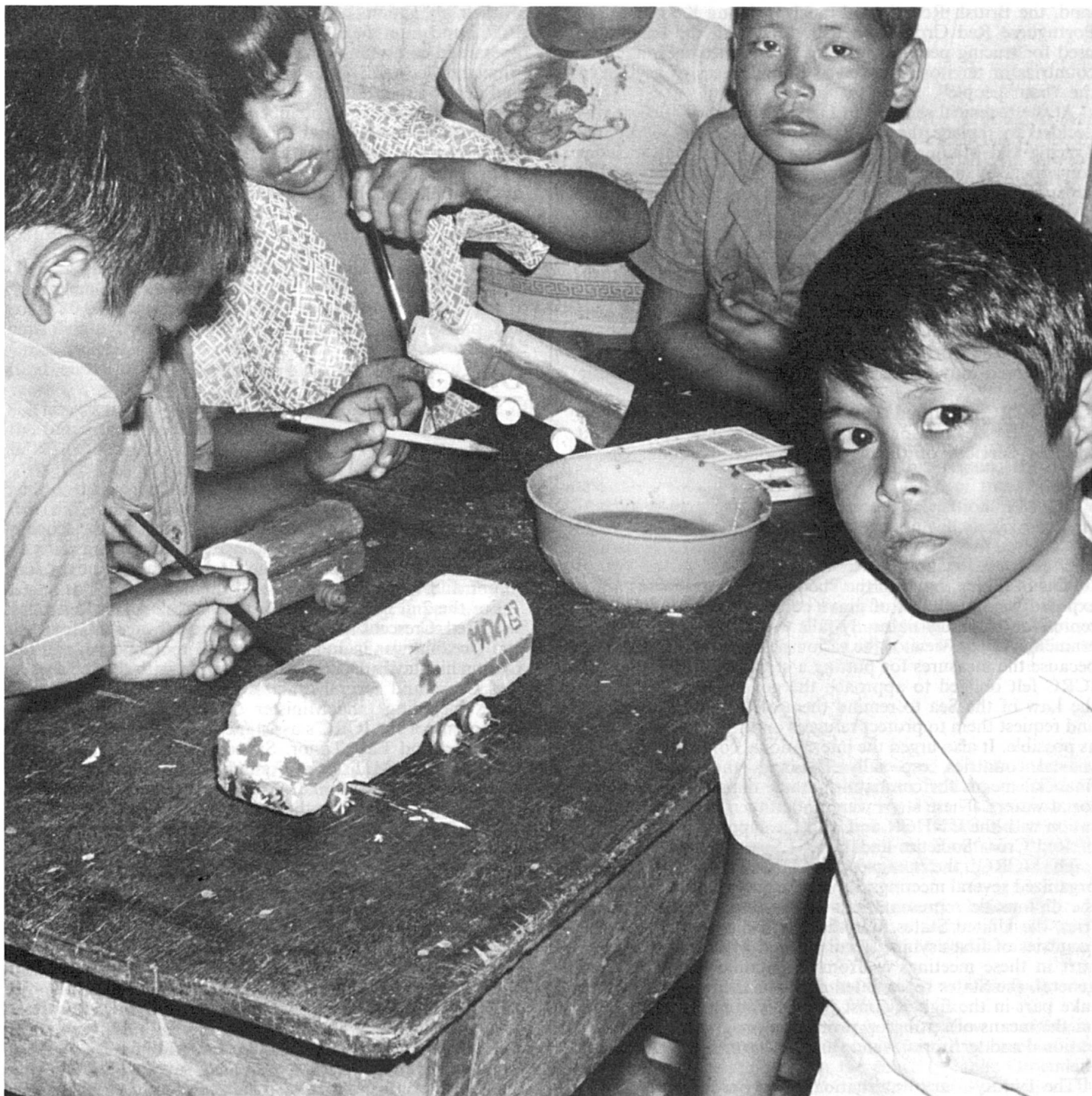
The ICRC continued its action for the "boat people" mainly through the Central Tracing Agency (CTA); this activity, begun in 1979, supplemented those of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations. In 1979, the ICRC and the League set up an "intervention group" for co-ordinating the actions of the International Red Cross (tracing people, assistance) for these refugees. On 10 and 11 January 1981, the group held its last meeting in Kuala Lumpur with the National Societies of the countries directly concerned with the problem of refugees of Vietnamese origin, mainly to examine budgets and plans of action; representatives of the UNHCR and the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) also took part. On 1 February, the joint intervention group was dissolved, but the League and the ICRC continued to maintain contact and exchange information on their respective refugee programmes.

The scourge of piracy which continued to take its frightful toll among the "boat people" was also of grave concern to the ICRC.

The problem of the refugees flocking to the frontier between Kampuchea and Thailand is dealt with in the chapter *Activities in Thailand*.

Central Tracing Agency

In 1979, the ICRC began training the National Societies of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thai-



Children in the Siem Reap orphanage (Kampuchea) recall Red Cross lorries in their area as they construct model trucks with materials provided by UNICEF

land, the British Red Cross branch in Hong Kong and the Portuguese Red Cross branch in Macao in the techniques used for tracing people and transmitting messages, as these countries or territories served as initial places of asylum to the "boat people".

At the technical seminar in Djakarta in April 1980, it was decided to replace the CTA advisers who had set up the Tracing and Mailing Services within the National Societies concerned by a single itinerant co-ordinator who would supervise the work of these Societies (see Annual Report 1980, p. 41). This co-ordinator took up his duties in July 1980 and remained at his post in Kuala Lumpur throughout 1981 to supervise the good-running of the Tracing and Mailing Services network which the ICRC continued to finance. During the last months of the year, the ICRC delegates in the countries of first asylum in South-East Asia took over this task.

In 1981, the work of transmitting messages decreased and was reserved only for new arrivals or certain other specific cases.

The ICRC organized a new technical seminar in Bangkok from 16 to 19 June for those in charge of the Tracing and Mailing Services of the afore-mentioned National Societies.

Piracy

Acts of piracy to which the "boat people" were constantly exposed were a subject of grave concern to the ICRC. The repression of piracy naturally falls within the scope of governments, but in view of the seriousness of the problem and because the measures for putting a stop to it had failed, the ICRC felt obliged to approach the governments bound by the Law of the Sea to remind them of their responsibilities and request them to protect refugees on the high seas as soon as possible. It also urged the international community to give coastal countries, especially Thailand, the technical and financial means for combating piracy, mainly in their territorial waters. These steps were undertaken in close collaboration with the UNHCR and with the support of the League of Red Cross Societies and UNICEF.

The ICRC, the League, the UNHCR and UNICEF organized several meetings during the latter half of 1981 with the diplomatic representatives of Western European countries, the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, etc. The countries of first asylum, Thailand and Malaysia, also took part in these meetings as from the middle of October. In general, the States represented declared themselves ready to take part in the fight against piracy. The meetings touched on the means of setting up protection programmes in international and territorial waters and on the means of financing them.

The Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference in Manila, in November 1981, gave its support to these steps by adopting a resolution reminding the States parties to the International Convention on the High Seas (Geneva, 1958)

of their obligations and inviting all States, the UNHCR, the ICRC and international governmental organizations to co-operate in combating piracy. At the beginning of December, Thailand declared itself ready to bring back into operation and develop in the Gulf of Siam its anti-piracy set-up which had ceased work in September after only six months; as a result, the UNHCR and the ICRC requested the governments which had taken part in the afore-mentioned meetings to provide the necessary funds for this programme assessed at 3.6 million dollars. By the end of the year, half this amount had been found. The ICRC was also kept informed of the work of the International Committee against Piracy (ICAP).

Other activities in the Far East

Indonesia and East Timor

The ICRC's activities in this region fall within the scope of the Kuala Lumpur regional delegation. In 1981, a delegate based in Djakarta was given charge of the action in East Timor and had regular access to the island.

For the 2nd Regional Conference of the Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the delegate-general for Asia and Oceania was in Indonesia from 3 to 12 February 1981. During his stay in Djakarta he conferred with the Indonesian Red Cross and several officials of the Indonesian Government, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the continuing of the ICRC's assistance and protection action in Indonesia and East Timor. Subsequently, on 28 February, the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary General of the National Society, on their way through Geneva, had talks with the President of the ICRC and the delegate-general; on this occasion, the ICRC's programme of action in East Timor for 1981 was presented.

Protection in Indonesia

After permission had been granted by the Indonesian authorities in 1980 (see Annual Report 1980, p. 41), five ICRC delegates, including a doctor and an interpreter, visited 26 detention centres on the islands of Sumatra, Java, Bali, Sulawesi (Celebes), Maluku and Kalimantan (Borneo), from 22 February to 23 April. They saw 347 civilian prisoners, including 319 convicted and 28 awaiting trial after the attempted *coup d'état* of 30 September 1965. In 1970, 1974-75, 1977-78 and 1979, the ICRC had visited this category of detainees (previously known as G30S/PKI).

Relief (soap, blankets, mosquito-nets, books, spectacles) purchased by the delegates in each of these localities, was given directly to the detainees on these visits. These purchases amounted to 27,000 Swiss francs.

Activities in East Timor

MEDICAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. – The joint ICRC-Indonesian Red Cross assistance action for displaced civilians ended on 15 April, after 18 months, when a marked improvement was evident in the food supply and health of some 80,000 people in fifteen villages. However, in order to consolidate these results, the ICRC and Indonesian Red Cross decided, at the beginning of May, to continue a limited food and medical assistance action until the end of the year.

These activities were undertaken by voluntary helpers of the Indonesian Red Cross with the technical support of the ICRC, a delegate regularly visiting the villages concerned.

At the end of the joint ICRC-Indonesian Red Cross action, there was still 453 tons of food available, stocked in five different villages. Part of these stocks (maize, milk powder, sugar, salt) made it possible to create emergency reserves in nine other villages covered by the joint programme, thus bringing the total number of stores on the island to fourteen. Medical assistance was undertaken by the Indonesian Red Cross with male nurses staying permanently in the assisted villages and receiving visits at least twice a month from doctors from the National Society. The ICRC supplied the Indonesian Red Cross with medical aid amounting to 83,760 Swiss francs for this activity.

PROTECTION AND TRACING ACTIVITIES. – Following approaches by the ICRC, the authorities agreed in principle to visits being carried out by delegates in the detention centres of East Timor. Consequently, a mission was undertaken, at the beginning of November, to define procedures in agreement with the local authorities. At the end of 1981, it was agreed that the visits would take place early in 1982.

The Indonesian Red Cross, with the technical support of the ICRC, set up a structure for the tracing of persons whose families were without news of them and for the transmission of messages. In addition, the ICRC reunited three families in Portugal by flying six people there from East Timor. At the request of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ICRC took measures to repatriate 75 Cape Verde citizens still in East Timor. The Cape Verde authorities having agreed, the repatriation operation, spread over three months, began on 29 December, with a group of eight people.

The expenses of this action were assumed by the UNHCR, the ICRC handling its technical aspects.

Malaysia

Protection

In October, two regional delegates for South-East Asia based in Kuala Lumpur, accompanied by an ICRC doctor, visited two detention centres in Batu Gajah and Kamunting. These two centres contained 390 prisoners arrested under the Internal Security Act. In order to be able to visit all prisoners in this category, steps were also taken to obtain permission to visit police stations. The Malaysian authorities agreed to these visits, due to take place at the beginning of 1982.

Philippines

In 1981, the ICRC's activities in the Philippines were carried out from the regional delegation in Kuala Lumpur. In order to facilitate its work in this region, the ICRC decided, with the agreement in principle of the Philippine Government, to open a new regional delegation in Manila as from January 1982. The new delegation will also cover Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

During the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference, held in Manila, in November (see p. 71), the President of the ICRC had the opportunity of taking up various questions relating to the ICRC's activities in the Philippines, especially as regards detention, with the Philippine Minister of Defence.

Protection

As a result of its approaches at the end of 1980, the ICRC obtained permission to visit detainees held by the Military Security Units. It was also authorized to visit civilian prisons. Consequently, on 5 March, an ICRC delegate and doctor visited 18 prisoners at the Fort Bonifacio Prison in Manila. This visit was due to be repeated at the beginning of 1982.

From 5 May to 11 July, four delegates, including a doctor, divided into two teams, undertook a series of visits to 34 places of detention where they saw 824 detainees and convicted prisoners.

The material relief distributed to the detainees visited during the year amounted to 11,340 Swiss francs.

The ICRC also took measures with a view to obtaining notification of arrests, transfers, trials and releases of persons detained for disturbing the peace ("Public Order Violators"). Following repeated requests by the President of the ICRC during his stay in Manila, the ICRC received the agreement of the Minister of Defence at the beginning of December.

Assistance

ICRC delegates undertook several on-the-spot missions to assess and adapt to needs the assistance being provided in conjunction with the Philippine Red Cross to civilians displaced by the troubles mainly affecting the regions of Mindanao and Samar. Since 1976, the ICRC has annually given foods supplies from the EEC and money for the purchase of medicaments, in order to support the National Society's action for displaced civilians throughout the country. In 1981, relief supplied by the EEC amounted to 2.4 million Swiss francs.

Medical supplies for a total value of 40,000 Swiss francs were sent in December to local branches of the Philippine Red Cross in Mindanao and Samar.

Viet Nam

A mission led by the ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania stayed in Viet Nam from 12 to 18 May where it met various government and National Society officials to discuss, among other things, the ICRC's assistance programmes for civilians affected by the Sino-Vietnamese conflict (see Annual Report 1979, p. 38).

The ICRC's activities in connection with the Kampuchea conflict were outlined on this occasion and special attention was given to the unaccompanied children whom the ICRC wished to reunite with their parents as soon as possible.

Protection

On account of the persisting tension on the Sino-Vietnamese frontier, the delegate-general offered the ICRC's services for protection and tracing activities.

A similar approach was made to the Chinese Permanent Mission in Geneva, on 29 May, to which the ICRC offered its services with a view to obtaining notification of captures and to visiting prisoners of war.

Repatriation of foreign residents

The ICRC has been concerned since 1975 with the repatriation of citizens without diplomatic representation in Viet Nam. Between September 1976 and December 1981, 4,592 persons of Chinese descent were repatriated to Taiwan under the auspices of the ICRC.

In 1981, 901 persons made the trip in six flights.

Continuing INDSEC assistance

Although the "Indo-China Bureau" ("Indo-China Secretariat" or INDSEC), jointly operated from 1975 to 1978 by the ICRC and the League for relief to victims of the Indo-China conflict, was dissolved in 1978, an ICRC-League coordinating group continued various relief actions up to 1980 to conclude the INDSEC programme.

However, some of the projects decided upon in 1980 and included in a new ICRC assistance programme for 1980-81, had not been completed by the end of 1981, e.g. the enlargement of the hospital at Rach Gia. These programmes were due for re-examination with the Vietnamese Red Cross at the beginning of 1982.

In 1981, the following relief was sent:

- chemical and pharmaceutical products necessary for the making of medicines (970,000 Swiss francs);
- construction materials for the enlargement of the hospital at Rach Gia (170,000 Swiss francs);
- parts for X-ray equipment in the Tu Du hospital in Ho-Chi-Minh-City (140,000 Swiss francs).

The supply of first-aid kits and equipment for a first-aid centre at Ho-Chi-Minh-City was re-examined with the National Society of the German Federal Republic at the end of 1981.

Food and medical aid

As in 1979 and 1980, the ICRC continued to supply relief for the displaced persons in the six northern provinces particularly affected by the Sino-Vietnamese conflict.

In 1981, the ICRC sent 1,000 tons of rice to Viet Nam, a gift from the Swiss Confederation.

In addition, medicine, dressings and surgical instruments, amounting to 296,750 Swiss francs were supplied to the Vietnamese Red Cross.

Other countries

During a mission to **Japan**, from 26 to 28 January, the delegate-general for Asia and Oceania had talks with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Red Cross about the ICRC's activities in Asia and their financing.

While staying in the **Republic of Korea**, from 29 January to 2 February, at the invitation of the National Red Cross, the delegate-general met the Prime Minister, the Minister of National Unification, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and

leaders of the Red Cross of the Republic of Korea, with whom he reviewed all the ICRC's activities and the humanitarian problems of general interest.

On 28 June, the delegate-general undertook a new mission to the **People's Democratic Republic of Korea**, in reply to the invitation from the National Society. The mission consisted mainly in making contact with the Red Cross and the government authorities; the previous ICRC mission to Pyongyang being as long ago as 1959. Apart from leaders of the National Society, the delegate-general met the Deputy Prime Minister and the Director of the Department of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with whom he talked about the problem of dispersed Korean families, many of them separated since the Second World War.

In the **People's Republic of China**, where the delegate-general stayed from 7 to 13 July, talks with the Chinese Red Cross and government authorities concerned the ICRC's protection activities due to the persisting tension on the Sino-Vietnamese frontier.

In addition, the ICRC regional delegate based in Kuala Lumpur went on a three-week mission to Australia in January and February. After stopping in Melbourne, with the Australian Red Cross, he went to **New Zealand** and **Fiji**, where he visited the National Red Cross Societies and had talks with their representatives about certain problems of common interest, such as the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law within the armed forces.

In the kingdom of **Tonga**, the regional delegate had talks with local Red Cross leaders (a former branch of the British Red Cross) on its recognition by the ICRC. It was recognized in October 1981 (see p. 76).

After the Conference in Manila, President Hay went to Australia (15-20 November) and New Zealand (20-24 November), at the invitation of the Red Cross Societies of these countries, where he had talks with government authorities and leaders of the National Red Cross Societies and took part, in Wellington (New Zealand), in a seminar on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law (see also chapter *Principles and Law*).

RELIEF AND MEDICAL AID SUPPLIED OR FORWARDED BY THE ICRC IN 1981 *

ASIA

Country	Beneficiary	Relief		Medical aid	Total (Sw.fr.)
		Tonnage	Value (Sw.fr.)	Value (Sw.fr.)	
Indonesia	Detainees	—	18,130	12,150	30,280
Kampuchea	Displaced civilians and sick persons	195.—	985,250	5,166,670	6,151,920
Pakistan	Refugees and sick persons	—	—	1,366,310	1,366,310
Philippines	Displaced civilians, detainees and National Society	1,250.—	2,477,130	40,000	2,517,130
Thailand	Refugees and sick persons	347.9	281,100	1,470,980	1,752,080
East-Timor**	Displaced civilians and sick persons	—	—	83,760	83,760
Viet Nam	Displaced civilians and National Society	1,000.—	955,000	296,750	1,251,750
TOTAL		2,792.9	4,716,610	8,436,620	13,153,230

* Including food aid donated by the EEC and the Swiss Confederation, aid to detainees and their families and aid supplied in the course of specially financed actions.

** Non-medical aid supplied from stocks made in 1980 (i.e. 621.3 tons).