



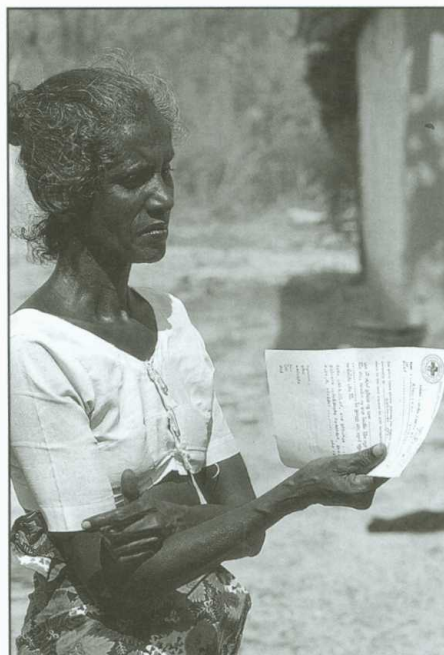
Bridge to Jaffna. ICRC vehicles carrying vital medical supplies for the hospital in Jaffna continue on their way after passing an army checkpoint. The Sri Lankan forces have been holding the Jaffna peninsula in a virtual vice for over a year in their attempt to crush the LTTE, the Tamil separatist movement which has its stronghold in the north. The only way that most goods can reach the 800,000 civilians stranded on the peninsula is under ICRC protection, either by road convoy or by boat.

PROTECTION DRIVE



Douglas E. Curran/AFP/KEystone

In 1992: • 8,000 detainees visited on a regular basis • 497 places of detention visited • 8,500 tonnes of food on average per month transported to the north • 3,393 tracing cases handled • 14,508 Red Cross messages handled



Dominic Sansoni/ICRC

Sweet sorrow. Receiving news of a relative who has been arrested and detained can bring both joy and pain. The joy of hearing that a loved one is still alive and has been seen by an ICRC delegate is tempered by the pain of separation. In what is one of its largest protection operations worldwide, the ICRC visits some 8,000 security detainees on a regular basis. Delegates check on the detainees' conditions of detention and their state of health and carry back Red Cross messages to their families. In this way the ICRC has been able to reduce the number of disappearances in recent years as well as improve the treatment of detainees.



Dominic Sansoni/ICRC

Open-air clinic. The ICRC works very closely with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) to assist civilians affected by the conflict in the north and east. Local branches of the SLRCS have set up mobile medical teams, supplied and financed by the ICRC, which bring basic health care to people

in isolated areas or cut off by the conflict. The SLRCS's assistance programmes supported by the ICRC also include building huts for people displaced by the fighting and distributing life-saving necessities such as food, kitchen sets and blankets.