

## BACKGROUND TO INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS ACTIVITIES IN YUGOSLAVIA

- ◆ The ICRC has a long-standing reputation for competence and credibility in delivering humanitarian relief in zones of conflict.
- ◆ The objectives of the ICRC in Yugoslavia are:
  - to protect people detained in connection with the conflict;
  - to assist the more than 230,000 people displaced by the fighting;
  - to provide emergency medical assistance;
  - to strengthen the heavily burdened medical infrastructure;
  - to strengthen the operational capacity of all components of the Yugoslav Red Cross.
- ◆ Since the beginning of the crisis, the ICRC has maintained dialogue with all the parties concerned and has thus been able to provide assistance to all regions affected by the conflict.
- ◆ The ICRC is appealing internationally for approximately \$6.2 million for its efforts in the Yugoslav republics.
- ◆ The ICRC has set up regional offices in Zagreb and Belgrade, in addition to local field offices, to ensure the fair distribution of international aid.

For more information on the Red Cross activities in Yugoslavia, media representatives may contact:

Caroline Ishii  
Information Officer  
Canadian Red Cross  
(613) 739-2263