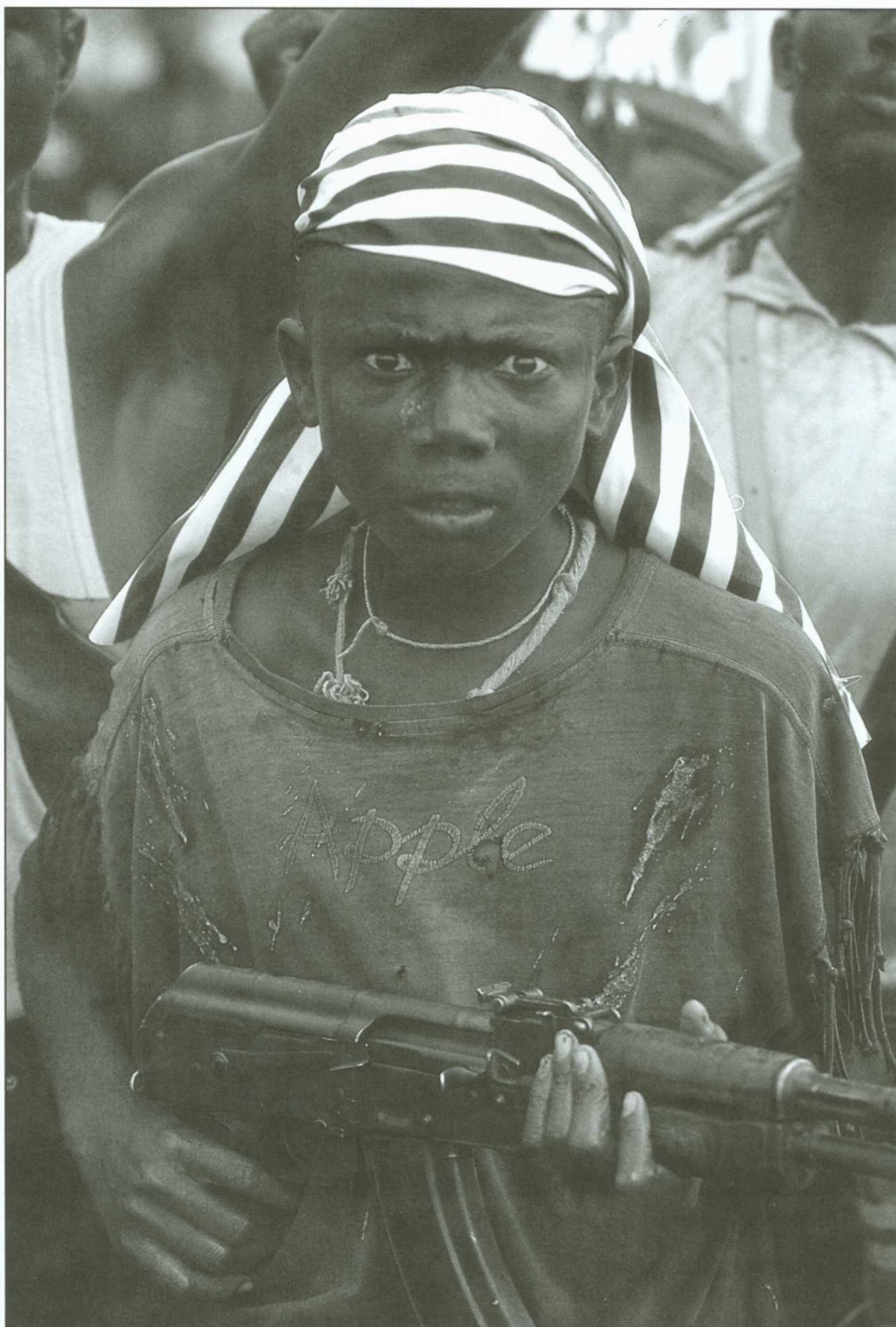


**Bang! Bang! You're dead.** Since 1990 the NPFL movement – mostly youngsters aged as young as 12 – has had control over most of the country. The capital Monrovia has survived as the last bastion of the interim government, defended by a multinational West African task force, the ECOMOG. The ULIMO movement and the relics of the AFL both have a further, albeit a more shaky, foothold in the country.

The disillusioned, seen-it-all attitude of these young warriors makes the ICRC's work in Liberia very difficult. Decked out in multicoloured wigs, dresses and masks, war seems but a game to them, placing the civilian population in a state of permanent fear. Their habitual drugged state

makes them all the more trigger-happy, and the list of security incidents which have affected the ICRC and other organizations working in the country grows longer by the day. The NPFL is not solely to blame for the horror in Liberia; the other parties to the conflict are equally responsible for atrocities.



Patrick Robert/SYGMA

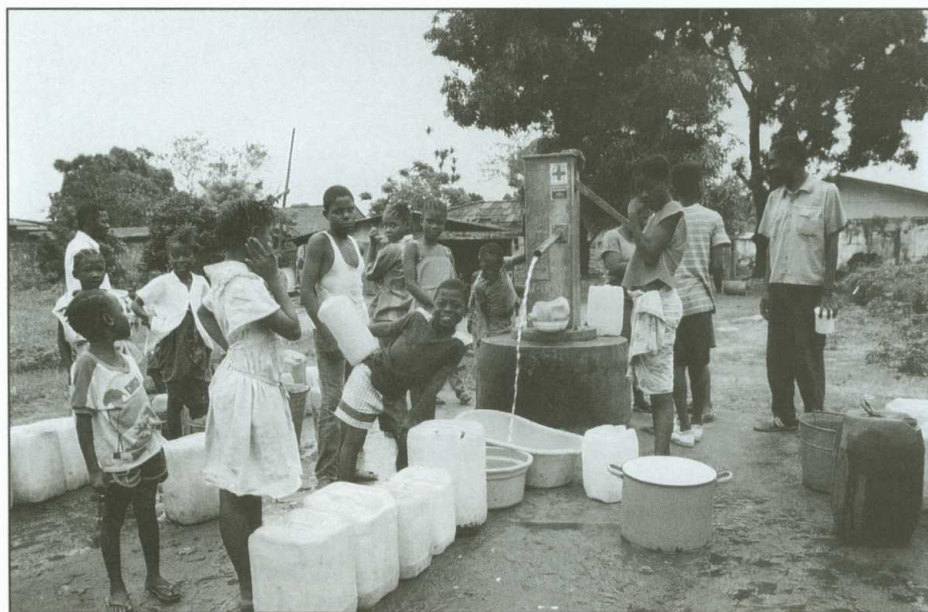
## PLAYING WITH FIRE

In 1992: • 58 wells and water pumps dug or rehabilitated • 32,000 litres of drinking water distributed in Monrovia • 4,500 people assisted through ICRC relief programmes • 195 tonnes of food and non-food relief distributed • 269 detainees visited by ICRC delegates



Luc Chessex/ICRC

**Red Cross to the rescue.** The humanitarian needs in Liberia are glaring, and the ICRC does its bit to help the victims of the conflict, bringing medical supplies to hospitals throughout the country and helping families split up by the fighting get back together again. The ICRC could not carry out most of its work in Liberia without the Liberian National Red Cross (LNRC). During the heavy fighting at the end of 1992 in Monrovia, for example, together they ran an ambulance service to evacuate the wounded and the dead from the thick of the fighting.



Luc Chessex/ICRC

**Water of life.** Joint rehabilitation work on wells and water pumps is another important area of cooperation. The fighting in and around Monrovia in October 1992 led to the local water plant being cut off, leaving the entire city without running water. The Red Cross delivered water daily to 60,000 people in camps for the displaced in the city centre. At the same time the ICRC and the LNRC worked quickly to put old and damaged wells back into operation.