



TOWARDS AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Patrick Zachmann/MAGNUM

In 1992: • 646 detainees released under ICRC supervision • 10,277 tracing cases handled • 27,739 Red Cross messages handled • 3,929 patients treated by ICRC medical teams • 1,243 patients fitted with artificial limbs



Jacques Langevin/SYGMA

Face of danger. The 350,000 Khmers returning from camps on the Thai border where they sought refuge during the conflict have a new enemy to fear –

hidden, faceless and lethal. An estimated four million mines still lie in wait for the unsuspecting victim, and Cambodia has the unfortunate distinction of being one of the countries with the world's highest number of amputees. The ICRC voiced its concerns very early on in the repatriation process. To some extent the information campaign paid off: figures show a slight drop in the number of mine injuries, but the risks are ever-present and the ICRC is persevering in its efforts to raise awareness of the problem. For those who do have the misfortune to step on a mine the ICRC runs a rehabilitation centre at Battambang to fit amputees with artificial limbs, and a workshop in Phnom Penh manufactures orthopaedic components.

The road is long. For two ex-combatants who lost limbs during the 13-year conflict rehabilitation will be a slow and painful process, as it is proving to be for Cambodia, too. Initial high hopes that the accords signed in Paris in October 1991 would lead to a lasting peace were soon dashed by the failure of the factions to implement fully the terms of the agreement. Political tensions and repeated violations of the ceasefire did little to help the process. The ICRC nonetheless managed to play the part

designated for it under Article 21 of the accords. Delegates checked on the conditions of detention of several hundred detainees and subsequently supervised their release. They continue to pay regular visits to those still in detention for security reasons in various parts of the country.