



+C RED CROSS RED CRESCENT

MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

**125 Days
of Disasters
From Sudan
to Armenia**

September-December 1988 3 SFr.

SIGNING OF GENEVA CONVENTION

PAINTING BY ARMAND DUMARESQ



Since the signing of the first Geneva Convention on 22 August 1864 the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has grown from its first aim of caring for the war-wounded to cover prisoners of war, missing persons, refugees, emergency relief, development, health issues, blood services, first aid, and youth programmes.

1989 has two events which celebrate these 125 years of caring:

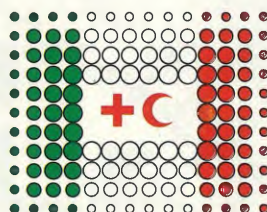
WORLD RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT DAY

is celebrated on 8 May, the birthday of its founder Henry Dunant. His message - the protection of human life, in conflict and peacetime alike - is as important as ever. Special events are being planned by National Societies worldwide. They include programmes on the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, recruiting activities, training sessions, blood drives, fundraising, membership drives, first aid demonstrations, cultural activities, sporting events, and a lot more. Join in and do your part. Because the world is a more humane and peaceful place with the Red Cross and Red Crescent around.



**125 years
Protecting
Human Life**

125 YEARS LATER



SUPERCAMP 89

is the first international meeting of the largest world-wide youth organisation. 700 Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth will attend from 147 National Societies. The dates are 1-14 September 1989.

SUPERCAMP 89

will span two countries. First in Northern Italy, close to Castiglione and Solferino where the idea of the Red Cross was born. And then in Switzerland, finishing in Geneva where the international Movement has its Headquarters.

SUPERCAMP 89

will consist of a delegation of 5 from each National society; four RCY members 18-22 years one RCY leader 22-35 years.

Contact your National Society to find out how you can get involved either as a participant or national supporter.

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MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT
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Earthquake in Armenia (above) was the major year end news story. But it wasn't the only disaster. 1988 had 125 days of disasters on all continents of the world. The Philippines (below), China, Algeria, Malaysia were just a few of the areas hard hit by floods, fires, cyclones, drought and earthquakes.

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COVER PAGE by Lars-Kristian Crone of suffering in earthquake ravaged Spitak, Armenia.

CENTRE SPREAD by Thierry Gassmann of Boat People continuing to arrive in Pulau Bidong, Malaysia.



Refugees continue to be crammed into camps in South East Asia. What is the future for refugee children in places such as Site 2 on the Thai-Kampuchean border?

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The International Museum of the Red Cross opened in October. Modern on the outside, a mixture of high tech and history on the inside, Geneva's newest museum is a place to visit.

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What's left in Spitak, Armenia.

Lars-Kristian Crone

125 DAYS OF DISASTERS

From Sudan to Armenia

It began with torrential rains hitting the Sudan on 5 August and ended with a mighty 6.9 on the Richter Scale earthquake that levelled villages and cities in Armenia on 7 December. In between were killer floods in Bangladesh, hurricanes in the Caribbean and Central America, tornadoes and cyclones in the Americas and Asia, as well as other earthquake strikes in China, Nepal and India.

In the 125th year of the founding of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Movement, the "125 Days of Disaster from Sudan to Armenia" was an unprecedented show of man's vulnerability to the forces of nature. The need for disaster preparedness and quick emergency response was underscored time and time again.

The ability of the world to respond compassionately to disaster after disaster was severely taxed. The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies issued in four months 24 appeals for international assistance to help in both the emergency and the rehabilitation phases of disaster relief. Though the appeals were issued in a short period of time, and the emergency disaster phase of the operations are over, it may take years in some areas for the final rehabilitation projects to be completed.

In light of modern technology and public safety systems, the world has assumed it is immune from the cataclysmic events ancient chroniclers described in vivid apocalyptic terms. But for the individual victims of the "125 days of disaster", life has proved otherwise. The following reports from disaster areas around the world only highlight a few of the tragic events.

When the Nile overflows in Sudan.



Ralph Wright

THE SUDAN

The Water Keeps Coming

What began on 5 August as a gentle and much appreciated desert rain in central Sudan grew into a cloudburst that stalled over the capital city of Khartoum. The result was a flooded and paralysed city. The Nile unable to handle the great quantities of water from this storm and other rains in Ethiopia overflowed its banks. 600,000 people became homeless in central and northern Sudan. All told, two million people in the Sudan were affected by the flooding.

"Most people lived for two days in three feet of water," recalls Ibrahim Osman, Secretary General of the Sudanese Red Crescent. "I saw families who had put together a pile of rocks, placed a bed on top and heaped their children on it to keep them safe."

Hardest hit by the disaster were the unplanned settlements that have sprung up all over the city, populated by hundreds of thousands of displaced persons who have fled civil strife in the south or moved to the big city from poverty stricken rural areas. Red Crescent teams who went into the areas with lengths of plastic sheeting for temporary shelters, blankets, clothing, cooking utensils and other relief

Food is delivered by helicopter.



Ralph Wright



Water distribution near Khartoum.

items were besieged by desperate families. The personal safety of relief staff became a real issue. "It took courage to be a Red Crescent volunteer," says Danish journalist Henrik Thomsen, who served as a League information officer.

Once the rains stopped, the flooding continued, due to the swollen waters of the Blue Nile which continued for some months to carry the extensive run off from the mountain rains of Ethiopia to the east. Waterborne diseases became a real threat. "We were a hairsbreadth away from catastrophe," says Dr. Adriaan Korver, medical coordinator. "Cholera was the spectre in most people's minds, but in fact malaria, from mosquitoes attracted to the stagnant waters, was the biggest danger."

Relief operations in the area of Karima, 600 kilometers downstream from Khartoum underscore the cooperative nature of the relief effort. Sudanese Red Crescent relief workers identified the flooded villages. League personnel arranged with the International Committee of the Red Cross to use an ICRC chartered Hercules to fly wheat-flour to the airport at Merowe.

There a Helimission helicopter, piloted by Ernst Tanner of Switzerland, ferried 12 sacks at a time across the river to the affected villages. Providing support to the operation on the ground were the staff of Kabelmetal Electro of Germany (Fed Rep) operators of the electric generating plant of the National Electricity Corporation of Sudan (NEC).

Paradoxically, while water was everywhere, clean water was at a premium. Initially an emergency distribution system was developed

using tankers and water bladders. Due to the success of this operation, in late August the Sudanese Red Crescent/League operation embarked on an ambitious long-term programme to supply 10 litres of drinking water daily to 400,000 people, chiefly in the settlement areas. Financial and technical assistance is being provided by various sources including the Sudanese government; U.S. AID; UNDP; UNDR0; and the government of the European Economic Community, Australia, the Netherlands, Canada and Italy.

Meanwhile in southern Sudan a human disaster of even greater proportions continues. Civilian victims of the civil war continue in large numbers to die due to starvation. Off again, on again shipments of food and relief are unable to reach



Food distribution in Nile village.

all those in need. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled north or to neighbouring countries. ICRC shipments of food commenced again in December. Relief workers hope that in 1989 a solution will be found for these victims.

• Ann NAEF/Ralph WRIGHT

The 24 Appeals 5 Aug to 7 Dec 1988 Disasters

Country	Disaster	Amount in SFr*
1. Sudan	Floods	780,000
2. Ethiopia	Drought	29,792,000
3. Nepal	Earthquake	617,000
4. Uganda	Displaced persons	1,369,000
5. Tanzania	Drought	3,848,000
6. Sahel	Floods	461,500
7. Bangladesh	Floods & Cyclone	9,355,000
8. Rwanda	Refugees from Burundi	375,000
9. Nigeria/Senegal	Floods	257,500
10. Jamaica	Hurricane Gilbert	5,720,000
11. Haiti/Honduras/ Dominican Republic	Hurricane Gilbert	1,375,000
12. Mexico	Hurricane Gilbert	1,407,500
13. Algeria	Floods	110,000
14. Benin	Floods	262,000
15. Pakistan	Floods	3,600,000
16. Philippines	Typhoon Unsang/Ruby	1,941,000
17. Nicaragua	Hurricane Joan	2,691,600
18. Costa Rica	Hurricane Joan	593,600
19. Panama	Hurricane Joan	60,000
20. Mauritania	Cholera	20,000
21. Algeria	Locusts	1,179,049
22. Sudan	Water Project	1,040,000
23. Malaysia	Floods	500,000
24. Armenia	Earthquake	81,000,000

* International aid requested. Includes cash and in kind. Additional disaster operations were assisted but no formal appeals were issued.

BANGLADESH

25 Million People Flooded

It took the flotilla of six lifeboats and three speed boats an hour to reach the river. They skimmed across a drowned land between electricity pylons and over the roofs of lost villages.

To the untrained eye it was a picturesque scene under a dazzling blue sky. Picturesque, that is, until one saw close up the misery etched on the faces of entire families who had been marooned for weeks on the roofs of whatever buildings remained above water, fending off snakes and contemplating their sunken fields.

As the boats stopped to distribute rice and lentils to the delight of several naked children perched on top of a corrugated iron roof, dug-out canoes or country boats shot like arrows across the water seeking food and help.

One old woman, an oar in one hand petitioned with the other for food to feed her children, crying pathetically all the time. "She says she lost everything. She wants some food and shelter. She's sleeping on the boat. Not only her, her whole family lives on this little boat now. Two daughters, two sons," translated 24-year-old Khurshedul Alami, a ten year volunteer with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Bangladesh is delta country and has a history of flooding. In earlier times this flooding gave to the land its top soil and water which resulted in the area being a breadbasket of food for the region. But due to

Relief boat in the delta.



Dennis McClean

changing land use which coincided with deforestation, the damming of rivers upstream, increased population and urbanization, the main channels of the rivers have become shallow due to silt. With water holding capacity reduced and drainage systems damaged, intensive flooding becomes a recurrent event.

This year's flooding began around 20 August when the heavy rush of water came over the border



Dennis McClean

Getting supplies to flooded victims.

at Chapai Nawabganj where the Ganges enters Bangladesh territory. Over the next ten days floodgates on dams upstream were opened to relieve the building water pressure. This resulted in a massive flooding downstream which inundated most of the country and cities and affected 45 million people in 41 districts. Almost half a million homes were destroyed and another 1.5 million damaged. Seven million hectares of crops were either completely or partially ruined. 100,000 cattle were lost and thousands of kilometres of roads and railways were washed away.

Stating this to be the worst flooding he has ever seen, Bangladesh Red Crescent Secretary General Ali Hassan Quoreshi reiterates the words of international experts who say it is virtually impossible for Bangladesh to control the floods. "We can try to bring it down to a



Associated Press

Flooded roadways in Dhaka.

manageable level through the making of embankments and dikes but the major problems lie beyond our country. The solution is an international one."

With flood relief operations still in high gear the southern coast of Bangladesh in late November was hit by a cyclone that whipped up a tidal surge of one to two metres high and brought extensive new flooding, additional deaths and more homelessness. This was part of the extreme weather pattern in South East Asia which brought flooding and damage to Malaysia and Thailand as well.

Other disasters hitting Asia included flooding in early October that inundated north-eastern Punjab in Pakistan. 3.7 million acres of land was flooded, thousand of "kucha" (mud) houses washed away and 3 million people homeless was reported by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

In the Philippines, Typhoon Unsang (code name Ruby) struck the southern and central Philippines on 24 October. Relief operations were provided by the Philippine National Red Cross in 59 provinces. 1.1 million people were affected.

• Dennis McCLEAN

Emergency medical care for a child in Dhaka.



Miladinovic SIPA

NEPAL

The Earlier Earthquake

Medical Superintendent, Dr. Chhatra Amatya, gesticulated towards the mound of rubble which was all that remained of her former home in the grounds of the hospital at Dharan in the Sunsari District of Eastern Nepal.

"This was the bathroom. The water-tank is over there upside down. There's the kitchen. That's where the vegetable garden was," she said.



Dennis McClean

Sarala Kayasth, NRCS Vice Chairman, visiting earthquake victim in hospital.

Dr. Amatya, a founding member of the Red Cross in this stronghold of the British Gurkha regiment, told how her 16-year-old daughter Neelam, was asleep in the living quarters when the wall of her bedroom collapsed. "The wall fell outwards so, luckily, we were saved."

The Amatyas were among the lucky ones. When the 6.5 on the Richter Scale earthquake struck Nepal at 4:50 a.m. on 21 August, 721 people lost their lives.

The effects of the earthquake will continue to be felt for some time in this small tightly-knit community in Eastern Nepal. Through a gap in the wall which surrounds the Red Cross building one can still see months later the makeshift tents of plastic sheeting put together by the Red Cross for some of the estimated 2,100 families left homeless in the district.

Many acts of heroism were performed in the early dawn as heavy rain followed the disaster. Rescuers worked frantically to dig survivors out of the rubble.

"In the hospital here in Dharan it was a terrible, sorrowful scene," recalls Sarala Kayasth, Nepal Red Cross Vice-Chairman. "There were people crying and dead bodies were being brought in by cart and rickshaw, by scooter and by motorcycle."

"In 24 hours we saw 1,500 people," said Dr. Amatya. "The Red Cross came and put a tent here. Those with critical injuries were referred to the British military hospital."

The tiny 25-bed hospital was soon overwhelmed. It had lost its kitchen so Red Cross volunteers set up a field kitchen to feed the patients and the Red Cross building was turned into an annex for the hospital. The Society's ambulance and Landrover in Dharan carried 829 patients in the first five days. Red Cross first aiders treated over 1,200 people in the surrounding district over the first week.

A major problem was the lack of good drinking water. In Sunsari alone, it was calculated that over 1,000 wells had been damaged. Some had simply dried up, others were filled in by landslides. While fresh water was distributed from the Gurkha camp, the Red Cross put in 48 tube wells at school sites throughout the district.



Dennis McClean

Earthquake damaged Red Cross building in Dharan.

Tents set up for homeless families in Dharan.



Dennis McClean

Dr. Chhatra Amatya points towards the remains of her former home.

Other difficulties centered around logistics. "In the hill areas it was difficult to send medicines, stretchers and relief materials as they had to be carried by porters," explains Regional Secretary, Shiva Dutta Upadhyay.

With the difficulties of the emergency phase behind them, the country now faces the massive problems of rehabilitation. Over 300,000 people have been affected with 60,000 homes destroyed. While the government introduces a low-interest loan scheme for people to rebuild their homes, the Red Cross plans to tackle earthquake-related problems through community development. Particular emphasis is being placed on the restoration and improvement of community health care facilities. This may include renovation of hospitals, health posts as well as educational institutions.

• Dennis McCLEAN

Dennis McClean





Bill Cooke AP

THE CARIBBEAN Hurricane Season Creates Havoc

Coughs and colds line up here. Skin rashes go over there."

The words bounce off the vaulted tin ceiling. Women with small children and a few old people dutifully find their way to the correct registration table.

This is a Red Cross health clinic in a low-income section of Kingston, just eight days after Hurricane Gilbert pounded the island nation of Jamaica around 9 September.

Lorna Wilson, a nurse from the U.S.A. who has volunteered to

help the Jamaica Red Cross, is trying to bring order to the clinic at the Portmore Evangelical Centre. She examines a small child and finds no colour below his pupils – a telltale sign of anemia.

"Give him these vitamins," she tells the mother. "They're very expensive, so don't just put them in a box on a shelf. Make sure he gets one every day."

"Do we have any milk?" she asks another team member. There is no fresh milk, because most of the island has no electricity. Without refrigeration, milk from the dairy herds must be thrown away. It will be at least three months before full power can be restored throughout the island. Erica Williams, Jamaican volunteer, finds a litre-size package of powdered milk for the mother.

At the Kingston airport, every inbound plane is heavily loaded with relief supplies. But because international communications are so limited, there is no advance notice of shipments. Charlie Ridgway of the American Red Cross and Don Smith of the British Red Cross arrive at the airport by 9 o'clock each morning. They check each flight until sundown (the airport closes at dark because the lights aren't working), watching for materials destined for Red Cross distribution.

They get discouraged when they find cargo space wasted by shipments of used clothing and outdated medicine, given by well-meaning individuals who don't understand disaster relief needs. What is really needed is plastic sheeting, roofing materials, blankets and cash. Cash to pay for the gasoline for the trucks, for the communications gear, for the oper-

ations of the relief programme, etc.

Work at the airport is hot. The tarmac broils by 10 a.m. On the road less than a quarter mile from the airport, a small plane dangles from a tree – a vivid reminder of Gilbert's furious winds that reportedly reached 225 kilometres per hour.

The Jamaica Red Cross is a small National Society. The headquarters in Kingston and branches in outlying towns serve a nation of 2.2 million people. Before Hurricane Gilbert, most branches were only hours away by road. The road damage has doubled and tripled many travel times.

This is the first major relief operation for the Jamaica Red Cross in years. There were floods in 1979, but the last hurricane hit a generation ago, in 1951. Now Gilbert, the most destructive hurricane of the century, has severely strained the Society's resources.

Each evening after dark, Gregory Reid, president of the Jamaica Red Cross meets for several hours with Yvonne Clark, the Society's executive director, and other staff to plot the next day's activities. "We must be careful how we make decisions," says Mr. Reid. "We don't want to go one way today, then have to change our minds tomorrow."

Similar disaster staff meetings were held daily across the Caribbean and Central America this fall. Hurricane Gilbert's swathe of devastation crippled not only Jamaica but Haiti, Honduras, the Dominican Republic and parts of Mexico. A few weeks later, Hurricane Joan tore into Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Other nations had storm damage and flooding.

But the real story is not in the statistics of the nations affected but in the tragic tales of individual victims. "Not only have we lost most of our belongings that were washed out on the sea," says Urbano Mex Chale of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, "but I have also lost my job, as the restaurant where I was a watchman had to close because of the damage. How can we make a living now that the tourists are gone?"

• Tom DONIA/Hans FLATOE

Tom Donia



Youth help with the cooking while medical help is given to a young girl.



Tom Donia

ARMENIA

The Big One Hits Hard

At 11:42 a.m. on 7 December disaster hit with a vengeance. An earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale devastated a large portion of Armenia. Though it took 24 hours for the world to learn of the widespread damage, once notified, the humanitarian response was instantaneous and unprecedented.

The initial response came from within the Soviet Union with medical and rescue personnel rushing into the area. But as the size of the catastrophe became apparent to the world, international teams of disaster personnel converged on Armenia. Chaotic conditions, mainly caused by the magnitude and type of disaster, hampered the relief efforts. "The system was at a breaking point and confusion beyond ... comprehension," reports Dr. C. N. Frechette of the Hospital of Paris, one of the first international physicians on the scene.

But order gradually came out of chaos, rescues were made and lives saved. Eye witness reports share both the euphoria of rescue and the tragedy of death.

Red Cross member Gornik Saakian, a 42 year-old father of three, personally rescued 15 children from a collapsed school in Spitak. Working in the fields when the earthquake hit, he immediately ran to the school. He dug out the children who were trapped under a beam in a small corner of the room. His son, upon seeing his dad said, "Save me last" ... and the father did.

Encho Gospodinov



Three days later, Klaus Mittermaier of the German (Fed Rep) Red Cross witnessed the work of the German search and rescue dogs. Ten dogs and their handlers had left Germany on a charter flight the night before. In the morning they began working the rubble of Spitak and one dog found, after digging frantically, a girl ... and she was alive.

In Leninakan Dr. Andrei Kisselev, League Under Secretary General, saw a girl of eight dug out with her eyes wide open. Immediately the mother says "Close the win-

TASS



Czechoslovak rescue team in devastated Leninakan street.

dows. She'll get cold". Child of course is dead. There were many cases of people losing touch with reality; just like the mother, because of the trauma of the disaster.

Relief goods pouring into Armenia quickly became a logistics nightmare. Damaged roads and railways slowed the distribution of supplies. Space for the warehousing of relief goods became difficult to find.

Quickly the emergency needs of the operation were met and in some areas oversubscribed. On 19 December, the League in consultation with Soviet Red Cross and government authorities issued a statement calling for a halt in the sending of emergency relief supplies to Armenia.

It was requested that donors consider redirecting their aid to the rehabilitation phase of the operation.

Relief flights crowd Yerevan's airport. ◇

◇ Food Distribution Centre in Spitak.



Medical tents in Spitak.

For the Red Cross such projects includes a prosthetic workshop, a post-traumatic rehabilitation centre, and the rebuilding of warehousing and communications for the Armenian Red Cross. Other rehabilitation projects will be provided by a wide range of Soviet, international and non governmental organizations.

Statistics released on 31 December indicate the magnitude of the disaster. An estimated 700,000 people lived in the earthquake damaged areas of Armenia. 109,196 were evacuated (69,000 outside of Armenia). Confirmed dead were 24,888 (including 74 doctors and 250 nurses/paramedics). 14,850 were rescued alive. Medical assistance was given to 30,000 and 3,111 remain in hospitals. 25 hospitals and 225 health posts and other medical facilities were either destroyed or seriously damaged. There were 37,500 railcars offloaded. 1,252 relief flights landed at Yerevan of which 225 were international.

It will take years to rebuild the damaged areas of Armenia.

• George REID/Ralph WRIGHT

TASS



THE MOVEMENT

PANAFRICAN CONFERENCE

Having Fun While Doing Good

For a start, it was all enormously good and rumbustious African fun. "The Movement at work, but *en fête*," as the local Senegal radio described it.

There was a lion man cavorting between the legs of an acrobat on stilts. A crocodile man snapping at the teeny weenies, and producing squeals of horror. Young girls gyrating and vibrating to the sound of the tom-toms. Mme Siga Seye's Red Cross ladies, resplendent in their pink and blue boubous. Hundreds of young members, feverishly waving their little flags bearing hand-painted crosses and crescents.

And then through the multitude – towering above everyone else – the Head of State, President Abdou Diouf, comes in person to open this Second Panafrican Conference in Dakar's Hall of African Unity.

"Your Movement brings light out of darkness," he told his 2,000-strong audience. "In conflict and disasters, you work for the relief of suffering."

He paused. "Governments should be more sensitive to your message". Another pause. "Especially those guilty of the odious crime of apartheid..."

It was a bit like that all week. Laughter, superb colour, occasional confusion – interspersed with a very serious underlying purpose: what development for African National Societies?

Pär Stenbäck, Secretary General of the League, helped set the tone when he called for measures to "bridge the gap" between rich and poor National Societies. "Future development work," he said, "should emphasize the human skills needed to help Societies progress to self-reliance."

The process of identifying and training "Africans for African operations" had started and at the 1989 General Assembly donor and operating Societies should "join hands" to draft a basic agreement on Development.

From all over the Continent, speakers touched on the same theme. There had to be a "true partnership" on a North/South axis plus more South/South cooperation – with more work being done on a regional and sub-regional basis.

But how should such work be structured? The Panafrican had been preceded by the ACROFA Conference, grouping the French-speaking National Societies in Africa. Was it not time, some English-speakers asked, for them to have a similar grouping?

But would that not, asked others, lead to a split in African unity?

The two groups appointed representatives, and with patience and common sense, hammered out an understanding – they would work to learn each other's language and, wherever possible, would concen-



Senegal President Abdou Diouf (R) with League President Mario Villarroel opening Panafrican Conference.

trate on regional cooperation within a Panafrican framework.

"A whole continent is gathered here," said Dr. Mario Villarroel, President of the League. "Our constant task is to facilitate the activities of African National Societies in the relief of suffering."

It was a theme taken up by other speakers.

"In the Red Cross, we suffer with those who suffer," added Mme Siga Seye Coulibaly. "In the reduction of suffering, we must remember our African traditions", argued Mme Véronique Ahouanmanou. "Traditions based on tolerance, hospitality and mutual respect", concluded Dr. Mohamed Nesh Nash.

The Resolutions put forward by the Commissions on Humanitarian Law, Relief and Development, and National Society Cooperation reflected this concern. "Humanitarian work is not a European import," wrote one journalist, "but part of the living fabric of Africa."

The delegates then took away with them a "challenge" and a "commitment", put forward by President Cornelio Sommaruga of the ICRC. "In this 125th year of our Movement," he said, "let National Societies ask their governments for a birthday present – a humanitarian gesture, which should cost them something."

There was much talk around the tea bar about what this could be. Signing or ratifying the Additional Protocols? Releasing political prisoners? Accepting additional refugees? Reuniting families?

Time will tell. For the moment, the Conference has issued a Message to all African Governments –



The "train de l'humanité" en route with a message.

Damien Personnaz

calling for such a gesture, stressing the humanitarian traditions of Africa, condemning apartheid, and re-emphasizing the fundamental role of the Movement in the relief of suffering.

Appropriately, the first Message was addressed to President Moussa Traore of Mali, the Head of the Organization for African Unity. Equally appropriately, it was hand-

carried by the special Red Cross "train de l'humanité" which chugged out of Dakar – with a contingent of young volunteers on board from both countries – after the Conference en route for the Malian capital of Bamako.

Again, the tom-toms beat out the rhythm. The flags fluttered feverishly. The Red Cross ladies ululat-

ed. The young girls and boys girated.

It was all very African. And very much the better for it. For this Calvinist reporter at least – heading back from the West African sun to a snowy Geneva – it was a pleasure to see the Movement having fun while it did good.

• George REID

LEBANON

ICRC Leaves Lebanon Delegate Freed

The ICRC on 19 December announced that due to threats against its delegation in Lebanon, it was suspending its entire humanitarian operation and was repatriating all its expatriate staff immediately. The Lebanese Red Cross, as the National Society, however would continue to provide its services. The ICRC also stated it was ready at all times to resume its protection and assistance activities on behalf of all the victims in Lebanon as soon as these threats are clearly and unequivocally withdrawn.

Only a few days earlier on 16 December, Peter Winkler, an ICRC Delegate, was freed by his captors after one month of imprisonment in Southern Lebanon.

Three gunmen kidnapped the Swiss delegate of the ICRC sub-delegation at Sidon, in southern Lebanon, along with his Lebanese driver on the morning of 17 November. Naji Assad, the driver, was released later that day. But Winkler, aged 32, who had only taken up his duties in Sidon about a month before the kidnapping was held incommunicado.

The ICRC immediately contacted various groups in Lebanon requesting assistance in locating and releasing the delegate. Public appeals were also issued.

"As a neutral humanitarian organization independent of any power, whether international or local, the ICRC has been present throughout Lebanon since the conflict began; its delegates have brought protection and assistance

to conflict victims of all communities, in particular during the country's darkest hours, and have cooperated with all parties to do so...

"The ICRC earnestly appeal to all those in Lebanon who know that at all costs its humanitarian activities must continue unimpeded. It calls for every effort to bring about Peter Winkler's release and enable him to resume his work on behalf of the country's various communities."

Since ICRC delegates had been abducted before in the region but had been released within a few days, it was thought the appeals would be answered positively. However, despite the assistance of various Palestinian and Lebanese militia groups, no quick release occurred. The ICRC with reluctance suspended its Sidon operations and withdrew its personnel to Beirut.

On Friday, 2 December a brief note from Peter Winkler was delivered in Beirut. "I was kidnapped not as a Red Cross delegate, but as

a Swiss citizen. My government knows what my kidnappers want from it, and it has to cooperate in order to save my life."

The ICRC immediately acknowledged the message that the abduction was not directed against the Red Cross. But, "the ICRC nevertheless regards this act as an intolerable affront to its humanitarian mission, which requires that its staff, who work under the protection of the Red Cross emblem, be absolutely respected at all times and in all circumstances." An appeal for this immediate release was again issued.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide also appealed for his release so that he and all other Red Cross personnel, including both ICRC and national society staff, can continue their mission of protection and assistance for the benefit of all victims, without discrimination and regardless of any political or religious considerations.

Following his release, Winkler returned to Switzerland. He indicated that he was in good health and had not been mistreated during his ordeal. He looked forward to his next mission as an ICRC delegate.

• Michele MERCIER

ICRC Delegate Peter Winkler was kidnapped from his official car on Sidon's Hisbeh Square.



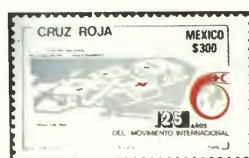
Beatrice Plantier

ICRC/N. Roggo



**UGANDA
RED
CROSS**

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



Stamps celebrate the 125th

From its beginning the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has been commemorated by postage stamps. The 125th Anniversary of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is no exception. The Director General of the Universal Postal Union, Mr. A. C. Botto de Barros, has supported the National Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies by calling upon postal authorities around the world to commemorate this event with the issue of postal stamps during the two years of celebration (1988-1989).

Plans have been made in over 60 countries to issue commemorative or surcharged postage stamps, a large number of which are already

on the market. The issues and souvenirs accompanying them – envelopes, booklets, cancellations, postmark slogans, postal entities and seals – all reproduce (either in its original form or adapted in some way) the 125th anniversary graphic symbol.

In Djibouti, 35,000 stamps were printed on 17 February with the

В ЗАЩИТУ ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКОЙ ЖИЗНИ



Relief and ambulance services in Nigeria.

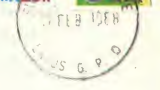


The Soviet Union (left) highlighted nursing.

BY AIR MAIL
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
17TH FEBRUARY 1988



125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.
NIGERIAN PHILATELIC SERVICE, LAGOS.



Office of Postal Services and Telecommunications issuing a circular describing the history of the Movement and its services to peace. In the USSR the national medical daily newspaper carried an article in February describing the history of the new issue. The stamp, designed by Leonid Zaitsev, depicts a nurse, a reminder of one of the most important functions of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, namely "the protection of human life".

In Viet Nam the postage stamp, issued on 14 April, is used by the National Society on an envelope bearing the anniversary symbol. In Bulgaria, its 300,000 anniversary stamps were issued in April in conjunction with the IXth Congress of the Bulgarian Red Cross. In Costa Rica one million 125th anniversary stamps were issued in April, and the National Communications Directorate has issued a leaflet describing the Movement's work.

Austria, Chile, the Republic of Korea, the Principality of Monaco, Pakistan, Ethiopia, and Tuvalu (five different values), among others, issued stamps during the month of May so as to highlight 8 May as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

The issue of a stamp was often accompanied by ceremonies attended by high officials of the Government and the National Society. In Lagos, Nigeria, the President of the Republic, General Ibrahim Babangida, paid homage to the Red Cross and its humanitarian activities when two postal values were issued on 17 February. They were designed by the Nigerian artist G. Osuji and each had a printing run of 500,000.

The President of the Chilean Red Cross, Ms Maria Luisa Torres de la Cruz, reports from Santiago that post office official, Ms Maria Teresa Urrutia Velos, while praising the work of the Red Cross, underscored the cultural value of postage stamps in favour of great humanitarian causes. The Chilean issue of 10 May was designed by Rodolfo Paulus Venegas and had a printing run of 200,000.

• Marie-Jeanne
MACHERET-NIKLEV



Peace is the theme in Viet Nam.



The Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a series.



Suriname stressed blood donor recruitment.



Tuvalu (above) and Chile (left) issued first day covers.



125 AÑOS CRUZ ROJA Y MEDIA LUNA ROJA
PRIMER DIA DE EMISION : 10 DE MAYO DE 1988



PRECURSORS:

Before the Red Cross



Evacuating wounded soldiers during the Crimean War.

G. Greatbach, courtesy Mary Evans Picture Library, London

What a butchery it was, the Crimean War that raged from 1854 to 1856. Wounded soldiers were abandoned to the crows amidst general indifference. Even the more fortunate ones were treated in dismal sanitary conditions. Scurvy, typhus, cholera and malnutrition claimed more victims than did bullets or shells.

This resulted in a public outcry which led to lifesaving action. Ducking bullets and shells, doctors and nurses volunteered to aid the wounded, placing their own lives at risk.

It was into this hell that the Englishwoman Florence Nightingale, the Frenchman Louis Baudens, the international Daughters of Charity, and others, working independently, provided help and inspiration. Three years later, in northern Italy, after the Battle of Solferino, the Genevan Henry Dunant witnessed the same situation. The wounded, lacking medical care, were dying like flies.

Out of this experience, Henry Dunant wrote the book "A Memory of Solferino" which proposed setting up in all countries a relief society for the wounded, officially recognized by nations in wartime. In 1863, the International Committee of the Red Cross was born.

But did Henry Dunant and his four colleagues (General Dufour, Gustave Moynier, Louis Appia and Théodore Maunoir) who helped him in his endeavour, really originate this generous and ingenious idea? Did he not cleverly collect the ideas and work of several famous precursors for his own use? Many such pertinent and thought-provoking questions were the subject of a symposium organized in Geneva by the Henry Dunant Soci-

ety, commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

"These mistakes (shooting at stretcher-bearers) would become impossible if by common agreement between nations, doctors and hospital personnel all wore a distinctive sign, the same for all armies in all countries, making them easily recognizable to both parties." This proposal was made by the French surgeon Lucien Baudens, after returning from Crimea. Whether this proposal – known to the French Health Services – ever found its way to Henry Dunant's ears, no one knows.

He heard, however, about the actions of the much celebrated Florence Nightingale, just as she too knew of Henry Dunant's project. But she wasn't too keen on it: "She was opposed to Henry Dunant's ideas but she never criticized the ideas of the Red Cross in public," says Brian Smith, a historian from the Australian National University in Canberra. "She considered war inevitable and didn't believe at all in the Conventions", he continues. "They, the Committee of Geneva, will only be effective if they enter the military system," she said. As to neutrality, the concept made her smile gently: "It goes without saying that it is a completely absurd point of view."

Visibly, links between the five founders of the Movement and its precursors were tenuous, certainly not essential. Henry Dunant was, no doubt, aware of the "First Code of the International Law of Land Warfare" by the American Francis Lieber, an excerpt from a 16-page treaty distributed to officers during the Civil War. Just as he must have known of Count Félix de Breda's

"project to organize military hospitals personnel", the work of the Russian Nicolas Pirogov and the American Clara Barton.

According to Pat Gilbo, historian for the American Red Cross, "Barton had independently taken her supplies and ministrations to the American Civil War battlefields of 1861-65. Later she journeyed to Europe and assisted during the Franco-Prussian War (1870). 'As I journeyed on,' Barton is quoted to have said, 'and saw the work of these Red Cross societies in the field, accomplishing in four months under their systematic organization, what we failed to accomplish in four years... I said to myself, 'If I live to return to my country, I will try to make my people understand the Red Cross and that treaty.'"

The symposium clearly brought out that Henry Dunant was not the sole creator of the idea of assistance for the wounded. Nor was he the founder of humanitarian thought; other eminent personalities such as Rousseau, Tolstoi were better at developing humanistic ideals. But he did propel the International Committee of the Red Cross into existence.

According to Roger Durand of the Henry Dunant Society, Dunant's approach differs from previous efforts on several points. First of all, on the "need for permanent action in peacetime". Secondly, by the awareness "of the international aspect of the problem". And finally – and especially – in the fact that the Committee is strictly private and neutral. Since 1863, the basic premises of the Movement have changed little.

• Damien PERSONNAZ

REFUGEES

A Continuing Saga

Thirteen years after the end of the war in Viet Nam, the takeover of Phnom Penh by the Khmer Rouge, and a change of government in Laos, these political events still reverberate through the region. Thousands of boat people continue to flow into South East Asia and on the Thai border some 300,000 displaced Kampucheans have been living in camps for nearly ten years with little hope of a different future.

Beginning in 1987, there was once again, a sharp rise in the number of Vietnamese "Boat People". This resulted in Thailand refusing landing rights to the boats. Landings in Malaysia increased more rapidly as a consequence, causing the Malaysians to announce their intent to close their boat refugee camp in April 1989. In Hong Kong, the government initiated a policy of placing incoming Vietnamese in closed detention camps.

At the same time, the Western world, suffering "compassion fatigue", has been growing weary of this humanitarian problem. Meetings between the governments of the region, the Western resettlement countries, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR) and the various Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have become more urgent and frequent. There has been a call for a Second International Conference on Indo-chinese Refugees, which supporters hope to convene in 1989.

Françoise BORY reports:



T. Gassmann (ICRC)

Pulau Bidong Children: Refugees in a sheet metal village on a small overcrowded island.

MALAYSIA:

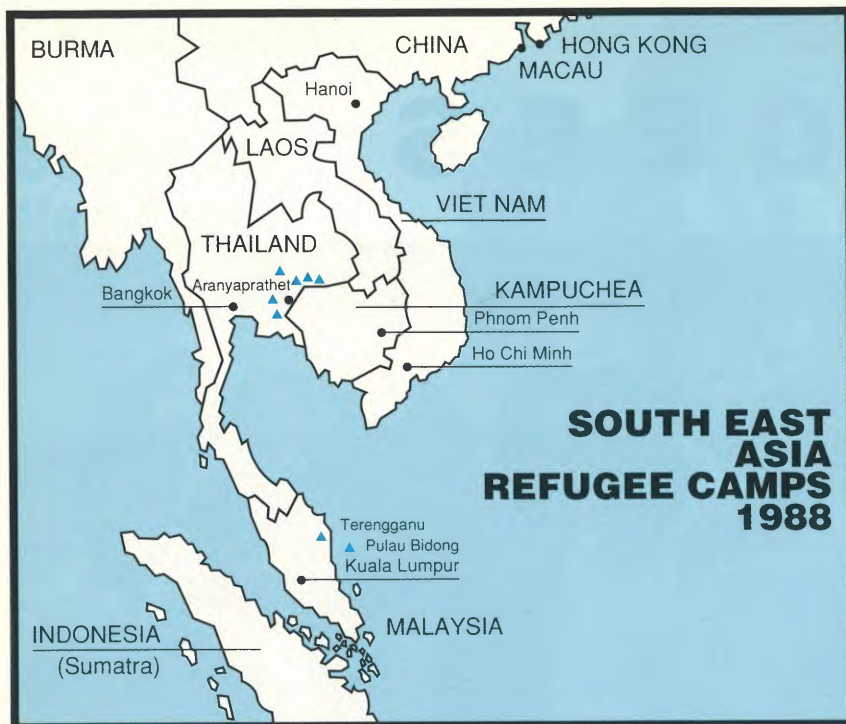
The flight continues

Nguyen Van Qui arrived at Pulau Bidong on 20 June 1988. "It wasn't the first time I tried to leave Viet Nam," he quietly said. "In 1978 my wife, two children and I embarked. But the boat was overloaded and sunk a few kilometres from the shore. It was in the middle of the night. I was able to swim to the coast. I found my wife clutching onto a board. But our five-year old daughter and two-year old son drowned."

The tragic story of Nguyen Van Qui is only an example of the drama the Vietnamese boat people have been living daily for more than ten years. Many boats that leave Viet Nam founder or are attacked by pirates on the way, as was experienced by the 57 new arrivals brought by a petroleum platform supply barge one morning in August 1988. "Our boat was dis-

abled and we asked for help from some fishermen. But the men who came on board had knives and, after threatening us and stealing our belongings, made the women go down into the hold and raped them," a survivor said.

In 1978 Malaysia was one of the South East Asian countries most affected by the massive influx of Vietnamese boat people. In an agreement signed that same year, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) became the operating partner of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and in this capacity runs all the assistance operations for the refugees and coordinates the work of the various voluntary agencies present in the four reception and transit camps in the country. Support for this work of the Malaysian Red Crescent So-



ciety has been funneled from Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide through the League and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Over the past ten years some 200,000 boat people have arrived in Malaysia and have been resettled in other countries. Following the emergency period in the beginning of the 1980's, when 38,000 refugees crowded Pulau Bidong Island, there was until 1987 an annual decrease in the number of arrivals. Camp population had reached a low of 5,000. Then boats again came pouring in and by August of 1988, there were already five times the number of arrivals as in the twelve months of the previous year.

In order to stop this new influx, the Malaysian Government announced that the Pulau Bidong camp would be closed in 1989. Instead of discouraging departures from Viet Nam, this news only acted as an accelerator for refugees, all hoping to make it before the deadline.

A new emergency situation

Shaharuddin Mohamed, the MRCS official at Pulau Bidong, feels the situation is serious. "With 10,000 persons at the end of August, the camp is already overflow-

ing. Twelve people are housed in each room, and one or two boats arrive each week. We are getting ready for an emergency situation. We do have food reserves for two to three months. But a major problem is the drinking water supply."

The island has no fresh water, which is brought by boat every other day. But the camp's reservoirs cannot hold more than 700,000 litres and bad weather can keep the boats from docking for more than forty-eight hours.

Public hygiene becomes a critical problem with overpopulation. Efforts are made to keep the camp as clean as possible. Rats are hunted down without mercy.

"Running a camp like Pulau Bidong is a heavy responsibility," Mr. Mohamed goes on to say. "Being on an island, far from everything, certainly presents problems."

The challenge is daily for this 36-year-old businessman. "I was at a crossroads in my life," he confides. "Before resuming my studies, I decided to let a humanitarian organization benefit from my management experience. Each day brings its share of problems, but, I have never been as happy in my life!"

Seen from a distance, Pulau Bidong has undergone two major

changes. The island, which in 1978 resembled a loaf of sugarbread covered with coconut trees, is much more barren as many trees have been cut down for construction and for cooking. And the camp, originally a group of blue plastic shelters, has taken on the trappings of a village with wooden and sheet metal houses, churches, a cemetery, a hospital, shops and even bars.

"It is very important for the refugees to have a certain degree of self-sufficiency," according to Quentin Dignan, a social worker from the Jesuit Relief Service.

"We have more and more illiterate refugees," says an Australian volunteer, Joan Campbell ("Sister Joan" as the refugees affectionately call her) who has returned to Pulau Bidong where she had already worked in 1984. "This is partly because the first few years the boat people mainly came from the south and were in the upper middle class. Those people are already resettled in Europe, Australia and North America. Now the boat people who arrive are farmers and fishermen. They have not been to school so we have stepped up school programmes and vocational training to increase their chances of resettlement."

Unaccompanied minors

One problem of the highest concern to the Red Crescent team is "unaccompanied minors". These are children or adolescents on purpose sent out of Viet Nam alone by their parents in the hope they will



Pulau Bidong inhabitants have become used to the long lines and waiting in refugee camps.

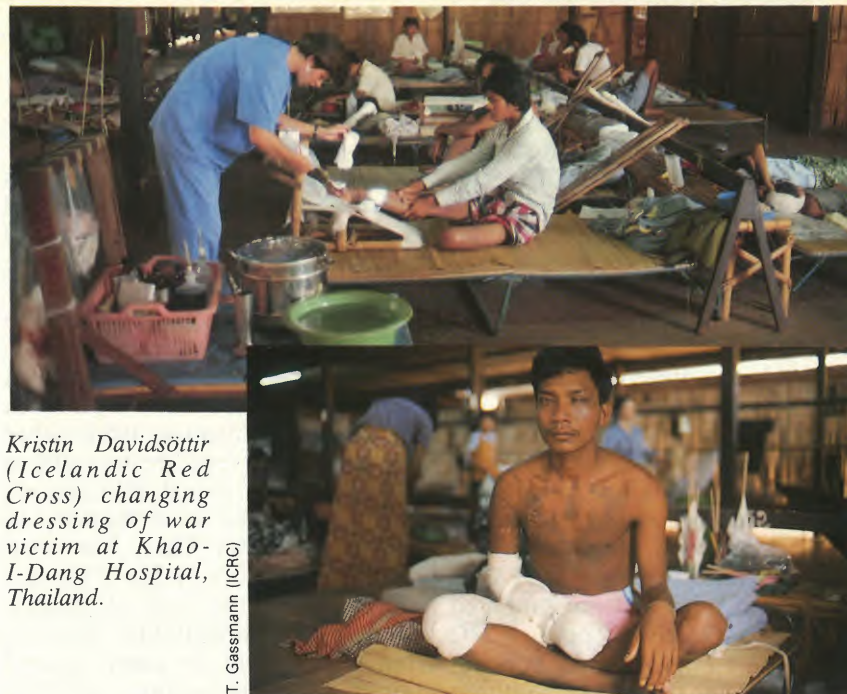
have a better life than their own. "We, of course, take care of them, and above all we reassure them," said Joseph Siebner, a social worker responsible for the special programme for "single men" and "unaccompanied minors". There are at present 600 young people between the ages of 6 and 17 at Pulau Bidong. "When we walk in the camp they come to us, hold on to our clothes - a clear indication they are looking for a little affection."

For these children, as for all the other Vietnamese refugees in Malaysia, the Red Crescent's T.M.S. (Tracing and Mailing Service) is the only link with their relatives abroad. They crouch on the ground reading their mail, sometimes laboriously deciphering the letter received from the United States or Canada...

Sarasvati Pasupathy, a T.M.S. employee, explains: "In addition to the tracing services, we forward family mail (over 1,000 letters every week) and transfer money from the relations already resettled abroad. These operations are more than USD 20,000 per month."

Computerized T.M.S.

In 1986, the MRCS resorted to data processing to handle all the information on the boat people. More than 14,600 pieces of information on the population in the Malaysian camps are recorded on a computer in Kuala Lumpur. However, the manual filing cards, with at present more than 267,000 cards, are still used in parallel. Mr. Lim Meng Ah, T.M.S. Direc-



Kristin Davidsöttir (Icelandic Red Cross) changing dressing of war victim at Khao-I-Dang Hospital, Thailand.

T. Gassmann (ICRC)

tor, says: "All the boat people who arrive in countries of first asylum in the region are registered by the UNHCR which notes a personal identification number and all kinds of other extremely valuable pieces of information (date of departure from Viet Nam, name and number of boat, date and place of arrival, etc.). This is one of the ways we have of differentiating homonyms, determining the true identity of some refugees who change their name out of fear and tracing persons who have disappeared."

"There are unfortunately just as many people who disappear," Sarasvati explains, as she looks for

information on microfilm on a certain Duong Thi Thuy who had embarked on 18 July 1988 with 88 other persons, but who could no longer be traced. In a few seconds the reply was at hand: the boat had arrived in Indonesia with only 84 passengers aboard. One woman had died and the three others, including Duong, had been captured by pirates.

"In such cases we continue the tracing in cooperation with the UNHCR and also through the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency in Geneva," Sarasvati says in conclusion. "We never give up before having the clear proof that a person is dead."

KHMER-THAI BORDER:

A situation without a solution?

"In 1979-80, the emergency was humanitarian," explains Urs Boegli, Head of the ICRC Delegation in Thailand, "now it is of a political nature - looking for long-term solutions that are acceptable to and accepted by all the parties concerned: governments, humanitarian organizations and, of course, the victims themselves."

In the camps for displaced persons along the border the struggle for survival has given way today to another phenomenon, the psychological problems (depressions and

suicides are on the rise) linked to a feeling of abandonment and despair. "Some families have been living in the camps for almost ten years," Urs Boegli goes on to say. "Thousands of children have been born on the border and have never known their homeland. Furthermore, the Khmers are displaced persons, not refugees. They cannot be candidates for resettlement in another country, even if they have family there. On the other hand they are protected by the Geneva Conventions of 1949 because they are victims of war."



T. Gassmann (ICRC)

A Khmer checks for relatives on the tracing lists at Site 2, Thailand.

Admittedly the aspect of border camps has undergone a major change since 1980: straight streets, houses surrounded by small vegetable gardens and large community buildings (schools, hospitals, etc.) have transformed the camps into genuine bamboo towns in which the population seems to go normally about its business. But the danger is always present. The day we visited Site 2 the camp was declared off limits the whole morning because shells had fallen the previous evening killing one person and injuring another in one of the districts. "As soon as the Khmers hear the noise of battle, they grab their belongings and are prepared to flee," says Joëlle Come, ICRC delegate. "They remain traumatized by what they have endured, even years later."

Almost every displaced person living on the border has lost family members because of the conflict. The Khmer staff of the ICRC's Tracing Agency in the camps, who are also displaced civilians, are all the more motivated to help their compatriots find a relative or friend. Nav Pauline is an example. She arrived at the border in 1979; her husband, child and four brothers had been killed in 1975. At present Nav Pauline is living her exile philosophically. "I have already cried all the tears in my body, but life goes on. I got married again last year - to a Khmer I met in the camp!"

Tracing for relatives

Tracing the missing is very difficult because the data is so old (some cases go back to 1970 or even earlier) and the circumstances between 1975 and 1979 were so special, according to Helen Alderson, Head of the ICRC's Tracing Agency in Thailand.

"We receive more than 800 tracing applications every month. Because of the extremely sensitive border situation, it has been necessary to draw up special forms which mention only the identity of the person making the request, without addresses, and sometimes even without the names of relatives being sought, in order to protect the individuals involved. In addition the Agency forwards approximate-

ly 2,000 family letters per month, primarily from one camp to another."

There are also Vietnamese on the border. These refugees crossed Kampuchea on foot. These "land people" as they are called were separated from the Khmer and settled in a special section of the camp on Site 2. Pursuant to a recent decision of the Thai authorities, all Vietnamese who have arrived in Thailand since January 1988, either by land or by sea, are henceforth considered as "illegal immigrants" not eligible for resettlement. A new camp, Ban That, has been constructed south of Site 2 for this purpose. At the end of August some 3,530 "inhabitants" were already there, but the camp, placed under the protection of the UNHCR, has a capacity of 8,000 persons as it will take in all the Vietnamese who have come to Thailand.

The Thai Red Cross provides tracing services for all the Vietnamese refugees. Four Thai Red Cross workers regularly go to Ban That and to the UNHCR's transit camp at Phanat Nikhom 200 km to the south of Bangkok. For Khun Sasithon Wongpralub and her team this means hours of travelling every week and an increasingly heavy work load. "We are again in an emergency phase because of that decision", she says laughing, "but we manage!"

Many war wounded

The ICRC is in charge of emergency evacuations and surgery on the border. In this capacity it coordinates the work at Khao-I-Dang of the three surgical teams and the medical personnel from eight National Societies (Canada, Great Britain, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, USA). "Most of the wounded are war wounded, victims of mines," says the Norwegian surgeon Tor Finn Denstad, "and they must be amputated."

That particular day, 58 patients were in the hospital rooms, and it was a rather calm week. A child with a bandaged head slept along side his mother. Further on a young man groaned when the Icelandic nurse, Kristin, changed the



A new arrival being interviewed in Hong Kong.

dressings (his foot had been amputated a few days before): "This is my first mission," she confides, "and I am astonished to see that although we use fairly modest means there are no post-operative infections. Back home it would be out of the question to clean a wound without wearing gloves!"

The Thai Red Cross also runs medical programmes for the camp population and the Thai villagers on the border. At Site 2, for example, more than 100 patients were at Dr. Sirichai's consultation that morning, mainly women and their children with the most typical diseases of densely populated areas (cough, diarrhoea, infections and skin diseases).

Since 1979, a blood bank has been operating at Khao-I-Dang with supplies coming primarily from several National Red Cross Societies (principally Australia, Japan and New Zealand). For the past three years, at the initiative of David Fallas, a haematology specialist sent by the New Zealand Red Cross Society, a blood donation programme has been organized in the camps with donors recruited from among the Khmers themselves.

"You have to understand that, with impaired health and marked by various hardships, the Khmers did not readily offer to give their blood," David says. "But Buddhism teaches compassion to those in need. Blood donations, unfortunately were paid for in Cambodia before 1975 and it was difficult to explain to the donors that they would not receive money for their blood. We were nevertheless able to succeed. Last year at Khao-I-Dang, 5,000 units were donated or 79% of all blood used on the border. In comparison this proportion was exactly the opposite in 1985."

HONG KONG: An Emergency

Since the beginning of the year, but especially since May 1988, Hong Kong has experienced an unprecedented influx of Vietnamese boat people. Although there were more than 15,000 refugees in the colony in 1979, on 31 January 1987 only 1,579 remained. At the end of August 1988 this figure shot up to more than 20,000. This situation prompted the authorities in June to adopt a much stricter policy concerning new arrivals in order to stem this influx by means of dissuasion. Thus all Vietnamese who have arrived in Hong Kong since 16 June 1988 are placed in "closed" detention centres, where the Red Cross is not allowed to go. There they are questioned by the Immigration Department to find out if they are real refugees or just "economic migrants". (Note: it is reported that having heard the complaints of refugee agency officials, the severe measures of June have been relaxed by Hong Kong authorities, ed.)

Once status has been determined, the boat people are placed in three "closed" camps (San Yick, Cape Collinson and Sham Shui Po), where the Red Cross of Hong Kong carries out tracing activities, while continuing services in Kai Tak Free Camp (for "former" refugees prior to July 1982) and in a transit camp for those who have found a country of resettlement.

Donald Yung, Head of T.M.S. in Hong Kong, feels that the 500 tracing cases dealt with per year is going to be greatly exceeded in 1988, given the present situation.

Paradoxically, one hour's distance by hydroplane from Hong Kong, the Portuguese colony of Macao is experiencing a completely different phenomenon. "We have gone from 4,000 boat people in 1980 to 478 at the end of July 1988," says Mr. da Rocha Lopes, head of the local Red Cross.

The reason for this paradox remains mysterious. As the boat people are in contact with each other, the situation should change with Macao receiving greater numbers. But in August, Macao's Ka-Ho camp only received five.

"MAMMA" SURAT

"Mamma" Surat Kajittanon is one of the four Thai Red Cross Coordinators carrying out activities on the border. In this capacity she and her colleagues, in one-month turns, supervise the work of the National Society staff, be it T.M.S. in the camps, mobile medical teams in the villages or ophthalmology and ear, nose and throat specialists who treat several hundred patients at Aranyaprathet each weekend.

With her beaming smile, "Mamma" Surat is effective, discreet, dedicated and infinitely kind. Coordination of work on the border requires a good sense of human relations, as the teams on the spot often encounter difficult working conditions, and a practical mind able to solve the countless daily problems. "Mamma" Surat adhered to the Red Cross from the outset as she studied nursing at Chulalongkorn Hospital which belongs to the National Society. She completed her



T. Gassmann (ICRC)

"Mamma" Surat Kajittanon with her high spirited Thai Red Cross Team.

studies in 1958 and never stopped working for the Red Cross while raising her family. "Mamma" Surat is very proud of her two sons, 16 and 19 years old; the older son is beginning medical school.

"The Red Cross is my whole life and I like what I do," says "Mamma" Surat. This is so true that her enthusiasm spills over on the border teams who give completely of themselves in a spirit of good humour. When "Mamma" comes to a team, at Ban That for example, with a basket of drinks and goodies, it is easy to understand her affectionate nickname!

F. By

Meeting for solutions:

In September and November, European and Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies meeting separately in Geneva and Kuala Lumpur discussed the present status of refugee and asylum seekers in both Europe and South East Asia. Proposals were studied regarding the increasing restrictive policies and practices being initiated by governments, as well as the political and economic issues of resettlement not only in South East Asia but throughout the world.

"It is important to remember," stated Pär Stenbäck, Secretary General of the League, "that it is the role of the League and National Socie-

ties to remind governments, in a humanitarian spirit, of the Red Cross Principles and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights applicable to the plight of these people, especially those who are not covered fully by the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol."

As 1989 dawns the "Boat People" and asylum seekers of South East Asia continue to flee the Indo-China region. They flee with hope, but resettlement help is short in supply. It is a challenge to all involved, including Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies worldwide.

R. W.

“BOAT PEOPLE 88”
+C RED CROSS
RED CRESCENT





LETTERS

Breastfeeding

We are concerned over a photo (August, 1988) which shows a Meiji Baby Milk and Red Crescent sponsored baby show.

Our organization, the International Baby Food Action Network, works to promote breastfeeding and to eliminate aggressive and unethical promotion of bottle-feeding. In poor countries bottle-feeding all too often leads to disease and malnutrition. One way IBFAN tries to alleviate this situation is by monitoring the baby food industry's adherence to the WHO/UNICEF International Code.

We have for a long time considered the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as an ally. We know that the League is very concerned about the proper use of milk powder in relief situations, and the resulting ill health from indiscriminate distribution of DSM. We were therefore dismayed to see a photo of Meiji breaking the International Code. By giving publicity to this baby show, we fear the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are condoning this insidious marketing technique.

We sincerely hope that this photo is a temporary aberration from the League's genuine commitment to sound infant feeding practices.

Nancy-Jo Peck & Alison Linnecar
IBFAN, Geneva

(The League remains firmly committed to sound infant feeding practices. ed.)

Intifada

The very day when RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT – with its lead article on the *Intifada* – arrived in Tel Aviv, terrorists threw incendiary bombs at a civilian Israeli bus going from Tiberias to Jerusalem.

A 28-year-old mother and her three children were burned to death. Five others were wounded, one of them critically.

Though not one case of violence by Arab terrorists was mentioned in your publication, hundreds of Is-

raeli civilians have been killed and wounded in recent years. These incidents began decades before the date of December 1987; decades before the Six Day War of 1967 and the resultant "ownership of the land" issue so emphatically stressed by the ICRC's Bethlehem-born field officer Charlie (perhaps in deviation from the neutral apolitical stand which should be adopted by Red Cross officers, by virtue of the Geneva Conventions).

If your intention was to inform the world of the difficult conditions experienced by *intifada* activists – where are the voices of the Israeli victims? Where is the voice of Magen David Adom, recognized *de jure* by Israeli law and only *de facto* by some of the Red Cross organizations, as Israel's national Red Cross Society? Where is the other side of the picture?

As we are all aware, the conscience of the International Committee of the Red Cross has recently become very tender regarding the question of the Holocaust. The ICRC – to quote one of your own officers – has made efforts "to try to establish through independent and unrestricted research... what it could have done differently and what it did not do" in the countries under Axis influence in the years of the Third Reich. Among the conclusions reached by those independent researchers, and affirmed by Mr. Jacques Moreillon of the ICRC, is that the ICRC "could no doubt have shown more imagination and greater firmness" in portraying the plight of the Holocaust victims.

While we congratulate the ICRC on this realization, it appears to us that you have now gone from one extreme to the other; from uninformed silence in the '40s, to misinformed, publicity-making in '88.

MDA, like the ICRC, deplores violence. Yet in reporting the no doubt praiseworthy activities of the ICRC within the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, it must be borne in mind that the complex conflict between two peoples in this country has existed for many decades, and that the components of that conflict should be accurately presented – which, it seems, was not the case in your article.

Dan Arnon

Magen David Adom, Tel Aviv

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

An Outpost in Adams-Morgan

A sign on the front says, "Cruz Roja Americana".

Inside the brick rowhouse in a poor, largely Hispanic pocket of Washington, D.C., known as Adams-Morgan, Mauricio, a Red Cross volunteer and Panamanian immigrant, instructs other Hispanics in first aid and CPR.

The Northwest Service Centre of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Red Cross is an outpost in a multicultural section of the city overflowing with Central American, Caribbean and African immigrants. "We have a Third World situation locked inside a First World," says the affable Rafael Olaya, a Colombian American who manages the operation.

There are no embellishments. Plain brick walls, a ceiling of fluorescent lights, old school chairs arranged in a circle.

Mauricio is slowly going over the material with his students. The ten-year old Spanish textbooks have not been revised and the instructor has to update each section the students read.

"The book is out-of-date. The tape is out-of-date. The Spanish is old," he says. "We are waiting for new material, but we have been waiting a long time."

It is estimated that by 1990, 24 million Hispanics will reside in the United States, ten million more than in 1980. The idea of the Red Cross service centre (there are five in Washington, D.C. alone) came



Mauricio Austin teaching CPR.

James Cassell



Centre Manager Rafael Olaya (R) with volunteers Armando and Harold.

out of the highly visible need to bring the Red Cross into these newly emerging communities.

"The service centre concept involves getting delivery as close as possible to the people who need assistance," says Richard F. Schubert, President of the American Red Cross. "It means operating at the grassroots level."

"We provide all of the core Red Cross services," says Olaya. "That includes disaster relief such as sheltering, feeding and housing fire victims; services to the Armed Forces

and Veterans; and providing personnel for blood drives."

"But outside of this, what's really exciting are the special projects we've designed for the people in our community. We co-sponsor a prenatal programme, to help guide women through their pregnancies. We offer sewing classes that are popular with Salvadorans who can gain marketable skills. And we teach home nursing to African women. And by the way," he says for clarification, "this service centre is not just for Hispanics, but also for the growing numbers of Ethiopians, Eritreans and anyone who settles here."

"If the mission of the Red Cross is to alleviate human suffering and foster self-sufficiency, we see ourselves as fulfilling that mission," he continues. "The problem is we can't be all things to all people. But within the scope of immediate emergency assistance, we have room to do things that really count in this community."

Battling the drug problem is one of them. In recent months, slayings over drug deals mostly in the "crack" trade, a cheap derivative of cocaine, have been rampant.

"Because drugs are cheaper now, they're more accessible to



Practising the Heimlich Maneuver.

kids," says Olaya, who sits not much farther than a stone's throw from where crack is openly bought and sold in broad daylight.

"What we're developing is a preventive drug awareness campaign for youth. We're not set up to cure the problem after it starts. We're trying to help them avoid drugs altogether and, by bringing our modular Red Cross courses into their neighbourhoods, help them regain the streets where they live."

● James CASSELL

TURKEY

Crosses and Crescents

The Turkish Red Crescent van was parked a discreet 100-metres or so from the open-air Mass. While the Christian pilgrims honoured the Virgin Mary, the Red Crescent doctor and nurses dealt with heat exhaustion, sprains and sore feet.

"For years we have been sending a big medical unit to Mecca to care for Moslem pilgrims during the Haj," said Ünal Somuncu, Director General of the National Society. "This time, we wanted to provide the same service at Christian holy sites in our country."

The sites are at the House of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus, and St. Mary's Church in Selçuk - to which Turkish, Greek, British, French, Italian and other pilgrims flock on 15 August and 9 October.

"Ephesus was one of the first Christian communities," said one Catholic who is a Turkish citizen. "It gives us great pleasure to see our Red Crescent present during this historic ceremony."

Bahaddin Haskokar





Liliane de Toledo

Teaching safety principles at "Dr. Elisabeth Rose" kindergarten in Kragujevac, Serbia.

YUGOSLAVIA

A School for Solidarity

The Red Cross stands for helping one another. It helps people who need help – old people and children like you. If you want to make a friend, write your name and address on a card, pin it to a pair of your old trousers and bring them to school. They will be given to a child and he will write back to you."

Liljana Jovanovic, a 34-year-old member of the local committee of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, says this to 50 or more children. They are aged between 4 and 7, and sit round her in a big glass-fronted room in the "Dr. Elisabeth Rose" kindergarten at Kragujevac, Serbia. She explains to them in simple language what the Red Cross stands for and what it does. She encourages them to express their own feelings of caring for one another. Then comes a road accident prevention officer who makes the children laugh with his show illustrating foolish behaviour by drivers and jay walkers.

This Red Cross course of instruction uses simple, attractive teaching methods and is a great success with everyone, teachers and children alike. Kragujevac is admittedly a pilot project, for only a few schools in Serbia and Slovenia have added it to the kindergarten teaching programme. But this shows that the Red Cross of Yugoslavia is innovative and at ease in school, and it works hard to get the mes-

sage of solidarity, of caring for one another, across to even the youngest of children.

First steps to solidarity

It is usually at primary school that Yugoslav school children first hear about the Red Cross. Seven-year-old Marko Milanovic, who goes to the "Sveti Sava" in Belgrade, tells us all about it:

"A few months after I started going to school some ladies and

gentlemen from the Red Cross visited our classroom and invited us to join the Red Cross. We were happy to do so and they then gave us membership cards. After a little celebration, we elected a class committee. We wrote on little bits of paper which of our classmates we wanted to elect as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, and we also elected two of us to be responsible for hygiene in our class.

"It was funny, everybody in our class wanted to be Chairman. Now we are going to learn first aid. Every week our teacher tells us more about the Red Cross."

This experience of Marko and his class is repeated in all the schools in the country. In Yugoslavia, every schoolchild becomes a Red Cross member at age seven, and each class has its Red Cross committee. The school curriculum includes lessons on Red Cross organization, principles and activities.

Later on, when they are in high school or college, these Belgrade schoolchildren will still elect their Red Cross class committee. If they want to do more they can become "activists". With the cooperation of their local Red Cross committee they can teach first aid, recruit blood donors, provide health edu-





7-year-old Marko Milanovic proudly showing his Red Cross membership card.

cation in their school, and help their disadvantaged classmates and other needy persons in their community.

At the end of the school year they will take part, as members of their unit, in local first aid competitions. The most able participants will qualify for the national competition held in June. These competitions are accompanied by big parades and imposing mass meetings, attended by various government officials. For many years these competitions have been a major event,

The very special character of the National Society's education activity lies less in theoretical knowledge and manual dexterity than in the training of caring for one another, or solidarity. Children who spend part of their spare time helping elderly or deprived people by bringing them clothing or food in winter,

Young activist giving a parcel to a needy Tzigane family.



Liliane de Toledo

or doing minor repairs for them, instinctively offer mutual aid. The habit stays with them when they grow up, and the Red Cross is the major channel through which it is exercised.

Friend to Friend

On a typical autumn day, Sonja Horvat, a thirty-six-year-old worker at the "RIZ" factory in Zagreb and Red Cross Chairman in the factory, has a heavy day's work in front of her. She has organized a blood drive and expectantly looks for her publicity efforts to bear fruit. Hopefully there will be more blood donors than last year. She also has to see about a convalescent worker with dependent children, and try to persuade the factory's management in collaboration with his trade union to send him to a sanatorium on the Adriatic coast. After that she will call a meeting of first-aiders in the factory for a training exercise.

In Dravljje, Slovenia, 150 km farther north, fifty-year-old Ana Perko is thinking about the food parcels she will have young members of the local Red Cross committee deliver to elderly neighbours before winter sets in.

In Novi-Belgrade, the new town near the capital, the local committee is helping families who have recently migrated from the countryside.

At Kragujevac, Serbia, a team of a dozen volunteers, including a doctor, nurse, agricultural technician and team leader are setting off with local Red Cross officers for a village nearby, where they will spend the weekend instructing the local population in health, farming, and even how to operate agricultural machinery. The weekend will conclude with a celebration in the village.

In Caïr, near Skopje, Macedonia, a team is off on a similar expedition to an isolated mountain village with a mainly Albanian population; in the northern part of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, another team will be helping the peasants with their fruit-picking.

This "Drug drugu" ("friend to friend") work, done at the workplace in town and country, forms



Liliane de Toledo

Factory First Aid unit practising near Skopje, Macedonia.

the basis of the National Red Cross Society's mutual aid programme. The system is flexible and works well; it meets the needs of the people needing help, particularly in the depressed South with its poor communications.

In Kosovo and Macedonia, the Red Cross is 'quietly helping improve the conditions of the rural population, most of whom are ethnic Albanians. Weekend programmes comprise courses in hygiene, including instruction on how to prevent tuberculosis – still a common illness – and summer diarrhoea. Also given are talks on family planning. This region has one of the highest birth rates in Europe.

In the words of Dr. Ivan Tulevski, who directs the social welfare and health department of the Red Cross of Macedonia, "the Red Cross is often more sensitive to new needs and quicker to respond

Food parcel being given by Red Cross volunteer to "Nana" a 75-year-old living near Sarajevo.



Liliane de Toledo

Yugoslavia: Facts & Figures

Government: Socialist federal republic consisting of six republics (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia) and two autonomous regions (Kosovo and Vojvodina).

Area: 255 804 km²

Population: 23.3 million (1986) vs. 19.4 million in 1965; 46% of the population lives in the urban areas.

Languages: Serbo-Croatian, Macedonian, Slovene, Albanian; other languages spoken: Romanian, Slovakian, Hungarian, Russian, Turkish, Czech, Bulgarian, Ukrainian.

Religion: Orthodox 47.6%; Catholic 36.6%; Islam 14.2%; Protestant 1%.

Principal exports: Industrial products (86.4%).

Red Cross of Yugoslavia In Brief

Founded in 1876.

Structure: One national committee; additionally each republic has a committee; major towns and cities have local committees with branches in the large urban areas.

Main Activities:

- First Aid: Includes the training and setting up of first aid units in factories as well as the teaching of first aid courses which are required for all applying for licenses to drive vehicles.
- Home care for the infirm and ill.
- Weekend work, principally in the rural areas. The volunteering of various skills, including the cleaning of wells, developing sanitation projects, teaching of mechanical skills, repair of equipment and buildings, and providing public health information.
- Aid to the needy (distribution of food, clothing, furniture and other items given by the population).
- Providing health information; home health courses and campaigns against smoking, tuberculosis, heart disease and AIDS.
- Recruitment of blood donors.
- Organization of courses on "Sport Aid".

to them; that's very important, here in the depressed South. Since the Red Cross in the republics composing Yugoslavia have local autonomy, it is easier for us to meet community needs. Within the Red Cross we are always exchanging experiences and backing each other up."

The Red Cross as a Great Communicator

The Red Cross of Yugoslavia relies heavily on volunteer help to support its paid staff in numerous aid programmes. Its success is due to its ability to retain the lifelong good will of the general public on

torate in education. She was also formerly the president of the Red Cross of Slovenia where she did a tremendous job of increasing their number of publications. While there are now over one hundred, when she joined the Red Cross there were only two.

These publications cater for multilingual Yugoslavia, being usually available in the languages spoken in the republic in which they are published. The record-holder is the autonomous province of Vojvodina, which publishes not only in Serbo-Croat but also in Slovak, Hungarian and Romanian, so as to reach all of its inhabitants.



Red Cross youth entertain.

Liliane de Toledo

all levels of society. Being a Great Communicator has helped to keep this good will.

In Yugoslavia the number of books published per capita is among the highest of any country in Eastern Europe. The Red Cross is no laggard in this respect. In all the Republics of the Federation, Red Cross committees proudly show innumerable pamphlets, books and prospectuses. They are well produced by excellent illustrators and graphic artists for which Yugoslavia is renowned and whose services the Red Cross has enlisted. The subjects dealt with cover the entire range of Red Cross activities including explanatory handbooks on Red Cross Principles; prospectuses on prevention of cardio-vascular disease and chain-smoking; and treatises on rural hygiene, first aid and AIDS.

"When we go to the people," says Mrs Ivica Znidarsic, President of the National Society, "we respect their traditions; we don't frighten them, we aren't aggressive." Mrs Znidarsic knows what she is talking about; she has a doc-

A Ritual

Public support for the Red Cross is never so clearly shown as during the National Solidarity Campaign held every October. Sitting under the portrait of Marshal Tito which presides over the meeting room of Kragujevac Red Cross local committee, section Secretary Liljana Krstic notes with approval that the cardboard suitcase containing today's proceeds of house-to-house collection is well filled. While her colleague counts out the stacks of banknotes, volunteers in the warehouse next door are sorting through the clothing, books, furniture, and food given by the public.

The people of Yugoslavia do not need screaming publicity in order to give generously. A rather washed-out poster in shop windows and doorways, and the uninspiring slogan "Solidarnost na delu" (Solidarity at work), is sufficient to bring support from all over the country - from the busy bazaars of Kosovo to the rich Slovenian towns, from the elegant cities of Dalmatia to the Novi-Belgrade dormitory housing estates.



Liliane de Toledo

Ivica Znidarsic displays the abundant printed materials of the Slovenia Red Cross.

The gifts may not be very big. With an annual inflation rate of 240 per cent linked to the present economic crisis, the Yugoslav purse is a lean one. But as Dr. Zejnullah Gruda, formerly Secretary of the Presidency of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, says: "Not many people in this country can afford to give a lot, but most can give a little; this adds up to quite a sum."

Whatever the figures, the almost ritual unanimity with which the public shows its trust in the Red Cross demonstrates how wholeheartedly it endorses the Red Cross call for solidarity. In the recent past – in the Skopje earthquake of 1963 or the Montenegro earthquake of 1979 – an appeal to solidarity was enough to elicit a powerful response from the public. Now as the nation struggles internally, Yugoslavs will doubtless remember, as a distant echo of their childhood, the appeal they once heard at school "Give your old clothes away and gain a friend."

• Bertrand BAUMANN



Liliane de Toledo

Counting financial contributions in Kragujevac, Serbia.

Mozambique 147th National Society

In 1983 the Government of Mozambique signed the Geneva Conventions and agreed to the formation of a national Red Cross society. After 5 years of working to meet the standards for recognition, the Red Cross Society of Mozambique was

officially recognized as a National Society by the International Committee of the Red Cross with effect 29 September 1988. This brings to 147 the number of national members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

PRISONERS REPATRIATED

The Finale and The Beginning

3,543 Ethiopian prisoners of war and civilian internees and one Cuban, who had been held in Somalia since 1978, when the Ogaden conflict came to an end, were repatriated at the end of August under the auspices of the ICRC. At the same time, 245 Somali prisoners of war held in Ethiopia were flown home. These repatriations were the finale of 11 long years of captivity.

In mid-November the ICRC reached an agreement with Iran and Iraq whereby the belligerents undertook to repatriate all sick and wounded prisoners of war between 20 November and 31 December 1988. The repatriation operation had its beginning on 14 November. Still to be negotiated is the exchange of all other prisoners of war.

In Somalia, before the repatriation of Ethiopians could begin,

every effort was made to reunite POWs with their detained families. Many of these families had only their white prisoners' uniforms. They were given sandals and socks in a transit camp in Merca, and tried on the clothes donated by various National Red Cross Societies.

From there they travelled first by truck and then by plane to Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, where airport ceremonies celebrated their return. In the background, at the airport, was the first group of Somali prisoners of war waiting to be repatriated that same day. They too received an enthusiastic welcome on their arrival in Mogadishu, where President Syad Barré and a large number of Somali military authorities had come to meet them.

• Helena MACH

While Somali POWs were preparing to leave, Ethiopian POWs and family members were returning (right).



H. Mach - ICRC



Nico Verboom "Love".



Nels Erasmus "Flight".



Deidre Keanly "Marsh owl".



Cecil Skotnes "Totem to a fish eagle".

Angela Maskew "A Night in the Little Karoo".



African Treasures

Love," says Cape artist Nico Verboom, "in some form or another is always depicted in my work... and love is what Red Cross is all about: love in the greater and wider aspect, love towards humanity."

Nico Verboom is one of 159 leading artists from South Africa, South West Africa/Namibia and the United States of America who responded to an invitation by the South African Red Cross Society and the Primart Foundation to create an African Treasure by decorating a stoneware plate in the medium and style of their choice.

The unique African Treasures collection of fine art on ceramic was auctioned in Cape Town, South Africa on 6 August and raised SFr 53,000 for the South African Red Cross Society's community organiser project.

The project, launched two years ago in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, has brought first-aid classes, self-help projects, child-care clinics, soup kitchens and many other services to underprivileged children, youths and adults in many urban and rural parts of South Africa. Fundraising for the increased costs of this project led to the innovative African Treasures 1988 campaign and resulted in the establishment of a collection of works of art stunning in originality and in a great variety of styles and moods.

Nico Verboom's plate fetched the top price, SFr 3,550. He painted two embracing figures, using acrylics. "I love painting plates," he said. In painting one is often limited by square or rectangular shapes, but this shape, dictated by

the plate, was especially suitable for this particular painting."

Some artists depicted traditional South African scenes. Angela Maskew painted "A night in the Little Karoo", François Krige "Two Kung Women" and Conrad Theys "Quiver trees in Namaqualand."

Other artists added to their plates, incorporating wooden panels, sculptures or figures, skulls, bones, perspex or pieces of wood in their works.

"Red Cross saved my life during the war," said Eduard Ladan, one of the artists whose "Heavily armoured" was heavy with symbolism. "Now I can do something for Red Cross."

The mayoress of Cape Town, Mrs. Clara Muller, opened the auction at the Nico Malan Theatre in Cape Town. The staff of the theatre and Wetz & Company (in association with Sotheby's) donated their time and services. Other companies donated services, decorations, food and wine for the 600 guests who attended.

"Tapping into this reservoir of goodwill surrounding Red Cross – so many people said that they'll give because it is Red Cross – has been one of the great experiences of my life," said one of the co-ordinators.

• Rykie HODD



South African Red Cross

◇ Community Organiser Evlyn Mkono in Cross-roads self help shoe store.

◇ 600 people gather to bid for African Treasures.

Willie de Klerk

IT'S OPEN

With appropriate musical fanfare the International Museum of the Red Cross opened its doors in Geneva on October 29th. Its opening is a testimony to the undaunted vision of Laurent Marti, a former ICRC delegate, the tireless work of the curator Jean-Pierre Gaume and the team of volunteers they mobilized.

The vision was to create a museum that would promote a greater understanding of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, inspire students and young visitors, and help raise much needed funds for ongoing humanitarian assistance worldwide. "At the beginning, I had an idea, but no land, no building, no money and no ready-made collection to exhibit", Marti explained. Now after ten years of work there stands a high-tech, modern museum which is a tribute to the humanitarian principles of the Movement.

Sober but original, dignified yet avant-garde, the three storey museum sits discreetly in the hill on which the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross stands. Facing the Geneva Office of United Nations complex, its central courtyard is reached through a concrete corridor cut into the hillside. The Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems, stretched overhead like a canopy filtering the light, are reflected by the glass walls of the atrium, a symbol of the Movement's universality.

Past the moving group of people carved out of stone by Karl

Bucher, entitled "Les Pétrifiés" one enters the museum. Engraved in large letters on the wall is a phrase written by Dostoyevski: "Each individual is responsible for everything before mankind." This is also the underlying concept of the museum. "This museum does not make any political judgments," adds Marti. "We only show the humanitarian gesture, without evoking politics or violence."

The corner-stone was officially laid in November 1985 during a ceremony attended by Nancy Reagan and Raissa Gorbachev. Since then, not only a building has been erected, but a plethora of audio-visual shows, films, photographs and artifacts have been collected and created. A most impressive presentation is the diorama screen which tells the tale of the bloody battle of Solferino and Henry Dunant's desperate efforts to save human lives.

In view of the ever present humanitarian needs worldwide, it was decided from the beginning that the museum would only be built from funds raised separately from the Red Cross. The final cost has been placed at 24 million Swiss Francs. All the money and in-kind donations came from private and public contributions specifically for the museum, which has been set up as a separate non-profit foundation.

The presentation of historical materials has been kept simple and in chronological order. The aim was to create a huge picture-book, telling the story of the Red Cross through images. The resulting use of illustrations, photographs and audio-visual material is striking and emotive. There is no language barrier – the pictures and faces speak for themselves.

It took eight years for the archivists to assemble the collection, and they are still documenting and processing more files. The museum now has 7,000 photographs at its

Inauguration of the Museum with Swiss President Otto Stich.

♦ "The Humanitarian Gesture" a sculpture by Meylan and Pistor.



Marina Parry

The atrium with Karl Bucher's "Les Pétrifiés".

fingertips, thousands of documents and more than 250 files from 65 countries. In the World War I section alone, a team of eight volunteer researchers worked for eight months sorting through seven million papers – and 21 special display units were made to present the finished exhibit.

"It is a great success," observed President Otto Stich of the Swiss Confederation at the opening. "One needs only to visit the museum to be convinced. This museum is the witness of the gesture, the word and the look, which through wars, disasters and other brutal events has helped and saved mankind... it is a witness to the ideal and principles of the Red Cross."

The museum is open six days a week (closed on Tuesdays), from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is an entrance fee with group rates available.

• Ralph WRIGHT



Pierre-Yves Dhinaut



Pierre-Yves Dhinaut

INTERVIEW

Jacques Moreillon

In October 1988, Jacques Moreillon left his job as Director General of the ICRC to become Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. George REID spoke to him on the eve of his departure about his 25 years in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

You studied law, and then political science, at Lausanne. Was it a natural move from that to the ICRC?

Well, my original thesis was to be on Swiss aid in the developing world. But other postgraduates were working in the same area, so my Director of Studies said 'Why not do something on the ICRC?'. I met Jean Pictet, then Director of Principles and Law, who suggested I do a thesis on ICRC and political detainees. From there, it was an obvious move to join the organization.

Which then sent you to the field?

Yes, though I had already worked privately in two kibbutzim in Israel and as a social worker in refugee camps in Jordan. I had also been to Mozambique and Angola during their liberation struggles.

With the ICRC, I went first to Kashmir and then to Viet Nam. During the 6-Day War in June 1967, I was head of delegation in Damascus. Then to Biafra, and from there back to head the delegation in Israel and the Occupied Territories for a year and a half.

In 1971 I was appointed regional delegate for Latin America, based in Caracas and in 1972 became delegate general for Africa, based in Geneva. I stayed in that job till 1975 when I left Operations and became Director of Principles and Law.

Few academics get such an opportunity to study their subject so close up, though?

That's true, but until I got to South America I was primarily in-

volved with military personnel who had been captured. When I arrived in Caracas, I was dealing directly with my own subject – the fate of political detainees – but, such is the way of things, by that time I had finished my thesis.

As you reflect on the chaos of these years, what do you think are the main challenges for the Movement?

You use the right word when you use "chaos". That's how I see the future.

This poses two main challenges – how to learn to live with chaos, and how to cope with the victims of the radicalization of ideologies – including religious ideologies.

And the key lessons?

We have to continue to strike a balance between staying true to

the League and the ICRC – to move with the times.

Yes, we are complicated. The ICRC has, for example, three driving forces – it is mono-national, it is Swiss, and its members are co-opted. But this very complexity makes the ICRC watertight in conflict situations. Conflict is the water. The ICRC is the swimmer in the water. But the ICRC doesn't drink the water.

Simultaneously, there is the League – representing all National Societies in natural disaster and development work. It is specifically adapted for situations where a neutral intermediary is not required.

Sometimes these days, though, it is difficult to know where the famine stops and the fighting starts?

The most important decision is to determine whether there is a war,

"As I have grown with my job at the ICRC, I have grown out of it. Today I feel myself to be a Red Cross and a Red Crescent man, not just an ICRC man."



Jacques Moreillon

our original objectives and adapting to changing times. This balance in safeguarding our tradition – keeping the flames and not the ashes – is borne out in what we have done in terms of Red Cross and Peace. We are forward looking, but we are not politicized. The same is true of the reform of our Statutes.

But, to the outsider, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is still a very complex organism.

Precisely, and that is good. There is a basic biological law that, the more complex a living organism is, the more adaptable it is to a changing environment. It allows both our international institutions –

or not. Why? Not just because of prisoners, but because only in an international armed conflict do the parties have an obligation to give us access. If so, it is opportune that the ICRC should do the coordination.

In other situations, we have a right to offer services but there is no obligation to give the Movement access. In such cases, determining who is going to coordinate doesn't depend on definitions of whether there is a war or not, but if there is a need for a specifically neutral institution.

Do you ever think the Movement philosophizes too much? That its profile is not as clear, say,

as that of Amnesty International or the Scouts or Oxfam?

Yes, our public profile is diffuse. If you look at the Bucharest Resolution on the "Mission" of the Movement, what it contains is a whole catalogue of separate missions. The reason is that the Red Cross does one thing in Australia, another in Burundi, and yet a third in Colombia.

We have, though, the cement of our Fundamental Principles. And the adaptability of both the League and the ICRC in a changing world.

The Movement's slogan in 1989 is "Protecting Human Life". Is that a good bottom-line for its work?

If I had to choose one word for what we do, it would be "Protection". It is what drives League delegates to cross the world to help the victims of earthquakes, and floods and cyclones. It is what drives an ICRC delegate to enter a prison cell.

"Protection" is a much stronger driving force than "Assistance".

The essential message of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is that we care what happens to people, thousands of miles away, who have been left without their natural protection. The reality is that their state cannot protect them if they are prisoners of war, does not want to protect them if they are political detainees, and simply does not have the resources to protect them when a major calamity strikes.

Our motivation is clear. They are helpless. We care. Therefore we want to protect them. Without such protection, they lose their human dignity.

Such worldwide commitment requires real leadership. For a time the ICRC was run by what has been called a 'troika' of President Hay, yourself, and Jean-Pierre Hocké. How did that work?

Very well, because we were very complementary. Mr Hay was clearly the boss, but he was not a very bossy boss. He was clearly calling the chips, and making the real choices. The chemistry of personal relationships was good.

With the creation of a collegial directorate in 1981, however, we

added one level of hierarchy and this made the ICRC more difficult to run. One advantage of my departure as Director General is that the organizational chart can be flattened out and my immediate subordinates become members of the Directorate.

Do you leave with any sense of regret?

No, I am profoundly grateful for what the Movement has given me over the past 25 years. I move now

myself to be a Red Cross and Red Crescent man, not just an ICRC man.

It has taken me half a professional lifetime to reach this position, and I don't suppose young ICRC, League or National Society staff can do so at the start of their careers.

But I say to all of them: think as Red Cross and Red Crescent men and women, not as institutional employees. Be positive, and don't think in stereotypes. If you per-



In 1965, during the Indo-Pakistan Conflict, Jacques Moreillon, as a young ICRC delegate, observes the distribution of milk in Jammu, Pakistan.

from the Red Cross, founded by a man of genius – Henry Dunant – to the Scouts, founded by another man of genius – Lord Baden-Powell.

There are many similarities. Both are worldwide service organizations. But what attracts me to the Scouts are the differences.

The Red Cross is basically a defensive Movement, making right what is wrong, helping the helpless. The Scouts are a constructive Movement, building the future of mankind by training tomorrow's leaders to take responsibility.

And if you had a final message for the Movement? . . .

Well, it would be this: as I have grown with my job at the ICRC, I have grown out of it. Today I feel

ceive people as arrogant, for example, that will condition your attitudes to them. If you are open-minded, you may just see their "arrogance" simply as natural assertiveness and dedication to their work.

So – think Red Cross, Red Crescent. Not institutions.

But you'll still be around the Red Cross and Red Crescent yourself, won't you?

(Smiles). When is it this interview is being published? . . . ●

On November 1st, Jacques Moreillon was appointed to the 24 member governing board of the International Committee of the Red Cross

MEDIA UPDATE

Films and Videos



Following are new releases of films and videos pertaining to Red Cross/Red Crescent activities:

THE EPIC OF THE RED CROSS (Pathé Cinéma, 208') is a four part "made-for-television" series on the history and the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Includes historical footage, interviews and coverage of present day operations. First telecast on Swiss television as part of the 125th anniversary, it is presently being shown on television stations world-wide. Nations telecasting the series include the Netherlands, France, Australia, Italy, Greece, Canada, Yugoslavia and Luxemburg.

(Available for telecasting only through Pathé Cinéma, Paris, France.)

MAN'S HUMANITY TO MAN (ICRC, 26') This sequence of gripping images traces the Movement's history from its first field-worker - Henry Dunant - through some of the major human tragedies of our century up to the present day. The film was made from footage gathered by Pathé Cinéma for its production "The Epic of the Red Cross".

(Orig.: U-matic-High Band; Video copies, all formats and standards. Available in Eng./Fr./Sp.)

Journals and Books



KLEINES VOLK is the children's magazine of the Austrian Red Cross Youth. 180,000 copies are distributed each month to Austrian school children of 10 years of age. Teachers use the magazine as part of their classroom instruction.

The four colour 48-page magazine contains a potpourri of short subjects superbly illustrated. Included in each issue are safety tips, nature stories, environmental issues, cross cultural discussions, Red Cross events, crossword puzzles, music, cartoons, and a page for humour.

Published ten times a year, the magazine is in its 44th year of championing humanitarian ideals for the children of Austria. It



Ellen Harr

Small Folk, Austrian Red Cross Youth magazine for children.

is edited by Wagner'sche Univ.-Buchdruckerei Buchroithner & Co. The magazine is funded by the children who pay the equivalent of SFr. 1 per magazine. Subscription information is available through the Austrian Red Cross, Postal Box 39, A-1041 Vienna 4, Austria.

WINNING THE HUMAN RACE? is the report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (Zed Books Ltd., 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU and 171 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey 07716, 1988).

This summary report was prepared by a group of eminent persons from 29 countries representing all regions of the world. Members included Simone Veil (France), Robert McNamara (USA), Henrik Beer (Sweden), David Owen (UK), Luis Echeverria Alvarez (Mexico), Igor Blishchenko (USSR) and Des-

mond Tutu (South Africa). The co-chairmen were Sadruddin Aga Khan (Iran) and Hassan bin Talal (Jordan).

Written independently of the political constraints that so mar inter-governmental debates, the Report offers a fresh humanitarian perspective and realistic alternatives for action. It asserts that economic growth, national security and all the grand schemes that the public is used to hearing about do not mean much if their relationship to human well-being is not clearly established. Addressed to policy-makers as much as to the general public, it challenges conventional wisdom and urges us to act before a disaster strikes, rather than react after it has taken its toll.

A wide range of humanitarian issues are discussed including weapons of mass destruction; the protection of children, refugees and displaced persons; man-made disasters; population growth; the environment; poverty and development; terrorism; and the international drug problem. Three annexes provide additional information on other publications dealing in greater depth with the issues as well as special television programmes that have been produced dealing with a wide variety of issues facing the human race.

The Commission provides recommendations that it attempts to state in a neutral and non threatening way. Such recommendations range from a request for the United Nations to develop an operations code of conduct to regulate the management of disasters; to an assessment of changes regarding nuclear power; to suggestions regarding the protection of the media in conflict situations (with the possibility of media members being issued Red Cross/Red Crescent arm-bands).

Despite the difficult issues addressed, the report is not a story of gloom but a message of hope. For further information on the work of the Commission contact: Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, P.O. Box 83, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

• Ralph WRIGHT

First Aid Olympic Style



A celebration of all humanity, a celebration of world peace, the Games of the 24th Olympiad in Seoul were held from 17 September to 2 October. Watched by three billion people worldwide via television, the games attracted hundreds of thousands of spectators, over 15,000 journalists and a grand total of 13,626 athletes from 160 countries. In such a situation the need for emergency medical services is crucial.

Spectator first aid was, as in previous Olympiads, provided by the

Red Cross. 232 Korean (Rep) Red Cross first aiders provided assistance at 31 posts in the stadiums of Seoul, Incheon, Pusan, Daegu, Daejeon and Kwangju. Though the great majority of the 3,000 plus first aid treatments were of a minor nature, the first aid teams had been prepared for a wide variety of medical emergencies. Fortunately, the peaceful nature of the crowds at the games insured that the requests for first aid were of routine nature.

Preparation for the role of providing spectator first aid began four years earlier by observing the operations of the 23rd Olympiad in Los Angeles. This was followed by numerous planning meetings with the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee. Eventually first aiders from 13 chapters of the Korean Red Cross were recruited and extensively trained.

In addition to first aid posts, two Red Cross temporary service centers were set up at the main stadium and Olympic Park. Volunteers provided care for lost children, basic information for spectators and drinking water, lots of drinking water, not only for the spectators but for the thousands of students who participated in the large and colourful festivities of the opening and closing ceremonies.

Some 300 Red Cross volunteers also provided similar first aid and social services during the Paralymp-



Blisters were a common problem.



Roving First Aiders monitor the capacity crowd.

pics which were held in mid October in Seoul. Four thousand handicapped from around the world participated in these games.

Park Seh-Jik, President of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee at the opening ceremony spoke of Peace as a goal of the games. "Here we have come together, East and West, North and South, under the sky of Seoul and have leapt over the ideological and political barriers that separated us. We are now engaged in a festival of Harmony and Progress which all humankind earnestly hopes will endure long after these Games are over."

These same hopes are expressed by the separated families of the two Koreas, who desire to communicate one with another across the border which separates the north from the south. With the assistance of the various parts of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the euphoria of the 24th Olympiad may help to open a window of communication. Thus the spirit of the Olympics may continue on as a time of joy and a symbol of peace.

• Suk-In YUN



Red Cross Service Center provides refreshment and assistance for lost children.

AFGHANISTAN

Surgical Hospital Opens

On 1 October a surgical hospital in Kabul for the war wounded opened with a staff of 161, consisting of 140 Afghans and 21 expatriates. Operated by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the hospital includes medical staff sent by various National Societies including Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, New Zealand and Sweden.

"Although at the beginning the patients were sent by the ICRC orthopaedic centre in Kabul or by nurses working in the Afghan Red Crescent dispensaries, people gradually came to learn of the existence of our hospital and now come of their own initiative", explained Jürgen Heiner, a surgeon seconded by the Danish Red Cross.

Families can visit patients at certain times of the day, but only mothers are allowed to stay with their convalescent children in the hospital itself. Not to be overlooked is the large notice at the entrance which clearly states weapons may not be brought inside.

Alain Rouvillois, from France, is in charge of the blood bank. "One of my main concerns is to find donors, so I spend part of my time recruiting volunteers from the local population. For example, many upper level school children and university students have already come to give their blood."

The hospital's activities also include paramedical training which started a few months ago with Afghan assistant nurses. A close working relationship has also been established with the Afghan Red Crescent hospital. Should the military situation deteriorate the

surgical hospital would be able to transfer patients to the Red Crescent facility so as to make room for an increased influx of casualties.

Meanwhile in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, Red Crescent, League and ICRC officials are hopeful of peace. "Plans are being worked out in conjunction with the United Nations, the ICRC, the Red Crescent and other organizations, for the return of possibly five million Afghan refugees to their homes," said Anders Öhrström, League Chief Delegate in Islamabad. Little movement is expected however, until after the winter snows have thawed and roads become passable. The speed of the return operation is also highly dependent on the changing military and political situation.

• Claire FRESARD
Ralph WRIGHT

"The hospital has a capacity of fifty beds which can be increased to 110 in case of emergency," proudly states Ingrid Andersson, the Swedish head nurse. She was part of the team that began the laborious work of setting up the hospital back in March. "It has two operating theatres (a gift from the Norwegian Red Cross), an intensive care unit, a blood bank, a laboratory and a physiotherapy centre."

One month after the hospital opened, the surgical teams had already carried out 94 operations on war casualties admitted irrespective of their allegiance. "Since the in-service training of local personnel only began when the hospital opened," happily remarks Jorma Salmela of the Finnish Red Cross and medical coordinator for the ICRC in Afghanistan, "all the staff should be thanked for successfully setting up an almost full surgical hospital in such a short time."



ICRC



ICRC



Behind compound gates (above) Red Cross hospital has two operating theatres and beds for 50 patients (left).

AIDS : After awareness – who will care ?

League AIDS Coordinator **Barbara WALLACE** recently visited six African countries. Her report follows:

I hate AIDS with passion. I hate what it does to people – deforms them, dehumanizes them. I am having a war with AIDS.” Thebush Chaava’s war is taking place in a rural part of Zambia. She spends her days visiting people with AIDS, and talking to villagers about how to avoid the virus which is already killing some of their most productive young people.

“Sometimes you go to visit and you find a funeral. I remember one dreadful day. We went to visit four patients, and we found four funerals in a row. That was a very very bad day.” There are other times when the deep involvement of Thebush and the Salvation Army team of which she is a part appears to be paying off. “Many people are changing their behaviour. The patients, too – the first time you visit they will just be lying there, waiting to die, and the next time they have built a new little hut, or they have bought some chickens to raise – they are living again.”

Around the world much energy and resources have been spent on the AIDS awareness campaigns. But for those whom these campaigns reach too late – the estimated 300,000 people who are already infected with HIV – awareness is not enough. Some church-run projects are attempting to look after people with AIDS, but they can reach only a small percentage of those in need. The question asked by Susan Deverell, AIDS Coordinator of the Kenya Red Cross, is being echoed with increasing urgency by many Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies: “Who will do the caring?”

In Tanzania, a grandmother is trying to feed, clothe, and educate her sixteen grandchildren orphaned by AIDS. In Zambia, an adoption agency desperately tries to place a family of eight children. In Uganda, a young mother cried when she was told she had infected her own baby. In Kenya a young man has been rejected by his friends because of the disease which is shortening his life. Africa is not unique. Similar stories are told increasingly around the world.

The first response to the AIDS pandemic was strongly on the side of preventive education. This is a logical initial approach to a disease for which there is no vaccine and no cure. It is also relatively easy and inexpensive. This is attractive to overburdened health ministries, aid agencies and NGOs eager to make their contribution.

“There is a point where the information-giving will have been done,” says Peter Oryema, Secretary General of the Uganda Red Cross. “People will know enough about the disease. We have to start thinking about the people who are sick, about the families and the orphans. Those who think they can deal with AIDS from a lecture platform will have to get off that platform, and begin to care.” The Uganda Red Cross has some excellent models to follow, such as a home visiting programme at Nsambya Hospital, and TASO, the AIDS support organization run largely by seropositives and their relatives.

The Executive Council of the League recently urged that the psychological support of people with AIDS be given the highest priority.

In some countries this is already happening.

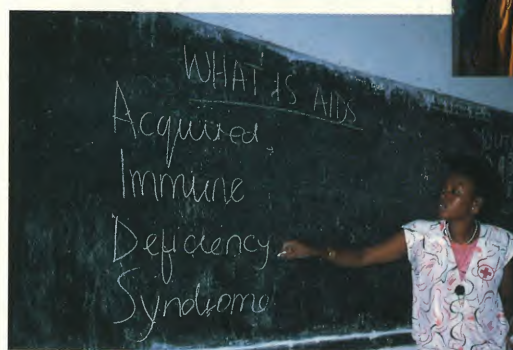
The Swiss Red Cross trains people to provide home care for AIDS patients; the British Red Cross has a cosmetic camouflage programme for people with Kaposi’s sarcoma; the Swedish Red Cross cooperates with another NGO to run a support centre for people with AIDS; the Norwegian Red Cross has supported action against AIDS-related discrimination.

Existing programmes are usually the best place to introduce new activities. The Zambian Red Cross is planning to introduce home care in the training they give village health care workers. The Tanzania Red Cross is planning branch activities for orphans and families, and the Sudanese Red Crescent is looking at ways to include AIDS education in their Child Alive programme.

As the ever growing AIDS pandemic threatens our society, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are faced with a critical challenge. “AIDS is a disaster,” says Bo Backström, Desk Officer of the League’s Africa Department. “If we put it in that framework, we will know how to respond.”



Zambian AIDS family – Who will do the caring?



AIDS education in Uganda.

PEOPLE

The central eye-opener during the Netherlands Red Cross membership campaign was **Yvonne van Gennip**, the popular Dutch skating star who won three gold Olympic medals in Calgary. With the help of this "Olympic Gold", new members increased by 140,000. Total figures are award winning as well. Out of 3.6 million households 1.08 million are members of the Netherlands Red Cross.



Leo Vogelzang

Olympic skater collects more gold.

Raising the roof, money-wise, for Jamaica were the **Nu-Tones**, a steel orchestra from Trinidad. Much of Jamaica had been damaged by Hurricane Gilbert and roofing was a scarce commodity. Playing at the Variety Arts Center in Los Angeles, the band along with other performers entertained until the wee hours of the morning. Funds raised were channelled through the American Red Cross' Hurricane Gilbert Relief Fund.



Ralph Wright

Nu-Tones' Reggae raises the roof.

A returned letter for Fidel Castro.



Gamma

When ICRC delegates visited Cuban jails in June it was the first time security prisoners had been interviewed according to standard ICRC procedures. However, it was not the first time Cuba had participated in prisoner of war exchanges. In an earlier meeting with ICRC President **Cornelio Sommaruga**, Cuban President **Fidel Castro** expressed his gratitude for the ICRC's visits to two Cuban pilots captured in Angola earlier in the year, and for its assistance over the past 10 years to a Cuban soldier held in Somalia who has subsequently been released. The ICRC delegation presented to the Cuban president a copy of the letter he had signed 20 years earlier agreeing to a repatriation of prisoners of war from the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Ellen Harr



Icelandic head of state visits League.

On November **President Vigdis Finnbogadóttir** of Iceland visited the League to discuss issues relating to relief and development aid. Following the meeting she was presented the Henry Dunant Medal by Secretary General **Pär Stenbäck**. The Icelandic people and government were cited for their outstanding humanitarian support for people around the world.

The Sound of Music has moved on.



Ellen Harr

The 12-voice choir at the ICRC which practises each week and sings on special occasions such as the staff Christmas gathering and retirements, included an Australian for 14 months. On 27 September 1988, **Noreen Minogue**, retired Deputy Secretary General of the Australian Red Cross, sang for the last time with the choir just before she completed her assignment as Coordinator of the 125th Anniversary of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Now back in her home in Melbourne, Australia, Noreen continues her regular activities.

Seventy four year-old **Gun Virgin** is a Red Cross millionaire. Since 1967 she has collected over 1 million Swedish Kronen for the Swedish Red Cross. With her collection can and wearing a blue Red Cross suit she asks for donations on the various streets of Stockholm. Having honed her collecting skills to a science, she humbly approaches potential donors. Young people are her best contributors but she claims well dressed men seldom give at all.

Lars Forsstedt



On her second million.

She is recognized by numerous former students, for she had been teaching nursing classes for many year. Her favorite saying is, "if you want a job done, ask a busy person." Gun Virgin is also a busy person. She's working on collecting her second million for the Red Cross.

Communicating the Red Cross and Red Crescent message in a fast moving world is a concerted effort of all three parts of the Movement. Providing expertise, recommendations and technical coordination is the International Communications Group. At a recent meeting in Geneva they slowed down sufficiently for a photographer to catch them in front of the historic ICRC headquarters. From left to right, **Eddie Angco**, Philippines; **Henry Wahinya**, Kenya; **George Reid**, League; **Manuel Fiol**, Spain; **Bud Good**, USA; **Baddredine Bensoud**, Morocco; **Alain Modoux**, ICRC; **Zandra Arevalo**, Colombia; **Encho Gospodinov**, Bulgaria; **Roland Hammer**, ICRC; **Juan Lozano Mudarra**, Spain; and **Karim Bouarar**, ICRC.

Thierry Gassmann



Communicators meet in Geneva.

On 23 September the Mexican Red Cross, as part of the commemoration of the 125th Anniversary, inaugurated their new training centre in Toluca. In order to do this the Mexican Society's General Assembly met in a massive and colourful tent, specially constructed for the event. Participating in the festive event was the First Lady of the Country, **Mrs. Paloma Cordero de De La Madrid**, honorary President

Mexican Training Centre opens with festivities under the big top.



of the Mexican Red Cross. During the ceremonies she cancelled the first Mexican stamp to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Movement.

The Venezuelan Red Cross recently gave money to the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society to purchase eight wheelchairs for the Princess Elizabeth Centre for Physically Handicapped Children. Receiving the chairs were **Daniel Samaroo**, (right), and **David Earl**, (centre), president and director of the centre respectively. Making the presentation on behalf of the Venezuelan Red Cross was **Justice Kester McMillan**, (left), chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross.

Guardian News Photo



Latin American mutual aid.



Mexican Red Cross

Eleven year-old **Rommel Ortila** won First Prize in the 1988 Art Competition of the Philippine National Red Cross. As one of the activities celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the International Movement, the competition started at the provincial level and was entered by more than 15,000 school children. His drawing, which bested fifty other students at the on-the-spot finals, was reprinted by the League as its year end greeting card.



Best Wishes for the New Year.

League



Letter from Leningrad

In October the Commission of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace met in Leningrad. The lapel pin shown below was presented by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR to the participants. **George REID** reports:



The first fiddle died yesterday. The drum has collapsed from hunger. No one knows what has happened to the French horn..."

During the 900-day siege of Leningrad by the Nazis, however, composer Dmitry Shostakovich somehow kept going – writing music by day in his freezing flat, and putting out incendiary bombs on the rooftops by night as an auxiliary fireman. As members of his orchestra died, they were replaced by army and navy bandsmen.

And then, in 1942, it was heard for the first time – his glorious Seventh Symphony, the "Leningrad", a tribute to a city which had refused to die.

Over a million of its inhabitants did die from cold and hunger, however. Half of them are buried in mass graves in the Piskareyskoye Cemetery under the slogan: "None is Forgotten. And Nothing is Forgotten".

It was therefore "right and proper", said Dmitry Venedictov, Chairman of the Soviet Red Cross, that the Movement's Peace Commission should meet in October in Leningrad – "a place which has known the horrors of war at first hand."

The idea was simple: to find, with the help of information and

dissemination experts, better ideas to promote the Red Cross and Red Crescent "Peace Message".

Some of the journalists present were certainly outspoken enough. No matter how fine the sentiments of the Movement's Peace Resolutions in Belgrade in 1975 and Aaland in 1984, they were "totally unusable" by the media. "They simply don't speak the language of ordinary men and women," said one.

Certainly there were practical ideas in plenty. Get Warsaw pact and NATO officers together in a workshop on International Humanitarian Law. Push for I.H.L. to be included in all legal training. Take journalists to the field to see for themselves. Translate the Protocols into local languages. Picket factories producing banned armaments. Work more closely with local radios in reaching the rural poor. Organize Red Cross street theatre, songs and puppetry.

But the shopping list of good ideas (which would make an excellent "do-it-yourself" book for the disseminators) did not fit easily into any universal communications strategy.

Samuil Gurarij



Peace Commission members at Leningrad War Memorial (from left to right): Dr. Dmitry D. Venedictov, Chairman of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR; Mr. Alexandre Hay, Chairman of the Commission of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace; Dr. Mario Villarroel Landier, President of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Mr. Pär Stenbäck, Secretary General of the League.

"Why should International Humanitarian Law be associated with Peace?" asked one jurist. "Surely it's about war – or rather relieving the suffering of victims of war."

"Surely the vast majority of conflicts in the world today are internal, with nine out of ten casualties being civilians? And what is the Movement going to do about that?"

"Or about governments who sign solemn declarations not to sow mines indiscriminately outside their own frontiers, but who are doing just that inside their own country...?"

"But wasn't the teaching of I.H.L. easier in conflict situations?" asked one academic. "Not so," said Mrs Slim of the Lebanese Red Cross. "I can't talk Peace directly to the militia gunmen. If I did, I'd be taking away their daily bread..."

What about calm reflection on I.H.L. in time of peace? "The trouble here," said Alan McLean of the Australian Red Cross, "is that we haven't been engaged in war for over 40 years and I.H.L. – unlike Human Rights – just doesn't seem quite such a pressing issue..."

In such a short workshop, it was perhaps inevitable that there would be more questions than answers. Reports will now be sent to National Societies for comment, and the Peace Commission will come back to the issue in April 1989.

After all the drafting and paperwork, delegates wandered round the wide boulevards and granite embankments of this superbly restored city.

The peacetime reconstruction is so complete, so lovingly carried out in wrought ironwork and cupolas and stucco, that it is difficult to remember how smashed and near destruction it was between 1941 and 1943.

But as the Nazi net tightened, Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony was broadcast. It was a paean of praise to ordinary people who refused to be robbed of the dignity of life. And in Berlin, Moscow, London and Washington they heard, and understood.

Maybe the "Leningrad" has something to teach all of us about the art of dissemination. ●

JOIN NOW

AFGHANISTAN (Democratic Republic of) -

Albanian Red Cross, Boulevard Marsel Kashen, **Tirana**. **ALBANIA** (Socialist People's Republic of) -

Algerian Red Crescent, 15 bis, boulevard Mohamed V, **Algiers**. **ANGOLA** - Angola Red Cross, Av. Hoji Ya Henda 107,

2, andar, **Luanda**. **ARGENTINA** - The Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, 1089 **Buenos Aires**. **AUSTRALIA** - Australian

Red Cross Society, 206, Clarendon Street, **East Melbourne 3002**. **AUSTRIA** - Austrian Red Cross, 3, Gusschausstrasse, Postfach 39,

1041, **Vienna 4**. **BAHAMAS** - The Bahamas Red Cross Society, P.O. Box N-8331, **Nassau**. **BAHRAIN** - Bahrain Red Cross Society, P.O.

Box 882, **Manama**. **BANGLADESH** - Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, 684-686, Bara Magh Bazar, G.P.O. Box No. 579, **Dhaka 1217**. **BARBADOS**

- The Barbados Red Cross Society, Red Cross House, Jemmotts Lane, **Bridgetown**. **BELGIUM** - Belgian Red Cross, 98, chaussée de Vleurgt, 1050

Brussels. **BELIZE** - Belize Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 413, **Belize City**. **BENIN** (People's Republic of) - Red Cross of Benin, B.P. No. 1, **Porto-Novo**. **BOLIVIA**

- Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar 1515, **La Paz**. **BOTSWANA** - Botswana Red Cross Society, 135 Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 485, **Gaborone**.

BRAZIL - Brazilian Red Cross, Praça Cruz Vermelha No. 10-12, **Rio de Janeiro**. **BULGARIA** - Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. Buzov, 1527 **Sofia**. **BURKINA FASO** -

Burkina Be Red Cross Society, B.P. 340, **Ouagadougou**. **BURMA** (Socialist Republic of the Union of) - Burma Red Cross Society, Red Cross Building, 42, Strand Road,

Rangoon. **BURUNDI** - Burundi Red Cross, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, **Bujumbura**. **CAMEROON** - Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henri-Dunant, P.O. Box 631, **Yaoundé**.

CANADA - The Canadian Red Cross Society, 1800 Alta Vista Drive, **Ottawa, Ontario K1G 4J5**. **CAPE-VERDE** (Republic of) - Red Cross of Cape Verde, Rua Unidade-Guiné-Cabo

Verde, P.O. Box 119, **Praia**. **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** - Central African Red Cross Society, B.P. 1428, **Bangui**. **CHAD** - Red Cross of Chad, B.P. 449, **N'Djamena**. **CHILE** - Chilean

Red Cross, Avenida Santa María No. 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246-V, **Santiago de Chile**. **CHINA** (People's Republic of) - Red Cross Society of China, 53, Ganmin Hutong, **Beijing**.

COLOMBIA - Colombian Red Cross Society, Avenida 68, No. 66-31, Apartado Aéreo 11-10, **Bogotá D.E.** **CONGO** (People's Republic of the) - Congolese Red Cross, place de la Paix, B.P. 4145,

Brazzaville. **COSTA RICA** - Costa Rica Red Cross, Calle 14, Avenida 8, Apartado 1025, **San José**. **COTE D'IVOIRE** - Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, B.P. 1244, **Abidjan**. **CUBA** - Cuban Red

Cross, Calle Calzada 51 Vedado, Ciudad Habana, **Havana 4**. **CZECHOSLOVAKIA** - Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovská 18, 118 04 **Prague 1**. **DENMARK** - Danish Red Cross, Dag Hammarskjølds

Allé 28, Postboks 2600, 2100 **Copenhagen**. **DJIBOUTI** - Red Crescent Society of Djibouti, B.P. 8, **Djibouti**. **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** - Dominican Red Cross, Apartado postal 1293, **Santo Domingo**.

ECUADOR - Ecuadorean Red Cross, calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia, **Quito**. **EGYPT** (Arab Republic of) - Egyptian Red Crescent Society, 29, El Galaa Street, **Cairo**. **EL SALVADOR** - Salvadorean

Red Cross Society, 17C, Pte y Av. Henri Dunant, **San Salvador**. **ETHIOPIA** - Ethiopian Red Cross Society, Ras Desta Damtew Avenue, **Addis-Ababa**. **FIJI** - Fiji Red Cross Society, 22 Gornie Street, P.O. Box

569, **Suva**. **FINLAND** - Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu, 1 A, Box 168, 00141 **Helsinki**. **FRANCE** - French Red Cross, 1, place Henry-Dunant, 75384 **Paris**. **GAMBIA** - The Gambia Red Cross Society, P.O. Box

472, **Banjul**. **GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** - German Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic, Kaiser Strasse 2, 8010 **Dresden**. **GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF** - German Red Cross in the

Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Erbert-Allee 71, 5300, **Bonn 1**. **GHANA** - Ghana Red Cross Society, Ministries Annex A3, P.O. Box 835, **Accra**. **GREECE** - Hellenic Red Cross, Rue Lycavittou, 1, **Athens**

10672. **GRENADA** - Red Cross Society of Grenada, P.O. Box 221, **St. George's**. **GUATEMALA** - Guatemalan Red Cross, 3a Calle 8-40, Zona 1, **Ciudad de Guatemala**. **GUINEA** - Red Cross Society of Guinea, P.O.

Box 376, **Conakry**. **GUINEA-BISSAU** - Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau, rua Justino Lopes No 22, **Bissau**. **GUYANA** - The Guyana Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 10524, Eve Leary, **Georgetown**. **HAITI** - Haitian

National Red Cross Society, place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, **Port-au-Prince**. **HONDURAS** - Honduran Red Cross, 7a Calle, 1a y 2a Avenidas, **Comayagüela D.M.** **HUNGARY** - Hungarian Red Cross, V. Arany János

utca, 31, **Budapest 1367**. **ICELAND** - Icelandic Red Cross, Raudarstigur 18, 105 **Reykjavik**. **INDIA** - Indian Red Cross Society, 1, Red Cross Road, **New-Delhi 110001**. **INDONESIA** - Indonesian Red Cross Society, Jl.

Gatot Subroto Kav. 96, P.O. Box 2009, **Jakarta**. **IRAN** - The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Avenue Ostad Nejatollahi, **Tehran**. **IRAQ** - Iraqi Red Crescent Society, Mu'ari Street, Mansour, **Baghdad**.

IRELAND - Irish Red Cross Society, 16, Merrion Square, **Dublin 2**. **ITALY** - Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, 00187 **Rome**. **JAMAICA** - The Jamaica Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 10001, **Amman**. **KENYA** - Kenya Red Cross Society, St. John's Gate, P.O. Box

40712, **Nairobi**. **KOREA** (Democratic People's Republic of) - Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ryonhwa 1, Central District, **Pyeongyang**. **KOREA** (Republic of) - The Republic of Korea

National Red Cross, 32-3Ka, Nam San Dong, Choong-Ku, **Seoul 100**. **KUWAIT** - Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1359 Salat, **Kuwait**. **LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** - Lao Red Cross, B.P. 650,

Vientiane. **LEBANON** - Lebanese Red Cross, rue Spears, **Beirut**. **LESOTHO** - Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, **Maseru 100**. **LIBERIA** - Liberian Red Cross Society, 107 Lynch Street, P.O. Box 5081, **Monrovia**.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA - Libyan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 541, **Benghazi**. **LIECHTENSTEIN** - Liechtenstein Red Cross, Heiligkreuz, 9490 **Vaduz**. **LUXEMBURG** - Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, B.P. 404,

Luxemburg 2. **MADAGASCAR** - Malagasy Red Cross Society, 1, rue Patrice Lumumba, **Antananarivo**. **MALAWI** - Malawi Red Cross Society, Conforzi Road, P.O. Box 983, **Lilongwe**. **MALAYSIA** - Malaysian Red Crescent

Society, JKR 32 Jalan Nipah, off Jalan Ampang, **Kuala Lumpur 55000**. **MALI** - Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, **Bamako**. **MAURITANIA** - Mauritanian Red Crescent, B.P. 344, avenue Gamal Abdel Nasser, **Nouakchott**.

MAURITIUS - Mauritius Red Cross Society, Ste Thérèse Street, **Curepipe**. **MEXICO** - Mexican Red Cross, Calle Luis Vives 200, Col. Polanco, C.P. 11510, **México 10**. **D.F.** **MONACO** - Red Cross of Monaco, 27 bd de

Suisse, **Monte Carlo**. **MONGOLIA** - Red Cross Society of Mongolia, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, **Ulan Bator**. **MOROCCO** - Moroccan Red Crescent, B.P. 189, **Rabat**. **MOZAMBIQUE** - Mozambique Red Cross

Society, Avenida 24 de Julho, C.P. 2986 **Maputo**. **NEPAL** - Nepal Red Cross Society, Kalimati, **Kathmandu**. **NETHERLANDS** - The Netherlands Red Cross, P.O.B. 28120, 2502 **KC The Hague**. **NEW ZEALAND** - The New

Zealand Red Cross Society, Red Cross House, 14 Hill Street, **Wellington**. **NICARAGUA** - Nicaraguan Red Cross, Apartado 3279, **Managua D.N.** **NIGER** - Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 11386, **Niamey**. **NIGERIA** -

Nigerian Red Cross Society, 11 Eko Akete Close, off St. Gregory's Rd., P.O. Box 764, **Lagos**. **NORWAY** - Norwegian Red Cross, P.O. Box 6875, St. Olavspl. 0130 **Oslo 1**. **PAKISTAN** - Pakistan Red Crescent Society,

Sector H-8, **Islamabad**. **PANAMA** - Red Cross Society of Panama, Apartado Postal 668, Zona 1, **Panama**. **PAPUA NEW GUINEA** - Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 6545, **Baroko**. **PARAGUAY** -

Paraguayan Red Cross, Brasil 216, esq. José Berges, **Asunción**. **PERU** - Peruvian Red Cross, Av. Camino del Inca y Nazarenas, Urb. Las Gardenias, Surco - Apartado 1534, **Lima**. **PHILIPPINES** - The Philippine

National Red Cross, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, P.O. Box 280, **Manila 2803**. **POLAND** - Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, 00-950 **Warsaw**. **PORTUGAL** - Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 Abril, 1 a 5, 1293

Lisbon. **QATAR** - Qatar Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 5449, **Doha**. **ROMANIA** - Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Strada Biserica Amzei, 29, **Bucarest**. **RWANDA** - Rwandese Red Cross, B.P.

425, **Kigali**. **SAINT LUCIA** - Red Cross Society of St Lucia, P.O. Box 271, **Castries St. Lucia, W.I.** **SAN MARINO** - Red Cross of San Marino, **San Marino**. **SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE** - Sao Tome and

Principe Red Cross, C.P. 96, **Sao Tome**. **SAUDI ARABIA** - Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society, **Riyadh 11219**. **SENEGAL** - Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bd Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, **Dakar**.

SIERRA LEONE - Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6, Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, **Freetown**. **SINGAPORE** - Singapore Red Cross Society, Red Cross House, 15 Penang Lane, **Singapore 0923**.

SOMALIA (Democratic Republic) - Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, **Mogadishu**. **SOUTH AFRICA** - The South African Red Cross Society, Essanyb House, 175 Jeppe Street, P.O.B. 8726,

Johannesburg 2000. **SPAIN** - Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato, 16, **Madrid 28010**. **SRI LANKA** (Dem. Soc. Rep. of) - The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, 106, Dharmapala Mawatha, **Colombo 7**.

SUDAN (The Republic of the) - The Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235 **Khartoum**. **SURINAME** - Red Cross Society of Suriname, Gravenberchstraat 2, **Paramaribo**. **SWAZILAND** - Baphalali

Swaziland Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 377, **Mbabane**. **SWEDEN** - Swedish Red Cross, Box 27 316, 102-54 **Stockholm**. **SWITZERLAND** - Swiss Red Cross, Rainmattstrasse 10, B.P. 2699,

3001 **Berne**. **SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC** - Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, **Damascus**. **TANZANIA** - Tanzania Red Cross National Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133,

Dar es Salaam. **THAILAND** - The Thai Red Cross Society, Paribatra Building, Chulalongkorn Hospital, **Bangkok 10500**. **TOGO** - Togolese Red Cross, 51, rue Bokor Soga, P.O. Box 655,

Lomé. **TONGA** - Tonga Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 456, **Nuku'Alola**. **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** - The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 357, **Port of Spain**.

TUNISIA - Tunisian Red Crescent, 19, rue d'Angleterre, **Tunis 1000**. **TURKEY** - The Turkish Red Crescent Society, Genel Baskanligi, Karanfil Sokak No. 7, 06650 **Kizilay-**

Ankara. **UGANDA** - The Uganda Red Cross Society, Plot 97, Buganda Road, P.O. Box 494, **Kampala**. **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** - Red Crescent Society of the United Arab

Emirates, P.O. Box No 3324, **Abu Dhabi**. **UNITED KINGDOM** - The British Red Cross Society, 9, Grosvenor Crescent, **London, S.W.1X 7EJ**. **USA** - American Red

Cross, 17th and D. Streets, N.W., **Washington, D.C. 20006**. **URUGUAY** - Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre 2990, **Montevideo**. **U.S.S.R.** - The

Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R., 1, Tcheremuchkinski proezd 5, **Moscow, 117036**. **VENEZUELA** - Venezuelan Red Cross,

Avenida Andrés Bello, No. 4, Apartado, 3185, **Caracas 1010**. **VIET NAM** (Socialist Republic of) - Red Cross of Viet Nam, 68, rue Ba-Triêu, **Hanoi**.

WESTERN SAMOA - Western Samoa Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 1616, **Apia**. **YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC** - Red Crescent Society of the

Yemen Arab Republic, P.O. Box 1257, **Sana'a**. **YEMEN** (People's Democratic Republic of) - Red Crescent Society of the People's

Democratic Republic of Yemen, P.O. Box 455, Crater, **Aden**. **YUGOSLAVIA** - Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Simina ulica broj 19,

11000 **Belgrade**. **ZAIRE** - Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zaire, 41, av. de la Justice, Zone de la Gombe, B.P.

1712, **Kinshasa**. **ZAMBIA** - Zambia Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 50 001, 2837 Brentwood Drive, Longacres,

Lusaka. **ZIMBABWE** - The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 1406, **Harare**.

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