

NVWN 23-2: afftt (3'). , , to .431,
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
Information Department
19, avenue de la Paix Delegation to the United Nations
1202 Geneva 780 Third Avenue - Suite 2802
Switzerland New York, NY. 10017
Tel. 41 22 734-6001 Tel. (212) 371-0770
Fax 41 22 734-8280 Fax (212) 838-5397

PRESS RELEASE

Communication to the press No. 92/27

2 October 1992

ICRC EVACUATES 1,560 PEOPLE FROM TRNOPOLJE CAMP

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) confirms having evacuated on 1 October 1,560 people from Trnopolje camp (near Prijedor in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina) to a reception centre in Karlovac, southwcast of Zagreb, where they were handed over to staff of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The evacuation started in the early'morning and was completed during the night.

The people concerned are civilian victims of the ongoing hostilities in northern Bosnia, and had all been visited and provided with assistance by ICRC delegates since the ICRC was first able to enter the camp on 10 August. Each of them was given the opportunity to confirm that he or she did in tact wish to be evacuated.

The operation took place under the terms of the agreement reached in London last August whereby the three parties to the conflict pledged to release all civilian detainees unilaterally.

The evacuees were taken to a shelter set up by UNHCR in Karlovac town centre. Their material needs are being met by UNHCR, aided by staff of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Croatian Red Cross. The ICRC's Central Tracing Agency will be opening an office in Kerlovac to help reunite families split up by the conflict. Thirty-five buses, five land cruisers and two trucks were used in this humanitarian operation, which mobilized more than 20 ICRC staff.

00??

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of the Red Cross Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross.

An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.