



# RED CROSS RED CRESCENT

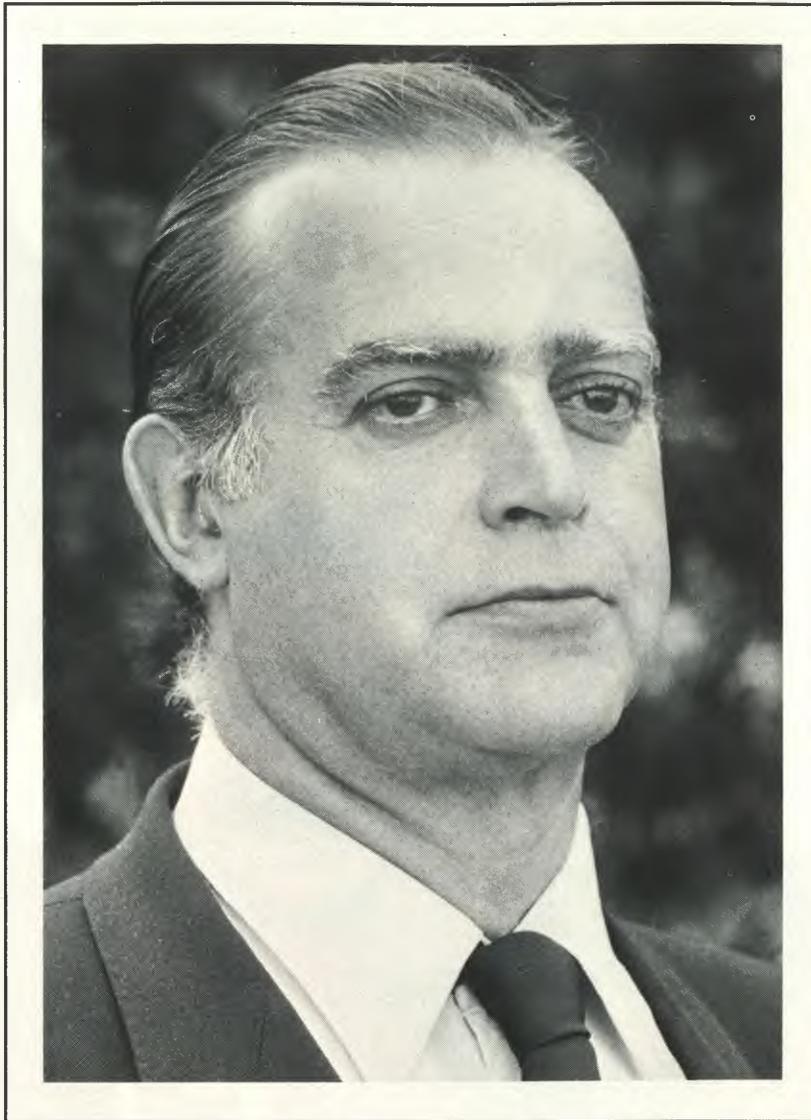
THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1987

3 Sfr.

**BRASIL  
BRAZIL  
BRÉSIL**



# **Don Enrique de la Mata Gorostizaga**



**20 September 1933 - 6 September 1987**

*Requiescat in Pacem*

# +C RED CROSS RED CRESCENT

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES  
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*The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies* is the international federation of national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the others being the International Committee of the Red Cross and the national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The League's function is to contribute to the development of the humanitarian activities of National Societies, to co-ordinate their relief operations for victims of natural disasters, to care for refugees outside areas of conflict and, in so doing, to promote peace in the world.

**SALVADOREAN RED CROSS**, League and ICRC work together in one of the most effective examples of well-balanced cooperation in the Red Cross world. Civil conflict, natural disaster and social needs provide a powerful scenario for a new film on the Movement at work. Ann STINGLE of the **AMERICAN RED CROSS** reports. **Page 4**



**ENRIQUE DE LA MATA**, President of the League, died suddenly in Rome on September 6. President of the **SPANISH RED CROSS** from 1967 to 1969 and from 1978 to 1985, Mr. de la Mata was elected President of the League in Manila in 1981. He was re-elected in Geneva in 1985 to a second four-year term which was to have run until the General Assembly in 1989. Tributes from the Chairman of the Standing Commission, the President of the ICRC, the Vice-Presidents of the League and other colleagues. **Pages 10-12**

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**COVER PICTURE** by John ASH. Young volunteers of the northern Brazilian port city of Belém. The *filial* (chapter) of Pará, the state of which Belém is the capital, has some of the most active and exuberant members of the 48,000-strong volunteer force of the **BRAZILIAN RED CROSS**. Volunteer recruitment, it seems, has no age limits here!

**SPECIAL REPORT: MOZAMBIQUE.** Independent for 12 years, Mozambique has suffered from continual internal conflict and natural disasters like drought. The **RED CROSS OF MOZAMBIQUE** is a Society still in formation, but, as George REID reports, it provides, with help from the League and the ICRC, a spark of humanity in what are otherwise often brutal and desperate conditions. **Page 13**



**SPECIAL REPORT: MALAWI.** In his second Report, George REID looks at the work of the **MALAWI RED CROSS** who, with help from the League, are coping with more than a quarter of a million Mozambicans who have fled across the common border. **Page 20**

**COVER STORY: FACES OF BRAZIL.** A PHOTO REPORT in seven colour pages on the Society that is the host in November of the League's General Assembly and other Statutory Meetings in Rio de Janeiro. Under the leadership of President Mavy HARMON, who is also a member of the Standing Commission, the **BRAZILIAN RED CROSS** has grown enormously in recent years. But the vast scale of the country, and its colossal economic and social problems, face the Red Cross with challenges that are only beginning to be met. **Page 23**



**INSIDE REAR COVER: 125th Anniversary Logo** design by Jacques WANDFLUH of the ICRC, with the theme for 1988 "125 Years at Work... And Still Developing". The theme for 1989, with the same logo, will be "125 Years At Work... Protecting Human Life".

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**PRINTED BY** ROTO-SADAG, Graphic Arts  
Division of the Tribune de Genève S.A.

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## THE MOVEMENT

### EL SALVADOR

In June an American Red Cross film crew arrived in El Salvador. Their objective: to make a film on the work of the International Red Cross that would help to educate the paid and volunteer staff of nearly 3,000 Chapters, and their publics, on the three components of the Movement and the Principles which unite them in their humanitarian mission. Why El Salvador?

**Ann STINGLE** accompanied the team from Washington and brought back her answer in a diary of a week in Central America, with photographs by American Red Cross photographer **Daniel CIMA**.

### El Salvador Has It All!

In the shocked aftermath of the earthquake that devastated the capital, San Salvador, on 10 October 1986, Salvadorean Red Cross *soccoristas* (relief workers) were out in minutes, digging through the rubble to recover people and bodies. Their greatest triumph was at the totally demolished children's hospital, where, miraculously, everyone was saved. Triage (assigning degrees of urgency to the treatment of victims), staging areas and First Aid posts were established quickly by *soccoristas* throughout the city to help the scores of injured. And the ICRC and the League contributed their resources in support of the Salvadoreans.

That was the earthquake. Daily routine, you might think, would be different. Unfortunately, in El Salvador "routine" has come to include a war. Moreover, the economic conditions of the country render it one of the poorest in Latin America. The challenges are formidable. Yet after one hectic week of filming, we were all convinced that, when it comes to the Red Cross, El Salvador does indeed have it all!



All three elements of the Movement are found here: the National Society, the League and the ICRC. What our film crew discovered when we arrived was that all three represent the Movement at its best. The Red Cross in El Salvador is integrated into a well-running machine, with all parts working independently but in synchronized harmony with each other.

What makes all this work so well is the Salvadorean Red Cross. Under the quiet leadership of its President, Teófilo Siman (*below*), the National Society walks a balanced line between the pressure of



El Salvador's political factions in order to be able to lend the support the Salvadorean people so desperately need.

#### Monday, June 22

The day, and the film assignment, begin at the warehouses across the street from the Salvadorean Red Cross (SRC) in San Salvador.

Mounds of neatly sorted bags of rice, beans, and corn, boxes of sugar and oil, are stacked on either side. Volunteers, visibly proud of their Red Cross T-shirts, sort the beans, rice and corn into family parcels and load them onto a truck. The food has been donated by the European Economic Community (EEC) to be distributed through the League to earthquake victims. Logistical support is the joint effort of the SRC and the League, and managing the distribution is René Carillo of the American Red Cross, who is Head of the League Delegation. The loading is accomplished quickly and efficiently, and we are off to our first distribution in a program that has helped well over half a million people since October last year.

The distribution site in the city suburbs is known as "La Divina Providencia", a sprawling collection of shanties, built from cardboard, scraps of wood and metal, and plastic sheeting. There is one water spigot for some 150 families and women balance pink and blue

water containers on their heads going to and from the community water supply. Open sewage drains snake between shanty clusters. It is something less than "divine".

When the trucks pull up, the Salvadorean Red Cross supervisor takes a loudspeaker among the shanties to announce the arrival of the food. Each community gets one distribution to supplement its diet. The women gather quietly with small children, and wait for their names to be called. Other, more curious children form a spontaneous line to one side when Richard Chisolm, our cinematographer, offers them the chance to look at their world through his camera.

It is not quite the world of our children. Even toys are noticeably missing in El Salvador, but on a ridge we see the silhouette of a boy coaxing his home-made kite into the air.

In the afternoon there is another distribution. This one is sponsored by the Salvadorean Red Cross women's group and is focused on assistance to the elderly. A line of old people wait expectantly. From their faces, it is obvious that life has not been easy, and their gnarled feet tell just how terribly hard that life has been.

### Tuesday, June 23

Today is taken up by an ICRC food distribution in the tiny town of Jutiapa, north-east of San Salvador. The fighting in the countryside has made this village a ghost town, but as the conflict moved into other areas, the people started to migrate back to their homes. The ICRC program is geared toward helping the villagers re-establish their lives and become self-sufficient again.

Fred Grimm, the ICRC delegate, takes the film crew to a field of waist-high corn which is the result of an earlier ICRC seed distribution. The ICRC's aim is that supplemental food distributions will eventually become unnecessary as the people are able to harvest once again.

In the village a spent cartridge of ammunition is lying in the street. A child glances at it briefly, without curiosity, and walks on. For the children here, it is nothing out of the ordinary.

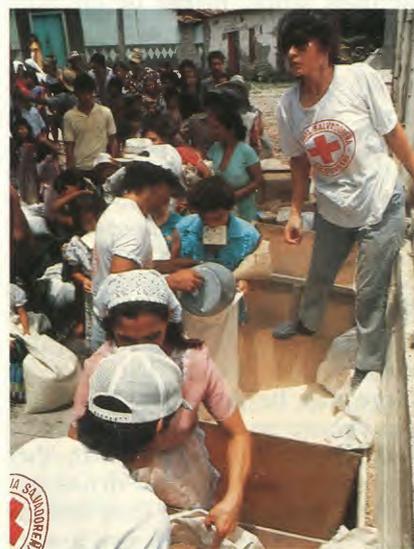
### Wednesday, June 24

The clinic at the Salvadorean Red Cross is the scene of 24-hour activity. The small medical staff sees between 200 and 250 people per day. They perform minor surgery and First Aid as well as vaccinations and immunizations. Many of the people come here as a result of street violence. We see them tending a woman with a painful gunshot wound in her hand.

The afternoon is a happier occasion: the delivery of Friendship Boxes from U.S. schoolchildren to the children of El Salvador. They are distributed by the Salvadorean Red Cross and the League. The

boxes contain soap, paper, pencil, a toy - things that other children take for granted. (See "Oh no! Not more vaccinations?à", page 8).

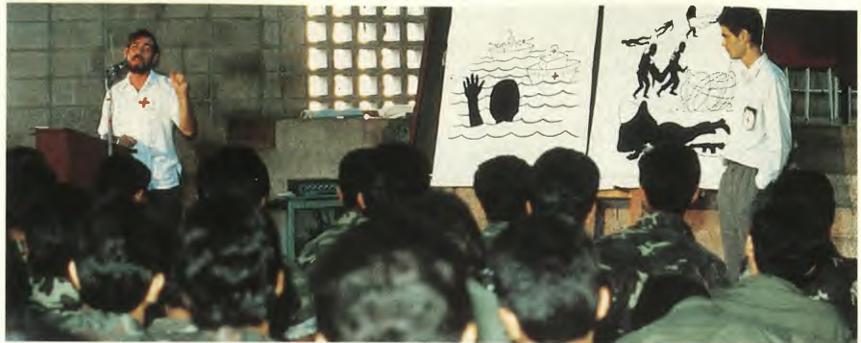
The last stop of the day takes the crew to another community displaced by the earthquake. Here League Chief Delegate René Carillo meets with one of the community representatives to review blueprints of a construction project for 300 new houses. The money has come from other Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Salvadorean Red Cross will provide the manpower. Soon people will have real walls instead of cardboard and plastic bags.



#### Thursday, June 25

Today, there is a training class on the Law of War at the National Police Battalion Headquarters at Suchitoto. The Red Cross constitutes the major portion of the morning's agenda. Of the 7,000 national police in this area, 5,390 have attended a seminar like this one. There are 132 present today.

The presentation is one more example of team work between the different elements of the Red Cross Movement in El Salvador. André Pozzi, the ICRC Delegate, is accompanied by Ernesto Ferreiro Rusconi, Director of Public Relations and Dissemination of the Salvadorean Red Cross. Each participates in the lecture and reinforces the other. It makes an effective combination: one speaking from the international "Swiss" perspective, the other bringing it home to the audience as "one of their own".



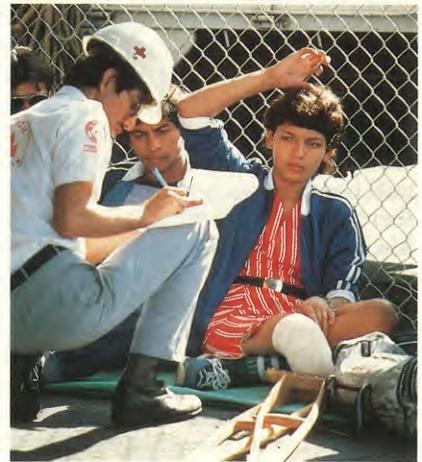
#### Friday, June 26

The National Police prison in San Salvador is an imposing structure: almost palatial in the main hall, but toward the rear are the cells which look like you would expect them to look. ICRC visits here are an important part of Red Cross life in El Salvador, and more than 1,950 detainees have been seen.

One of the prisoners being visited today has been selected by the National Police to participate in the film. Ralf Koschmann, the ICRC Delegate, makes his confidential visit with the prisoner, then it is reenacted for the camera. Other prisoners gather to watch through barbed wire across the courtyard.

The prisoner, a young man about 25 years old, is from a village many miles from San Salvador. He was picked up three days ago for questioning when he came to town to buy maize. As soon as his visit with the ICRC is over, he will be free to go. As he leaves, he walks timidly, staying very close to the ICRC delegate, much like a child stays close to a big brother.

Friday night brings another experience: following the *soccoristas* on their ambulance duties. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, Salvadorean Red Cross *soccoristas* operate the primary emergency ambulance service for El Salvador.



They are skilled and proud – proud of their work, proud of the Red Cross emblem they wear.

The calls that come in seem commonplace for San Salvador: a stabbing, a hit-and-run. A woman in labor. The most dramatic, however, is the call that was not received. On the way to help a woman about to give birth, the ambulance is stopped at a roadblock. A man is lying in the street, dead, the victim of a hit-and-run driver. The ambulance crew investigate. After a brief discussion they decide that since no more can be done for him, they must move on to those who can be helped. A call is made for another ambulance and the crew drives off, leaving the man in the dark and the rain. Heartless? No, just a very

practical matter of triage in its simplest form.

#### Saturday, June 27

A trip to the beach is among the most popular ways to beat the Salvadorean heat. On weekends, not only are the beaches crowded, but also the highways leading to them. Bus accidents are commonplace, so Red Cross *soccoristas* are constantly on the alert.

Like many National Societies, the Salvadorean Red Cross runs a Life-Guard program. On a normally busy weekend at any public beach, volunteers may perform between 40 and 80 rescues a day. We do not get to shoot a real rescue, but the volunteers on duty willingly re-enact a life-saving situation.

## Sunday, June 28

Today is the culmination of many weeks of planning and effort for the ICRC. Through the terms negotiated between the Salvadorean Government and the Faribundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) by the Catholic Archdiocese in San Salvador, hostilities have ceased for a period of hours late Saturday and early Sunday. Government troops have pulled back to allow the FMLN to bring their wounded to nine locations where they are picked up by the ICRC.

The 98 wounded, *los lisiados*, are then to be taken to an airport staging area and evacuated out of the country. All this in clear compliance with humanitarian principles. It is the perfect scenario for the film's ending.

Local Red Cross personnel work with ICRC delegates, assisting amputees, lifting patients out of wheelchairs, guiding the blind and distributing food and clothing for the trip. And again it is the Red Cross team work that makes the operation run smoothly.

It is a tired but enthusiastic film team that has to return to American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington. No matter what our past experience has been, El Salvador will forever be a large part of our concept of the Movement in action. Now comes *our* most difficult challenge of all: to choose what must remain on the cutting room floor.

Ann STINGLE

*The American Red Cross documentary on the work of the Movement in El Salvador will be available at the end of 1987. The film, which will run about 20 minutes, is directed by Craig Reinertson, with cinematography by Richard Chisolm and sound by Phil Judkins.*

### VIVA LA CRUZ ROJA!

**RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT** appears for the first time in Spanish in November 1987. This Spanish edition has been made possible through the generous support of the American Red Cross.

## ICRC in El Salvador

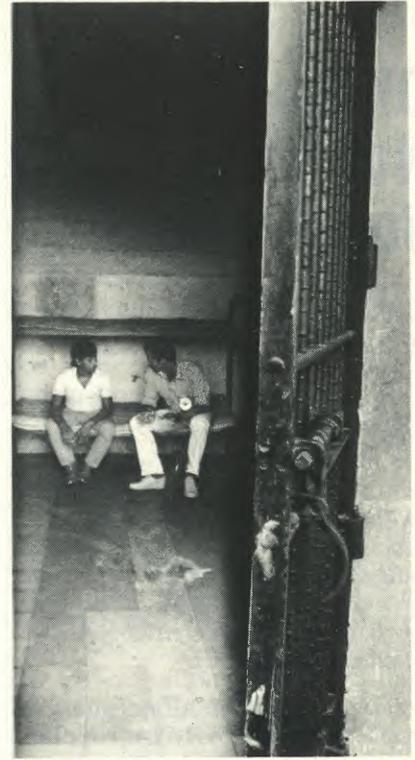
The ICRC has been in El Salvador since 1979, with a permanent delegation open since 1980. Delegates make regular visits to government detention centres in all 14 provinces.

Last year 2,800 visits were made to more than 270 places of detention. Delegates also have access to people detained by the opposition FMLN, and over the years the ICRC has been instrumental in the release of prisoners by both sides.

6 Tracing Agency offices handle thousands of requests for news of people reported missing, register new detainees and displaced people, transmit family messages and help reunite families.

Other assistance includes supplementary food aid, seed and fertilizer distribution help to farmers, and medical and dental services.

With the National Society, the ICRC also carries out dissemination to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law, Red Cross Principles and its own activities.



## After the Earthquake

League action for the victims of last year's earthquake which struck San Salvador has been divided into three phases. The first, emergency phase, involved search and rescue, medical aid and help with international tracing requests.

The second phase, which ended in July, dealt with rehabilitation: feeding, temporary shelter, and the distribution of relief supplies including kitchen sets, blankets, clothing and school supplies.

The third phase is reconstruction. In August a ground-breaking ceremony took place on the site of Santa Catalina school, where 42 children died when their building collapsed. The school is being rebuilt through the generosity of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic.

Housing is included in this phase, with up to 400 new units planned on several sites. Agreements for a site for the first 43 houses were finalised in October. The housing projects are being organised in collaboration with Save the Children Fund (El Salvador), and involve families forming cooperatives which can receive bank loans to purchase land. With both professional and self-help labour, the Red Cross will build the houses which are supplied free of charge. Families then pay in land mortgage charges what they used to pay for rent, and after a number of years will become owners of their own homes.

National Societies of Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and USA are contributing to this project. Artisan training is also built in, to allow the community to sell the work of some of its members if they are unable to meet mortgage payments.

Bilateral programmes in El Salvador include help to the Salvadorean Red Cross Clinic from the German (FRG) and the Swiss Red Cross, with assistance to the Blood Transfusion Centre and, in the longer term, to local Branch building and development, from the Nordic group of National Societies.

Further information on the activities and recent history of the National Society can be found in "*From Disaster Relief to Development: The Experience of the Salvadorean Red Cross*" by Dr. Adela C. de Allwood, SRC Director of Medical Services, which appears in the **Development Studies** series of the **Henry Dunant Institute**.

## EL SALVADOR

# Oh No! Not More Vaccinations?

### *A Pleasant Surprise In San Salvador*

*The earthquake of 10th October 1986 severely damaged many schools in San Salvador which have still not been repaired. The children continue to receive lessons in makeshift, overcrowded classrooms built of wood and metal sheets. In the most deprived zones of the city, few have even an exercise book and a pencil of their own.*

*League Relief Administration Delegate **Pedro GARCIA** from the Spanish Red Cross in Pamplona, helped his Salvadorean colleagues with a number of distributions of gifts from National Societies in the USA, Austria and Hungary to the children of El Salvador. As he reports here, the young beneficiaries were not at first always sure of what was going on.*

**I** was lucky enough to see how Salvadorean Red Cross Youth distributed school supplies donated by the Hungarian Red Cross to the pupils of 1st to 6th grades in a number of primary schools.

It didn't take words to realise what the children felt. Their faces expressed it all. When the Youth volunteers entered the school precincts with large Red Cross packages, the children showed surprise and fear and alarm. It was as if they expected the boxes to contain syringes for more vaccinations.

We could see they were silently holding their breath. Who could the packages be for? Even when they had the parcels from the boxes in their hands, they held them tightly, fearful of opening them, unable to believe they were really gifts at all. Their eyes got bigger and bigger, wanting to believe it was true.

Gradually the tension faded, and when they looked to see what the bags contained – school materials, drawing and writing books, coloured pens and pencils – their nervousness changed to joy and happiness. In an enormous uproar they showed each other what they all had.

Following these school distributions, the Salvadorean Red Cross received many calls from parents' associations to thank them. Distributions of relief supplies, even those destined for children, are usually made to adults. By distributing school supplies directly to the children, we have seen 1,249 very happy faces. So, on behalf the children of San Salvador, GRACIAS to the Hungarian Red Cross!

Pedro Ma GARCIA DEVORA

Baltazar de J.VENTURO/Salvadorian Red Cross



## PHILIPPINES

# Mutiny In Manila

*It was a show that Filipinos usually get to watch and enjoy on their TV and movie screens. All the stock ingredients were there: high-powered guns, soldiers in full combat gear, firefights, victors and subdued villains. But this time it was for real, a 20-hour drama where soldiers were locked in combat with their comrades-in-arms. And the Red Cross was there to help the victims.*

*Philippine National Red Cross PR Director **Eddie ANGCO** reports from Manila.*

**E**arly dawn on August 28. The airwaves were alive with the news of the day, and shivers went down many a spine. Another coup attempt by renegade soldiers was taking place in Manila and its environs, and this one seemed the most serious yet.

At his home in a Quezon City suburb of Metro Manila, John Galindez, a Red Cross volunteer First Aider, was listening intently to the radio. Minutes later he was brought to his feet by the staccato of gunfire and a loud explosion nearby.

His first impulse was to respond immediately to the emergency, as he had done before in the four previous aborted coups that have rocked the country since a new President was installed in February 1986. By 2 o'clock he was already at the Quezon City Red Cross Chapter. But the team he was supposed to join had left for Channel Four, a government-run television station in Quezon City which was already under siege. He set off to join them.

The first casualty Galindez and his team of five tried to help was Robert MacDonald, a 26-year-old freelance reporter from New Zealand, working for the Melbourne-based monthly magazine Pacific Defense Reporter. A bullet had



Courtesy PNRC

pierced his head. The Red Cross team got him to a nearby hospital, but he died on arrival, the first and only foreign fatality the mutiny would provoke.

The news was becoming more alarming. Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, General Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, was being occupied by a force of mutineers some 700 strong. Villamor Air Base, Headquarters of the Philippine Air Force in another Manila suburb, and Camp Olivas in Central Luzon, on the main northern island of the Philippines, had fallen.

The Regional Unified Command VII in Cebu, capital of the Visayas region in the centre of the archipelago, and only an hour's flight south from Manila, had defected. Between Cebu and Manila, the airport of Legaspi City in the Bicol Peninsula was now under the control of rebel soldiers. Tension gripped the country.

Before daybreak, Dr. Alex Jauregui, Director for Safety Services, was at his post at National Society headquarters in Manila, monitoring the worsening situation. "We must send reinforcements of First Aiders," he told his staff after checking by phone that all five Metro Manila Chapters were now in the thick of the action.

Dr. Jauregui was faced with the full implementation of the Red Cross emergency plan of action. Based on this plan, each of the metropolitan Chapters had specific areas to cover. It had been tried several times in the past and had worked. In Metro Manila. It needed to work again this time, on a much wider scale, and it needed to work with almost military precision.

By 10 a.m. 30 ambulance-riding Red Cross First Aiders were deployed strategically in the critical areas. Red Cross Social Workers had already started to make the rounds of the city's hospitals, checking on the condition of the wounded, and notifying their next-of-kin.

The biggest problem was communications. Even at the best of times, the Society lacks the basic facilities. But by noon, in a meeting of emergency coordinators at headquarters, the good news came. Two volunteer communications groups were offering their facilities and services, and they were soon put to work.

In the early afternoon government troopers mounted an assault in a tactical move to recapture Villamor Air Base and then Camp Aguinaldo. Gun battles broke out at two occupied television stations,

Channels Four and Thirteen, and at a private hotel where some mutineers had encamped.

When the smoke of battle died down in the early evening, with this latest coup finally aborted too, the Red Cross had listed 55 dead and 208 wounded. Most of the casualties were civilians who had been caught in the crossfire.

Meanwhile in seven city hospitals, the cry for blood went out. The National Blood Center in Manila was ready with enough reserves in anticipation of the urgent need. The Red Cross issued 161 units of blood, 97 of which were donated by the Ayala Corporation which managed to organise a mass blood donation among its employees at the height of the mutiny.

"Ayala is always generous to the cause of the Red cross, whether giving blood or raising funds," said Dr. Celso Samson, Director of the Red Cross Blood Program. The locally-based ICRC Delegation for



Courtesy PNRC

East Asia also came to the victims' aid, delivering dressings for wounds, dextrose, saline drips and other supplies to the hospitals that were treating the wounded.

After 20 hours, order had been restored, and the country had survived another critical moment in its fragile recent history. The Red Cross, too, had been put to the test again. It was held in high respect by the combatants on both sides, and its loyalty to the victims was not found wanting.

Edilberto H. ANGCO

## In Memoriam

# Don Enrique de la Mata Gorostizaga 1933-1987

***President of the League of Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies, 1981-1987***



**From the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross**

The International Committee of the Red Cross associates itself from the depths of its heart with the sorrow caused by the sudden death of Enrique de la Mata.

First, as President of the Committee, I would address myself to my colleagues of the League to demonstrate to them how much this sudden demise has pained and affected me; the more since, on the eve of his disappearance, I was at their President's side to participate in the twelfth "Round Table" at San Remo, during which we reinforced ties of friendship which had been born at the very beginning of my term of office.

Then, myself the father of six children, I would address a specially poignant thought to Doña Maria de la Mata and her seven children, with all of whom I share their great grief. May God help them surmount this ordeal, who in truth expected no more than to see their father return home once again after another long Red Cross mission.

This leads us to recall that what justly characterised Enrique de la Mata was the intensity of his commitment to this cause that is ours.

If some differences of approach were sometimes inevitable between our two institutions, they should in no way tarnish the homage we render today to the dedication of the late President of the League, a dedication which impelled him tirelessly to travel the whole world. Only now are we aware of the real price.

Let this death, so sudden and so cruel for us all, be an occasion to meditate on the fragility of our existence. Let it be an invitation to us to remain united

within our Movement, in all circumstances. It is an unceasing need in these troubled times. Is this not the best way of all to honour the memory of Don Enrique?

**Cornelio SOMMARUGA**

**From the Chairman of the Standing Commission and President of the Jordan National Red Crescent.**

Enrique de la Mata was a man who rendered long, devoted, efficient and courageous service to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and to all those who volunteered to the noble service of our humanitarian organisation. His experience gave him a much more convincing impression of the nobility of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. His personal story is rich and I would choose from the great mass of his activities the memories of his experience since his election as President of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the problems he met during the last seven years of his life.

In accordance with the nature of his task as President, he was the first to visit most of the National Societies. He felt that he should do that to encourage the morale of the National Societies, and in supporting them to contribute of the cause of our Movement and to bring them more to work as a united family. Because of this noble thought, he was resisted by some, but he continued his success. He was a great and intelligent reader. He was a democratic man in discussing everything deeply and thoroughly. He was a very efficient and capable chairman. He was also passionately devoted to his family. He was sincere, loyal, and a good believer. He was the President.

**Dr. Ahmad ABU-GOURA**

**From the President of the Swiss Red Cross and acting President of the League.**

The whole Red Cross and Red Crescent world has been profoundly shocked and dismayed by the dramatic and premature death of Enrique de la Mata Gorostizaga. This great President of the League had never ceased, since his triumphant election in Manila in 1981, tirelessly to travel the world, to be present wherever tragic events unfurled, wherever, in their distress, people had need of him, in the Third World as in the great international fora where he made the voice of solidarity heard.

His permanent concern was the vitality of our institution. Yet we should recall that, even before beginning his career at the head of the League, he devoted himself ceaselessly to the health and well-being of the people of his own country as well as the world, as parliamentarian, minister, then as his nation's representative at ILO and WHO.

As President of the League, his major preoccupation was the destiny of the least privileged National Societies, for he extolled the participation of all. His sense of diplomacy, his qualities as an orator, his purely human qualities, his warmth in communication, all made of him an attractive and popular man.

Ours is a great loss, yet we should not forget how great is this loss for his wife and his seven children, on whom were imposed many sacrifices for the benefit of our institution. May our sympathies be of some aid to them in their deep affliction. To them we transmit the gratitude we retain in respect of he whose life has given a human face to our motto "Per humanitatem ad pacem"—through humanitarian action towards peace.

**Kurt BOLLIGER**

**From the President of the Italian Red Cross Women's Committee and Vice-President of the League.**

I looked upon Enrique de la Mata as a great friend and a great leader. His unexpected death makes me realize that he was always an example to all of us. His inexhaustible energy, his extraordinary ability to interpret problems and find ways of overcoming them, and his outstandingly humane qualities, are not easily imitated.

He died by my side on Sunday evening, 6 September, in Rome. Together we had attended the closing ceremony of the World Athletic Championships, allowing ourselves a very short break between working engagements. The day before we had taken part in the Humanitarian Law meeting in San Remo, and the day before that Enrique had been in New York to meet the Secretary of the United Nations.

When I recently described his character to an Italian newspaper I called him "the globetrotter for peace" - he was always flying from one end of the world to the other in the service of peace, to brief himself on the difficulties of all the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, congratulate them on their progress, make suggestions and propose ways out of deadlock.

He was always in the front-line, or indeed in the thick of the fray, as in the tragic drought in the Sahel, when he went to Africa dozens of times to find out what was happening, to co-ordinate and to bring help. It was then that we became friends, while I was touring the continent with the Ship of Peace and he was there in his duties as President of the League. A month later he was confirmed again in his post of League President and I was elected a Vice-President.

I deplore his death and I wonder what is happening and what will happen to our Movement. I am sure no-one will be able to replace him; all we can do is appoint his successor.

**Mariapia FANFANI**

**From the President of the Senegalese Red Cross and Vice-President of the League.**

The bereavement that has struck the International Red Cross with the death of Enrique de la Mata in Rome is especially felt in Senegal and at the Senegalese Red Cross of which he was a great friend.

His whole life was dedicated to the service of the oppressed, and for our federation he was one of its most active Presidents. We owe a number of wide-

ranging actions to his dynamism and his desire to come to the aid of the oppressed and the victims of natural disasters. Among these, we should cite the major relief operation to the victims of the drought, where the Sahelian countries were the great beneficiaries.

He was a distinguished friend of Senegal, which he visited several times, taking part in all the great events that have marked the life of the Senegalese Red Cross. Decorated in 1985 by the Head of State, H.E. President Abdou Diouf, Enrique de la Mata takes with him the great esteem of the Senegalese people and their National Society, and their wish that the soil of Madrid lie lightly on him.

**Mme SIGA SEYE Coulibaly**

**From the Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Cross and Vice-President of the League.**

Twenty-seven months ago, after visiting the cyclone-ravaged coastal areas of Bangladesh, Enrique said "I have seen the innocent faces of many children today: but I feel very sad, because I may not see them again. The next cyclone will surely kill them." Those children are a little older now and alive. But Enrique, as predicated by himself, will not see them ever again.

Enrique, with his accented English, declared in an after-dinner speech during his last visit to Bangladesh barely six months ago, "Bangladesh is my second home and I would like to come back here again and again; what I like most about Bangladesh is its people... too many people." The people of Bangladesh, whom he loved so much, learnt with deep shock the suddenness in which Enrique was gone.

Enrique de la Mata, a man of grace, poise and personality, was probably the most known President our federation ever had. A ceaseless traveller, he was obsessed with the keen desire to keep personal contact with the National Societies in order to help them develop.

A spokesman for both the developing and the developed Societies, a genuine friend both to black and white and an advocate of the principle of non-discrimination, Enrique had, during almost six years in office, earned the confidence and respect of all. A rare feat for a President of an organisation as varied and diversified as ours. In his untimely death, the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement has undoubtedly lost a dedicated humanist, a friend of the distressed and an upholder of the Fundamental Principles.

**Major-General Abdul JABBAR (Rtd)**

**From the President of the Venezuelan Red Cross and Vice-President of the League.**

The memory and presence of men whose life has been spent in service, creative work and dedication to humanity transcend time and space. Their achievements live on.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement will always remember with affection, admiration and gratitude the late President of the League, our friend and outstanding leader Enrique de la Mata.

It fell to us to work closely with him, and we shall continue to work with the same faith and enthusiasm, keeping before us his example and spirit of commitment.

Both in his public and private life he invariably showed exceptional, vigorous and creative intelligence, and above all his extraordinary humanity in the affection and friendship he held out to us.

As leader of the Red Cross and Red Crescent he represented the organisation, but even more completely each and every one of the National Societies that make up our federation.

The development and growing influence of the Movement's regional activities are due to him. His leadership framed modern criteria for our management, decentralising and delegating responsibilities, especially to the Vice-Presidents, for more effective regional activities in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation. We Vice-Presidents took an active part together with him in many a meeting called to defend the cause of peace.

Don Enrique de la Mata, my esteemed friend, was a constant defender of the Fundamental Principles of our Movement. The world of his era was marked by conflict and war, and he was well aware that the Red Cross and Red Crescent were front-line proponents of peace and international humanitarian law.

Thus he has blazed a trail for us to follow. He has left us a responsibility that we must discharge to the fullest. We are ready to do so.

A Venezuelan poet has said: "Mourn the death of the way ahead, rather than mourn the death of the traveller". We have lost an international leader, a fellow worker and a friend; but he has left us a way ahead that can lead to great possibilities and achievements for the benefit of our organisation and all the peoples of the world.

**Mario VILLARROEL LANDER**

## In Memoriam

### From the International Services Adviser to the Canadian Red Cross and Vice-President of the League.

In the six years of Enrique de la Mata's presidency, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies grew from 128 to 145 member Societies. Under his leadership it also became a more universal organisation, reflecting a better balance of the regions which make up our international federation.

It was a process of change which sometimes led to strains. But the President's vision of a more democratic federation, with proper participation in decision-making for all its members, was always sufficient to guide the Movement through any temporary difficulties.

Enrique de la Mata was the most widely travelled of all the League's Presidents. He once said that he "seemed to live on airplanes". But his constant visits to National Societies, and to field operations, were a major factor in helping all members to feel part of our universal family.

His presidency, sadly, has been cut short when he was in his prime. On behalf of all of us in North America, I express our deep sympathy – especially to his wife and children.

One of his last published messages talked of our Rio de Janeiro meetings in November. Enrique de la Mata urged the Movement to show "a vigorous effort and a genuine will to cooperate". Let us make that his permanent epitaph.

Darrell D. JONES

### From the Secretary General of the General Secretariat of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies.

It was with great pain and sorrow that I received the sad news about the death in Rome of our beloved President, Enrique de la Mata, when he was only 53 years old.

Enrique de la Mata was an active propagator of human values and peace and was an ardent caller for the unity of our federation. Above all he was a strong supporter of the developing National Societies. He would call on every occasion for their development in all fields. His noble stance on so many occasions will not be forgotten as long as our Movement exists.

We express our grief and sorrow at losing one of our great men, and we do hope that his successor will follow in the same humanitarian footsteps as the late Enrique de la Mata.

Abdul Ghani ASHI

### From the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR and Vice-President of the League.

The last time I saw Enrique de la Mata was at the Seventh IPPNW Congress in Moscow in May 1987. I remember the last words of his statement at the opening session: "Yes, yes, yes – to peace, progress and humanity. No, no, no – to war, fear and inequality!" That was his statement and position. For us that was also his last will.

He had to say many "Yes's" and many "No's" during his presidency. Sometimes they seemed to be contradictory, sometimes they really were. But he has never contradicted the cornerstone of our Movement – the Fundamental Principle of Humanity. He was leading the League through periods of success and failures but always towards its major goal – peace and humanity. That brought him our universal respect and made him a great leader of our Movement.

Every family has its own problems. Ours is no exception. But as every normal family, we have always managed to consolidate and cope with them in times of distress and emergency, in times of disaster.

This is just such a moment. A moment of shock and despair. But it is also the moment for solidarity. We are all united in our deep human sorrow. And we must be united to implement our global humanitarian mission. That will be the best "In Memoriam" of all for Enrique de la Mata.

Dmitry VENEDIKTOV

### From the Treasurer General of the League.

Having known Enrique de la Mata for over 20 years, I always felt he was a man of great action and integrity.

His ideas on Peace were the strongest sentiments which he had, and in this area he has left a permanent stamp both on the presidency and the Movement.

In the six years of his first and second mandates, Enrique de la Mata visited a great number of National Societies – seeking out their reactions to problems and constantly endeavouring to build a consensus.

His creation of extra-statutory meetings of the League's Vice-Presidents and Treasurer General marked an important turning point in our affairs – a shift towards a collegial as distinct from a purely personal presidency.

His death, at an early age, is a great loss not just to the League but to the whole Movement.

Al Mehdi BENNOUNA

### From the Secretary General of the Libyan Red Crescent and Vice-President of the League

Enrique de la Mata has gone to Heaven, to join those eminent men and women who have dedicated their lives to serve mankind and alleviate the sufferings of the needy, the deprived and the victims in all corners of the world. He is gone to rest.

I have known him closely since 1980. He was more than a President of our federation. He was a friend. I knew his keen interest in serving the Movement, his sincere motivation, his vision for the evolution of the federation, nationally and internationally, to fulfill its humanitarian mandate with strength, dignity and respect; his vision of a federation in which all member Societies should enjoy equal status.

Naturally, people dealing with international issues face differing national cultures, interests and varying ways and means to formulate conclusions that meet a consensus. I admire our late President for his vast experience, his firmness and courage. He succeeded in presenting the issues at hand in acceptable, workable form. He will always be remembered as a Red Cross and Red Crescent believer and worker.

My great sympathy to his beloved family, and my support for the loss of a father and an international figure at the same time. May merciful God bless his soul and help us to overcome our grief. May He enlighten our way forward, and strengthen our solidarity to serve the Movement in the best way possible, thus manifesting the wishes of our late President.

Dr. Ahmad Abdallah EL SHERIF

### From the Secretary General of the League

On September 15, International Day of Peace, barely a week after Enrique de la Mata so unexpectedly died, I was in New York with Mrs. Fanfani to receive a special "Peace Messenger" certificate from the United Nations on behalf of the League.

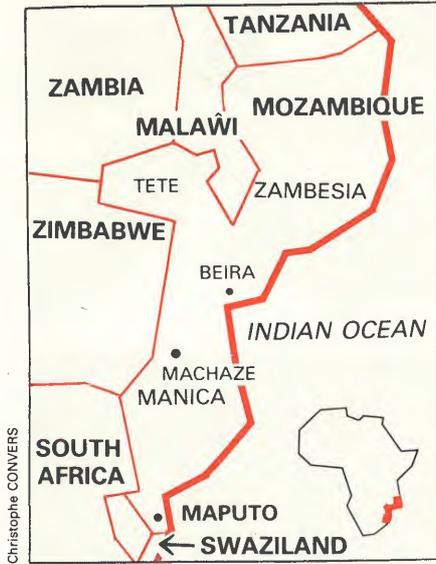
A number of institutions, including the Australian Red Cross, were granted this award for their work during the International Year of Peace last year. It was, coincidentally, also a tribute to the late President, for more than anything his vision was of the Movement as a force for Peace.

Next year we celebrate a special anniversary with the slogan "125 years at work... and still developing". That development owes much to the energies and passion of President Enrique de la Mata. It is a process he would wish never to end.

Hans HØEGH

# SPECIAL REPORT

## MOZAMBIQUE



Since Independence in 1975, the 15 million citizens of Mozambique have constantly suffered the twin calamities of internal conflict and drought.

Around 500,000 people have had to flee the country, and 1987 has been marked by a series of sickening atrocities. In some areas, it has not rained for more than a year and the people are living on roots and berries from the forest.

The Red Cross of Mozambique, which is still in formation, tries to bring some care and compassion into a complex and difficult situation – backed by increasing assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League, and a number of National Societies on a bilateral basis.

**George REID** reports from the capital, Maputo.

# A Spark of Humanity



They killed José Campos Antonio, Provincial Secretary of the Red Cross in Inhambane, when he was only a few kilometres from the safety of the town. Lying in wait at the cashew nut factory, they riddled his car with automatic fire and set it alight. His pleas that he was a father of twelve didn't save him. Nor the fact that he was returning from a relief mission in a clearly marked Red Cross vehicle.

The symbol didn't save Joaquim Reinosse either, who had volunteered to take food to starving families at Chikualakuala in Gaza Province. He too was ambushed, shot and mutilated, despite his Red Cross armband.

And they didn't spare Paulino Fanheiro, even though they had just massacred nine people at Inharrime. They knew their brutalities would bring Red Cross relief workers to the scene. So they lay in wait, waived down his little truck, removed the few pathetic sacks of beans and maize, and shot him...dead.

The internal troubles of Mozambique are vicious and brutal, often it seems without any redeeming spark of humanity. In large parts of the country "they" flit backwards and forwards, disappearing into the bush and committing their atrocities at will. In July 420 were slaughtered at Homoine. In August 98 at Manjacaze and 9 at Inharrime.

Upcountry in Manica Province I see a man so disfigured that he must, I think, have leprosy. Discreetly, I start counting his fingers and toes. But they are all there. "It was the *bandidos* who did it," says the young Red Cross volunteer. "They cut off his lips and his ears."

We spend the night in Chimoio, a medium-sized town on the crucial Beira railway. There is a battalion of Zimbabwean troops doing guard duty a few kilometres down the road. Nonetheless, 30 or so *bandidos* slipped into the town during the night, kicking in the doors of houses and making off with the inhabitants' food and clothes.

At 6 a.m. the next morning we head for the local airstrip. All along the dirt track, hundreds of people are walking. "They ran away and hid during the night," says David da Costa Lameira, local Red Cross

Secretary. "So would you too if you saw what they do to the people they catch."

A tiny child sees me and starts to scream. I crouch down beside him, and he screams louder. His father slips down the bit of sacking round his waist and points at his stomach. It is criss-crossed with bayonet cuts.

But amazingly among all this misery, there is humanity in action as well.

Abilio Campos criss-crosses the country too, moving from province to province, bobbing up where least expected in communities prone to violence. He is the son of José Campos Antonio, the Red Cross man brutally murdered at Inhambane. Abilio is the Dissemination Officer of the Mozambique Red Cross (MRC) (*right*).

"I talk to the Party, to the teachers, the military, the police, the prison officers," he says. "I talk to anybody who will listen. I bring them Henry Dunant's message of Neutrality and Impartiality.

"Sometimes it's hard not to lose courage. It's difficult for government officials to understand that I am not on anybody's side."

And his father's death, leaving a widow and 12 children? "Of course I am frightened it will happen to me. But in a way his killing has given me moral courage. If our people don't know what the Red Cross flag means, we shall never have peace."

Sitting quietly beside him is Christina Piazza, the ICRC Dissemination delegate (*top*). "I know the relief actions of the League and the ICRC are terribly important," she says. "But so is what Abilio and I are doing. The only way to stop the brutality is to teach respect for human life.

"That isn't easy in a country where 5 million people – a third of the population – are hit by either civil strife or drought."

Zacarias Uqueio, the MRC Head of Relief, traverses his country too, apportioning what foodstuffs and supplies the Society has obtained. "In Mozambique, the Red Cross is a spark of humanity," he says simply.

And despite appalling transport problems, the Movement's young men and women turn out, handing over foodstuffs and clothing



("though quite often we have to decide whether the victims get a tee-shirt for their top or an old pair of trousers for their bottom, but not both"), caring for a leper colony in Maputo, distributing goods from a British Red Cross relief ship docked in Beira, teaching First Aid wherever they can, looking after Jehovah's Witnesses whose refusal to do military service has caused problems with the authorities.

"Zacarias has enormous patience," says League chief delegate Bo Backström of Sweden, "coupled with an almost religious sense of great dedication. He's been through it all himself..."

As a schoolboy, the Portuguese refused to let him take up a Methodist scholarship, so he walked barefoot to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), dodging the soldiers and wild animals in the bush.

Zacarias and I fly into Machaze together, where drought has brought 28,000 people to the verge of starvation. He gets very excited. "This is where they hid me from the police over 25 years ago," he says (*above*). "I couldn't speak their language, I had nothing, they knew they could be punished, but the villagers of Machaze still took me in.

"Sometimes the greater the misery, the greater the love of the ordinary people."

Mozambique was not made for misery. It has great rivers sweeping down to the Indian Ocean, rich red soil, fish in the sea, and a reasonable infrastructure. Unlike the white regime in Rhodesia which fought a bitter and illegal war, the Portuguese in 1975 just gave up and went away.

Mozambique, however, suffers from a cruel Rhodesian legacy. During the Zimbabwean Independence war, FRELIMO, now the Government in Maputo, helped the freedom fighters of Robert Mugabe across their long common frontier. The Ian Smith regime in Salisbury responded by arming RENAMO (the "Mozambican National Resistance") in a classic destabilisation exercise. Out of those troubles have come the *bandidos armados* of today.

In Maputo, they blame all the country's problems on apartheid next door. In Pretoria, the Foreign Affairs Department repeatedly denies any intervention across the border. In reality, it is "the enemy" which does the damage, whether it be RENAMO, disaffected soldiers, or hungry peasants who have got hold of a gun and don't care too much who is in their way as long as they have a half-sack of beans.

"It's crazy, man," says our photographer Kok Nam, eyeing the white Zimbabwean helicopter pilots buzzing around the League plane. "These are the guys who used to help RENAMO. And now they're shooting them."

"All war is crazy, man. You know what the peasants say here? - 'Never trust the man with the gun'."

In the grandiose Polana Hotel, pride of the capital in Portuguese days, the South Africans who once came over for a weekend of fun and frolics have gone. In their place are the aid experts. Soviet pilots flying for the national airline. Americans with fat checkbooks interested in development projects. United Nations specialists in food, health and transport. Representatives of the 53 relief agencies which have so far flocked into the country, and the Red Cross.

The Mozambique Red Cross, which is still in formation, has a structure in all of the country's 11 provinces. "In Zambezia and Niasa in the north our branch structure has been hit by the fighting," says Head of Relief Zacarias Uqueio, "but somehow we keep going. We're short of food, and fuel and transport. We need all the help we can get."



Thierry GASSMANN/ICRC

International Red Cross help comes in two forms. In Maputo there is a League delegation to give administrative and logistical assistance to the MRC. A further delegate is based in the main port of Beira to help with off-loading supplies. And a League plane, piloted by Zimbabwean Geoff Hurrell, provides transport to areas inaccessible by road.

A joint MRC/League relief programme has also been started in Machaze and Mungari for victims of the prologued drought which has afflicted Manica Province, an area in which the League was previously operational in 1984.

In addition, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has had a permanent delegation in the country since 1980, opening orthopaedic workshops for war-disabled the following year and starting a medical assistance programme in 1985 - suspended for two years after their Red Cross plane evacuating wounded civilians was hit by groundfire. The pilot was shot in the arms, and his nurse in the legs. Somehow they got the plane down with him operating the foot pedals while she managed the hand controls.

Today the 25 ICRC delegates, headed by Peter Stocker, run an extensive feeding programme in Zambezia, Sofala, Nampula, Niassa and Tete provinces. In addition, ICRC planes fly in non-food items like cloth skirts, blankets, soap and medical supplies.

"Apart from that, there will be prison visiting," said Stocker, "the start of a tracing service so that Red Cross messages can be exchanged both inside the country and with people who have fled abroad. And there is always the all-important work of Dissemination."

"Food and clothes aren't enough. The Geneva Conventions and Principles must be made to work as well. The unique role of the ICRC in conflict zones is to see that human life is protected by our symbol on all sides."

In Chimoio, I meet Ricardo, a young Red Cross driver. He has not had much education, but he knows his Principles and the meaning of the symbol.

He has been badly bruised round the face, and I ask him if he has had a car smash. He says no, and gradually the story of what has happened emerges.

"On the way back from the airstrip, I was stopped by a platoon of soldiers," he says. "They told me to run them into town. I said I couldn't take people with guns in a Red Cross truck. So they hit me, and kicked me."

"I just kept telling them 'No guns in a Red Cross vehicle'. They hit me again. I tried to tell them about our Neutrality. And they kicked me all over."

The soldiers didn't get on board, though. They just had to walk.

George REID



## MOZAMBIQUE INHACA ISLAND

# They Steal People Too!

**T**he paradise island of Inhaca floats in an ochre sea forty minutes by boat, ten minutes by private plane, across the bay from Maputo. With its palm-fringed beaches and luxury hotel, it was once "the" weekend place for the Johannesburg jet set.

Today it has a rather different sort of guest: 3,000 peasant farmers who have fled the fighting in Matanguama district in the south of the country.



The *bandidos* lie in wait on the other side. Since the peasants can get across only twice a day, at high tide, they know exactly when they are coming.

"They took everything I have," says Abia Nonwane. "My clothes, my tools, my food and the 70,000 *meticais* (about 175 dollars) that were my life savings from working in the mines in South Africa."

The Mozambican authorities are hopeful that, one day, the island can go back to hard currency tourism. So the people who have fled are restricted to one beach, and are not allowed to erect permanent structures.

The Maputo Branch of the MRC has sent across 22 tents (which from their Crosses and Crescents and Arabic slogans may at one stage have done service in a Palestinian refugee camp). Otherwise, the people live in shelters of straw and grass.

As everywhere in Mozambique there is a bright young government nurse in a crisp white uniform to help look after their health. But water is a problem, as is sanitation.

Six kilometres by tractor down a dirt road, Administrator André Manjora Nkuna tilts his chair back on the immaculate lawn beside the pool of the Inhaca Hotel (left). He is the only person there.

"Peace," he sighs. He is something of an expert on the subject, having spent most of his life trying to achieve it. "Peace is elusive, it is slippery," he says.

He should know. In the colonial days he walked to Zimbabwe so that FRELIMO could send him for training in Oran and Algiers. On his return he was picked up by the Portuguese secret police and spent the years 1964 to 1972 in their gaol in Maputo. He was the party's clandestine organiser on Inhaca in the days before Independence.

"When freedom came, I thought this would be a paradise island for *all* the people," he shrugs. "I still hope the Matanguama people can go home in peace."

The previous night 15 of them tried to go home, not because they wanted to, but because they were hungry. They thought they might be able to get a few vegetables from their fields under cover of darkness. They took a tattered old Red Cross flag with them.

"The enemy were there as usual," said Abia Nonwane. "The boat got stuck in the sand. They stole the young men and women and the cabbages.

"Your Red Cross flag didn't work."

George REID

## MACHAZE, MANICA PROVINCE

# Living on Roots and Berries

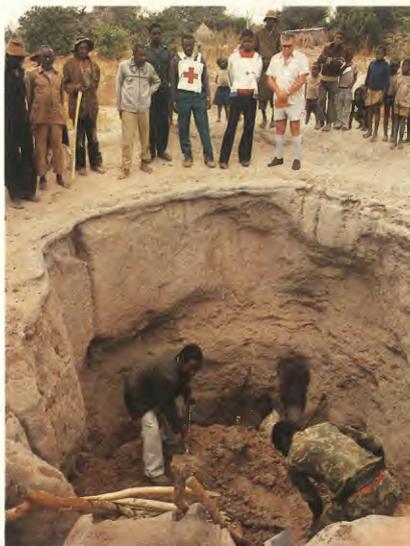
Engineer Mario Rocha stares moodily down the vast hole, at the bottom of which two men are hacking feverishly with pickaxes. There is a small puddle at the bottom, the water the colour and consistency of grey milk. A queue of women wait at the top, gerrycans ready.

"This is absolutely hopeless," says Mario. "There are 28,000 people in this district. There's enough water down there for 100, for maybe a week. And it will probably poison them anyway."

The tragedy is that there *is* water in Machaze – only it is 100 metres down. There is a pump capable of producing 10,000 litres an hour. But there has been no diesel fuel for several months.

"And just think," says Mario, surveying the parched desolation all around him, "I used to come fishing here 8 years ago."

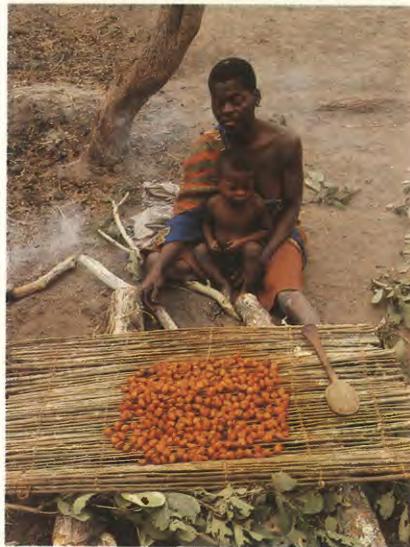
Rocha is one of the advance guard of a 4.5-million Swiss Franc League relief operation for the drought-stricken Manica province. While he sets to work on the water shortage, young Mozambique Red Cross staff are busy registering the population for food and clothing assistance.



"It cannot come a minute too soon," says the Secretary of the Provincial Branch, David da Costa Lameira. "It hasn't rained since last December. There was almost no harvest in 1986, and the few seeds that were left have been eaten."

By day, Machaze is virtually deserted apart from a few old folk and children. Everyone else is off in the forest, scavenging roots and berries. There is simply nothing else to eat.

In the evening, the people cook their miserable pickings: some unripe *macuacua* fruit (which should never be eaten until it is ready to drop from the tree), a few pods of



*dindiri*, with the seeds laboriously removed one by one, toasted and made into a paste (even though the locals know it can cause gross swelling). Maybe, if they are lucky, they have a couple of *kanhu* nuts, laboriously picking out the tiny pieces of flesh on a pin.

Chiraswa Magumisse collapses on the ground in front of us. "Hunger," says the young government nurse. "We're getting about twenty deaths a month from malnutrition, mostly the old and the very young."

Later photographer Kok Nam and I go to Chiraswa's hut. "Unusual," he says. "She has no relatives at all. So nobody goes foraging for her." The eyes stare out from the blackness of the hut, and she starts to talk (*top right*).

"She was picked up by the *bandidos* a long way from here," Kok

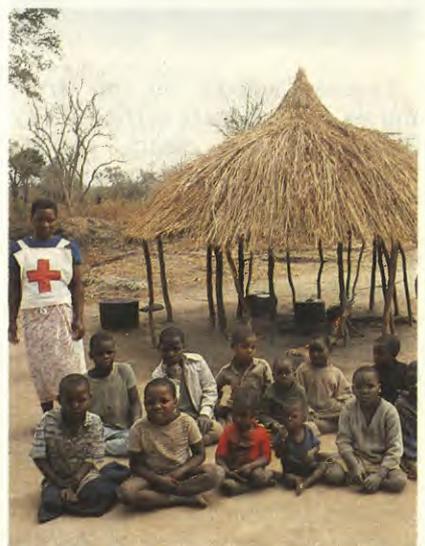


Nam translates. "Each time they defecated, they made her carry it away in her hands. Now she has nothing and nobody." And we cannot do a thing about it. We turn away.

"Hell of a way to die," says Kok Nam.

They are going hungry at the Red Cross orphanage down the road as well. Last month there were over 40 children, but a number have been returned to their parents after they were freed from RENAMO by government troops. Of the 14 who remain, four are "very poorly", according to Marta Watche, the Red Cross volunteer who looks after them (*below*).

Today they at least have some beans brought in on our plane. "But on many days there is nothing," Marta says. ▶

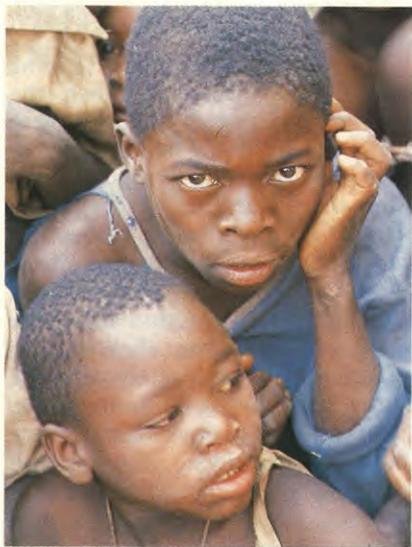


The situation is better, but only just, at the other district targeted for League help: Mungari, 600 km to the north.

"Hold very tight, please," says Geoff the pilot. The plane spirals from 5,000 metres to ground level in just over two minutes. "Always a danger of somebody taking potshots at us around here."

Cut off by road, the 4,300 local people are eking out an existence along the dry bed of the River Nhamacombe. There is water of sorts about 5 metres down. The borehole at nearby Bamba was blown up by the *bandidos* last year.

The health of the people, cared for by a young male nurse, is relatively good. But they have been joined by almost 800 outsiders who fled from Tambara, and in the past few months almost 200 more have arrived after being freed by government troops.



Pereira Campira, his two wives and six children were carried off by RENAMO two years earlier. "They treated us like monkeys," he says. "My wives and I were their porters. They said they were going to eat the babies."

Will he settle here? Who knows in a country where fear dominates and where it takes only the sight of an armed man to cause a headlong rush into the bush.

"You cannot separate drought and violence in Mozambique," says David da Costa Lameira. "All you can do is get your food supplies and clothing and seeds here as quickly

as possible, and hope that it doesn't attract the bandits and others."

The District Administrator draws him aside, and they talk together. Later David tells us what was said. "He explained that there had been bad fighting at Macossa, about 300 km from here. There are supposed to be 30,000 people without food and shelter.

"And a lot of them are heading this way..."

George REID

*Photographs for RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT by KOK NAM of Mozambique.*

### The Refugees

The combination of conflict and drought had, by October 1987, forced over half a million Mozambicans to flee their country. This is an approximate overall summary:

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 20,000 registered by the ICRC in the "homelands" of Gazankulu and KaNgwane, receiving ICRC and local Red Cross assistance. Probably a further 100,000 living elsewhere as "illegal immigrants".

**SWAZILAND:** Around 6,000 at Malindza reception centre and Ndzevane refugee settlement in the south-east of the country.

**ZIMBABWE:** Well over 60,000 living spontaneously among the local population or in UNHCR camps. Zimbabwe Red Cross provides tents and other assistance.

**ZAMBIA:** Around 30,000 from Tete Province, cared for by Zambian Red Cross as operational partner of UNHCR.

**TANZANIA:** Approximately 40,000 have fled into the south of the country, and many are settled around Songea.

**MALAWI:** By far the biggest exodus, with over 280,000 Mozambicans now in the country. The numbers have more than doubled since February. Main operational unit is the Malaŵi Red Cross, backed by a League delegation (see pages 20-22).

Around 2,000 Mozambicans have been repatriated, largely from the Malaŵi border. Some 1,000 of them receive help from the Mozambique Red Cross in Maputo City.

## INTERVIEW

**Janet MONDLANE**

*Red Cross of Mozambique*

## From Illinois to Maputo

**Janet MONDLANE**, Secretary General of the Red Cross of Mozambique, was born in Downer's Grove, Illinois, USA. At 17, she went to a High School Church Camp at Lake Geneva, Michigan, which changed her life.

Also at the camp was Eduardo Mondlane, high-flying scholarship student from Mozambique. It was not exactly love at first sight, but they started corresponding. By the time he was installed in Harvard Graduate School, she was pestering her tutors to let her transfer to nearby Boston University for her M.A.

They married, and he entered the United Nations Trusteeship Division for countries half-way between colonialism and independence. "But he hated being a civil servant. He had to shut up. He couldn't say what he thought."

In February 1961 they visited Mozambique. "As an American, it was my first experience of colonialism. I just could not believe that people could be treated as they were." They quit the United Nations, and moved to Dar-es-Salaam, where Eduardo was confirmed as leader of FRELIMO, the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique.

"It wasn't easy, on two counts. I was pregnant with the first of three kids. And, as a girl from small town America it never occurred to me that people might want to kill us."

On 3 February 1969, they got Eduardo. "He'd gone down to a little hut where he used to work and sort out his mail. There was a bang, and that was it. He had opened a booby-trapped book. A bomb."

A new widow, she settled with other FRELIMO exiles. "But PIDE, the colonial secret police, were after us all the time, and the worst thing was explaining to the children why 'grandfather' or 'auntie' weren't going to visit any more."

With Independence in 1975, she moved to Mozambique and was appointed National Director of Social Action. "The country was a shambles. We looked after kids up to school age, old folk, the handicapped, the lot. It was quite a handful."

She moved to the Department for International Cooperation, liaising with the donor community and overseas institutions (a similar job to the one she had with FRELIMO in the exile years, where she had helped the present Head of State and Foreign Secretary with their scholarships).

Later, she devoted herself to farming ("what Illinois girl wouldn't in this country?") and writing the early history of FRELIMO. Then President Joaquim Chissano asked her to take over the Red Cross...

And so she did, in April 1987. **George REID** interviewed her in Red Cross Headquarters, Maputo.



**This is a long way from Downer's Grove, Illinois. Do you have any regrets?**

Not really. I am a Mozambican national. I feel Mozambican, though I still have American roots as well.

*Of course, there are massive problems. But we've only had twelve years since Independence. That isn't very long in the life of a nation.*

**Were you "drafted" into the Red Cross?**

*I honestly wasn't looking for another job. I was perfectly happy with the hens and vegetables on the farm, and repairing the damage done by the bandidos.*

*But when you are asked by an old friend in high office to take on a job, you do it. The great thing is to get people going. When I was phasing out of public life in Mozambique, I worked for a while as Administrator of five factories producing maize flour, spaghetti and biscuits. You know the most impressive thing? What the ordinary people were capable of, given a bit of motivation.*

*I hope we can do the same thing with the Red Cross as a mass movement.*

**So, what are your priorities?**

*I want to instill a sense of purpose and efficiency in the Red Cross, plus absolute fiscal responsibility. Donors must know exactly where their money has been spent.*

*One problem is getting good managers. The more the United Nations and other agencies move into Mozambique, the more difficult it is to compete financially with the salaries they are offering. I have six departmental heads, and only three of the posts are currently filled.*

**How much has the civil conflict disrupted Red Cross work?**

*Obviously fighting disrupts daily life all round. People with skills, engineers, teachers, doctors, are particularly at risk. There are shortages, and very great transport problems. The whole situation is made worse by the on-going drought.*

*This country needs a strong Red Cross. Our 11,000 trained first-aiders are already filling a vital role. But we need Red Cross Principles to be understood as well. Far too many people have been killed and maimed aimlessly.*

**Do you think Neutrality and Impartiality are generally accepted in this country?**

*There is certainly a lot of work still to be done. It is not easy when armed men are trying to destabilise the country.*

*Nonetheless, we should be ready to feed the hungry and help the wounded no matter where they come from.*

**Does that include RENAMO?**

*Like every other Society, the Red Cross of Mozambique is an auxiliary to its public authorities. In a conflict situation like ours, however, we have to take special care to explain to our new recruits, many of whom come from the Ministry of Health, that we are not part of the government machine. I accept, of course, that the ICRC has a unique role across conflict lines.*

**You are not yet a recognised National Society. When do you expect to 'come on board'?**

*I think it is about time that we did. I've been to Geneva and dotted every "i" and crossed every "t" with the ICRC lawyers.*

*The paperwork is virtually finished. The National Society is operational in every province. We expect to be full members of the Movement very soon.*

### The Red Cross of Mozambique

The Red Cross of Mozambique (Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique) was incorporated nationally on July 10, 1981.

It has 46,000 members, 11,000 of them trained first-aiders, and an additional 34,000 youth members up to the age of thirty.

There are 11 provincial offices in the following areas (number of branches in brackets): Maputo (6), Maputo City (8), Gaza (8), Inhambane (11), Manica (6), Sofala (3), Zambezia (4), Nampula (12), Cabo Delgado (12), Niassa (7) and Tete (3).

Principal activities are emergency relief assistance, First Aid, blood donor recruitment, social welfare, youth and Dissemination.

There are 47 trucks, 24 other vehicles and 6 ambulances. A number of warehouses are being built with the assistance of the Swedish Red Cross and there is growing bilateral assistance from other sister Societies.

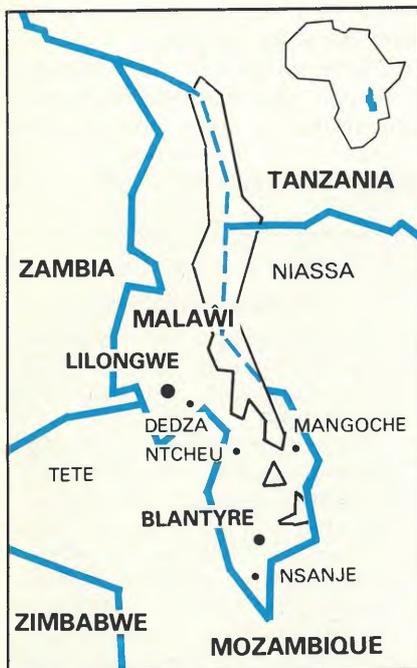
The Red Cross of Mozambique, a Society still in formation, is run by an Executive Council of 10, which reports to a Central Committee (47) and a General Assembly (70).

## SPECIAL REPORT

MALAWI

# Everyday Miracles

*The supreme tragedy for many of the world's refugees is that they are forced to live within sight, sound and smell of their native land. George REID continues his Special Report from Malawi, where over a quarter of a million Mozambicans are currently seeking refuge, helped by the Malawi Red Cross.*



The Shire River forms the south-eastern boundary between Malawi and Mozambique – a swampland in which 120,000 refugees from the far bank are now crammed together with the same number of Malawians. “*Bom dia!*” shout the children as they tumble into the muddy waters. The banana plantations of their own land are only a couple of minutes’ swim away, but in the distance a vast plume of smoke spirals skywards.

“It’s either the Frelimos or the Renamos,” says the young Red Cross field organiser. “Whether they’re burning the houses, or just burning the stubble isn’t our business, however.”



On the other side of Malawi the tarmac road from Ntcheu to Dedza is the frontier. There are no customs posts, fences or soldiers. Two steps sideways and you are in a foreign country.

Over there, just a stone’s throw away, the signs in Portuguese swing drunkenly on the shopfronts, the roofs are off the buildings, the huts destroyed, the wells dynamited. On this side, there is a heaving mass of humanity waiting patiently for the distribution of maizeflour, groundnuts, beans, sugar and salt from the super-efficient young staff of the Malawi Red Cross.

They are safe, more or less, these refugees (or ‘displaced persons’, as the Malawian authorities prefer to call them). Though occasionally armed men do slip across the road in the dead of night.

“We’ve been caring for Mozambicans on and off for the past ten years,” says John Undulu, the Head of the Malawi Red Cross Relief Unit. “But until 1986, it was for short periods only before they went home. Then in September last year 30,000 arrived, followed by another 50,000 this February. Since then the figures have been going up by 10% a month. There are now around 280,000 of them here...”

“Welcome them like brothers and sisters,” said Life President Dr Hastings Banda – a process much helped by the fact that the Chichewa, Chiyao and Sena language groups transcend the common

frontier between residents and refugees.

So great and sudden was the influx, however, that this little country of 5 million people could no longer cope on its own. Nor could the Malawi Red Cross, which had been designated the sole relief agency by the authorities.

An ICRC delegate visited the country, and in December 1986 Scots-Canadian Meg Anderson arrived in Blantyre to provide League logistical support to John Undulu. (See: “*Perfect Partners*”, page 22) By mid-summer the following year they had been joined by Danes Eric Greffe and Fred Pedersen in the Southern and Central Regions, and by New Zealander Mark Errington as Finance and Administration delegate.

But the bulk of the work has fallen on the young organisers recruited into the National Society’s Relief Unit, and the 250 Red Cross volunteers who help with distributions. In a country much given to Biblical quotations, it has at times, says John Undulu “been a bit like the miracle of the loaves and fishes”.

It is a miracle repeated almost daily. Malawi’s only railway line snakes through the Shire Highlands towards Nsanje in the south. Once it went straight through to the Mozambique port of Beira on the Indian Ocean, carrying the bulk of Malawi’s exports. Today it stops dead on the border at Mankhokwe camp, with its 120,000 refugees.

"Will the train come today?" a headman asks Eric Grefe. He raises his hands and looks imploringly at the heavens. And if it doesn't? "Well, we just do smaller rations more regularly. I hope."

Ng'onga Spransa has just come in from the swamp this morning with fifty others.

"They stole our clothes and our food," says Ng'onga. Red Cross workers tut-tut sympathically. They have heard it all before.

The man gets to his feet and roars belligerently, at no one in particular. "Ndili ndi njala. Ndili ndi ludzu."

"He says he is hungry and thirsty," says the District Commissioner. "Please look after these people immediately."

This is not as easy as it seems. If they are fed, registered people will have to do without. Eventually Younis Karim, the young Malaŵi Red Cross Regional Coordinator, comes up with a solution: "We've got a few sacks of beans left over. Nothing else. Give them double beans until they're registered, and they can trade them with the others for maize flour..."



It could be worse however, much worse. The District hospital at Nsanje is available to all, Malaŵians and Mozambicans alike. A plentiful supply of *likuni phala*, an enriched maize mixture, is available for the malnourished children. Médecins sans Frontières help with sanitation, and Oxfam with clothing. 19 new wells have been dug, with a further 21 to follow.

At Chiumbangame Camp near Mangoche on the Eastern border, the situation is not so easy. "We didn't expect an ingress here," says District Commissioner Arthur Kaunda. "But 6,000 suddenly arrived in July. Some tried to go back and were killed."

The water situation is bad, with the refugees digging for a few pails of muddy sludge. They are settled on a tobacco plantation and the Greek owner, while agreeing to their presence, has not yet given permission for permanent structures. The consequence: Chiumbangame is a town built of straw and grass, roofless, a conflagration about to happen.

The Yao people who have come here are Moslem, and their local co-religionists have built a straw mosque where they pray together.

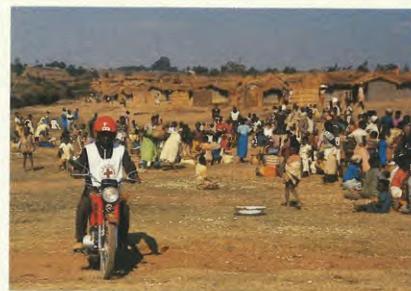


"We do not have much to give them," says the Imam, Bakari Kazembe, "but what we have is theirs."

Little nine-year-old Buanado Makandje shyly approaches Meg Anderson. He has made a lorry out of rushes. He spent three nights by himself when armed men stormed his home village. "Red Cross lorry," he says. "Bring food, not guns."

On the other side of the country, at Ntcheu, Fred Pedersen is dealing with a rather different type of lorry delivery. Vast bales of second-hand clothing from Japan, and a truckload of rough hoes which will enable some of the 100,000 refugees settled in the region to start small kitchen gardens. Each will get a small cellophane packet of vegetable seed, courtesy of the League and the European Community.

Fred is an old trooper who has previously worked in the Far East, Kenya and Somalia for the ICRC, the League, the United Nations and the Danish Aid Agency. "The Malaŵian operation is pretty smooth," he says, "largely due to the young guys hired by the Red Cross Relief Unit."



They are an impressive bunch, criss-crossing their territories on the little motorbikes which the League has provided. They come from insurance, from banking, transport and journalism. Their job is to oversee the distributions, keep their ear to the ground, and sort out daily problems.

Red Cross helmet on his head, Malaŵi Red Cross gilet over his immaculate shirt, Tennyson Singini, ex-employee of a multinational soap company, putters into Kapesi distribution point. Carefully he checks the issue of flour, beans, salt and sugar. Any problems? "Only one. The people can't wash themselves properly. In my previous job, I was sick of soap. Now there just isn't enough for the customers."

Six kilometres down the road, with Mozambique only centimetres off to our right, we pass an old Portuguese farmhouse. There are scorch marks up the walls, and the front is pitted with small-arms fire. A bunch of teenagers are cooking something. They wave, in a not unfriendly fashion.

"Renamos this week," says John Undulu. "Frelimos the week before. Next week, who knows?"

It is my first sight, close up, of the armed men who have brought terror to millions of people. They are so pathetically young, and strangely innocent. One is gnawing on a chicken bone. Another sports an "I Love New York" tee-shirt. A third is wearing one tennis shoe.

After 13 years of civil strife and a decade of guerilla fighting before that, war for them has become normal. Peace is abnormal here. These raggle-taggle seventeen- and eighteen-year-olds are going to supply Tennyson Singini and his friends in the Malaŵi Red Cross with many more customers yet.

George REID

*Malawi photographs by Griven DISI*



## MALAWI

# Perfect Partners

**T**hey have the easy relationship of a couple who have been through it all together, and weathered many a storm. Between them they have managed to feed, clothe and shelter over a quarter of a million people.

John Undulu had been running the primary health care programme of the Anglican Church in Malawi before he joined the Red Cross.

Meg Anderson, Scots-born daughter of a Glaswegian medical professor, had moved to Canada – where she served for 11 years as Regional Director of the Red Cross in British Columbia. Along the way, she also worked as a League delegate in Somalia and Tanzania.

Nothing in their previous lives, however, could have prepared them for the sheer enormity of the Mozambican relief operation. “As Head of the Malawi Red Cross Relief Unit, John took the blunt end,” says Meg, “because the Soc-

ety was the only agency appointed for the distribution of food.”

“Meg has given us wonderful logistical support as League Chief Delegate,” John says, running through a list of supplies they have somehow got to those in need: the food from the European Community and the World Food Programme, and seven silos from the German Federal Republic to store it; 120,000 blankets, 100,000 lengths of plastic sheeting, 22,000 sets of kitchen utensils, 150,000 knitted tops and tee-shirts, 350,000 bars of soap, 90,000 lengths of *chitenje* (skirt) material, 20,000 packets of seed and garden hoes from such diverse donors as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Oxfam, and the European Community.

“It has been hairy at times,” Meg says – not least with the WFP/UNHCR food supplies which have had to be run at 100kph through “bandit alley” in Tete Province of Mozambique en route from Zimbabwe.

“There are often perfectly good reasons why the train doesn’t arrive on time,” John adds. “But it’s the Red Cross which has to face the

people who might go hungry.”

In the capital city of Lilongwe they have no doubts, however. “This has been a really first-rate Malawi Red Cross/League operation,” says the EEC Representative.

The Chairman of the country’s Joint Operations Committee, Dr. S.S. Kamvasina, is also enthusiastic.

“The influx had grown beyond the local Red Cross’s organisational capacity,” he says. “The League has provided complementary back-up.”

“Just as John and Meg complement each other in their work. They are perfect partners.”

G.R.

### The Malawi Red Cross

Established as an independent National Society in 1966. Recognised by the ICRC in 1970 and admitted to the League in 1971.

There is a branch in every district, with around 25,000 members, of whom half are in the Youth section.

Activities include a Primary Health Care programme, First Aid training, clinics for under-5’s, and voluntary blood donor recruitment.



## **FACES OF BRAZIL**

***Brazil is vast: the world's fifth largest country, 48% of the South American continent; over 130 million people, the sixth largest population in the world. Brazil is rich and Brazil is growing. Yet millions live like these children in the 'favelas' – the slums of the great cities. Five million young people aged 8-16 are footloose on the city streets. Brazil has disastrous droughts and floods, and the immense problems of communications and development in the huge Amazon region. And Brazil has the Brazilian Red Cross, growing to meet these challenges, building its services in health, relief, rescue and development, on a scale hardly to be imagined only a few years ago.***

***A photo report by John ASH.***







**Previous page:** Young volunteers of the Filial (Chapter) of the Northern state of Pará training in the Amazonian jungle. Rescue and disaster preparedness play an increasing part in the development of services provided by the Society's 48,000 active volunteers. **Below right:** the Society's President Mavy Harmon, caught in action by a local photographer during the first phases of Operation North-East for the victims of severe drought in some of the poorest regions of Brazil. Now entering its fourth phase, the relief operation has been praised by donors as one of the best organised anywhere.



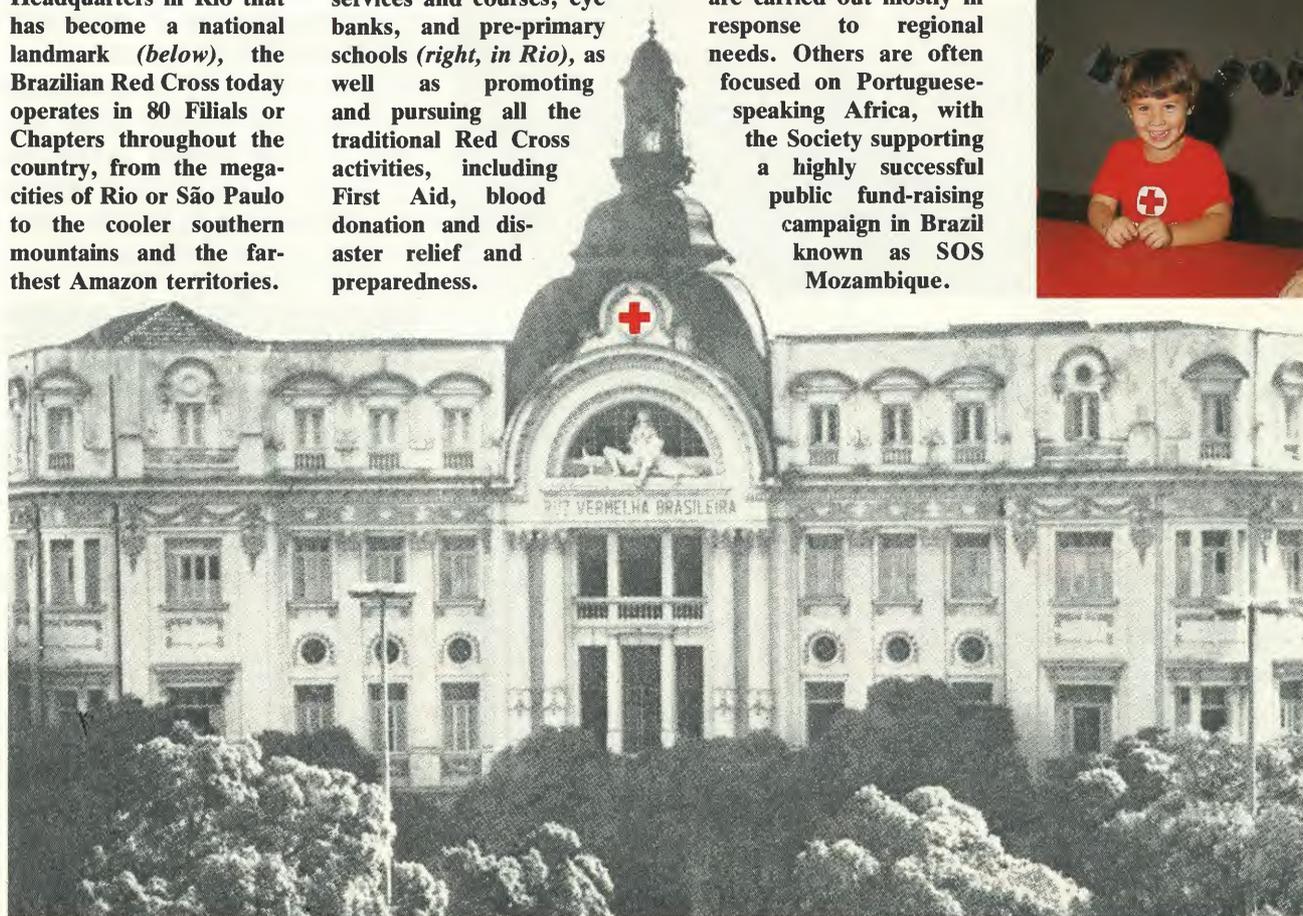
# CRUZ VERMELHA BRASILEIRA



Founded in 1908, with a Headquarters in Rio that has become a national landmark (below), the Brazilian Red Cross today operates in 80 Filiais or Chapters throughout the country, from the megacities of Rio or São Paulo to the cooler southern mountains and the farthest Amazon territories.

The Society runs health services and courses, eye banks, and pre-primary schools (right, in Rio), as well as promoting and pursuing all the traditional Red Cross activities, including First Aid, blood donation and disaster relief and preparedness.

International activities are carried out mostly in response to regional needs. Others are often focused on Portuguese-speaking Africa, with the Society supporting a highly successful public fund-raising campaign in Brazil known as SOS Mozambique.





## FACES OF BRAZIL



**HELPING HANDS.** Youth volunteer João Neto, 17, calming a young patient's fears at a mobile dental clinic in Belém. Red Cross volunteers throughout Brazil help local health services which would otherwise never reach many of the poorer communities. Volunteers also help in national immunisation campaigns, recruit new blood donors, and are increasingly involved in social work in the favelas of the big cities. **FUND-RAISING** is an inevitable part of Red Cross life. The Brazilian Red Cross taps the national passion for "going to the beach" with (below) strategically-placed collection points on roads leading to the sea.





**FEVER!** Gold in the interior of the Amazon forests attracts thousands of prospectors called 'garimpeiros' from the jobless cities. They bring with them other problems: dangerous pollution and fatal diseases like malaria which also infect the Indians (right). Amapá Filial volunteer President Laércio da Silva is mobilising his members to take help into these often unexplored areas. Garimpeiro Fernando was so impressed that he offered the Filial an ounce of the precious metal from his own hard-won stock, adding a little more lustre to the existing Brazilian Red Cross gold-mine that is its volunteers.

J. A.





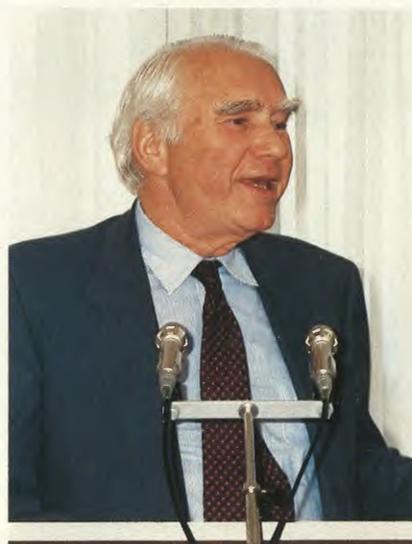
Thierry GASSMANN/ICRC

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

# The View From The Top

*1987 saw the Presidency of the ICRC change hands from **Alexandre HAY** to **Cornelio SOMMARUGA**. The leadership of the original and senior Red Cross institution in the world may sometimes seem remote and daunting from the outside. **RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT** ascended the heights of this humanitarian Olympus (one floor above the mezzanine in Geneva's old *Hôtel Carlton*, above), to see what manner of divine is lodged there. We found no gods, but two different and very **human** beings.*

**I**t is the last week of April. In a few days, Alexandre Hay will retire as President of the ICRC. "Ten years and ten months," he says, almost by way of greeting. Swiss precision, right to the end. Of course, it will not be an end at all. Mr. Hay will remain a member of the Committee, that private and independent caucus of Swiss citizens (21 today, of a possible total of 25) who carry on the work begun



by five good men of Geneva nearly 125 years ago. He will also remain as Chairman of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Commission on Peace.

Mr. Hay's presidency began in 1976, when Indo-China was still in turmoil. It was the start of a great expansion in ICRC activities under the operational leadership of Jean-Pierre Hocké, now UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

"I was very much impressed at the beginning by the huge action in Kampuchea and its consequences in Thailand.

"It was very positive in the sense that we saved the lives of maybe one million people, but it showed the difficulties of humanitarian action faced with political obstacles. I remember the degree of misery and suffering. That you cannot forget. And on the other hand the readiness of so many people to help. It is terrible and wonderful at the same time."

In common with many Swiss of his generation, Alexandre Hay felt real frustration at being unable to leave his country in the war years of

1939-45. How did it affect his view of the world?

"The danger is that living here you are not really aware of how other people live. You eat every day and worry about your stomach not getting too big, about going to the doctor to get your blood pressure checked, then after a few hours in a plane you meet others without even enough to eat. It's shocking. You touch such completely different ways of life. But it teaches you to adapt. We are not going to solve all these problems tomorrow, but they will only get worse if we do not know how to adapt.

"We have a wonderful opportunity in this Movement to talk together. The Principle of Universality which links us is something quite special to help the world. Even with differences of view, we can by dialogue try to lessen tensions, to solve problems. We must listen to different attitudes and points of view. That is why we were happy with the initiative of Dr. Hantos (of the Hungarian Red Cross) that we study our own Principles again. Not the content, but the interpretation. 'Independence', for example, is observed in many different ways. What we have to guard against is fanaticism: that makes our job very difficult."

The President's window looks down on the Palais des Nations, now one of the permanent homes of the United Nations, and once the seat of the ill-fated League of Nations between the two World Wars. What of the view that the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is becoming a sort of mini-UN?

"It is a danger. We saw in Geneva last October that we have to fight against it. We saw that many government delegations didn't know enough about the Red Cross. It comes back to the huge efforts we have to make to disseminate the Principles and international humanitarian law. We will never do enough in this field, but I have discovered more and more that this is *the* great necessity. It is a vast enterprise, but it has to be done, and we have to count on the help of the League and National Societies and the governments that have signed the Conventions.



Béatrice PLANTIER/ICRC

And what of the National Societies out there through the window, patient on the slopes of Olympus?

"During my ten years we came to realise that the ICRC had somewhat neglected the National Societies, and that we needed a different relationship – after all, the real world of Red Cross is the Societies, they are the basis. But that should not impair our relationship with the League. We will not interfere in natural disasters, for example. We want to see a League that is functioning well. We want to be good partners with people who know what we are doing.

"It's the people who are important, more than the structure. We need real Red Cross people, with strong Red Cross Principles. For us

it's simpler. We are all Swiss. For the League it's much more difficult with 145 members and with so many groupings which are not necessarily for the best. A certain regionalisation, maybe, but people are thinking nationality and that makes choices difficult. People should accept the *best*, from wherever."

Is there a touch of sadness in those kind and normally twinkling eyes that seem to want to focus on some infinite distance in the sky? Perhaps the word is "wistful", for how, in this office which must receive the high and mighty of the world, can you resist the longing to be in touch with the ordinary people your real work is for?

"We *here* have to make the effort to go *there*. It's the background you need. It's the basis for your action later on. It's an effort that *has* to be made. An absolutely necessary one. You are enriched by the one or two days you spend with a National Society and its volunteers."

In a few days, Alexandre Hay will hand over his office to his successor. Did he have any special message to transmit?

"I have said that the policy of coming closer to National Societies should continue. Even with the limitations of 145 Societies, that is something essential for the cohesion of the Movement. And that this house, the ICRC, is not just an administration. It is something living. We must not create bureaucrats, but permit a certain liberty of

Vice-President Mme Denise Bindschedler-Robert rings in the changes last May



Béatrice PLANTIER/ICRC

action. We need efficiency, close contacts, good management. But at the same time we need good people with a certain freedom of initiative. There is a danger in becoming just an administration. We must always guard against killing the Red Cross spirit."

With that, this gentle man arose. Another Ambassador was calling, the minutes of the last ten months of the eleventh year were ticking inexorably away. The exquisite courtesy never faltered. But was there a final yearning glance to the world beyond the window? A world that will never seem quite the same again?

Three months later, the same elegant office, and a different man, a different electricity in the air. Cornelio Sommaruga, 55, does not let his eyes wander much to the window with the glorious view. But they are everywhere else, and his hands gesticulate in the manner of a Grand Opera conductor rehearsing Verdi. The office is sweltering on a humid summer day, but the expansiveness reduces the walls to insignificance. There is a new drama being played, and the curtain is rising on Act One.

"The Ticinese (people from Italian-speaking Switzerland) are *open* characters." A hand sweeps wide enough to take in all the world. "And I am not even a Swiss of Switzerland, but a Swiss national who grew up abroad." Clearly the new President sees some advantages for his job in the special circumstances of his early years.

"Because I grew up in Rome, I could follow as a thinking boy the events of World War II affecting Italy, where my father was head of the Foreign Interests Section of the Swiss Legation. And the war separated me from my father for two of those years. So I was closer to the consequences of war than many Swiss at the time. My mother's father was also a doctor in the Italian Red Cross, and my mother worked in Lugano at the Swiss Red Cross."

His adult life, too, he sees as a great preparation for his present "mission". Yes, the word has almost a religious fervour. Paradoxically,



Béatrice PLANTIER/ICRC

because we now talk of diplomacy. There are two main lines in his career to date. The diplomacy of any Foreign Ministry, projecting the image of a certain national policy, then the last 15 years of economic diplomacy: the diplomat as negotiator, culminating as Secretary of State for External Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation.

"I have turned a page of the same book. Now the experience of contact with quite different kinds of people, of different governments, of different methods, be they bilateral, multilateral, regional, universal or internal within the private circles of one country, all these add to the negotiating skills and knowledge of people all around the world that this job needs."

President Sommaruga sees negotiating as his most important task, since the ICRC must participate with governments in a number of different fields, and obtain from governments the means, both financial and practical, with which to fulfill its mandate. "To be efficient, the ICRC needs the confidence of both governments and public opinion at large. Not only in the countries where we are fulfilling our mandate, but everywhere where we need moral and financial support."

The President has already visited eight of the countries where ICRC delegations are at work, and here the seasoned diplomatic negotiator takes on a different aspect. The small boy who witnessed war in Italy is now confronted with the

victims of today's conflicts. And he is determined to do something about them. "I will not seek to personalise my presidency," he says, not entirely convincingly, "but it *will* be oriented towards the victims." Of this latter, the fervour of his mission leaves not the slightest doubt.

The personality dominates. He has given himself a motto, a kind of heraldic device for the new house of Sommaruga: *constance, rigueur, humilité*, it reads in French. "It is a trilogy I have imposed upon myself," he says. Yet what do these noble but rather abstract ideas mean in action? *Constance* is perseverance. "We are constantly confronted with the difficulties of what we want to do in bringing help to the victims. But we should never give up. Whatever the disappointments, it is vital we do not lose energy.

"*Constance* also means creativity, remaining flexible, accepting you may have to change your way of thinking in order to reach your objective. But persistence and perseverance over all."

"*Gutta cavat lapidem*," says the President of the ICRC. A moment's confusion. Is this polyglot, fluent in five languages, self-taught in English, now adding Romansh, the fourth Swiss language, to his repertoire? But no, it is solid Ovid, old Latin. The Roman persona is coming up for air in Geneva, this city of Calvin. "As the steady drop of water hollows out the stone..." *Constance*.

*Rigueur* means exactitude, including precision, self-discipline, and thoroughness. The ethos of Calvin's city reasserts itself. "We have to be perfectly aware of the basis of our mandate, in international humanitarian law and in the Fundamental Principles. I would go further. Think of finance. We work on the basis of gifts and grants from governments and National Societies to fulfill our mandate of protection and assistance. And I am well aware that the Red Cross does not sometimes have the best of images in utilizing its money. We have a particular need for discipline in this respect."

A glimpse here of the veteran of trade and finance negotiations the length of one already illustrious career. The President as manager. Not just of a city-bound administration, but of a fluid and global concern – ICRC Inc. – within which accountability in all its meanings will have new force. Few details are going to escape those inquisitive, excited eyes: from analysis of a complex international political brief, to imposing order on the minor anarchy of Headquarters' parking spaces. Yet the puritanism implicit in *rigueur* will be forever tempered by the passion of that Latin élan.

*Humility* should be self-explanatory. Though it is not something the ICRC is often accused of. "We have to remain aware of the basis of our actions confronted by the enormous problems in the world. While it is very important to protect the 'Swiss-ness' of the ICRC as the best means of being efficient in terms of our mandate, we must also recognise that we are not alone. Many other humanitarian organisations are doing marvellous work within their mandates. Nor can we fulfill ours in isolation from the Movement of which we are part."

And the Movement, amidst all this doctrine of mandates? "Efficient and substantive cooperation with National Societies is of paramount importance. A large number of activities are joint ventures, and in our own delegations we employ collaborators made available from Societies of third countries in certain specific tasks, working in the



Jean-Pierre KOLLY/ICRC

*A laid-back President: donating blood at the delegation in Peshawar, Pakistan.*

same Red Cross spirit. So Societies must know us if they are to cooperate with us, and have the opportunity to enhance their own standing with their own governments. They are also, after all, our 'ambassadors' in their own countries."

It is the official line, of course. But already there is a different feeling in the air. Olympus is descending, the summit no longer in the clouds. Zeus/Jupiter, the super-manager, has had his feet firmly on earth all the time.

"There is great room for improving cooperation inside our Movement, between ourselves, National Societies and the League. I have committed myself personally to working for improvements in relationships with the League. We need a more structured system of communication between the two institutions. If we wish to be efficient in our work for the *victims* – and let us not forget that this is the real core of the Red Cross mission – we have to act professionally, in openness and in a continuous process of constructive cooperation between all components of the Movement. Not just because the Statutes which give us our specific responsibilities ask us to do so, but because we have to be convinced that genuine cooperation and coordination is the key to humanitarian success."

Is there a secret to achieving these ideals? For Cornelio Sommaruga, manager-negotiator, the

key lies in individual conscience more than institutions. It lies in living the law and the Principles in personal behaviour. Demonstrably so. The President is on his feet now, to find more room to expand. The stately office has become the green room of the theatre of the world. The personality, whatever his protestations to the contrary, intends to lead by example, from the front.

"For me the humanitarian message is that which brings all individuals to have a humanitarian conscience. It is in our personal behaviour that we will find the real way of peace."

Does the view from the Carlton's window seem less elevated than before? Or is it just a trick of sound and light? Verdi, doyen of Grand Opera and musician of the people, can only be imagined on this hot summer afternoon. But the Freedom Chorus from "Nabucco", unofficial anthem of Italy too, would not be out of place.

There is a sense of crescendo in Cornelio Sommaruga, operatic, inspirational, overlaying the role of administrator-negotiator that is his everyday job. It is not hard to believe that, under his baton, the ICRC is setting out to help release new energies in the Movement. Not from some rarefied summit, but out among the people who make it all work.

John ASH

# Family Matters

## In Moscow

**I**t was an interesting week for Peace. There were Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevernadze in Washington, arriving at a breakthrough in weapons control. Here were we in Moscow, opening an international seminar on Health as a Factor of Peace and Development. It was even, that Tuesday 15 September, the International Day of Peace, according to the UN.

I say "according to the UN" because it fascinates me that there can be such a thing as an International Day of Peace and nobody seems really to know about it. Banks, stock exchanges and post offices don't shut. Newspapers appear normally. Bakers still bake. Highways are not noticeably more congested. Trains and even some airlines run more or less on time. In short, most of the minor irritants we have come to associate with major celebrations are not there.

We take religions more seriously, yet Peace is a major goal of them all. We take national heroes and events more seriously, hardly thinking that so many of them became what they are in the same quest for Peace. And yet we live on the brink of war more total than everything that has ever gone before.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

#### The Lundin Companies

RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT wishes to express its gratitude to Mr Adolf H. Lundin together with Eastmaque Gold Mines Ltd. and International Petroleum Corporation of The Lundin Companies, for the generous support they extend to the Magazine. This allows, in particular, for increased distribution and circulation throughout developing National Societies.

If the Moscow Seminar, so ably hosted by the Soviet Red Cross, achieved something extraordinary, it was to introduce to many of its participants, from 48 National Societies of all the continents, the notion that Peace is not something that lives in a box, to be taken out, dusted off, and admired once in a while, like some slightly embarrassing heirloom.

To the nurses and health workers and others who made the long journey to Moscow, thinking they were coming to attend a health workshop, it may be that at first the title of the Seminar was confusing. At the end of a short week, it was perhaps clearer for everyone that without Peace there is no health, no development. A link had been forged, not unknown before, but whose connection is frequently overlooked.

"Ours is the first generation in human history to be able to extinguish mankind as a species. At the same time, we are also the first generation able to bring major benefits of progress to all people," said one participant. It seems to me that understanding that is quite as important as knowing the intricacies of triangular bandaging or being able to calculate height-to-weight ratios in small children.

And yet there are still those who say that "Peace" has nothing to do with Red Cross. Does it not have everything to do with all of us, whatever badge we are wearing, wherever, whenever?

The astounding thing is that we seem to be frightened of Peace. We think it is "political", though we are not often troubled to define what is "war". Are we so conditioned to war, to human strife, as the norm? Are we afraid we will not be useful any more? That even talking of Peace somehow renders us redundant? It was a poignant reflection in Tolstoi's capital city.

That city and country are themselves in the process of change. The words "Glasnost" (openness) and "Perestroika" (restructuring) have entered the international vocabulary.

In the foyer of our meeting rooms an exhibit proudly proclaimed the Delhi Declaration of Mikhail Gorbachev and Rajiv Gandhi in November last year: "Human life must be recognised as the highest value. Only man's creative genius ensures progress and development of civilisation in conditions of peace." All in all, that seemed a worthwhile definition for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well.

A few yards away, a colleague was reading a new speech by the General Secretary in that morning's *Pravda*, "to see how far we can go." That's what we were doing too.

John ASH

## INTERVIEW

### Dr. Dmitry VENEDIKTOV

*Chairman of the Executive Committee, Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR.*

*Appointed a Deputy Minister of Health at the age of 37, for 16 years a member of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, Graduate of the First Moscow Medical Institute, Dmitry VENEDIKTOV, 58, was elected to the head of the world's largest National Society in June 1986.*

**RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT** spoke to him during last September's International Seminar in Moscow.

**At the last International Conference you talked about a "new era" for the Movement. What does that mean today?**

Everywhere in the world the Red Cross Movement, however well established and respected, is going through a critical period. In a sense we belong to an "old and glorious past". We risk losing touch with present-day realities and problems, and with the means of doing something about them.

There are now a number of institutions taking on actions traditionally associated with the Red Cross. People do not call on us as they did before. We risk losing our image. And we have to make much greater efforts to retain it.

Today almost all countries have established their own machinery too. Here in the Soviet Union, we established the first ever Ministry of Health, in 1918. When disasters happen in today's world, the highest echelons -

Presidents, Prime Ministers – are involved. Of course we are called on to participate, but our possibilities are limited, because we can never do as much as governments or whole nations can do.

So our thinking has become rather limited. We preserve our Principles, which is fine and glorious, but we are a little bit defensive and conservationist, not realising that in a defensive position you are always doomed to lose.

Red Cross is the spirit of humanitarianism, of humanism. We have to understand that value and protect it – human life, human health, human dignity. Why all three in common? It is a reflection of the whole philosophical development of the last century. From the beginning the Red Cross has concentrated on protecting human life, health, and dignity, on social justice not in the sense of political power – but in the sense that people should not suffer, should not be degraded. It is a crime to degrade human beings.

### **Do you see the humanism of the Red Cross as an historical phenomenon?**

There were people who preceded Dunant, but Dunant with “Solferino” came at the moment when Europe was pregnant with humanism, ripe for this event. His spark ignited a big fire. In its history two World Wars effectively ruined many things the Red Cross thought it could achieve. But the greatness of the Movement has been that after every war it has been revived on a stronger basis. From humanism to peace is therefore a natural development.

That’s why I believe today’s ideas to be very important. The Red Cross is re-evaluating its role. I am not pessimistic. With everything we have today, our machinery, our Ministries, something is still missing, not sufficiently corresponding to real human needs. Our systems are too primitive. There is always a need for someone to bring some softness, some compassion.

We need lubrication in the machinery. Remember Charlie Chaplin in “Modern Times”? Otherwise, even with the best intentions, our systems will disrupt human beings. We can create hospitals or homes for the elderly – but do we include human care and contact? People are much more complicated than the mechanisms we provide.

I think we understand now that we are not any more like a charity. The very nicest person will not succeed if the community does not participate.

We are going through a period of re-evaluation, everywhere, from many different points of view. We need to ask where we are going, and not be so afraid of our own shadows.



Soviet Red Cross

### *The Philosopher of Perestroika.*

Now we have to think in new terms. We are going through this process in the Soviet Union, with what we call “perestroika”.

### **What does “perestroika” mean for the Red Cross?**

First it is the analysis of historical experience and views nationally and internationally. Worldwide. We think the collective experience of the National Societies is the most important element: where we have come from, what mistakes we have made...

Then we must revive the initiative of local people. We have more than 130 million members in the Soviet Red Cross, in 15 republics from the deserts to the Pole. Not all members are active, and we can’t tell these numbers what to do. So we do the opposite. We try to regain the initiative and analyse. We ask everyone: give us your advice, your experience, and then let’s DO IT!

Next there is the efficiency of the secretariat. We believe the secretariat should function efficiently. But with the best of intentions we create so many papers that we spend our time getting rid of them as fast as possible. Now bureaucracy is Enemy Number One in our country. And self-satisfaction. I hate people who say “I am doing a nice, wonderful job”.

### **What are your goals within your Society and for the Movement?**

We have a large number of activities, but four major tasks. First is education and information, the promotion of Red Cross ideas, humanism, the unity of the human race, friendship and peace.

Second is the promotion of a healthy way of life, the necessary knowledge

for a healthy life-style including environment protection. This can be done only if you address every age group in a different way.

Then we have to prepare for emergency situations. What we originally did for wartime or civil defence is valid for all times.

Finally there is the care and assistance for those who are not able to help themselves, the handicapped, the elderly. The Red Cross should be able to mobilise people to help in this – and so we come back to the promotion of humanism.

The Movement has the duty and responsibility to promote international action in the same four directions. It should also go through “perestroika”. Back to structure and functions. I am disappointed that the Tansley Report, which put its finger on so many problems, was not carried through.

The League should be much stronger. The League should be a place where the different natural groupings can meet. A weak League is a disservice to the Movement. And we don’t think the division between the League and the ICRC should be as strict as the ICRC does. It’s a question of common sense. Interrelationships should be promoted. We also believe that the scientific element should be increased, like the Henry Dunant Institute, San Remo, and the new Museum. The world is thinking, and we are not doing enough of it, neither as objectively nor as deeply as possible.

### **And the future?**

I am confident that the Red Cross has a very bright, important future. Red Cross is the voice of humanity. No problem can be solved unless we think in global, planetary terms. Red Cross is the instrument that can do a lot in this world and in the future. We have a much stronger contribution to make to peace and to preventing the possibility of nuclear war. We should also demonstrate to the world the reality of the so-called regional conflicts. There are children who live under permanent conditions of war. The world should shake itself into the realisation of what is happening.

There is the development of the National Societies – disaster relief and preparedness is the priority. People cannot wait too long. Then we should continue to discuss the problems of humanity. When we talk about humanism, humanitarianism, humanity, we all mean approximately the same thing. But we must define what we mean. Maybe we should have a discussion with the philosophers to establish what we really mean!

J. A.

## HEALTH

### AIDS/OPINION

# A Question of Principles

by Jan EGELAND,

Head of Development Studies,  
Henry Dunant Institute.

When the great plagues swept over Europe from the 14th to the 17th centuries, there were two categories of victim. First and foremost were the millions who suffered and died from diseases for which there was no known cure or for which the poor received no treatment. Second were those minority groups who suffered increased discrimination and persecution in an environment of prejudice and fear.

There was no lack of evidence that rats and flies, lack of hygiene, and cross-border trading were largely responsible for the spread of the plagues. Still the administrative, financial and religious elites often preferred to search for the "guilty" among weak cultural minorities like the Jews, the gypsies or the refugees, rather than address the filthy habits of the majority, or the trading habits of the rich.

When the mob demanded that someone be punished, the political authorities and the churches organised witch-hunts which ended in the burning at the stake of defenceless women who had nothing to do with the spread of the plague.

The parallels between medieval Europe and today's AIDS-stricken world are not fortuitous. Faced with a pandemic with no known cure which has already infected millions in some 130 countries in all continents, fear is on the march again. Myths, not scientific knowledge, prevail in the media, among decision-makers and with the general public. Basic human rights are again at stake, a 'stake' not so different from that of the witch-hunters of yore.

AIDS presents governments and private health promoters like the Red Cross with a difficult ethical balancing act. On the one hand, there is our collective right to health: our right to be protected from the spread of a deadly disease. On the other hand is the individual right of people with or without the virus *not* to be discriminated against.

A forceful and activist policy of trying to curb the spread of the virus may stigmatise certain groups and may risk violating the rights and integrity of the individual. Conversely, a lenient, laissez-faire policy may be good for individual freedoms, but will probably not stop the spread of the disease.

Where does the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement belong in all this? There should be no doubt that at national and international levels, our Movement needs to play a leadership role in fighting AIDS, since the foremost of our Principles is Humanity – a moral imperative to prevent and alleviate suffering.

As an international humanitarian Movement with an ambitious public health agenda, we cannot ignore a disease described by the World Health Organization as an "international health problem of extraordinary scope and unprecedented urgency".

Another fundamental imperative is that of non-discrimination, based on our Principles of Impartiality and Neutrality. This leads to action on two fronts. First, in working *against* the spread of AIDS and *with* the people with the disease, our Movement should be a visible example of sensitivity and care irrespective of who is affected. Second, we can and should use our power as public opinion-makers to protect minorities from discrimination.

The policies which governments may follow for testing and screening are of particular concern. They concern us as a Movement promoting humanitarian values. They also concern National Societies with responsibilities for blood transfusion services, for primary and institutional health care, for the education of health personnel, and for assistance to refugees and asylum seekers.

It is not difficult to advise National Societies to join the consensus in favour of voluntary and confidential testing. The Red Cross should even actively encourage all who may have been exposed to the virus to take such tests.

Mandatory testing or screening is, however, an issue we need to treat with the utmost prudence. Such an approach may force homosexuals, intravenous drug users and other 'high-risk' groups underground at a time when there has been some progress towards changing behaviour through voluntary action. The simplest groups to test, people in hospitals, are typically the elderly or the very young, and are unlikely to have AIDS. And in screening very large low-risk populations, there remains a serious chance of false diagnosis, with all the catastrophic consequences this could have on the rest of their lives.

We need to avoid becoming part of the intensely political public debate on different methods of testing and screening. We should however carefully study, and then adhere to, the set of general guidelines for ethically acceptable screening of populations that is being developed by WHO. We should also try to ensure, in their preparatory stage, that these do not contravene our own criteria of confidentiality, and therefore Impartiality and Independence.

It is also important for future Red Cross and Red Crescent activities against AIDS that we learn from past successes and mistakes in managing global campaigns in the public health field. Our involvement in treatment, testing or screening should be limited, but of high scientific and medical quality.

In our mission to alleviate human suffering, we must look to our idealism and voluntarism in caring for people with AIDS and their families, so that they do not feel social outcasts.

We have an ethical duty to act to protect and promote humanitarian principles against prejudice and discrimination. Auxiliary to the public authorities, our mission is to help governments fight AIDS, not to enter into public confrontation with them on their health policies.

However, if National Societies find that certain policies represent unnecessary risks to the rights of individuals, they should, as representatives of a body of considerable public service experience and with a specific humanitarian mandate, inform the authorities of their opinion.

One example is the treatment of aliens. If mandatory testing is applied to asylum-seekers alone, it may easily contribute to increasingly xenophobic reactions in many countries, and distract from the real issue – whether or not an asylum-seeker fulfills the criteria of the Convention on Refugees.

Another vital level of action is local, national and international dissemination of factual informa-

tion on what AIDS is, how it is spread and how it can be prevented. As a global, voluntary Movement, our educational campaigns will be perhaps our most important contribution to protecting people from getting the virus, to helping those who have the disease, and to preventing discrimination based on unfounded myth.

The treatment of those with AIDS, as well as the research and development of cures and new preventive measures, will require extraordinary resources. The fact that the rich 'North' is affected at the same time as the poor 'South' has already become an excuse for avoiding the just distribution of resources to fight the AIDS pandemic.

As an international humanitarian Movement, the Red Cross and the Red Crescent should strive towards increased national and international solidarity in dealing with this global problem, for that is what a 'pandemic' is. It is just as important for National Societies to help alleviate the human suffering caused by AIDS in Africa or the Caribbean, as it is in their own backyards.

Jan EGELAND

## HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

'A Human Rights Perspective on the AIDS Pandemic', on which this OPINION is based, was prepared for the Development Programme of the Henry Dunant Institute, Geneva. It was originally presented to the League's First Joint Workshop of Western European Red Cross Societies on AIDS Prevention, held in Brussels in June 1987.

## AIDS: A Human Face

*Britt WIKBERG of the Swedish Red Cross talk to Richard RECTOR, 31, a San Francisco AIDS educator and consultant to the Norwegian Red Cross, who is taking his pioneering work into the international field.*

*Photography: Bengt ERICSSON.*

**R**ichard Rector speaks a lot in public these days. He talks for a couple of hours and at the end he says: "Now you're about to meet a man who got AIDS and who almost took his life last year." Standing next to the TV set, he starts a cassette and he appears on the screen himself. It is one way of giving the AIDS virus a human face – his own.

Every human era has had its 'plague'. AIDS is ours. In our fear and lack of knowledge, as individuals and societies, we often react primitively, irrationally, desperately, and cruelly. We shout for restrictions and put the blame on those who are infected. Neither of these reactions will take us one step closer to a solution to the global problem that is AIDS.



Who can help us with our fear? Who can set it in proportion and eventually replace it with knowledge? The answer is with those who have met their own fear and overcome it.

Richard Rector has. He got his diagnosis at a hospital in California in 1982. After two years of shock, passivity and grief, he became angry at being treated as a dangerous 'package' instead of a human being. He regained control over his life and started to act openly as someone with AIDS. That brought him a lot of hate mail. But it was a letter signed "a Christian" that finally made him go to the media, instead of sitting back and losing confidence and hope and the rest of his self-respect.

The media took serious notice of the growing violence against the Californian gay community. The publicity led the authorities to legislate against aggression to people with HIV (AIDS virus) infections. By informing, educating, lobbying, testifying, organising, Richard Rector and other people with AIDS have contributed both to better conditions for people with AIDS, for example in the hospitals, and to changes in attitudes and understanding.

It has been a hard road, uphill most of the way. When Richard felt well enough to look for employment, he found it difficult to get. His qualifications were questioned – because people knew he had AIDS. Having acting openly, *everyone* knew. Finally he was employed by the Department of Health as a teacher and educator on AIDS. It was also a way to show that you do not have to be afraid of having HIV-infected people employed.

Part of his work is starting educational groups among the recently diagnosed. He deals with the depression, the guilt and the anxiety that follow the diagnosis, as well as how to have a continuing sex life – because that is possible, too.

"Information to the infected generally tells them to stop having sex. That is, you deprive them of that tenderness which is a basic human need. It's the same problem



as telling drug addicts to stop sharing their needles. You need to understand that this sharing is an act of intimacy, and so look for alternative ways for them to fulfill their needs.

"AIDS first spread among groups that consist mostly of people who already feel oppressed. If you approach them in the wrong way, using the wrong keys in your information, you are very likely to fail. This is where the authorities need people who are themselves infected, but who have overcome the initial shock and are now able to speak out."

All over the world there are growing tendencies to discriminate against people with AIDS. There are those who talk about quarantine – "quarantine did not stop the plague," says Richard, "nor will it stop AIDS." There are suggestions of closing the borders to stop the virus from coming in. "We already have 40,000 people with AIDS within the borders of the USA.

Closing the borders will only serve to create a completely false sense of security."

Richard is now extending his work to Europe and beyond. In the USA there are now a number of "human faces" prepared to act. In Europe there are not – as yet.

"I regained control over my own life, and that is a powerful tool. I can pass that tool to others, who can give it away in their turn. It is important that we speak for ourselves."

Speaking for yourself is a basic human right. And in so many ways, AIDS involves questions of human rights. When Richard was diagnosed in hospital, the first person who treated him like a human being and touched him without gloves was a housekeeper. The rest of the medical staff forgot about the human being. They saw only the virus that had infected his body. Fear and lack of knowledge can provoke the greatest inhumanity.

Now Richard Rector himself has been sitting next to many beds, consoling someone who has just been diagnosed; showing that it is possible to get through; passing on his tools: strength, control, power, not over others, but over your own life. Giving hope. "Yet I know," he says, "that they may well be back in that bed within a couple of years, and that I myself may be back there sooner or later."

Many people have the same first reaction to Richard: "But you look so healthy!" "Yes I do," he replies, "compared to your concept of someone with AIDS. But you did not know me when I weighed 70 pounds (32 kg) more, before my range of vision decreased and before I had to learn to accept that the virus is working on my brain."

And hope? Hope is not something to cling to. Hope is another tool at work behind the human face.

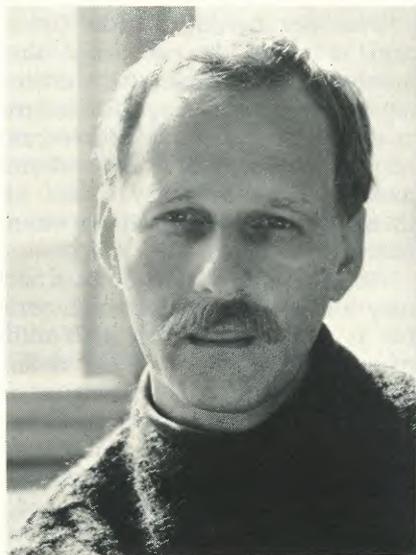
**Britt WIKBERG**

## AIDS: The Biggest Challenge

"A Red Cross not acting against AIDS needs to look closely at itself. To resist acting is to deny our Fundamental Principles. We must be aware that we are facing one of our biggest challenges since the battle of Solferino."

### Interview with Calle ALMEDAL

Bengt ERICSSON/Swedish Red Cross



**Calle ALMEDAL**, 42, nurse by profession, was born in Sweden but has lived in Norway for many years. Today he is working in the Norwegian Red Cross as Coordinator of the Nordic Societies Programme on AIDS.

*The Nordic countries are traditionally used to cooperating between themselves. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden belong to a similar linguistic and cultural family, so it is relatively easy to communicate across borders. Does this apply to AIDS campaigns as well?* asks **Britt WIKBERG**.

"It's necessary to cooperate against AIDS. Not only in Nordic countries and in the ways we are used to, but beyond *all* geographical and cultural borders. We need to be anything but conventional. The virus itself does not restrict itself to geographical areas or bureaucratic routines, so why should we?"

"We are in a hurry. It worries me that we have to face AIDS in our own neighbourhoods before we are able to understand that this virus is everyone's concern. What's worse, in a situation when somebody close to us is infected, we will be too preoccupied with grief and sorrow to be able to deal with the problem in a practical sense.

"Yet it is of very great importance that we *are* able to deal with this new situation in the most concrete ways possible. Abstract ideas are not the way to fight this virus.

"We need new ways of thinking. New ways of acting. But the Red Cross does not need to start again from Square One. There is useful and practical experience available. Not necessarily in our Red Cross world, but particularly among the communities that were first affected.

"The Red Cross must get over its shyness on issues like homosexuality and collaborate, wherever possible, with existing organisations that have the relevant experience. Above all, we need to collaborate. We are not in competition with any one else. If we think that, we will all be losers. The question is *how* to act, and to act correctly despite the urgency of the problem.

"There is a stage before and a stage after the virus strikes. The first stage we call prevention. At this stage we can control our blood banks and spread accurate information among the public.

"In the stage after the virus, we can, as the Red Cross, act even faster than governments and social and health services. This is the area of treatment and care. We must take initiatives and try out new and useful methods, while not forget-

ting that the fight against AIDS is a public responsibility.

"To date there are no countries really prepared to meet the enormous services needed by people with AIDS. For this reason, the Red Cross also needs to get involved in the stage after the virus has begun to spread.

"But whatever we do, and wherever we go, one thing is crucially important: we have to work *with* the people concerned, not *for* them.

"This is the biggest challenge. I wish we could react to AIDS as we react to any other disease. But AIDS is not like any other disease. However we look at it, in prevention or treatment, we are forced to cope with all our own taboos. We are talking about blood, semen and death. We are talking about sexual intercourse. About homosexuality. Heterosexuality. Prostitution. Drug addiction. The social underground.

"Whoever is infected is not only infected with the virus, but also finds himself, or herself, turned into a taboo. Human integrity and human rights are being threatened, not by AIDS, but by people's reactions to it. In this sense also, life itself is threatened. Physical, social, mental life. And the Red Cross exists to save life.

"Red Cross workers are not angels. We all grow up with different cultural taboos. We all have our prejudices regarding other people. Yet at the same time we are all members of an organisation that struggles for the dignity and respect of every individual in need, regardless of race, social status or personal opinions.

"As members of the Red Cross, we have an obligation to find this respect for other people within ourselves. Can we? Or can we not? Are we willing to act, or not? We can ship tons of food to the starving in faraway places, but are we able to look closely enough into ourselves? In the Red Cross, if we are not to be hypocrites, we simply have no choice."

B. W.

## WOMEN

### SURAYA OF AFGHANISTAN

Continuing our series on *Women in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*, **Shamim ADAM** and **Angela HIGNEY** spoke to the Secretary General of the Afghan Red Crescent during a recent visit to Geneva.

**M**rs. Suraya, President and Secretary General of the Afghan Red Crescent, came to the Society from a women's democratic organization which she, along with four other women, founded to improve the status of women in her country. As a student, she had evinced a strong desire to work in social welfare.

It was evident, as she looked around her, that women in Afghanistan did not have the same freedom as men to work in government and welfare posts, and this greatly disturbed her.

"I was very depressed about this discrimination against women. And there was no obvious solution. Men are not ready to give up their status. Perhaps in the world there is some male who is willing to be equal with a woman, but in our country at that time there was not."

So she decided that the only way to get on an equal footing with men was to struggle for women's rights. And this led, during her presidency of the organisation she had founded, to being imprisoned for a year and a half.

"What went constantly through my mind was that I was there because of our struggle for equality for women, and that was what helped me endure it."

How, then, did she feel when she was appointed as Secretary General of the Afghan Red Crescent Society last year?

"I must say that at the beginning I was not happy, and when I took up my position I saw that I could only work for half a Society – the half that was the women. But now my main concern is the welfare of all human beings. Needy people. Poor people. That is what gives me



Bulgarian Red Cross

satisfaction. We are facing many people who need help. When you see that you, as a woman, can do something good for them, then you can feel proud again."

Has she learnt something special about the role of women in a National Society?

"From my point of view, not only in our country but all over the world, if more responsibility in all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was given to women, they would be more effective than the men. Because a woman can be a mother, and a mother is more sensitive. When faced with war, with the hungry, with the sick, a woman can *feel* the suffering."

Of the 923 Red Crescent workers throughout Afghanistan, there are only about 162 women, and of these less than 70 in any leading position. If women are what the Afghan Red Crescent needs, why are there not more?

"In general in our country, the men have better qualifications and the women have to look after the children. For us, looking after children is very, very important. So if we want to improve the role of women in the Society, we should try to focus on their real potential and look for ways they can best use their time."

One way the Afghan Red Crescent is trying to encourage the involvement of women is by creating and equipping day-care rooms at their offices, where children can be taken care of, and where mothers can have easy access to them and be able to feed them when needed.

And the future? The Society has only a small number of volunteers but is working hard on its Youth membership – mainly those under 15 – with First Aid training as a first encounter with the Red Crescent. And most of the First Aid 'posts' created for this initiative are, you may have already guessed, in girls' schools.

With Mrs. Suraya on her visit to Geneva was a quiet gentleman who helped with interpretation. We asked him how the 162 women in the Society were received by the men. But the Secretary General was too quick for him.

"When there's a lady at the top, they have to keep quiet!"

Shamim ADAM and  
Angela HIGNEY

*Red Cross, Red Crescent will continue this series on the Women of the Movement in future editions. We look forward to hearing from others about their work and involvement, and their feelings about what can be done to improve the status of women in a world still too dominated by men!*

## COLOMBIA

### Don Pedro of Lerida

*After the catastrophic eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in November 1985, many survivors of the destruction of Armero have been resettled in Lerida, where, with the help of Red Cross programmes like the "micro-business projects", they are starting out on new lives.*

**Fernando VASQUEZ** of the Colombian Red Cross meets one man who, after a succession of tragedies, is beginning to make good.

**H**e has a kind face, though he's a bit of a rogue with the ladies. Despite his 66 years, he has not lost his love of life. He is not rich, but seems to be. He is illiterate, but has written poems. He is not a musician, but he plays the saxophone and the guitar. Alone with these two instruments, he bears the loss of two wives. The latest, Ligia Morano, died in Armero when the avalanche of mud from the Nevado del Ruiz volcano buried their home. He was thrown into the tops of the trees and survived.

Pedro Rojas García, victim of Armero, is quite a character in the town of Lerida to which he was taken to try to make a fresh start after the Ruiz catastrophe.

Now Don Pedro, as he is known here, leads a simple life running a small restaurant set up under the Red Cross micro-business programme. With six female employees, disaster victims themselves, he earns his own living and gives financial support to his daughter Teresa to complete her psychology studies in Mexico.

What little education her father, a small farmer of the region, could give her was supplemented, as he says, by "some good human relationships that have made me almost an important person".

Teresa was only educated for one year in the little school her father and some neighbours founded. But



the single lady teacher was not sufficient for the children. As their numbers grew, she had to give up the classes. "I owe a lot to Doña Ligia, my teacher," says Teresa enthusiastically. "She was marvellous, almost like a mother. We are indebted to her for developing many fine people, for giving us moral strength and teaching us respect for our fellow human beings. If we broke those two rules, she made us kneel down in the road with bricks in our hands."

Fernando VASQUEZ/Colombian Red Cross



Don Pedro admits he has always been in love with feminine features. From a very young age his attention and care have been devoted to the ladies. So after the death of his first wife of twenty years, Evelina Lozano, who bore him two children, he could not bear the absence of his "muse", and married again.

"Physical belongings are not important to me," he says. But with the financial help and materials he received from the Red Cross micro-business project, he set up a restaurant in premises he bought with the proceeds from selling his small farm.

Now he feels he is living a new phase of his life, a veritable "gift of God". He is in love with everything again, as he never expected to be

when his loved ones died." Not all husbands may be completely in love with their wives," he says, "but I can say with pride that I was one of them." After Armero, all his hopes collapsed again.

The camp where he first stayed turned into an inner refuge. Without relations of any kind, he wrote his first poems out of sheer despair. Then some friends, disturbed by his isolation, gave him a saxophone to distract him. He received it with gratitude, though he hardly knew what it was.

One night full of nostalgia, and a little curiosity, he began to play a few notes. By midnight, he was overreaching himself, and next day visited Pachito Alardon, who would become his teacher.

Little by little he started to play in churches and schools, breaking out of his inactivity and regaining his self-respect. "I was no longer the peasant farmer of before. Now I was Pedro Rojas." It did him so much good he began to learn the guitar as well.

He now has plans for the future, unfulfilled for the moment from lack of resources. But he would like to have a guest house to give shelter to the farmers and peasants such as he himself once was.

For the moment he has six rooms in the restaurant building, and two have been fitted out to provide modest comfort for travellers. A third is kept for his daughter for whom he has a "sacred commitment" to send money for the completion of her studies. She has known disaster too, losing all her possessions in the great Mexico earthquake that same year. Yet Teresa is determined to continue her studies, and to return to Colombia one day to serve, as her father has taught her, with love and respect for her fellow men and women.

Now his restaurant Las Acacias has given Don Pedro some real stability at last. Here he shares his new tranquility with friends and passers-by, playing his music to his table companions. And he likes to show off his new wealth too, the inestimable wealth of being alive again.

Fernando VASQUEZ HOYOS

## SOCIETY PAGES

### KENYA

# Flexing First Aid Muscles

Kenya, home to many world-class athletes of its own, staged the 4th All Africa Games in Nairobi last August. In the run-up to Olympic Year in 1988, it gave the Kenya Red Cross the chance to put its First Aid volunteers to the test.

Red Cross credibility was also on the line. With the world of track and field athletics currently wracked by doping fears and scandals, many preferred to turn to Red Cross help to be sure they would get only the proper treatment.

**Henry WAHINYA**, the Kenya Red Cross Information Officer, reports.

Nairobi is normally a bustling capital by any standards. But at the end of July it was more like a city waking up from a deep slumber. Over 4,000 sportsmen and officials from 39 African states were coming to town.

Sports addicts in their thousands jammed the venues for 12 days in August to watch athletics, swimming, boxing, wrestling, hockey and other events. And each site took on the appearance of a dormant volcano that could erupt at any time without warning.

Would the paramedical personnel of the Games be able to handle anything of that magnitude? The clear answer was No. So the organisers turned to the Kenya Red Cross for help from its First Aid Service. It was rather short notice, said Abbas Gullet, Youth and First Aid training Officer, "but we accepted the request as a challenge".

75 volunteers were mobilised from Nairobi and branches countrywide, while Andrew Okoth, Disaster Relief Officer and Kare Ottersen, delegate of the Norwegian Red Cross, prepared First Aid kits by the dozen.



Kenya Red Cross

Throughout the games, the volunteers handled 1,237 casualties: sportmen, officials and members of the public, everything from stomach problems, to headaches and vomiting, coughs and real injuries.

#### Fear of Doping

"Unfounded fears and suspicion among some foreign athletes of being doped drove many to us," confirmed Mary Mbugua, a medical volunteer. "They insisted they only wanted to be treated by a Red Cross doctor."

Four Red Cross ambulances rotated at different venues, and two kept all-night vigils at the Games Villages, in case exhausted sportsmen had their sleep disturbed.

With the Olympics in Asia less than a year away, Kenyan athletes are once again making their mark in world-class events like the Marathon. Sports fever is running high, and the Kenya Red Cross lost no opportunity to demonstrate its readiness and effectiveness in front of an enormous public. Luckily for everyone, the volcanoes did not erupt this time.

Henry WAHINYA



Kenya Red Cross

**ST. LUCIA**

**Something  
New  
In Paradise**

*In August, the recently recognised Red Cross Society of St. Lucia in the Caribbean opened its new Headquarters building, and with the well-known hospitality of the islands, invited the world – the League, ICRC and sister Societies – along to celebrate.*

*Reports from St. Lucia Red Cross with **Helen WATSON** and **Sue FAULKNER** of the British Red Cross.*

**F**lying over St. Lucia in the eastern Caribbean, it is easy to imagine yourself in paradise. Below everything is glistening turquoise water, white beaches, fringes of tall palm trees.

Back on earth, St. Lucia's main export comes from its prolific banana plantations. But for tourists overheating on the beaches, there is also a drive-in volcano, Soufrière, where gasses still simmering from the 1979 eruption can still be sniffed. In the high summer temperatures, a refreshing breeze can turn suddenly into the onset of a hurricane, and hurricanes are frequent in these islands.

It was this threat that prompted the idea of a solidly constructed Red Cross National Headquarters on St. Lucia. The Foundation Stone, prepared by local craftsmen from indigenous rock, was laid by Queen Elizabeth II on 26 October 1985, and the building was opened on schedule on August 6 this year.

St. Lucia has been independent since 22 February 1979, up till when the Society had been an overseas branch of the British Red Cross. Halfway through the building project the St. Lucia Red Cross Society was officially recognised as the 143rd member of the Movement just before the International Conference in Geneva last year.



Helen WATSON/British Red Cross

One reason international recognition took time was because the Society lacked a national headquarters building from which to carry out its work. It had been operating from the offices of its President, Kenneth Monplaisir, QC.

"The Red Cross in St. Lucia began informally and quietly before the Second World War," says Kenneth Monplaisir. "But the organisation declined until 1948, the year of the great fire which destroyed over half the city of Castries. This time the Red Cross drew from its wartime experiences helping shipwreck survivors and began to organise and provide for the homeless, the aged and the sick."

In 1979 and again the following year, several Caribbean islands were struck by severe hurricanes, and the need for local preparedness became acute. Now some 15 different Red Cross groups have been formed on St. Lucia, and membership is approaching 500, with 300 engaged in activities, according to Director General Roger Eudoxie.

"One of our priorities for the next year is to establish a blood donor programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Health," says Roger Eudoxie. "At the moment, arrangements have to be made with authorities in the neighbouring islands for emergency blood supplies. In view of the number of accidents on our roads, this programme is a matter of urgency."

The new building will provide a meeting place for training and contain an emergency storehouse ready for possible disaster. "It will also be a focal point for the public to come to when in need of the services we offer," says Eudoxie. Opened by Mrs. Vincent Floissac, wife of the Governor General, and in the presence of the late League President, Enrique de la Mata, in one of his last visits to a National Society, the St. Lucia Red Cross Headquarters is a major achievement for such a tiny country, even if it does seem like paradise to some.

**St. Lucia Seminar**

30 participants from 13 Caribbean National Societies, plus Belize, Guyana and Suriname, met near Castries, St. Lucia's capital, in the days preceding the opening of the new Headquarters. The occasion was the Second Seminar on Dissemination of Red Cross Principles and international humanitarian law, organised by the League and the ICRC and hosted by St. Lucia Red Cross.

A similar seminar for Spanish-speaking Societies of the region took place in Managua, Nicaragua, later the same month.

The seminars train information and dissemination officers to be able to broaden their activities concerning the correct use of the emblem, IHL, the role of a National Society in cases of armed conflict, and the application of the Fundamental Principles.

## SOCIETY PAGES

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

# Border Patrol



Christophe CONVERS

Since 1984 the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Red Cross has been actively involved in providing relief and assistance to more than 10,000 Irian Jaya refugees. A unique feature of this operation is that the refugees are located in 16 different encampments along the 1,000 km border, often in remote isolated villages that can only be reached by small plane or long river journeys.

**Wendy WOODWARD**, League delegate from the New Zealand Red Cross, arrived in Papua New Guinea last January and sent this report after several months' hard work. (Photographs by the author.)

**W**e sailed up the Fly River in a traditional canoe with outboard for seven hours on a visit to the farthest, poorest camp called Keiu. When the canoe beached, we had to jump out into thick mud, then walk over a log bridge for half a mile, very tricky with such wet, muddy shoes.

The motivation *not* to fall into the green oozing slime swamp beneath the logs was very strong. Happily, I didn't fall, but my companion, a young Peace Corps girl from Philadelphia called Bee, provincial nutritionist for Western Province, the largest, least developed, most malnourished province, *did*.

Coming back along the river, the hornbills and herons crashed about in the trees, and though at first we had cold torrential rain in our open canoe, later the sun came out and we steamed dry.



In the hills near here, between Kiunga and Tabuilil where the OK Tedi Gold Mine is, it rains 340 days a year, and the annual rainfall is eight metres! Needless to say, malaria is the biggest problem...



The next day, with Father Frank the Red Cross pilot, we flew to Tarabbits to see the 2,000 souls there. Then another three hours' walk to the next camp. It is all well organised and much less arduous than anticipated. There is a sound infrastructure here in PNG and the system really works. You just have to learn the system.

All food, medicine and equipment for the refugees is flown in or delivered to camp by canoe. In the

rainy season when grass airstrips are waterlogged, there may be no delivery for several weeks. And when the rivers are flooded and it is too dangerous for canoes, the refugees must turn back to traditional methods of food gathering until the basic rations of tinned fish and rice can reach the camps again.

Traditionally, the people in these border areas lead a semi-nomadic way of life. They "go around" visiting relatives and hunt small animals in the bush. Like many international borders, the frontier that separates Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea is a straight line which also separates families and divides tribes like the Yongom, a third of whom live on the PNG side, while two-thirds remain in Irian Jaya.

Where there is sufficient space, the refugees make gardens to supplement the basic rations. PNG people and their government are welcoming to the refugees. They are often their "wontoks" (the same language group) or at least people of similar backgrounds. So there is no aggression or animosity. But ties to the land are strong and land rights are complex, and there is some tension about giving refugees land for gardens.

Proper targeting of groups for relief assistance is important. The condition of the refugees must be compared with that of the local population, since an imbalance

would generate tension, and food aid alone can upset the local economy, and make people passive about helping themselves.

Older camps grow a good variety of fruit and vegetables, green leaves and tobacco, and the refugees catch fish and small bush animals like wallabies and birds.

The climate is tropical and people wear little clothing. In most camps rain water is collected for drinking and there are plentiful streams for bathing and washing. Houses are built up off the ground and are cool and comfortable with a small ladder or log at the front door for easy entry.

Sago palm is used to build the houses, timber for the walls and floor, leaves for a thatch roof which is completely waterproof, even in the heaviest downpour. When the refugees first arrived, Red Cross provided tents and blankets for temporary shelter. Now most camps have a village atmosphere with a market stall to trade hand-crafts and vegetables with the local people.



Most camps are attached to a government or missionary station, and each has a resident Aide Post Orderly who provides treatment for common illnesses and arranges the evacuation of seriously ill patients. Covering and dressing infected wounds and tropical ulcers removes the threat of tetanus or septicaemia.

A man has been brought to Yapsei (West Sepik Province) after being gored by a wild pig he was

chasing. As he ran up a tree (by this time Mrs. Pig was chasing him!) the pig gored him in the buttock, thigh and groin. He had deep wounds, very infected, and had taken a week to get to the camp. Now he's recovering and his wounds are healing slowly.

Going "on patrol" in Papua New Guinea is a way of life for all health workers. Long treks through the bush, carrying vaccines and medicines to remote villages, is part of the Primary Health Care programme. Maternal and Child Health Patrols are carried out regularly in each camp and all pregnant women and young children are seen. The children are weighed and measured, vaccinations updated, and illnesses noted in the individual Baby Health Books which, amazingly, all the mothers seem to possess.

Red Cross has two health workers employed in the West Sepik Refugee Camps: Nasson Yukari, an Aide Post Orderly at Green River Camp, and Otti Bleakley, a registered nurse at Blackwater Camp. As well as these two vital people, Red Cross is helping environmental health with the purchase of spray equipment for controlling the flies and mosquitos.

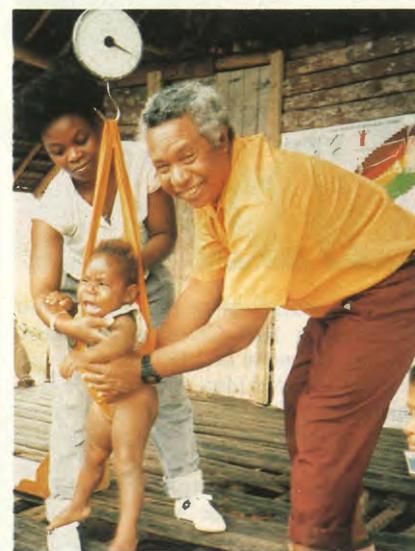
Malaria and malnutrition are the two greatest health problems. Because many of the refugees have lived in mountain areas and come to lower altitudes when they cross the border, they are very susceptible to malaria. The problem was particularly bad at Yapsei camp, a swampy narrow flat between the river and high cliffs. Red Cross has provided special mosquito nets, impregnated with repellent, which are helping to lower the malaria rate.

Malnutrition has also been a problem with new arrivals, as the traditional diet of Pacific foods like taro, kaukau and sago is high in starch and low in protein. For two years Red Cross has supplied supplementary foodstuffs like cooking oil, milk powder, salt and wheat-flour, but now that the standard of nutrition has improved, the general distribution of these supplements is no longer necessary.

However, selective feeding is carried on in three camps where pregnant women, TB patients and

malnourished children receive protein pancakes and fortified milk mixture twice a day. Preparation and distribution of this food is carried out by refugee women themselves, and the MCH patrol monitors the children's progress monthly.

The long-term future for the refugees is uncertain. Some would like to return to Irian Jaya and repatriations are arranged by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).



*PNG Red Cross Secretary General Pat Ila-ava helps a nutrition survey.*

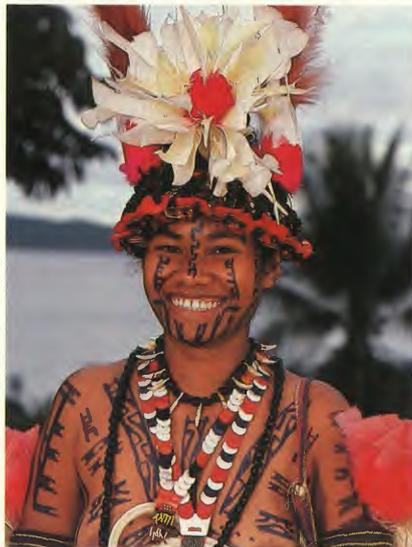
There is a relocation site at East Awin which is many miles from the border, and the refugees who move here will lead a settled lifestyle and have school and health facilities, as well as ample space for gardens and for planting rubber trees. Those who wish to move will be shifted over gradually during the dry season (March to November) and one by one the border camps will be reduced.

This is the long-term plan. But the reality of the present situation is still 16 widespread camps along a 1,000 km border, difficult to reach in wet weather, where several hundred people are often crowded together in a very small space. PNG Red Cross works closely with UNHCR, government authorities and Save the Children Fund to provide health care and improved living standards for all these refugees. This far, the system works.

Wendy WOODWARD

## SOCIETY PAGES

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA



**C**ongratulations to the Papua New Guinea Red Cross for the best-looking calendar of 1987. The Society had the inspired idea of creating a wall calendar which features the participants in the Miss PNG beauty contest last year.

The result: a striking series of studies of Pacific pulchritude, with each young lady's page sponsored by a local enterprise, high visibility for the Red Cross, and a healthy dose of fund- and morale-raising to boot.

Alas we cannot show all the contestants. Not even all of the contestants, whose exotic and colourful costumes are a reminder that the Melanesian climate is not made for over-dressing. Here we must be content with a modest selection of **Rocky Roe's** photographs, and hold our breath, until next year!



*Below left: "Miss Boroko Rotary". Above left: "Miss Capital District Interim Commission". Above: "Miss Parliamentary Services". Below: "Miss Papua New Guinea 86".*





**1863-1988**

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**125 YEARS AT WORK  
...AND STILL DEVELOPING**

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**125 ANS A L'ŒUVRE  
...ET TOUJOURS EN DEVELOPPEMENT**

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**125 AÑOS MANOS A LA OBRA  
...Y TODAVÍA DESARROLLÁNDOSE**

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