



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Information Department

19, avenue de la Paix
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel. 41 22 734-6001
Fax 41 22 734-8280

Delegation to the United Nations
780 Third Avenue - Suite 2802
New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel. (212) 371-0770
Fax (212) 838-5397

PRESS RELEASE

Communication to the press No. 91/46
2 November 1991

ICRC TEAM ARRIVES IN DUBROVNIK

Geneva (ICRC) - A team of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) arrived in the Yugoslav port of Dubrovnik this morning, to assess relief needs and the situation of prisoners in the besieged city and surrounding areas.

The team, composed of a delegate, a doctor and an interpreter, has established contacts with the local Red Cross and authorities. An initial evaluation indicates that the population is suffering from the lack of water supplies, electricity, food and blankets.

Six hundred family parcels, containing food, soap and detergent, which were sent by the ICRC to the Red Cross in Dubrovnik at the end of October, have already been distributed. The ICRC is planning to take in further assistance by boat as soon as a more detailed list of needs has been established.

The International Committee has a total of 30 delegates active in Yugoslavia through its missions in Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana, and offices in Osijek and Split. Over 2,000 prisoners held by the different parties and groups involved in the conflict have been visited in Croatia, Serbia, Voivodina, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Slovenia since the outbreak of fighting, and more than 1,000 Red Cross messages exchanged between the prisoners and their families.

ICRC medical personnel is also following the situation in hospitals receiving the wounded and providing medical material when necessary. Hospitals in Osijek, Zadar and Sibenik are among those which have benefitted from this assistance.

Local Red Cross offices in the country have registered over 370,000 people displaced as a result of the fighting and distributed aid to around 35,000 displaced families. This programme is coordinated by the ICRC, based on contributions from National Red Cross Societies and governments.

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.