

+C RED CROSS RED CRESCENT

MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Afghanistan

Armenia Update

**Can you survive
an earthquake?**

January-April 1989

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+C RED CROSS RED CRESCENT

MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT
JANUARY-APRIL 1989
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The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is made up of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

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Pekka Halonen

As the conflict in Afghanistan continues, the need for food, medical care and protection continues at a high level. Refugees continue to cross the borders. What is going on to help a populace that finds war a way of life?

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SYGMA

Starvation continues in Sudan while the fighting continues. Why can't relief supplies get through?

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TASS

In December aid poured into Armenia to help victims of the 7 December earthquake. Now that the emergency phase is over, what happened to the aid and what is needed now? Can you survive an earthquake? Check the special report on Earthquakes.

Pages 8-16



ICRC: J. L. Conne

COVER PAGE by Hiromi Nagakura of *Gamma* of child warrior in Afghanistan.

CENTRE SPREAD by Thierry Gassmann depicts the 125th the Anniversary theme of "Protecting Human Life" by showing displaced Khmers boarding bus the for Red Cross shelter.

Comics are more than just for laughs. They also help to save lives and communicate serious matters.

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Afghanistan

Working Under Fire

A PART FROM SPORADIC FIRING OF ROCKETS TOWN CALM *STOP* DELEGATION HAS DECIDED TO BRING BACK EXPATRIATES EVACUATED BEFORE 15 FEBRUARY IN STAGES TO REACH FULL STAFFING MID-MARCH *STOP* ORTHOPAEDIC CENTRE REOPENED 1 MARCH."

With this message, the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kabul reported the "normalization" of the situation in the Afghan capital, following the withdrawal of the USSR's military forces and the accompanying weeks of tension.

"We must always be prepared to operate in an emergency", said the Head of Delegation, Jean-Jacques Frésard, "and we were prepared for the worst. But what we feared has so far not come about". At the end of March the Afghan capital was still living under tension, fighting continued in the countryside,

particularly in the area around Jalalabad near the Pakistani border, but the capital city had not experienced the feared attack. Outside observers see no early end to the conflict, which is continuing to create a high level of military and civilian casualties.

During January and February full precautions were taken to keep the ICRC operational under wartime conditions: the protection of offices against bombardment; the extension of the hospital's capacity, as well as the strengthening of the building to counter possible attacks; four months' reserves of food, medicaments and other relief supplies; strict security orders for the team remaining on the scene; and the evacuation of spouses and non-essential staff to New Delhi, as a precaution.

Most embassies and relief agencies in Kabul evacuated their staff, leaving only United Nations and Red Cross personnel in the Afghan

capital. Thirty-seven expatriates (20 Swiss and 17 from National Societies) along with over one hundred Afghan Staff remained on a voluntary basis and worked throughout the crisis period.

Despite everything, including security conditions, delegates were able to continue their visits to detainees in Pul-I-Charki Prison and to go into the districts on the outskirts of Kabul to assess the medical situation. The distribution of family messages between prisoners and their families in Afghanistan and abroad continued and even increased in numbers. Dissemination activities were also pursued, primarily in schools and military circles. Three nurses in the team continued their work in cooperation with local Afghan staff at the Afghanistan Red Crescent clinics. Medicaments and emergency medical equipment were continually supplied to these clinics by the ICRC.

Hospital Expansion

The ICRC Surgical Hospital, originally designed for 50 patients, and opened on 1 October in the Karte-I-Seh district of Kabul, operated at full capacity. At the end of January some 300 wounded had been admitted, 650 operations performed and 2,500 out-patients cared for. To cope with an influx of wounded another 100 beds were added in January.

"Under present circumstances", Dr. Jorma Salmela (Finnish Red Cross) explains, "we can only accept 'recently wounded persons'. We need to maintain the hospital's emergency capacity in the event of a further escalation of hostilities."



Pekka Halonen

Unescorted Convoy on way to Kabul.



Operating Room in Emergency Hospital.

ICRC/TSR



Therapeutic Exercise in Kabul Orthopaedic Centre.



The need for wheelchairs increases daily.

ICRC/TSR



Sandbags provide protection.

ICRC/TSR

ICRC/J. P. Kelly



Two round-the-clock surgical teams (20 medical persons in all), assisted by 140 Afghan staff, ensured the smooth running of two operating theatres, X-ray laboratories, analyses, the blood bank, the rooms and a physiotherapy centre.

Stringent procedures were followed so as to allow the hospital to remain operational under all situations. This included not only the problems of conflict but also the difficult climatic conditions. Temperatures are known to drop to minus 25 degrees Centigrade in Kabul in the winter. The hospital is therefore fully self-sufficient and is able to care for the patients, generate electricity, provide drinking water, prepare meals, wash linen, and not to be overlooked, heat the buildings.

Fortunately, winter's harshness was receding with the first warm days of March. Milder temperatures will not only make life more pleasant but will help to conserve the fuel supply.

The Long Waiting List

One casualty of the February crisis was the Orthopaedic Centre. It was closed for three weeks, but with calm returning to Kabul, the centre was able to resume activities on 1 March. Piet Hallgren (Danish Physiotherapist) expressed his relief. "After ten years of war, needs in this country are enormous. We already have a two-year waiting list. Under these conditions any interruption in our prosthetic activities is catastrophic. It is also unfortunate that our 62 Afghan staff do not, as of now, have sufficient

training and means to operate the centre without outside support."

The centre is able to manufacture thirty artificial legs each month. A higher production-rate is needed and planned for, as there are an estimated 20,000 amputees in the country. In addition 2,000

pairs of crutches were made in the last year and the production of wheelchairs is due to begin shortly.

With heavy fighting continuing in various parts of Afghanistan, particularly around Jalalabad, measures are being taken to strengthen first-aid operations along the border, as well as increasing the hospital capacity at Peshawar in Pakistan. In one two-day period more than 50 wounded were admitted to this ICRC hospital.

Assisting in the operation is a Fokker Friendship aircraft chartered by the ICRC. In February it was used at the request of the Afghan authorities to repatriate the bodies of nine Afghan nationals from Pakistan. The plane is used for the shipment of supplies and to extend assistance to remote regions of the country.

• Françoise BORY

Refugees: Still Waiting

The expected return of Afghan refugees from camps in Pakistan and Iran appears to have been delayed by the continued fighting. With the assistance of the United Nations and various other agencies, both governmental and NGO, preparations for a safe return are, however, beginning. Coordination of these activities is being provided by Operation Salam, the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance in Afghanistan in close cooperation with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

The Pakistan Red Crescent is involved in training of refugees in mine clearance and first aid. The needs of the refugees upon their return as regards housing, food and employment are being carefully monitored, but programmes of aid promised last year are on hold until the actual return takes place.

"Until there can be a safe and voluntary return of refugees to their homeland," explains Pär Stenbäck,

Secretary General of the League, "relief agencies can only plan and prepare. Hopefully this delay will result in a better operation once peace returns to Afghanistan.

"With the present level of fighting in Afghanistan, tens of thousands of new refugees are once again pouring across the border into Pakistan, swelling the already crowded refugee population. The Pakistan Red Crescent already is extending some assistance to these new refugees, but providing adequate assistance for all refugees is a challenge for all the relief organizations at present operating along the borders in both Pakistan and Iran."

The League has two delegates monitoring the situation: Anders Persson, Co-ordinator of the Afghan Task Force, is working with the UN agencies in Geneva and in the field; Ünal Somuncu, seconded by the Turkish Red Cross, is stationed in Islamabad, Pakistan as the Secretary General's Special Representative.

THE MOVEMENT

SUDAN: The Horror of Starvation

For a year the starvation of hundreds of thousands of people in southern Sudan has been known to the international community, but very little has been done. Roger Winter, Director of the U.S. Committee For Refugees, candidly suggests, "someone should write a book on how difficult it has been for this humanitarian emergency to come to world attention. The spectacle of tens of thousands of emaciated young Dinka men making an extraordinary trek in early 1988, hundreds of miles from Bahr El Ghazal to western Ethiopia, leaving thousands of their dead along the route, was a hard indicator for the international community to miss. So, too, was the influx of hundreds of thousands of displaced southerners into the least habitable areas of Sudan's major cities, particularly Khartoum."

Unfortunately, at the height of last year's war-induced famine, food deliveries to millions of starving people in the south were obstructed by all parties engaged in the six-year-old conflict. The United Nations estimates that 250,000 Sudanese died of starvation in 1988, a far higher toll than in neighbouring Ethiopia in 1984 when, UN officials say, both the international and domestic response was much quicker than in Sudan.

In late April or early May, the rainy season will begin in the Sudan. If it follows the usual pattern, it will last through September. Rain can mean a good harvest, but it

also means a virtual standstill to relief efforts. Roads will become impassable. Dirt airstrips will be turned to mud.

"If supplies are not transported to the South - immediately, before the rains start - there surely will be a repeat of last year's tragedy. At least 100,000 lives could be lost in the months ahead, by conservative estimates" states James Ingram, Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

The difficulties of mined roads, attacks on relief convoys, threats to shoot down relief aircraft and basic mistrust of strangers has led to massive shortages of food in the south. Sudan has had good harvests and donors have been responding to the appeal for assistance with costly airlifts to several Sudanese towns. The European Community, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Food Programme have flown in food to Juba, capital of Equatoria province. The International Committee of the Red Cross is airlifting food to six locations in the South (both government and SPLA controlled areas). UNICEF and USAID are flying in food and medical supplies to Aweil. The League and the Sudanese Red Crescent are flying and trucking supplies in to Abyei. Additional relief is being provided by other church groups, NGOs and governments.

"Still," states Ingram, "it is by no means enough. We will need to deliver 50,000 tons of food for dis-



Waiting for food in Bahr el Ghazal

placed people from the South, now, before the rains start. But road transport has been stalled due to the security situation. In September, a World Food Programme relief convoy from Yei to Juba was attacked and 11 drivers were killed, forcing a temporary halt to all overland transport."

Adding to the difficulties has been an outbreak of meningitis. The ICRC, in collaboration with the Sudanese Ministry of Health and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), carried out a large-scale vaccination campaign in the Government-controlled towns of Wau and Aweil. Vaccines and equipment have been provided by UNICEF. A similar vaccination programme was carried out by the League and the Sudanese Red Crescent in Abyei to help to preserve the vital source of food of the Dinkas population, the ICRC in December began vaccinating more than 100,000 cattle.

Assurances have been given by both the Sudanese Government and the Sudanese rebel groups that food will be allowed to be transported to the starving civilian population. Without actual access to the starving people, western diplomats are concerned that 1989 will be a repeat performance of 1988's starvation horror-story.

• Ralph WRIGHT



Sudanese Red Crescent Distribution Centre - Omdurman
CICR/B. Oberson



Landing at SPLA-controlled Bahr el Ghazal
Sygma



Vaccination against the Bovine Plague
Sygma



Italian Red Cross

ARMENIA

The Earthquake & the Aftermath

"My country lies at the foot of the biblical Mount Ararat, the legendary site of paradise where life has been hell for centuries" – **Gevorg Emin, Armenian writer.**

In less than fifteen seconds, the massive earthquake which struck North-West Armenia at 11.42 on 7 December 1988 killed 25,000 people, seriously injured 15,000 and made 500,000 homeless.

The town of Spitak (population 25,000) was virtually razed to the ground. The country's second city, Leninakan (population, 300,000) was almost two-thirds destroyed. Very substantial damage was done to Kirovakan (population, 100,000) and Stepanavan (population, 30,000). And 120 villages were affected, with 48 being virtually demolished.

680 kilometers of road were damaged. 32 hospitals, 224 local clinics and health posts, and 380 schools and institutes of higher learning were either destroyed or seriously affected. The Seismological Institute of the Armenian Academy of Sciences in Leninakan was itself totally ruined.

52 doctors and 204 nurses were killed, as were many party leaders, local government officials, militia, police and other decisions-makers. Nearly all those who took over in the first 24-hours had lost members of their families and were themselves grief-stricken victims.

Despite the chaos and the enor-

mity of the tragedy, there were triumphs for what TASS was to call "man's ingenuity, and ability to improvise, in the face of catastrophe":

- * 15,000 victims were pulled from the debris alive, often in acts of great heroism.

- * Feeding stations and first-aid posts were quickly set up in the disaster zone.

- * 52 Red Cross rescue squads were in action within a day

- * A Soviet Red Cross relief flight from Moscow reached Armenia overnight – the first of 236 Red Cross flights which, in the words of Pravda, were to put the Movement "at the epicentre of humanity".

- * Hospital staff in the capital Yerevan, in Moscow and other centres worked round the clock for a week.

- * Within a month over 120,000 children, their mothers and old people had been evacuated to sanatoria, schools and trade-union centres.

The sheer magnitude of the disaster brought real problems as well, however.

The Soviet media was profoundly critical of the lack of cranes, lifting equipment and searchlights in the crucial first days. And while relief supplies always got through somehow, delivery and distribution were haphazard at the beginning and – in the words of one commentator – "badly in need of perestroika".

The sheer volume of aid, once it started rolling from the Soviet Union and the outside world, stretched the logistics of the operation to the absolute limits. Within a month, the Red Cross alone took delivery of goods from 236 flights, plus thousands of railcars and almost 40,000 tons of clothing.

In mid-December the League Secretariat in Geneva sent its Yerevan delegation a list of goods already transhipped or en route: the telex was over four meters long and took almost two hours to transmit.

There were very special reasons for the enormous response the agony of Armenia: the improvement in East-West relations; the fact that Armenia had been in the headlines for nine months following the crisis with Azerbaidjan over Nagorno-Karabagh; an overwhelming sympathy for a cultured people who had lost a million citizens in massacres by the Turks in 1915; and a vociferous diaspora of Armenians from that period to the United States, Western Europe and other areas who were determined to maximise the relief effort. And Christmas – the traditional time of giving – was coming up...

GEORGE REID served as the League's Chief Delegate in Armenia for the first month of operations. In a diary which he kept at the time he wrote:

"December in Armenia was total glasnost, but less perestroika. It brought unprecedented international cooperation, with men and women from all continents and cultures working together for the protection of life and the relief of suffering. It also raised major questions about the nature of international aid and the need for national disaster-preparedness plans."



Presidents Venedictov and Parsadianian of the Soviet and Armenian Red Cross at an emergency centre on Day 2.



League

“Fifty years ago the glass on the only municipal clock in Armenia broke and the crows which sat on its hands stopped time, or even moved it back. Today, thousands of clocks have stopped, at 11:42” – *Komsomolskaya Pravda*.

The massive tower on Communist Party headquarters in the main square of Yerevan (above) sags sideways, its clock – shattered at 11:42 on 7 December – a constant reminder of the worst tragedy ever to befall Soviet Armenia.

At 11:42 that day, Yasabek Pamoyan went out the back door of his house in the nearby village of Shirakamout to change a wheel on his truck. Everything fell down.

All the 800 houses in the commu- nity fell down. So did the school,

the headquarters of the local Soviet, and the two-storey hospital where three new-born babies lived for less than two days. That was at the epicentre of the earthquake, where even the twigs on the trees were snapped.

At 11:42 Avik Kodzoyan, the bad boy of his class, was standing in a corner of the playground of Spitak primary school. The building

TASS



Yasabek Pamoyan – “Everything fell down”.

collapsed. A minute earlier his teacher had told him to go outside until he could behave himself. Avik lived but now believes the earthquake was his fault.

At 11:42, dressed only in her slip, Susanna Petroysan was in the fourth floor of the Leninakan flat of her sister-in-law, Karine, about to try on a black dress. Gayaney, her 4-year-old daughter was there too, wrapped up in her winter coat.

Seconds later, Susanna was on her back in the basement, a prefabricated concrete panel above her head and broken piping on her shoulders. Beside her Karine was



TASS

dead, but – a couple of meters away – her daughter was screaming “Mummy...”

At 11:42 pensioner Jemma Sahakian was snoozing in her armchair in her Kirovakan flat. The outer wall fell away, leaving her balanced on a patch of floor three storeys up...

Generations from now, Armenian families will pass on to their children the horrors of what happened at 11:42 that fateful day. So will a string of outsiders who were going about their normal business in Moscow, Geneva, Budapest, Bonn, London, Helsinki and a host of other centres when Armenia shook. Though they did not know it as yet, they too were shortly to become active participants in one of the biggest Red Cross relief operations ever.

The Epicentre of Humanity.

14 Armenian and 57 Soviet Red Cross staff from national headquarters and the Russian, Ukrainian and Byelorussian Republics plus 15 staff from the League Secretariat and National Societies formed the core of the Armenian Relief Operation.

They were backed by over 300 Armenian members, and volunteer teams from cities in the USSR. A further 350 Red Cross workers arrived from abroad, mainly as members of rescue teams. A large unit from the German (Fed. Rep.) Soci-



ety established a field hospital at Stepanavan, as did the Norwegian Red Cross in Spitak.

“The Red Cross”, said one Soviet journal, “is the epicentre of humanity”.

The core of the operation was the Armenian Red Cross, hastily convened on the afternoon of 7 December at its Alaverdian-street headquarters in Yerevan. First-aid squads were got on the road though, said President Rita Parsadanian, "nearly all of us were in a state of shock through losing relatives and friends".

Overnight, Dr. Dmitri Venedictov – Chairman of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR – came in on the first relief flight from Moscow, bringing 15 tons of emergency supplies.

Simultaneously in the Geneva Secretariat of the League, telex, telefax and telephone lines were jammed with enquiries from National Societies and the international media. Under-Secretary General (Operations) Koichi Watanabe immediately started putting together a Task Force, and liaising with Red Cross headquarters in Moscow about likely needs.

"The first week was clearly going to be crucial", said Dr. Venedictov. "Temperatures in Armenia can fall well below zero. The main priority was to free trapped people, to fly the injured to hospital and to feed the survivors.

League



Twenty times as many flights per day as usual.

"As the extent of the tragedy became clear, it was a race against time...."

Outside the Soviet Union, the first horrific photographs and film from news agencies were beginning to hit the headlines. Official Soviet spokesmen were quoted as estimating more than 100,000 dead and 40,000 injured. Embassy officials went on television to speak of an "immediate need" for medicines, tents and clothing.



Benat Ericsson

The key negotiations over the Red Cross and Red Crescent role in Armenia were held in the Council of Ministers between Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, Sovcross President Dr. Dmitri Venedictov and League Secretary General Pär Stenbäck (seen above with Armenian Prime Minister Faddey Sarkissian and Under-Secretary General Andrei Kisselev).

The participants agreed in principle that the League would seek funding for a Post-Trauma Centre serving spinal chord injury patients and a prosthesis workshop for amputees in Yerevan, plus helping increase the disaster preparedness capacity of the Armenian Red Cross.

On Soviet Television, Stenbäck commented warmly on the readiness of the Soviet Red Cross "not just to give, but also to receive aid in the spirit of solidarity". Premier Ryzhkov said the vast assistance sent by the Movement would "never be forgotten" by the peoples of the USSR.

Within days too there were live pictures being flashed to TV stations worldwide by satellite from Spitak and Television Armenia. This instantaneous coverage produced a flurry of new appeals for assistance by organisations, some of them set up for the first time specifically for the earthquake victims.

The flood of actuality photographs also produced adverse results, however. Relief agencies accustomed to negotiating by telex were always in danger of lagging behind the "news". It was difficult for donors to "wait" when they had seen for themselves tiny children dragged half-dead from the ruins, or people camped out in the open. And no one, internationally, was correlating who was sending what. The result was that, although Red Cross supplies were overwhelmingly sensible, there was much duplication with other agencies.

After several days, the Soviet Red Cross announced that – although there would be no official Appeal for assistance – it would

gratefully receive antibiotics, syringes and blood products from sister Societies. To this list were later added artificial kidney machines for patients suffering from "crush syndrome," winter tents, vehicles and other equipment.

In the West some organisations headed for the airport almost as soon as the news broke. By the second day 85 rescue workers from France and 37 from Switzerland, both with dogs, had arrived in Ye-



League

President Villarroel in the snows of Stepanavan.



Red Cross care for amputees for whom the clock stopped at 11:42.

revan – and these were quickly followed by others from the Federal German Republic, Austria, Italy, Great Britain, Bulgaria, Sweden, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Algeria and other countries.

“We are no use unless we are operational inside the first week”, said a Swiss veteran of several earthquakes. “After that in a country like Armenia, for victims without water and warmth there are only miracles...”

The sheer volume of relief supplies and personnel now pouring into the country was now beginning to strain the system severely, however. Every Republic in the Soviet Union was mobilised to send help. Outside the country, Aeroflot offered free transport for goods from foreign destinations. Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world began organising their own Appeals, as did a score of other organisations. In this age of glasnost, newspaper and television journalists poured into Yerevan.

There were considerable difficulties with communications between Armenia and Geneva, with only three international lines being shared by all the relief agencies and the media (until the League set up its own satellite link). There was a shortage of transport. There was undoubted duplication of much equipment flown in by different agencies in the West. There were mountains of clothes piling up in railcar after railcar. At Zvartnots airport, the traffic controllers were handling twenty times as many flights per day as normal.

At the Joint Soviet Red Cross/League headquarters in Pushkin-street, Yerevan, massive efforts were made by the Armenian-Russian-Ukrainian-Bulgarian-Hungarian-British-Dutch-Finnish-Swedish team to get a grip on the situation. Forward units, staffed by volunteers from all over the USSR, were established in the towns of the disaster area and proposals sent to Geneva to establish projects there. Garfur Kurmayev took charge of warehousing and receiving incoming goods. Working day and night with 300 volunteers, Alexei Christafovich set up a Tracing Service (eventually computerised with League help) which linked missing children with parents, answered relatives' queries, and kept up a regular flow of information to enquiries from abroad.

“The Red Cross has improvised pretty well”, said a senior Soviet journalist. “Perestroika hasn't worked its way through the whole system, so you *have* to improvise. Armenia is a separate republic, and Muscovites can't just come barging in. There are many different agencies and Ministries. And the Soviet Red Cross which, until now, has been largely a health organisation is still feeling its way...”

Headed by Jan de Graaf of the Dutch Red Cross, a joint league/Sovcross Evaluation team – logisticians, a doctor and a nutritionist – surveyed the earthquake zone. “There are still real needs here and there”, de Graaf reported, “but by and large the situation is under control...”

And so it was. Avik, the bad boy from Spitak, was receiving psychological help. Susanna Petrosyan and her daughter Gayaney had been dug out and were in hospital. Granny Sahakian had been got down from her perch on the third floor of her Kirovakan apartment, and was enjoying herself in a sanatorium. The water and food situation was almost normal. And there was plenty of clothing – though many Armenians clamoured for new clothes from the West (of which there were few), rather than old clothes from the USSR (of which there were tons).

Unlucky was Yasabek Pamoyan in the earthquake village of Shirakamout. Somehow the relief effort

had missed him and the few survivors there, and he was living in a converted henhouse. (He did, however, get the personal sleeping bag of a young Soviet Red Cross employee from Moscow.)

By New Year – the traditional day for giving gifts in the USSR – the situation had quietened sufficiently to allow the Red Cross team a day touring hospitals, handing out toys to the children and boxes of goodies to the adults. “The emergency phase is finally over”, said a Situation Report.

But what of the longer-term involvement of the Movement in Armenia? At the meeting between League Secretary General Pär Stenbäck and Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzkhov on 17 December, both parties had given commitments to the establishment of a Red Cross post-trauma centre and prosthesis workshop for victims in Yerevan, plus strengthening the Disaster Preparedness capacity of the Armenian Red Cross.

The negotiations had been started in Armenia by Under-Secretary General Andrei Kisselev, himself a



Red Cross care for spinal injury patients in Yerevan.

Russian, in the week after the earthquake. In January he led a second expert mission back to the country. By the time an information meeting was organised for donor Societies in Geneva in early February, the total costs had mounted to over 60-million Swiss francs.

Led by League President Dr. Mario Villarroel, a delegation then proceeded to Armenia. The hospital projects of the West German and Norwegian Red Cross Societies at Stepanavan and Spitak were visit-

ed, and staff there congratulated on the high visibility of the Emblem.

Elsewhere, however – and compared to the situation two months earlier – the Red Cross presence had dropped off considerably with the return of volunteers to their own Republics. In front of the visiting delegates, a crowd berated the one remaining Red Cross worker for “everything being concentrated in Yerevan”.

At a final meeting with President Venedictov, the visiting representatives – while expressing, in general, their willingness to contribute to the post-trauma centre and prosthesis workshop in Yerevan – stressed the need for the Movement “to be where the victims are” and to set up projects in the disaster zone.

in Yerevan to care for spinal injury patients and to work for six months alongside Soviet colleagues. They joined staff from the Federal Republic of Germany who are currently helping patients with new prostheses.

“We have benefitted greatly from our cooperation with the League”, said Dr. Venedictov in a televised interview. “In the emergency phase, we would have had considerable difficulty without its assistance. Now that we are entering the rehabilitation phase, we are confident that out of this tragedy much has been done to enhance the image of the Red Cross both in the USSR and overseas.”

And Yasabek Pamoyan, the man at the centre of the earthquake at 11.42 on 7 December?



League
What happens with too many secondhand clothes.

The message was clearly heard in good spirit. The Armenian Red Cross authorised the release of caravans as advance bases for the earthquake area (to be replaced subsequently with prefabricated buildings from the Swiss Red Cross). Experienced staff were brought back from Moscow to work with Armenian colleagues. Training commenced with the Rescue Squad formed in Spitak (which had flown immediately to the Tajikistan earthquake in January). And plans are well advanced for a number of bilateral and warehousing projects.

In March, a League international team consisting of ten nurses and four physiotherapists, and headed by Australian David Burke, arrived

In early March he arrived at the League delegation. “Still nothing”, he said. “Still living in a hut. I think everyone has forgotten me....”

But not the Red Cross. In consultation with Soviet colleagues, Chief Delegate Michael Burke rang the Armenian Society. “How many of these caravans have you got in storage? Well, look, do the Movement a favour....”

Last seen, Yasabek Pamoyan was heading north in a Red Cross Niva jeep with his very own caravan – loaned until he gets a new house – being towed behind. “You at least haven’t forgotten 11:42”, he said.

● George REID

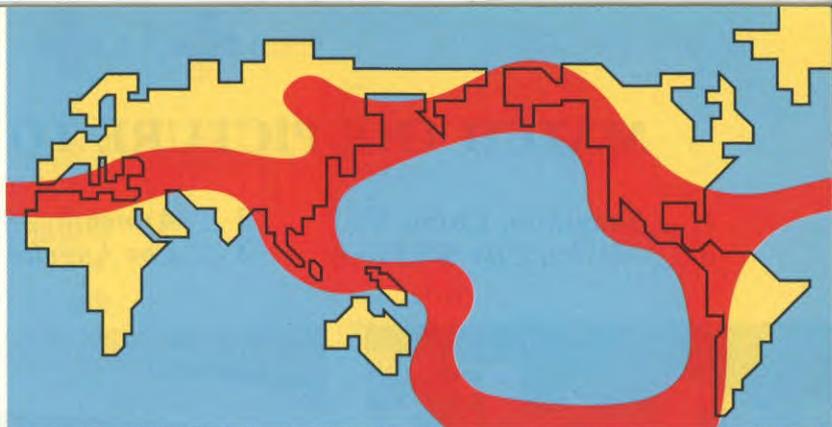
FOR THE NEXT TIME...

At the end of the first month of operations in Armenia, delegation staff (Armenian, Soviet and League) were asked about the main priorities in such work. What follows is a summary:

- * There should be a clearly-written National Disaster Plan, with responsibilities and lines of communication formally established and rehearsed.
- * The needs of the victim come first, not the needs of the donor. Disaster relief should be “demand led” and not “supply led”.
- * UNDRO and the League should initiate plans so that duplication of relief supplies can be avoided in future.
- * Good communications are the key to disaster management. Further studies should be made on the use of walkie-talkies at local, radio at regional, and satellite at international levels.
- * If there has to be an appeal for clothing, it should specify that only clothes which are clean, pre-sorted and clearly marked will be accepted.
- * All donations should be colour-banded to speed delivery and sorting: green for medicines, red for foodstuffs, blue for tents, clothing and other relief materials.
- * All vehicles should have spare wheels, bulbs, fuses, fan-belts and gerrycans and should be serviceable in the country of operation.
- * All tinned goods should be accompanied by opening devices.
- * Packaging should be waterproof, and re-usable as storage bins.
- * Housing should be built to standards which will meet anticipated risk.

EARTHQUAKES

More People at Risk



Earthquakes most frequently occur in the red area where the earth's plates are in constant stress or movement.

Emergency response to earthquakes are dramatic news stories. Lives are saved by firemen, search and rescue workers, sniffer dogs, and many private citizens. Not so dramatic, but probably saving more lives over the years, are the architects, engineers, government officials and legislators who work for earthquake - safe buildings. Peggy Brutsche, Earthquake - Preparedness Coordinator of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Red Cross reports:

Earthquakes don't kill people. Buildings do," observed Roger Bilham, University of Colorado seismologist at the December meeting of the American Geophysical Union. Other scientists agreed and warned that the death toll from earthquakes like the quakes that struck Armenia and Mexico City will rise dramatically in the coming years.

That is because 40 per cent of the world's largest cities are within areas of seismic risk. These cities are growing, and by the year 2000, about 290 million people will be living in high-risk earthquake areas. About 80 per cent will be living in developing nations where most buildings are of poor seismic design, increasing the number of potential fatalities.

It is not the scientific, architectural or construction know-how which is lacking. For experts agree that if they could start from scratch and rebuild all the cities, some 90 per cent of deaths and damage caused by quakes could be avoided. According to Dr. David Key, a consulting engineer at Bristol University, England, "the technology to build earthquake - resistant buildings is quite well developed. What we don't know is how to make people do what they are supposed to do".

With more than 100 national earthquake codes in existence, there should be little excuse for the construction of the kind of buildings which have crumbled in earthquakes around the world over the last two decades. Italy, Greece, Turkey, Algeria, China, Mexico, the USA, and now Armenia have all had major building collapses due to earthquakes. Unfortunately national building codes do not always translate into codes and building practices on the local level.

There is the problem that many of the buildings in areas of high seismic risk are very old and thus substandard. In many areas buildings are often adobe huts with thick walls, and, worse, with thick rock and mud ceilings for insulation. The use of unreinforced brick dating back to the last century has caused considerable carnage in Europe, Asia and North America. Even relatively new high - rise buildings are often unreinforced masonry or tilt-up prefabricated structures made of loosely - connected concrete slabs.

Money, or the desire to keep building costs down, is the main problem. And it's just not a concern of developing nations. Speaking of his experiences in California, a place that has the toughest earthquake safety building codes in the world, Michael Praszker, a geotechnical engineer from San Francisco states: "Building precisely to the seismic codes increases the cost of construction - which can mean millions of dollars when you are involved in putting up a major structure. As long as money rules, corners will be cut. Some feel that when the Big Earthquake comes, they will no longer be here... so they won't have to worry."

KILLER QUAKES Top ten from 1900-1988

Killed	Location	Magnitude (by Richter scale)	Date
242,000	China	8.2	28 July 1976
200,000	China	8.3	22 May 1927
100,000	China	8.6	16 December 1920
100,000	Japan	8.3	1 September 1923
83,000	Italy	7.5	28 December 1908
70,000	China	7.6	26 December 1932
66,794	Peru	7.7	31 May 1970
30,000	Turkey	7.9	26 December 1939
29,980	Italy	7.5	13 January 1915
25,000*	USSR-Armenia	6.9	7 December 1988

* Preliminary Official Figure

MATCH THE PICTURE TO THE EARTHQUAKE

1 — Tangshan, China '76
2 — Mexico City '85

3 — Armenia '88
4 — Los Angeles USA '71

5 — Algeria '80
6 — Greece '86



ARC-LA



B

League
ARC-LA



C



League



F

L. de Toledo
R. Wright



E

Answers: 1F; 2C; 3D; 4A; 5B; 6E

One building on which corners were not cut is San Francisco's 48-storey Transamerica Pyramid, which was built in 1967 with earthquake-resistant foundations. The office block sits on a huge concrete foundation "mat" built only 7 meters into the ground, which was constructed bottom-heavy to resist overturning in an earthquake.

Most new high-rises in California have foundations which are supported on piles driven 15 to 50 meters or more into the ground. These are designed to resist uplift, and to prevent the building from tipping over. For a building to topple, the pilings would have to be ripped out of the ground. Just as important, all high-rises must be built with steel framing, steel columns and girders.

In the construction of houses, wood-framed buildings – a common form of construction in earthquake country where wood is available – are braced with plywood walls tied to anchor bolts linked into the foundations. Houses built

in this way might slide off their foundations in a quake, but they do not disintegrate as they did in Italy or Armenia.

Reinforced concrete building is carefully regulated, depending on the height and size of construction. This relatively inexpensive means of construction for low-rise buildings may involve the use of concrete blocks which have heavy reinforced steel bars interwoven both horizontally and vertically through the blocks. Concrete is poured into the cavities of the blocks, ensuring a strong wall that may crack in a major quake but will not tumble down like a stack of dominoes.

Despite all the stronger codes in California there are, both in San Francisco and Los Angeles, thousands of older brick and masonry buildings that do not come up to standard. Most were built long before the new rules.

Speaking at the International Symposium on Earthquake Countermeasures in Beijing, China in May 1988, Hal Bernson, Member

of the City Council of Los Angeles, admitted the difficulties in getting a city, literally crisscrossed with earthquake faults, to face up to the problem of older buildings. "It took us ten years after the Sylmar quake of 1971 to pass a seismic safety ordinance that required almost 8,000 unreinforced masonry buildings, including schools and hospitals, to be upgraded. Since then we

R. Wright

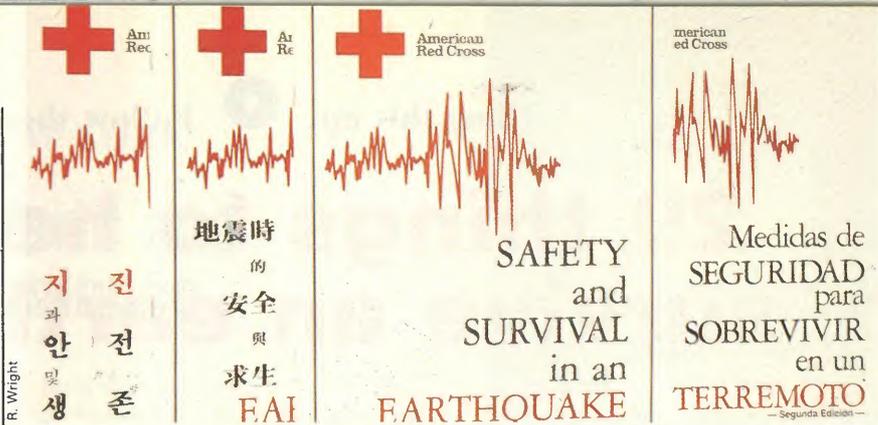


Laying a concrete block foundation for a two-storey house. Note steel bars are both vertical and horizontal. Core of blocks will be filled with concrete.

have proceeded with upgrades of the ordinance, while encountering a number of political and economic problems. The program is scheduled to be completed in 1992."

In order to help building - owners overcome the economic problems of seismic upgrading, it was announced in February 1989 that the City of Los Angeles was putting before its voters a proposition that would provide \$100 million in low-interest loans to make 1,600 brick buildings in the city earthquake - safe.

"But earthquake - preparedness in many homes can be relatively inexpensive", says Pat Snyder co-author of the "Safety and Survival in an Earthquake" manual of the American Red Cross. "That's why, in California, the American Red Cross offers courses on earthquake - preparedness, which includes information on checking the structure of your house. Simple things, such as tying down water heaters,



Manuals on Earthquake Safety used in California are in English, Spanish, Korean and Chinese.

can prevent a fire in time of a quake. Retrofitting anchor - bolts on old - style buildings are relatively simple to do. Replacing and reinforcing a heavy roof with lighter materials may be more difficult but it could save a life some years later."

A major concern shared by many earthquake experts is that throughout the seismic - active zones of the world ("Earthquake Country") buildings continue to be constructed that will not stand up to the next major quake. Just as the world has

learned to accept vaccination as part of good health care, seismic safety is insurance that you can survive the next earthquake. From Los Angeles to Armenia, Mexico City to China, there is the solidarity of living in "Earthquake Country". Hopefully we have all learned that it doesn't pay to cut corners with seismic safety.

• Peggy BRUTSCHE

Japan: Plans & Large Scale Drills

Japan is one of the most earthquake prone areas of the world. Tokyo has frequently suffered serious damage in earthquakes, especially the Ansei-Edo and Kanto Great earthquakes of 1855 and 1923.

Unfortunately, post World War II construction did not consider sufficiently seismic safety measures. Most disaster preparedness measures were focused against floods and high tides caused by typhoons. Tokyo had become a sprawling urban area overcrowded with wooden houses, high rise buildings, shortages of open spaces and the existence of many gasoline stations and storage areas of flammable materials.

The late Dr. Kuwasumi, professor emeritus at Tokyo University put forth during the 1960's the theory that a major earthquake would occur periodically at intervals of every 69 years in the southern part of Kanto Region which includes the Tokyo Me-

tropolis. Recognizing this danger, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government enacted in 1971 the "Tokyo Metropolitan Earthquake Disaster Prevention Ordinance."

The ordinance is based on the concept that although earthquakes are natural phenomena the resulting disasters are, for the most part, caused by humans. It should therefore be possible to minimize such damages.

Besides the development of seismic safe building codes, the ordinance speaks to the obligation of business owners to prepare their own disaster plans; obligation of citizens to fight fires in their early stages; designation of places of refuge; prohibition of the use of motor vehicles to take refuge; and the fostering of civil organizations for the prevention of disasters.

Large-scale comprehensive drills under simulated earthquake conditions are held periodically.

When the drill day fell on a Sunday in 1985, the Central Disaster Prevention Council stressed participation of the entire family in the drill. Comprehensive street and evacuation exercises were conducted on highways and at recreation areas. In a panic prevention exercise, passengers were restricted from entering 26 railway stations. Two express trains made mock emergency stops. Traffic was also restricted at 34 points on the highways. Rescue exercises from high-rise buildings, fire-fighting at early stages and restoring gas service took place. Likewise there were exercises to prepare against tidal waves caused by large earthquakes in towns facing the Pacific Ocean. During the entire anti-disaster week of August 30 to September 5 a total of 13 million people participated in the different drills.

Hang this up.  Follow these tips.

29 things to help you survive an earthquake

People living in earthquake-prone areas are aware of the potential of an earthquake creating damage and injuries. But earthquakes can occur anywhere. So if one doesn't properly prepare, the next quake may cause greater personal damage than necessary. Each item listed below won't stop the next earthquake – but it may help you survive in a better way.

4 basics to do during an earthquake

1. STAY CALM and *think* about what you are doing.
2. Inside: In areas where building codes include seismic safety requirements: Do not run outside, stay indoors, take cover under a table, desk, or other sturdy furniture, if possible – if not, crouch against an inner wall, protecting your head and neck.
In areas of unreinforced brick or stone buildings, or where building codes do not include seismic safety requirements: If near an outside door, get outside and away from the building walls; if not near an outside door, take cover under a study piece of furniture, or against an inner wall.
3. Outside: Move away from buildings, walls, and utility lines.
4. On the road: Drive away from underpasses/overpasses, overhead utility lines; stop in safe area; stay in vehicle.

7 basics to do after an earthquake

1. Check for injuries – provide first aid.
2. Check for trapped and missing people – get rescue assistance, notify authorities of missing individuals.
3. Check for safety – check for gas, water, sewage breaks; check for downed electric lines and shorts; turn off appropriate utilities; check for building damage and potential safety problems during aftershocks.
4. Clean up dangerous spills.
5. Wear shoes.

6. Turn on radio and listen for instructions from public safety agencies.
7. Don't use the telephone except in emergency.

14 survival items to keep on hand

1. Portable radio with extra batteries.
2. Flashlight with extra batteries.
3. First Aid Kit – including specific medicines needed for members of your household.
4. First Aid book.
5. Fire extinguisher, baking soda, or sand.
6. Adjustable wrench for turning off gas and water.
7. Fire-alarm system and/or smoke detectors where available.
8. Portable fire-escape ladder for homes/apartments with multiple floors.
9. Bottled water – sufficient for the number of members in your household.
10. Canned and dried foods sufficient for a week for each member of your household. NOTE: Both water and food should be rotated into normal household meals so as to keep freshness. Canned goods have a normal shelf life of one year for maximum freshness.
11. Utility knife or opener for supplies.
12. Portable stove such as butane or charcoal. NOTE: Use of such stoves should not take place until it is determined that there is no gas leak in the area. Charcoal should be burned only out-of-doors. Use of charcoal or wood indoors will lead to carbon-monoxide poisoning.
13. Matches.
14. Telephone numbers and/or location of police, fire, rescue and doctor.

4 things you need to know

1. How to turn off gas, water and electricity.
2. First Aid.
3. How to extinguish fires.
4. Plan for reuniting your family.

**THE BEST SURVIVAL
IS A PREPARED SURVIVAL**



League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

Watching the World and Stirring its Conscience

Officially, the International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation in New York is there to represent the ICRC in its dealings with the United Nations, the UN Secretariat and Specialized Agencies, and the 159 Permanent Missions accredited to the UN. It is a delegation to the "United Nations" and not to the "United States". Yet contacts with the American authorities and population are frequent, including requests for information, offers of diplomatic support and even panic-stricken phone calls from absent-minded motorists who, when their illegally-parked cars have been towed away, have unfortunately misdialed the ICRC instead of the police garage.

Jean-Paul Fallet, Head of Delegation, finds his job fascinating, even if life in "The Big Apple" is not the most relaxing: "There are no mines, no surgical operations, no victims. But the stress is there". He is assisted by another delegate, Fred Isler and a dissemination delegate, Jean-Jacques Surbeck. A secretary, Graziella Morganti, and two locally-recruited clerical staff complete the delegation.

The United Nations in New York is a political centre, and an admirable observation point. The delegation attends meetings of the Economic and Social Council. Since 1947 the ICRC has enjoyed Type II consultative status which allows it to attend the proceedings of this

body and, as important, the General Assembly. Many of the topics discussed are related to the application of international humanitarian law or are directly related to worldwide ICRC operational activities.

Many international conferences are prepared in New York. It is also the place where one finds many of the people who interface with the ICRC worldwide. Diplomats posted on short assignments or passing through for meetings, as well as representatives of many international organizations or donor countries.

At the request of the Geneva headquarters, the delegation often makes contacts to transmit an important message or complete the broad range of negotiations undertaken by the institution. Additionally, UN meetings are an ideal place to inform governments on various issues.

"Being present, but not pressing, that is the role of the delegate in New York", Jean-Paul Fallet explains. "He has to strike a balance - to be available but not obtrusive, to be active but not activist."

The delegate must also be fully - informed on the work of the ICRC, as well as the Red Cross, Red Crescent Movement, because people expect immediate replies to almost any question. What was the role of the Red Cross during World War II? Or, please explain to me Article 1, Paragraph 4 of Protocol I. And what is the situation in Sudan? Thus delegates spend more evenings reading reports, memos and other documents than spending time at the theatre or in restaurants.

The second aspect of the work of the New York Delegation is the dissemination of international humanitarian law in North America. This "mission" stems from the central position of the USA in international affairs and the size of the continent (two countries, Canada and the USA, with 280 million



people). The work is done in cooperation with the two National Societies.

Jean-Jacques Surbeck spends three-quarters of his time travelling to give presentations to various publics, including Chapters of the American and Canadian Red Cross, university students, and the armed forces. Because the US military is present in so many areas of conflict, the dissemination of humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions to its personnel has great importance.

"It's not easy to get the message across", Jean-Jacques says. "For example, when speaking to the US military we must explain why the ICRC is on American soil and, at the same time, explain the ICRC's special mandate of working in countries in conflict."

Admittedly the job of dissemination is easier in front of other groups. It was especially rewarding to speak to a group of former Prisoners-of-War (POWs) and, at the end, receive a request for 800 copies of the Geneva Conventions for distribution.

A lot more could be said about the ICRC antennae in Manhattan, with its mysterious aura of international diplomacy. Yet, when compared to other delegations, New York is surely not an exotic far-away place.

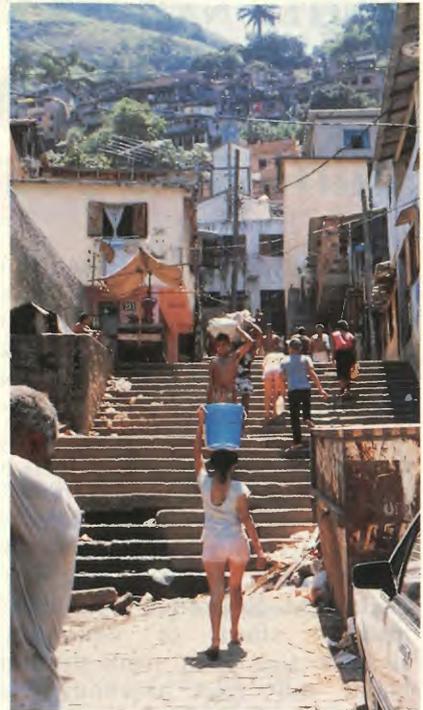
• Jean-Paul FALLET/Jean-Jacques SURBECK/Françoise BORY



Jean-Paul Fallet listening carefully at the UN



Armed groups using methods of extreme violence are endangering some of the Latin-American democracies.



Seventy per cent of all dwellings in Latin America do not conform to elementary standards of hygiene. Shown is a slum in Rio de Janeiro.

LATIN AMERICA

Human Rights are Fragile

In Latin America, the human rights of all types of people are violated. In keeping with the Geneva Conventions and with the Red Cross, Red Crescent purpose of "protecting human life", Octavio Cabeza, one of the editors of the Spanish Red Cross's monthly magazine CRUZ ROJA, talked to the participants in the Second Latin-American Congress of Human Rights Organizations, held recently in Badajoz, Spain. His report is as follows:

The complicated political, social and economic situation of Latin America is having an alarming effect on human rights. Repayment of foreign debts, drug traffic, marauding armed bands, and dictator-

ships are causing a difficult situation. This affects areas of daily life as varied as the rising cost of living, deteriorating health care, the increase in violence and involuntary disappearances.

Zero growth in most of the economies in this region during 1988 has labelled the last ten years as "the lost decade". According to certain financial analysts the foreign debt (over 450 billion U.S. dollars in Latin-American countries) will probably never be totally repaid, and has led to lower investment, higher inflation and "incalculable human poverty".

The difficulty in finding a solution to the foreign debt problem is illustrated by Mexico. Over the past five years, Mexico has paid

48 billion dollars in interest, equaling nearly half the country's foreign debt. But the actual capital or debt has not been reduced by a single cent. The high burden of governmental debt results in poverty for its people. And it is this poverty, and its effects on health and welfare, that is causing the many social conflicts and human rights' violations.

It is estimated that of Latin America's population of about 170 million people, nearly half lives in poverty. Of these about 70 million "live in extreme poverty and have not enough food to maintain life". In other words, 40 per cent of all households do not receive the minimum number of calories necessary. This results in a high infant-mortality rate. Of the 12 million children who are born each year, 700,000 die before reaching their first birthday.

Infant mortality is not uniform in all countries, but in some areas it is exceptionally high, as in Madre de Dios in Peru, where it reaches 300

per thousand, and the life expectancy of 45 years, is among the shortest in the world.

According to Dr. Yolanda Rojas, a Costa Rican human rights activist, even in countries less threatened by poverty, such as Costa Rica, which is spending increasing amounts of money on armaments, the price of the basic-food basket accounts for 90 per cent of the official minimum wage. "The fight for peace is also a fight for decent living conditions", says Olga Megia, President of the Panamanian National Human Rights Committee.

Poverty affects health and hygiene. It has been estimated that 70 per cent of all dwellings in Latin America fail to meet basic standards of hygiene. With the need for budget savings, some countries have been forced to trim public health expenditures. This has led to the reappearance of diseases once declared eradicated.

In Caribbean countries there have been outbreaks of malaria, measles or tuberculosis, according to Wendy Sing, a human rights worker. As a result doctors are clamouring for the inclusion of "health for all" as a basic human right.

In Colombia, the primary health care doctor has become a target of sharpshooters who are decimating the human rights' movement. Street violence in that country has reached exceptionally high levels. In 1988 alone, over 20,000 people were killed by guerrillas and drug traffickers.

The first human right, the right to live, is not respected in many Latin-American countries. Sometimes this right is denied for political reasons and at other times merely for speaking out. Hernando Corral, a Colombian journalist, saw his name on a hit list of 20 persons condemned to death by paramilitary groups, only a few days after a television programme in July 1987 broadcast two of his reports dealing with the guerrilla war and the drug traffic. He says he is less frightened of death than of physical pain, and has no doubt that being a journalist in modern Colombia "demands commitments so strong that they can never be given up".

Violence against champions of

human rights is a normal occurrence in some countries. Ramon Custodio, of the Honduran Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, says that every morning he is glad to be able to see himself alive in the mirror. "Human rights activists in some Latin American countries run a certain risk of death. We never know whether we shall get through the day alive." This is reportedly the case in Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and El Salvador.

El Salvador is perhaps the worst of all. Myrna de Anaya, formerly a judge in El Salvador, prefers to leave her five children with relatives in Puerto Rico whenever she leaves El Salvador to attend international meetings on human rights.



90,000 "desaparecidos" (missing persons) in thirteen countries – one way of putting a stop to criticism.

Her five children witnessed the death of their father, Herber Anaya, Chairman of the El Salvador Human Rights Committee, when hooded gunmen riddled him with bullets in front of his house on 26 October 1987. He was the second chairman of the Committee to be murdered; two of its members have also been murdered and another three have disappeared.

There are 90,000 cases of "desaparecidos" (missing persons) in 13 Latin-American countries. Guatemala heads the list with 35,000 and Ecuador ending it with six. These "desaparecidos", also described as involuntary disappearance of individuals, highlight one of the three

most important violations of human rights (the others are: physical torture and executions without trial). This information was given by Mayra Alarcon of Guatemala, whose husband disappeared some years ago. Alarcon is a member of the Central American Association of Families of "Desaparecido" Detainees, which is promoting an international convention on involuntary disappearances, a draft of which has been sent to the United Nations.

The case of the "desaparecidos" is creating a new kind of marginals – their families, who are being cold-shouldered by friends and relatives who mutter significantly to each other, "he must have done something to have disappeared". This demonstrates the social terror which lives in the people of these countries.

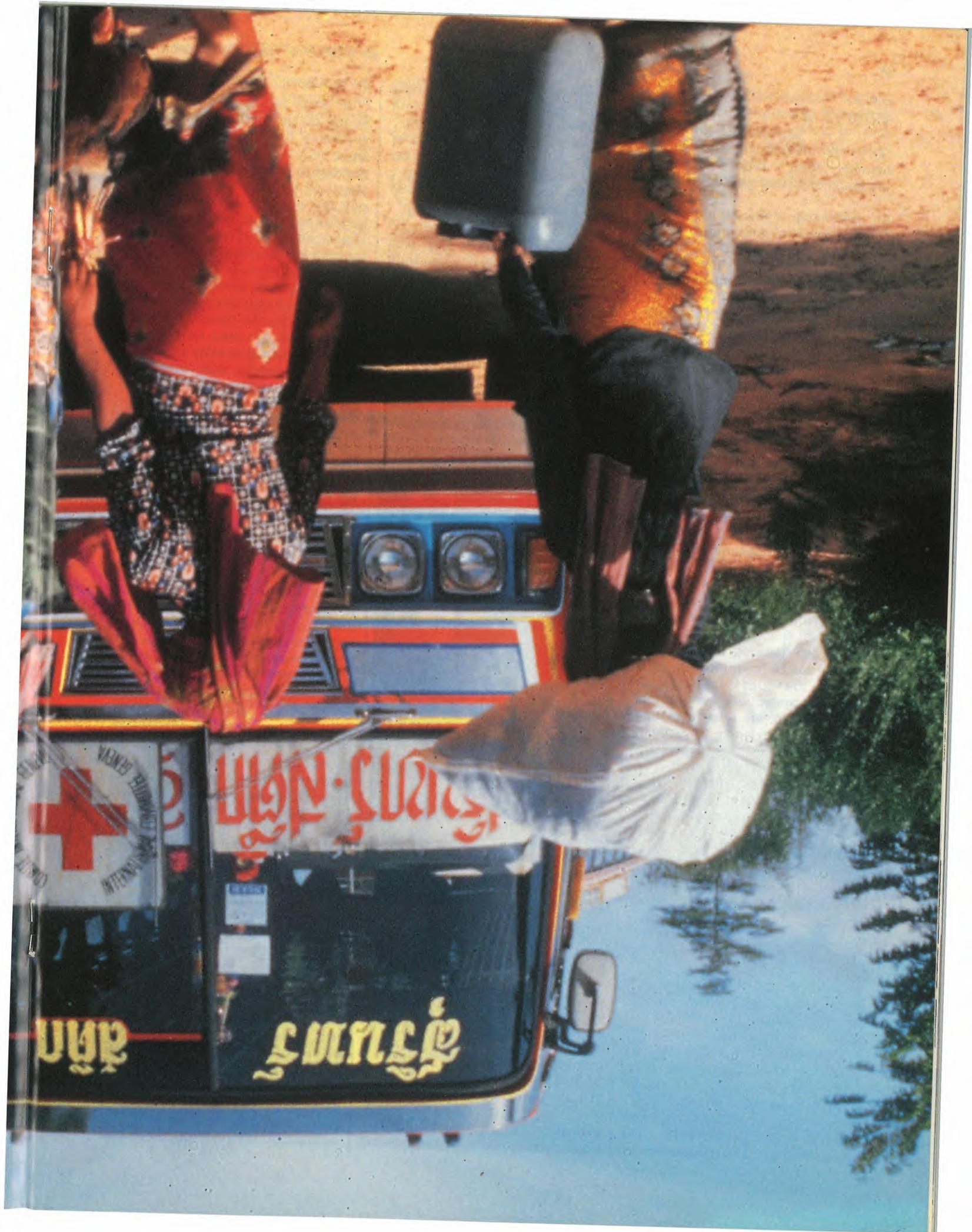
Against this background, the activities of associations defending human rights – and dozens of such associations have come into being in the last few years – are very difficult. In countries where there is great tension between the government and armed bands (as in Peru, El Salvador and Colombia) the authorities accuse them of being Marxist (using the label "Marxist" as a synonym for "extremist").

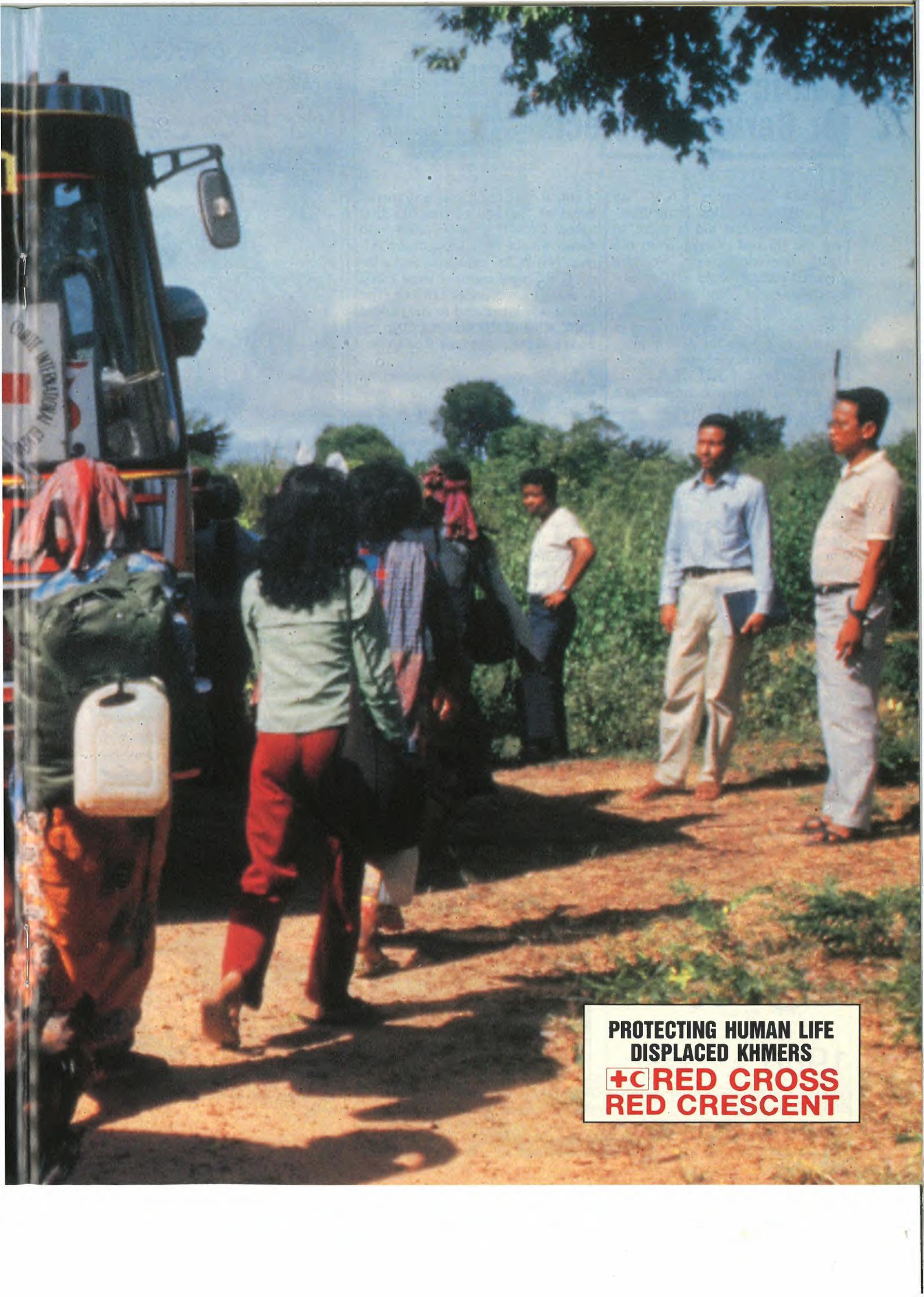
On the other hand human rights groups are also targets of the rebel or opposition groups and are accused of being inactive and too weak. In some countries human rights groups are physically persecuted or, as in Costa Rica, they are vilified in the media.

This precarious existence between the various forces of society threatens the work for human rights in Latin America, where human rights' violations are among the highest in the world. The human rights groups work tirelessly in reporting violations not only to governments (who often take no notice) but also to the various paramilitary groups (whose violent actions often cause a weakening of the already-fragile democracy in the region).

They urge all parties to condemn actions against basic human rights... the first human right of all, being the right to live.

• Octavio CABEZA





**PROTECTING HUMAN LIFE
DISPLACED KHMERS**

**+C RED CROSS
RED CRESCENT**

Comic Relief for Serious Subjects

With a thunderous "CRAC" an airplane crashes. Immediately Red Cross first aid is there to help the injured. Scenes from the nightly television news? No, the coloured-picture pages of Tintin, a french-language comic strip.

Red Cross has been portrayed in newspaper comics for generations. From Dick Tracy to the Smurfs. From Boule and Bill to Astérix. People of all ages love comics. "It's sort of like asking 'Why do you love chocolate?'" responds one comic-lover.

Comics also communicate messages. Early in the history of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, National Societies discovered the comic form of communication. A good example is a 1920 comic-strip poster of the Soviet Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which shows a Red Cross Youth member teaching his friends the basic rules of hygiene.

But it was only with a dramatic event at the end of the 70's that "Red Cross" comics came into their own. In 1978, in southern Africa, two ICRC delegates and a local ICRC staff member were killed in a Red Cross-identified car. The killing was attributed to the lack of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and the role of the Red Cross.

To overcome this problem, a wide-based dissemination campaign was launched using simply-illustrated concepts. The "Tenga Family", a series of little stories explaining the role and activities of the Red Cross in that part of the world, illustrated by a Zimbabwean artist, thus came to life.

The "Tenga Family" was first distributed in English-speaking countries and then translated into French and Portuguese. It was widely read in Africa with approximately one million copies printed. Knowledge of the work of the Red



تیمین المللی صلیب سرخ (ICRC) تقسیم می کند
 دسرہ صلیب بین المللی کمیٹہ (ICRC) اپنی زبانوں کو

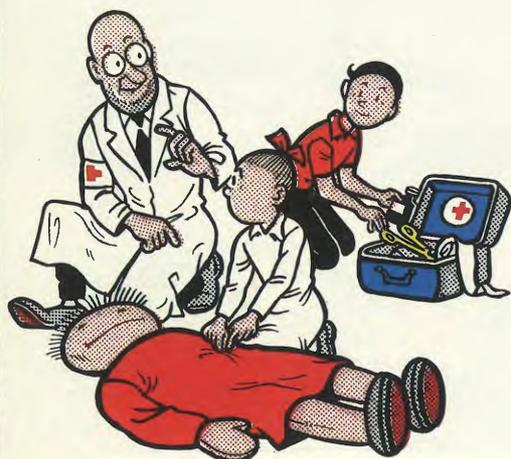
علی گل باجهان صلیب سرخ و حلال امر آشنا می شود
 علی گل سوسلیب اوسری میاشتی نئی سواشنا کی



New Comic Book for Afghanistan in Dari and Pashtou.

Cross increased, as well as a better understanding of the emblem's significance. This success encouraged African National Societies, such as the Gabonese Republic and the People's Republic of the Congo, to put out their own comic strips.

SABENA
BELGIAN WORLD AIRLINES **20 F.**



+ 1986 © N.V. SCRIPTORIA ANTWERPEN 1986

Cartoons help raise money for the Belgian Red Cross.



PAGKATAPOS NG BAGYO

"NAWALAN KAMI NG PAGKAIN. HINDI PA NAKABABALIK ANG ASAWA KO MULA SA PANGINGISDA..."

INAY, NAGUGUTON HA KAMI? NASAAH SI ITAY? KAILAN SIYA BABALIK?"

DIYOS KO! SINO ANG TUGONG SA AMIN NGAYON?"

Philippine Comic book is produced in five languages and illustrates relief work in times of disaster as well as Red Cross principles.

The ICRC has since produced several other comic strips in other regions of the world where it was called upon to intervene, particularly in Asia. This has been done most often in cooperation with the National Society of the country concerned.

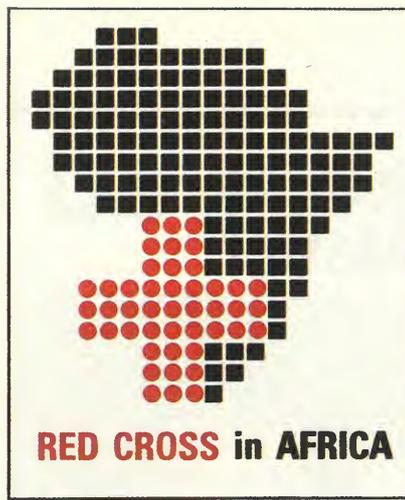
In the Philippines, more than 1.5 million copies of a series of comic strips on the Movement's activities and the basic rules of humanitarian law have been distributed in most of the country's primary schools under a several-year programme. A similar programme is being undertaken in Afghanistan today, as a continuation of the one carried out for many years with the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. A character called Ali Gul has become well-known through this series and will probably remain the first comic-strip hero of the Movement.

A four-page comic on the history of the Movement has received world-wide distribution and is currently available in 12 different languages, ranging from French, Spanish and English to Chinese, Arabic, Khmer, Amharic and Oromigna, the latter two being Ethiopian languages.

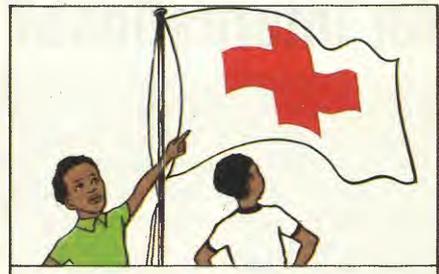
National Societies are also developing comics on a variety of subjects. They include blood donation (Federal Republic of Germany), Red Cross Youth (France), and fundraising (Belgium). Lively, easy to read, informative and entertaining, comic strips have taken a noticeable place in Henry Dunant's Movement, reaffirming how modern the humanitarian message really is.

• Bertrand BAUMANN
Françoise BORY

"The Tenga Family" first produced in 1978 explains the value of the Red Cross symbol. The car in the middle panels does not have the Red Cross symbol and is likely to be attacked. The Red Cross ambulance is well marked. Soldiers say, "Don't shoot! See the Red Cross... Those are friendly people. They bring help to all wounded and sick."



THE TENGA FAMILY

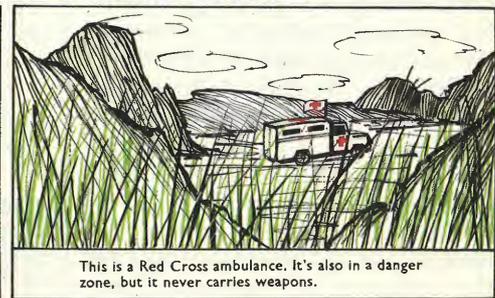


One day Simon and Musa see a Red Cross flag.



Yes, it is likely to be attacked.

FREE ISSUE NOT FOR SALE



NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Unemployed Youth : An International Answer

It's a vicious cycle. When you want to get a job, they always ask, 'do you have any experience?' And when you say 'no', the reply comes back, 'sorry, we need experienced people.' How can you get experience if you can't get a job?"

This plaintive cry of young people caught in the trap of unemployment is not new. With youth unemployment in Europe a major problem, the German (Federal Republic) Red Cross in Bremen has been carrying out a novel experiment with its sister city of Dudley, England.

The Young Workers' Exchange Programme was first introduced in 1986 when 9 young adults from Bremen went to Dudley to live and work in the community for three months. Jobs ranged from office work to washing elephants in the local zoo.

In 1987, 10 youth people from Dudley had the opportunity to work in Bremen in various jobs including salesman, television repairer, and nursing aide for the elderly. In 1988, 10 young people from Bremen travelled to Dudley. The reverse exchange will continue in 1989.

"Being away from parents and friends for a while and to be forced to cope in a situation they are not familiar with is a good opportunity for personal growth," observes Werner Georgi, director of the programme in Bremen. "The impact upon their lives can be seen upon their return to Bremen and is visible in the effective improvement they have in finding jobs."

This pioneering "worker exchange" programme has received the support of the European Economic Community. John Bird, Member of the European Parliament, from Dudley, is enthusiastic about the programme, not just because it helps unemployed youth gain skills, self-confidence and employment, but because it also benefits the wider community. "Ex-

changes between nationals of various countries also have a considerably enriching effect for all concerned. Many people would argue that the Renaissance was largely a result of the mobility of people at that time which led to such fertile exchanges between individuals, cities and universities."

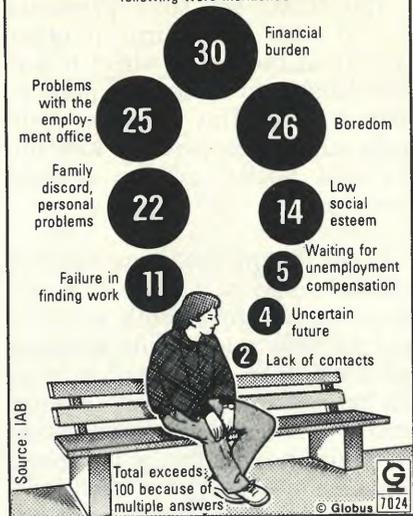
A major difficulty for the programme has been language. "The job is fantastic", comments Joga Singh from Dudley, "but the problem is that the guy I'm working with can only speak a little bit of English and I can only speak a little bit of German. But all the manuals are in English, French and German, so if he can't say it he shows me in the manual."

"I've learned a lot in electronics that I didn't learn back in England", Joga adds. "I've also learned some tricks of the trade and a few skills. Yes, it's a brand-new experience, but I really want to stay here for a year."

For the German Red Cross, the problem of unemployment is an emergency crisis for its people. The Young Workers' Exchange Programme is just a small part of a major programme-emphasis on behalf of the unemployed. A 36-page magazine profiling the unemployment problem and the work of the German Red Cross was distributed last December throughout the Federal Republic of Germany.

Prince Botho of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, President of the German Red Cross, in addressing

What the young unemployed worry about
In group samplings of every 100 unemployed under 25, the following were mentioned:



his countrymen and Red Cross members stated: "The German Red Cross is clearly aware of the problems of the unemployed. It feels obliged to respond within all its power to alleviate the consequences of unemployment."

In Germany, "First Aid" for the unemployed is an application of the Red Cross principles. With 1992 as the date set for the new European market, similar programmes for the unemployed are being studied by other European Red Cross Societies.

Clarissa STAREY

THEMENJOURNAL



Arbeitslose
und das Deutsche
Rote Kreuz



German Red Cross
Unemployment Magazine
Supplement.

Youth from England enjoy a visit to Bremen Town Square. Left to right: Joga Singh, Gary Price, Mena Patel, Nicola Elton, Andrew Hill, Werner Georgi.

(GRC)

Miracles Do Happen

When one is in difficulty and desperate for help, one might hope that someday a miracle will happen. On 8 November 1988 a gentleman from Hangchow, China was awakened from his sleep. He pinched the palm of his hand to know whether he was dreaming. He rubbed his eyes many times. "No, I'm not sleeping. No, I'm not dreaming." He then remembered where he was and discovered himself rubbing his mother's hands and kissing her face again and again.

The 'miracle' he once hoped for, and had almost given up on, had really happened. He could see his mother again after 55 years of separation. It was almost as long as his life time.

Huang Lishan (64) had left Indonesia in 1933 when he was nine years old. Being the eldest son in the family he fulfilled the wish of his father to study in Mainland China, the country of his father. He knew that this would separate him from his mother. Deep in his heart he did not want to leave, but he was an obedient son and could not refuse.

Young Lishan arrived in Lan Fang township, Guang Dong province and lived with a woman his father had married before he moved to Indonesia. His school records were very good, but he had difficulties getting along with his step-mother, step-brothers and sisters. He missed his home and his mother and wanted to return to Indonesia in 1939. Unfortunately, the war of resistance against the Japanese broke out at that time and kept him from leaving.

Desperately he left Guang Dong and led a vagrant life. He came to Jiang Xi and worked in a restaurant as a trumpet player in the band and later worked in a garage. In 1945 a Mexican family found him, felt pity and gave him shelter. He was sent to a technical school in Chong Qing, Sechuan province where he acquired the skills for a better way of life. Upon completing school he

Indonesian Red Cross



After 55 years Huang Lishan is reunited with his mother. Looking on is Ms. Juliani, Head of the Tracing and Mailing Services of the Indonesian Red Cross.

became an automobile drive and a mechanic. He worked in such a manner until 1976 when he retired due to his poor health.

As he now had so much spare time, he began to think about going back to Indonesia. Unfortunately he was denied his wish as Indonesia and China had broken diplomatic relations in 1966.

Meanwhile his mother, Mrs. Tjong Sioe Eng Nio (now 84 years old) longed to be reunited with her son. She had received some letters from him and had expressed her desire to her children in Jakarta.

One day, late in 1987, Siana, one of her daughters, read in a Jakarta Newspaper that the Indonesian Red Cross had reunited a mother and son who had been separated for 40 years. Inspired by the story, Siana came to the Indonesian Red Cross' Tracing and Mailing Service and received all the necessary information. She contacted her brother in China to start preparing all the needed documents for an overseas visit.

The Indonesian Government had entrusted the Indonesian Red Cross to assist in the reunion of Chinese and Indonesian separated

families. Via the Indonesian Red Cross, Huang Lishan was granted an entry permit to Indonesia and a four-weeks' cultural visit visa to visit his mother in Jakarta. This was the third time that the Indonesian Red Cross had been successful in overcoming the frozen diplomatic ties of the two countries and enabled families to visit each other.

Assisting in the reunion was the Hong Kong Red Cross, which helped to finalize the visit to Indonesia.

All the members of the family rejoiced when the reunion occurred. But for the mother and son it was more than a happy event it was a miracle. Thus, is it inappropriate for them to think that "Red Cross work is a miracle to those in need?"

• Indonesian Red Cross



PALANG MERAH INDONESIA

The Time of the Locusts

Following fifteen desolate years, hope had almost returned to Mauritania. Drought had settled in. For years it had sprawled out, stretching to places considered most remote, such as oases and the banks of the River Senegal. The sand gradually gained ground on the seedlings, consumed the cattle and swallowed up the hard-earned reserves.

The inhabitants became resigned. For centuries they had roamed over open spaces, but now they were parked like camels in the shantytowns of Nouakchott, the capital of this large country where 900,000 of the 1.5 million inhabitants of Mauritania live. In 1987 rain had fallen, but too sporadically as in many other Sahel countries. Millet and sorghum crops were a partial or total failure. Abundant rainfall made 1988 more promising. Seeds sprouted, animals perked up and the populations rejoiced.



Damien Personnaz

But locusts gobbled up this short-lived hope. They came from Mali, Niger, Chad and elsewhere and swarmed down on the young shoots, sparing none. Even if the damage is not at all comparable with Niger or Chad, the scope of the disaster is nonetheless dramatic. "It is a disaster. The drought has laid waste everything. The country is disaster-stricken. When it rained at the beginning of the year there was rejoicing. Now the locusts have eaten the young plants. It's a total loss!" moaned Sidi Mohammed Ould Mohammedou, Information Director of the Mauritanian Red Crescent. "Here at Nouakchott, nothing has changed; the people have not returned home."

Dramatic but familiar destitution is preferable to confronting a precarious return to one's place of ori-

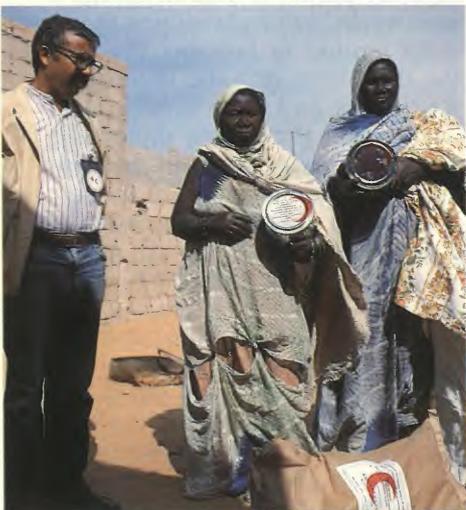
gin. Lacking water, electricity and wood or charcoal for cooking, these suburban nomads are kicked out to the edge of the nearby desert in camps further away from the centre of town, which is coveted for financial reasons. There the living conditions are even worse.

Confronted with this situation, the Mauritanian Red Crescent does what it can. At least the very minimum. Where to begin? In 1988 the League launched a CHF 4,895,665 appeal for emergency food-aid. "Needs are enormous", said Ahmed Bouria, League delegate responsible for distributing relief supplies. "Right here around the capital the people have nothing. We distribute rice, wheat, sorghum, oil and sugar. Now we must begin distributions elsewhere in the country." In Trarza, Brakna, Tagant and Tiris-Zemmour, where major relief operations had been organized in 1984, 85 and 86.

Ahmed Bouria is discouraged. More must be done and better. Everything takes too much time. And time is short. Strangely the locusts did not leave immediately. At the end of 1988 they were still there, admittedly less numerous, but happily devouring any remaining green patch in Nouakchott.

Most experts agree that in 1989 the locusts will multiply. Emergency aid may well continue for years.

• Damien PERSONNAZ



Damien Personnaz

△ Food distribution in one of the neighbourhoods of Nouakchott which have no running water or electricity

The flowing desert sands take over homes and buildings ▷



Damien Personnaz

Colombia : Salvaging Street Kids

Pedro, a 12-year-old child of the streets in Bogota, Colombia, can list for you the adults who make up his world.

There is Carlitas, the man who sells him glue for 150 pesos a bottle, the glue he sniffs to keep away hunger, cold, reality. There are the policemen, who don't like street children - one broke his arm last year. There are the men who like little boys very much, and will pay him to get into their car and do



Colombian Red Cross

For a "Street Kid" in Bogota, a bed is where you find it.

things to them. There are the passers-by, who sometimes toss a coin when they see him huddled in a doorway, but more often look away.

Pedro pauses, and his eyes light up. And there are our friends. Yesid, and the people from the Red Cross.

Twice a week, all night long, volunteers from the Colombia Red Cross drive a makeshift ambulance through Bogota's mean streets, offering first aid, medical care and friendship to some of the city's 4,000 street children. The team is led by Yesid Chabur, a 22-year-old who hovered on the fringes of street life himself a few years ago.



Colombian Red Cross

Bandaging a wound is all in the normal night's work of the Colombian Red Cross Team.

"The difference was that I always had a home and family to go back to. These children have nothing. And they need so much."

The children have many health problems. Trauma, from street fights or police beatings. Upper respiratory complaints, from sniffing glue and sleeping rough. Sexually transmitted diseases, especially important now that AIDS is in the city. Bad teeth. Malnutrition.

As the team cares for the children they get to know them and gain their trust. They can identify those children who want to get off the street, and help them to enter one of Colombia's group homes. Often they will find a desperate youngster on their Friday night rounds, and bring the child home with them over the weekend, until he or she can be officially registered and placed in a group home on Monday morning. Once the child is in the home, they keep in touch for up to a year.

"We would like to do more", says Yesid. "If we had a drop-in centre where the children could always come and feel safe, we could teach them useful skills, and educate them about things like AIDS and how to keep healthy. Many of the children will never leave the street. The other street children are the only friends - the only family - they know. We must reach out to them on the streets, and teach them to help themselves."

"It is estimated there are 80 million street children worldwide", states Joanna MacLean, Youth Services Director of the League. "It is unfortunate that there are few programmes, like the one of the Colombia Red Cross, that has addressed the challenge of reaching these forgotten children."

Happily now, for Pedro in Bogota, the streets are not the only way of life.

• Barbara WALLACE

SURVIVORS



"Survivors" is a new video on AIDS and street children. Produced by Street Kids International, it is scheduled for release in June 1989.



U Chit Waing - "Ambulance Cart" - Burma.

International Photographic Competition

The Winners Are!

U Chit Waing of Burma is the Grand-Prix Winner of the Red Cross and Crescent World In Focus contest. His colour photograph, shown above, depicts an ox-drawn Red Cross ambulance cart in rural Burma. The Grand-Prix winner is receiving a photographic mission to a Red Cross/Red Crescent field operation, all expenses paid, plus photographic equipment and an exhibition of the winning photo in Geneva.

The photographic contest was sponsored by the RED CROSS,

RED CRESCENT magazine as a means of honouring the 125th anniversary of the Movement. Its aim was to find new photographers, amateurs or professionals, whose work best summarised Red Cross and Red Crescent care for humanity and protection of life.

"The quality of photographs entered was outstanding and demonstrated to the judges the vitality of the Movement worldwide", reflected George Reid, Director of Public Affairs for the League.

Five Awards of Excellence were also granted, with the winning photographers receiving photographic equipment. In addition Merit Certificates were given to the next 100 best entries.

Already there have been requests for application forms for the next World in Focus Contest which will close on 31 December 1989. Forms will be available through National Societies on or about 1 July, 1989.

• Ellen HARR



*Maria de Fatima Santos Correia Ventura –
“Emergency Care” – Portugal.*



Zhou Jian – “Red Cross Life Savers” – China.

INTERNATIONAL PHOTO COMPETITION

WORLD IN FOCUS



*Daniel Cima – “First Aid Assistance in El Salvador” –
U.S.A.*



*Pierre Peters – “Loving Care” –
South Africa.*



*Ko Ko Gyi – “Red Cross First Aiders Crossing Water” –
Burma.*

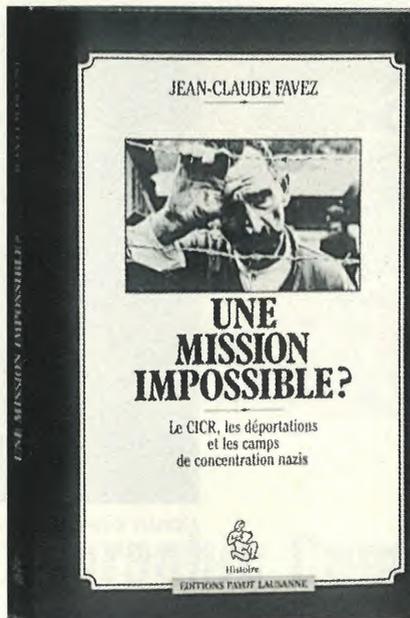
A Mission Impossible? Jean-Claude Favez

"Draw up a complete report on what the ICRC knew about the 'final solution' and what it tried to do and was able to do for the victims of Nazi persecution." This was the mandate the ICRC gave to the Swiss historian Jean-Claude Favez when it granted him unlimited access to its archives.

After seven years of intensive research, Professor Favez has published a book over 400 pages long entitled "Une mission impossible?" The work, which came out last October, has caused comment throughout the world. RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT interviewed Professor Favez.

The ICRC knew but did nothing. This is the generally negative conclusion the public seems to have drawn from your book. But who at the ICRC did know and what exactly did they know?

There can be no doubt that the ICRC knew that the concentration camps existed and was aware of the conditions prevailing there. By the ICRC I mean primarily the delegates in the field – some of whom were eye-witnesses – but also members of the staff at the Geneva headquarters and members of the Committee itself. As for the racial persecution and systematic extermination of certain population groups, on the other hand, the ICRC was like the rest of the international community: it acquired bits of information over time and gradually came to realize what was happening.



Professor Favez of the University of Geneva spent seven years researching "A Mission Impossible?", a study of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the deportations and the Nazi concentration camps.

Is it possible, after 40 years, to find out exactly who knew what?

It is true that many of the witnesses and principal actors in the drama have since died. And many of those still alive have chosen to remain silent. But we have to remember that the extent to which people realized what was going on varied from one individual to another. This was certainly true within the Committee. Nevertheless, what I found in the ICRC's ar-

chives and elsewhere provides enough information to be able to judge with some accuracy how much ICRC staff knew. One thing is sure: by 1943, the pursuit of the "final solution" had become only too evident.

Your book shows that there were countless examples of ICRC delegates taking action wherever they happened to be in Europe during the war and that their initiatives saved many more victims of racial persecution than is generally realized. Don't you think you have rather neglected this aspect of the ICRC's work in the field?

I do not deny that the achievements of the delegates in the field were often remarkable and I believe that I have noted and commented on most of their efforts to save lives, especially when such efforts produced tangible results. But, as I say in my book, a series of individual initiatives does not make a policy.

What, then, explains the failure on the part of the ICRC to formulate a policy in response to the persecution of certain groups, especially the Jews? The argument usually advanced is that the ICRC had no basis in law for taking action and feared that if it did Germany would repudiate the Geneva Conventions: this in turn would call into question the ICRC's mandate to provide protection for prisoners of war, which was its main raison d'être.

This fear was in fact quite genu-

ine and sometimes very acute when difficulties arose in the implementation of the Conventions by the parties to the conflict, in 1942 for example. Nevertheless, I do not believe that that fear was well founded. No document has yet been turned up that would allow us to conclude that Germany really intended to repudiate the Conventions.

Indeed, I believe that the Germans knew full well that it was not at all in their interest to do so. In any case, we have to realize that the problem facing the ICRC was not a legal one but a political and moral one. The institution had to decide whether it wanted to do something and, if so, what it could do. When the draft appeal was being discussed in October 1942, the members of the Committee – and we have absolute proof of this – knew what was at stake; and the debate centred around this issue, and not the legal aspect.

By attempting, as it has done in the past, to take refuge behind the legal argument, the ICRC in fact acted in a way inconsistent with the right of initiative that the institution has always claimed and which it continues to guard jealously today.

The appeal was finally dropped at the urging of, among other people, ICRC Vice-President Carl J. Burckhardt. Burckhardt seems to have played a major role throughout the affair. Why did he deliberately prevent the ICRC from taking a stand on the extermination of the Jews?

This was partly a result of his own personality. Here was a man profoundly marked by Germanic culture. He felt himself to be part of the cultural entity which had developed in central Europe and then disappeared during the First World War. Burckhardt had a great deal of sympathy with the fallen aristocracy whose ideals were now being made a mockery of by the Nazi regime. I think that during the war – and I want to emphasize that this is more personal intuition than something that can be confirmed by documents – Burckhardt nurtured a personal ambition. He hoped that he would one day be called upon to act as a mediator between the Axis

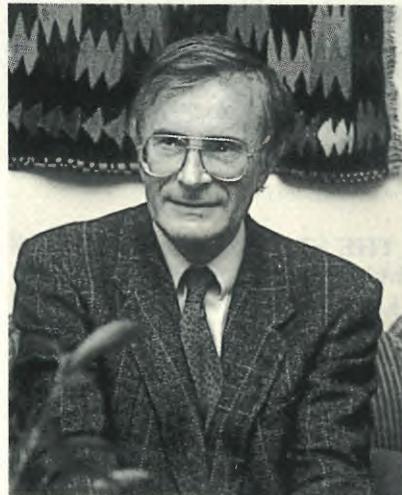
powers and the Allies. He therefore felt that he had to handle both sides tactfully, especially the German Government.

Be that as it may, we also have to remember that the context in which the ICRC was working was not particularly favourable. Switzerland was in the grip of profound anxiety. It felt that it was under constant

At several points in your book you explain this inertia by referring to structural and administrative problems within the ICRC.

Yes, I do believe that the ICRC's silence can be partly attributed to its sluggish administrative procedures, to its inability to analyse and properly assess the various items of information which it was receiving and, consequently, to fix its priori-

"We have to realize that the problem facing the ICRC was not a legal one but a political and moral one."



Jean-Claude Favez.

Beatrice Plantier

threat of invasion by Hitler's Germany and, during the Committee's debate in 1942 about whether to send out an appeal, the Swiss government did not hesitate to intervene through its President Philipp Etter – also a member of the Committee – to ensure that the ICRC did not adopt a stance opposing Berlin's activities.

It is true that the political environment in Switzerland exerted an influence which cannot be ignored. However, while this may be a valid explanation up to 1942, it is not sufficient for the years that followed. In 1943 and even more so in 1944, the 'final solution' was clearly established as fact and, one after the other, the President of the United States, the King of Sweden, the Pope and some governments – including the Swiss government – spoke out. At this stage the ICRC's silence is beyond comprehension.

ties. The ICRC was content to carry on with its usual activities such as tracing missing persons, without making any real effort to find solutions for new problems. It must be said that the ICRC, like the rest of Switzerland itself, went into the Second World War with its gaze firmly fixed on the First World War, that is, with an entirely obsolete outlook.

What moral lesson can be drawn from your study?

The lesson is that one has to be able to step back from events and keep a clear mind. This is perhaps what ICRC officials at the time were not able to do. That's easy to say with the benefit of hindsight, I admit. It just goes to show that people are blind to the history they make.

• Bertrand BAUMANN

MEDIA UPDATE

Films and Videos



The following are new videos releases pertaining to Red Cross/Red Crescent activities:

ON THE ROAD TO PEACE (Lebanese Red Cross, 16') is a short documentary on the Lebanese Red Cross's work in the midst of a chaotic and war torn land. It covers not only first aid and medical operations for the wounded but also the society's social services.

(Available from the Lebanese Red Cross - VHS format - Engl./Fr.)

THE STORY OF A BUSINESS MAN (South African Red Cross, 9'). This overview of the work of the Red Cross in South Africa was produced by Ogilvy & Mather Rightford Searle-Tip & Makin as part of a nationwide media campaign which included 30 minute television and radio commercials and print materials. Both historical and contemporary film sources are used.

(Available from the South African Red Cross - VHS/U-matic format - Engl.)

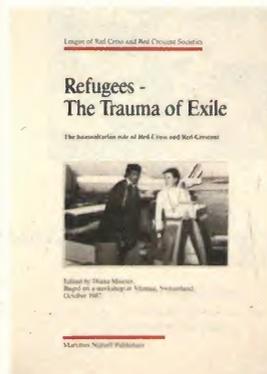
Journals and Books



REFUGEES - THE TRAUMA OF EXILE reports on the League-sponsored workshop on the psychological problems of refugees held in October 1987 (English and French texts distributed by Kluwer Academic Publishers, P.O. Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, The Netherlands and 101 Philip Drive, Norwell, MA 02061, USA. Published in English by Martinus Nijhoff, Dordrecht and in French by Bruylant, Brussels, Belgium).

Professionals from National Societies, the private sector and governments in Western Europe and North America, ranging in exper-

tise from practising psychiatrists and psychologists to field counselors, met for an in-depth discussion of trauma suffered by refugees. A variety of topics - trauma among the elderly, women and children as well as men; simple trauma and the complex effects of torture; experiences of Vietnamese, Chileans, Eastern Europeans and Africans - were all discussed. An illuminating section dealt with the Swiss Red Cross's An Lac project in which Western psychology was integrated into the study of the cultural background of troubled Vietnamese and Sino-Vietnamese refugees. For the general reader the collected papers provide a valuable insight into a little-known problem area. For the professional it is a rich resource of analytical techniques and responses for troubled people.



The workshop was one of the first national conferences on the trauma of refugees and has encouraged a greater public recognition of this mental health problem. It is written and edited in a clear and easy style.

• John LLOYD, II

And all that jazz

Way down in the deepest part of the southern United States lies New Orleans. Sultry, yet sophisticated, New Orleans is a special kind of melting pot containing ingredients from around the world: Africa, France, Spain and the Americas.

Stirring this pot has produced such delicacies as jazz and Cajun cooking. The American Red Cross



chose New Orleans to host its 1989 Public Support Institute. When 900 participants from 50 states and territories, plus 12 National Societies, were mixed with sunshine and stimulating ideas, the result was a rich blend of shared experiences.

Daily sessions allowed for maximum flexibility. One could follow any of the 11 tracks (i.e. Media Relations, Planned Giving, or Blood Services Communications); or create a programme of varied interest. Topics dealt with the pragmatic ("All About Grants"), to the exotic ("The Glamour, Glitz, and Groans of Big Events").

Sessions were led by professionals from within and outside the Red Cross and were sprinkled with experiences from the grassroots. Group participation and role-playing were featured in many sessions, some utilizing video taping to allow for critique afterwards.

One special component was a day-long examination of International Humanitarian Law specifically designed for communication professionals. Participants were briefed on the history, evolution and current status of the many activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In all, New Orleans helped the American Red Cross to serve up a Public Support Institute that will benefit communications and fund-raising for a long time.

• Michael A. CAUDILL



N. Y. Convention & Visitors bureau

In Appreciation

Tonight is the last night that I will take in sustenance from the New York skyline outside the massive bay windows of the solarium in which I sit.

At night the view has been one of magic, a reminder of the mystery and awe of life: the changing colours on top of the Empire State Building, the white skybeam that shines out of the Citicorp Center, the twinkling lights from windows where I know that unknown thousands carry on normal lives.

I have needed that magic regularly because, on the other side of the door to the solarium, lies the suffering and death of the medical wards at New York Hospital—rooms filled with individuals fighting illness, mainly cancer and AIDS. In one of those hospital rooms lies my mother, affectionately known to us as “The Iron Lady”, who has waged her own Williamsburg Bridge battle with acute myelogenous leukemia.

Tonight, after eleven weeks, that battle ended.

I was relieved when this battle was finally over. I thanked everyone whose kindnesses had felt like bits of manna in the desert: the doctors and the unsung angels—the

nurses, nurses’ aides, cleaners and food deliverers.

But I didn’t get to thank one group of people, and it bothers me, keeps me from sleeping. I couldn’t thank them because I don’t know who they are; they remain anonymous. These are the people who came when needed, as called, to spend two hours of their lives donating platelets, sharing that part of their blood that keeps us from bleeding to death, the part that causes clotting to occur, as well as those people who recruit these donors and collect and test their platelets.

I remember the trepidation I felt when I first went to donate platelets. I was frightened of being totally attached to a machine and of the remote possibility of testing positive for AIDS. But my mother’s life was at stake, and she needed regular and frequent transfusions of platelets.

I watched as blood flowed out of my body and then back in again. My head became light, and the words “Ki Ha’dam Who Ha’Nefesh—Because the blood is the soul” echoed through my mind. The sense that I was sharing my soul with another human, my

mother, allowed my suppressed tears to finally flow.

With the knowledge of what dedication platelet donation takes, I want to thank each person who donates blood, especially the platelet donors. Thank you for making the time to take that oath of eternal friendship that, as we learned as children, comes through the sharing of blood.

Thank you for doing this even though you have no idea with whom you share your blood, your souls.

I ‘too’ will now become an anonymous platelet donor. Donating blood is a way in which I can work for peace on earth, for the acknowledgment that we are a community that shares a very fragile home.

When I donate my platelets anonymously, I am always giving life to someone, who by virtue of also living on this planet at the same time as I do, becomes my soulmate, supports my life in some way, however distant and seemingly unrelated. We have become one.

And tomorrow, thanks in large measure to these unknown platelet donors, my soulmates, against the predictions of medical science, my mother will leave New York Hospital, and she will leave it alive.

● Karen ROEKARD



Hazel Sampson (14) USA – "Love Carefully, We Are The Future."



Albert Angase (18) Malawi – "We Are The Future – A Generation Without AIDS".



GRAND PRIX WINNER – Ferda Durgan (13) Turkey – "Destroying AIDS".



Mohamed Ahmed Saleh (16) Libya – "Red Crescent Committee of Jalou – AIDS".

Towards a World without AIDS

We Are The Future – A Generation Without AIDS”, was the theme of the international poster contest marking World AIDS Day, 1 December. Children from Red Cross and Red Crescent Soci-



Ellen Haas

Judges Richard Rector, Jennifer Wallace and Denis Agboton with a winning poster.

eties around the world sent in posters to illustrate one of two messages: “How my friends and I can beat AIDS”, or “How I would show someone with AIDS I care about him or her.”

“We wanted to reach out to the generation of young people not yet infected with HIV”, said League AIDS Coordinator Barbara Wallace, who organised the competition. “If this group can develop behaviour which protects them from infection, and if they can learn care and compassion for people with AIDS, we can all have some hope for the future.”

Grand prix was awarded to Ferda Durgun, 13, from the Turkish Red Crescent Society, at a ceremony held at the League Secretariat on 1 December. Other prizes went to children from Libya, Thailand, Ethiopia, Malawi, the Do-

Marcela Pena (11) Chile – “No to AIDS, Yes to Life. I want to live like the others... Help Me!”



minican Republic, the U.S.A., Hungary, Yugoslavia, Chile, and Germany (Fed. Rep.). Young people under the age of 20 were eligible, and the youngest winner was a seven-year-old.

“It was really exciting to see that children everywhere are aware of the problem and thinking about what they can do about it,” said Richard Rector, a health educator with AIDS, who was one of the panel of judges. “It was much more difficult than I had imagined to reach a decision – the artistic quality was so high.”

Dr. Manuel Carballo, Chief of the Social and Behavioural Research Unit of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS, addressing the awards ceremony stressed the importance of encouraging young people to think about HIV/AIDS, its implications and the ways it can be prevented.

The winning posters will be on display at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS in Montreal, Canada, in June.

• Clarissa STAREY



Gettstadt Youth Group (Ages 10-15) Germany (Fed. Rep.) – “My Friend has AIDS; We Talk to Each Other; We Play Together; We Hold Each Other; We Eat Together”.

People

Actress **Nan Woods** of Warner Bros. Television's series "China Beach" flew to New Orleans, Louisiana to speak and give support to the 1989 American Red Cross Public Support Institute. On screen she plays Cherry White, the innocent but determined 19-year-old American Red Cross volunteer in war-torn Vietnam during the 1960s. China Beach is an EVAC hospital and entertainment facility adjacent to the American military base at Da Nang. "Through Cherry and her friends," Woods says "we see Vietnam behind the front lines – and sometimes on the front lines – from the women's point of view."

Her support for the Red Cross has also included playing the leading character, Beth, in "A Letter From Brian", a film dealing with AIDS and teenagers, produced by the American Red Cross.



Tony Costa

Hollywood's Red Cross Volunteer.

Bringing Christmas cheer into a rather bleak Armenia was Madame Mariapia Fanfani. As an Italian Red Cross volunteer, she was on one of the first relief flights to Armenia. Seeing the apocalypse-style disaster she went back to Italy for more supplies. Bundled in a warm parka and a red hat, she returned with toys and a Christmas tree. Thus keeping the promise she had made to the children that she would celebrate the Armenian Christmas with them.



Italian Red Cross

Holiday warmth, courtesy Red Cross and Mrs. Fanfani.

"I will always remember the Armenian earthquake. There were people from all corners of the world who had come to help, to show their solidarity and to tell the victims of this tragedy that Henry Dunant was right: 'We are all brothers'."

"The Most Expensive Concert in the World" was hosted by the Czechoslovakian Red Cross on 14 January in Prague. The ticket for admission to the three-hour variety show for 2,500 people was not money but being a regular Bohemian blood donor. The performance of top Czech artists and pop-music singers also highlighted the 40th anniversary of the foundation of Blood Transfusion Services in Czechoslovakia as well as the 70th anniversary of the National Society.



Petr Maticka

Performing for Bohemian Blood Donors.

For the fourth consecutive year, on the initiative of its President, HRH Prince Albert of Monaco, the Red Cross of Monaco participated in February in the International Television Festival at Monte Carlo. A Jury designated by the Crown Prince, comprising the League's representative Clarissa Starey, the



Ombres et Lumière: Monaco

Prince Albert of Monaco (second from right) with Red Cross Film Jury, Clarissa Starey (League), Rosine Sanmori (Monaco Red Cross) and Carlos De Montoliu (Spanish Red Cross).

Vice-president of the National Society, Madame Rosine Sanmori and Carlos De Montoliu, delegate of the Spanish Red Cross, awarded the prize to the Canadian/French co-production fiction film "No Blame", by Danièle J. Suissa, a drama about fear, ignorance and loyalty when confronted by AIDS. The Red Cross prize is awarded annually for the best fiction film at the festival which illustrates one of the Red Cross Fundamental Principles. "No Blame" illustrates the principle of humanity.

"KILLED - Michael Egabu of the Uganda Red Cross was killed on 9 January in an attack made by gunmen on three vehicles belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The convoy was travelling in eastern Uganda to distribute relief to displaced persons.

Egabu, a passenger in the first vehicle, was killed outright while the driver, ICRC delegate Jürg Bühler, was wounded. The ICRC team was able to return to Soroti, when the injured delegate was given first aid by a Médecins Sans Frontières-Holland unit before being flown to a hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Movement deplores this incident. All the vehicles involved were clearly marked with the Red Cross emblem and all the parties present in the area were aware of these Red Cross humanitarian activities.

teers processing contributions at the Society's headquarters in London.



REX: Nils Jørgensen

Royalty watches money for Armenia Earthquake Victims.

Meanwhile, many of the world's music greats converged in December on The Barbican Concert Hall, London, in support of the British Red Cross Armenian Earthquake Appeal. Included on the programme that was enjoyed by both Prince Charles and his wife, were the Russian-born cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, the flutist James Galway and conductor Andre Previn, who all donated their performances.

A recording of this concert was made by BMG, a part of the RCA Corporation in the United Kingdom. Royalties on sales of this recording are being donated by BMG Classics to the Red Cross Armenian Earthquake Appeal. The record is being marketed in many countries worldwide.

Also in London, Fiona Chadwick, the Royal Ballet's principal ballerina is shown below preparing for "An Evening For Armenia" at the Royal Opera House. An initial cheque for £100,000 from ticket sales, was given to the Red Cross Armenian Earthquake Fund.



Independent

A Royal Ballerina prepares.



Princess Diana gets update on Red Cross Youth Plans. Derek Rowe Ltd

In January Princess Diana, the Princess of Wales, also visited the headquarters to hear about plans to develop Red Cross Youth work in Britain. She is shown with Helen Watson, Head of Red Cross Youth Department who explained a new training programme for youth workers designed to help them deal with issues such as drug and solvent addiction.



Venezuela's Order of Francisco de Miranda awarded. Left to right: Dr. Dimitri Venedictov (USSR), President Mario Villarroel (League), Pär Stenbäck (League), Ambassador Adolfo Taylhardat. Jean Zbinden

In a ceremony in Geneva on 8 February, Venezuelan Ambassador Adolfo Taylhardat awarded League Secretary General Pär Stenbäck the Order of Francisco de Miranda. The country's highest honour was given to Mr. Stenbäck for his "contribution made to the cause of friendship between countries... and to the ideals and objectives of the Red Cross". Soviet Red Cross President Dr. Dimitri Venedictov, who is to receive a similar award in Moscow, and League President Mario Villarroel Lander attended the ceremony. ●



Winter in Geneva, 1989.

R. Wright

A note from our friends at the Swiss PTT. Don't be left out in the cold when Geneva on 21 April at 23:00 hours adds the number seven in front of most telephone numbers. The new numbers are: the League (022) 7345580; the ICRC (022) 7346001. Country code for Switzerland remains 41.

Visits of British Royalty to show support for the Red Cross have been most helpful in recent months. HRH the Duchess of York (casually referred to in the press as Fergie) visited the British Red Cross in December to show support for Armenian earthquake victims. She is pictured above (second from left) meeting the staff and volun-

Letter from Mexico

RE: "CHIT" and "NAKAX"

Jürgen Heppe, League Chief Delegate in Mexico has been involved in numerous relief efforts including famines, earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and conflicts. Reconstruction assistance has been his major concern. Pictured below (right) he discusses with Arsenio Hau Pech of Mexico the rebuilding of his hurricane-destroyed home.



Mexican Red Cross

In observing, over the past few years, various relief and reconstruction operations, I have noted a tendency in the Red Cross and other relief agencies to shun traditional construction materials. After the last hurricane, known as "Gilbert", had passed the Yucatan peninsula, the call went out for building materials which included bricks, cement, composition roofing, and even corrugated-paper roofing.

But the abundantly-available material of the region which is used to build housing, known as "CHIT" and "NAKAX" by the Mayan population of the area, was not taken into consideration. As a Red Cross delegate, I would like to express my opinion in favour of these traditional materials.

What is "CHIT" and "NAKAX"? A particular variety of palm tree. Palms are plants of tropical origin. They are known as both ornamental plants and as producers of a variety of products. From the palm fibres wax, sugar, alcohol and oil are obtained. There are also coconuts and dates to eat and some species are valued for medicinal purposes. The leaves are

used for making handicrafts and for home building, particularly roofing.

Though prices may fluctuate widely, cash income from palm products is important to the local economy. But the local populace really appreciates the palms for the numerous sub-products which they use. This is particularly true of the "CHIT" (*Thrinax radiata*) and the "NAKAX" (*Coccothrinax readii*) palms which have been used by Mayans for centuries to construct their traditional palapa houses.

The Maya houses are in perfect harmony with the landscape of the bush. The roofs and the walls are constructed of both the leaves and trunks of "CHIT" and "NAKAX". The roof is constructed by interweaving the leaves of the palm with the semi-conical structure of wood, in thick layers one upon the other, making it waterproof.

For supply purposes, the oldest green leaves are cut, leaving the

The finished traditional Mayan house with a "Chit" roof that will last upwards of 15 years.



Jürgen Heppe



Jürgen Heppe

Entire families are involved in the construction of their homes using the "Chit" and "Nakax" from the surrounding area.

younger leaves and the shoot to ensure the future growth of the plant. It should also be noted that by using individual elements over a structure of independent trunks' the repair of separate parts of the roof, only as big as the size of a branch of leaves, is facilitated.

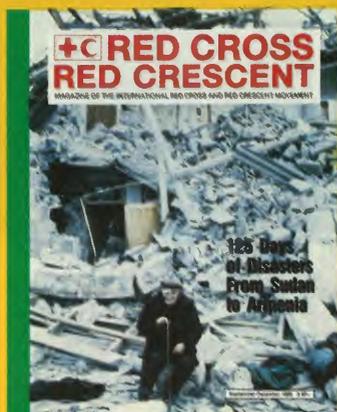
Traditionally, the trunks of "CHIT" and "NAKAX" are cut during the period of the full moon. When the trunk has been cut, the tree will not shoot again. In recent years there has not only been a growing use of "CHIT" and "NAKAX" for the construction of new homes, but with the tourist boom and the construction of new hotels and restaurants, the demand for these traditional building materials has also increased.

After hurricane "Gilbert" had passed the Yucatan, it should be noted that the palapa houses of the rural type were those that best resisted the destructive forces of the hurricane's winds. Strangely enough, the corrugated-paper, zinc and other metal roofs were nearly all destroyed by the hurricane.

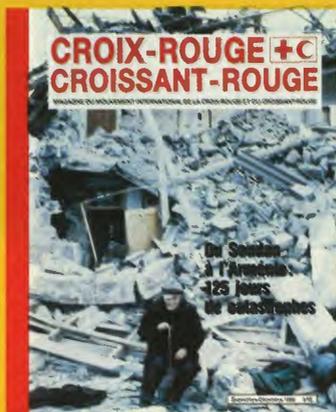
• Jürgen HEPPE

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING!

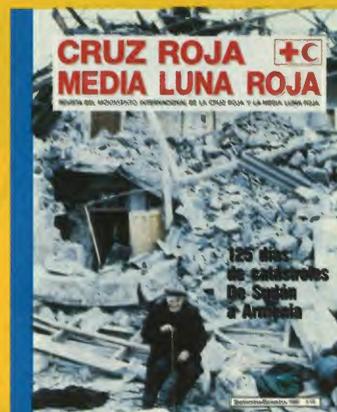
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