

2000

ACTIVITY REPORT



THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, OF RHODES AND OF MALTA



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ADDRESSES OF THE GRAND PRIORIES,
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“When a patient arrives, let him be brought to a bed and there, as if he were the Lord Himself on a visit, give him the very best that the house can offer.”



Down through nine centuries this fundamental principle of care, which is written into the statutes of the Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem, has been put into practice in the Sovereign Order of Malta.

Its history is ample proof of this: in Jerusalem, Cyprus, Rhodes and Malta the Order has built dispensaries, hospitals and medical centres, invested in medical research and aided the sick and the poor, as it continues to do, without distinction of race, origin or religion.

Today in carrying out its mission it is keenly alert to the changing needs born of poverty, illness, conflict and natural disasters.

The Order's relief missions to groups affected by the conflicts in the Balkans and those hit by Hurricane Mitch in Central America, or the earthquake in India, and its programmes to assist women and children with AIDS, are recent examples of intervention in the field, illustrating responses both to emergencies and to problems of a more endemic nature.

Aware as it is of developments in the strategies drawn up by the key international players, and in tandem with its ongoing contacts with national authorities, the Order has drafted a policy of active relations with the major international organisations involved in humanitarian work. In this context, the Order of Malta aims to play a more active part in the consultation process, to which it can contribute its extensive experience, its familiarity with the situation in the field and its own particular forms of expertise, for example in health care and relief. Where possible and useful, it aims to coordinate its own activities with those of the United Nations and European Union agencies, and, together with them, to develop forms of cooperation and partnership in their common challenges.

This desire to develop dialogue and cooperation goes hand in hand with an awareness that the Order needed to give greater visibility and transparency to our organisation's accumulated experience and its projects for the future. This Activity Report is intended to do just that. It is addressed first and foremost to the representatives of national and international bodies who are active in our areas of work. It is also addressed to our members and to our main donors.

Illustrated by examples – which are telling, but by no means exhaustive – of achievements recorded and projects launched during the years 1999 and 2000, the Report gives an overview of the Order's main areas of activity at the international level, and of its structures.

Thus – thanks to the personal commitment and the willingness of its members and volunteers, and to its private and public donors, without whom nothing sustainable could be achieved – through its disinterested, impartial work wherever there is suffering and poverty, the Order of Malta takes throughout the world a message of compassion and solidarity inspired by Christian charity.

Since the tragic events of 11 September 2001 in the United States of America, we are called on more than ever to continue our mission to bring relief to the wounded, to refugees, to their families and to all who are in danger.

I hope that this Report will make the work, role and achievements of the Order of Malta better known throughout the world, and that it will help to strengthen the vitally important dialogue and cooperation between all who are committed to building justice and peace.

Frà Andrew Bertie

Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta



'MODERN BY TRADITION'

Under the eight-pointed cross, at their foundation 900 years ago in Palestine the Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem - better known as the Knights of Malta - were the precursors of the large international humanitarian agencies of our time that work on the field of battle and in time of natural disaster. The organisation has a presence in over 110 countries, through the intermediary of six Grand Priorities, three Sub-Priorities and 44 National Associations, in addition to many hospitals, medical centres, dispensaries, relief corps, foundations and specialised establishments. In its capacity as a subject of international public law, the Order maintains diplomatic relations at embassy level with 90 States, has Permanent Representatives to the European Commission and to Governments, and Observer Missions to the United Nations and most international organisations.

Its 10,000 members and 80,000 permanent volunteers, backed up by a qualified staff comprising over 11,000 doctors, nurses, nurses' aids and other personnel, devote themselves to serving the poor, the sick and those who suffer.

'Modern by tradition' is the motto of the Order's relief organisations.

This guiding principle is, in reality, a good deal more demanding than it appears at first sight: while we are proud of our traditions, we are even more proud of the fact

that they enable us to relieve the most acute suffering with the means, methods and resources of the modern world.

The Order is currently undergoing a process of reform in conformity with the decisions of Vatican Council II which were addressed to all religious and lay orders, asking them to reflect on the charisma of their founding. The Extraordinary Chapter General which was held in Rome in 1997 represented a key stage in this process, during which important changes in internal organisation were introduced into the Order's Statutes. One of the most significant elements in this reform was to ensure that in future the composition of the Government of the Order would be far more international, thereby allowing the experiences gained by the Grand Priorities, the Sub-Priorities and the National Associations to be drawn on more effectively. The results of this step could already be seen at the most recent Chapter General, in 1999: the present Grand Master is British, his deputy, the Grand Commander, who is also responsible for the spiritual life of the Order, is Austrian, the Grand Chancellor is Belgian, the Treasurer is Italian, and I am German. In addition, in the Sovereign Council - that is, in the Order's Government - there are Italians, a Czech, a Canadian, an American and a Frenchman.

Another element at the heart of the reform was the creation of new legal bases for the Order's works, which

THE ORDER'S AIMS

"The purpose of the Sovereign Order of Malta is the promotion of (...) the Christian virtues of charity and brotherhood.

The Order carries out its charitable works for the sick, the needy and refugees without distinction of religion, race, origin or age."

"The Order fulfils its institutional tasks especially by carrying out hospitaller works, including health and social assistance, as well as aiding victims of exceptional disasters and of war..."

(Extracts from Article 2 of the Constitutional Charter)

have expanded considerably over the last forty years. These new legal bases will improve the coordination of the Order's activities in the countries in which we work. The rules for the Order's international activities have been redrafted and approved, and standards concerning the statutes of relief agencies in particular have been set. Today the Order has relief agencies in 32 countries. In Europe, ECOM (the Emergency Corps of the Order of Malta), which was set up by eight National Associations, has proved to be an important instrument for cooperation in international relief work in time of conflict and natural disasters. Its mission, which was initially confined to relief in extreme emergencies, has since expanded significantly and now covers all kinds of assistance in exceptional emergencies.

A Coordination Centre for Central and South America has been set up and has begun to organise and coordinate relief in the region.

CIOMAL (the International Committee of the Order of Malta), which has been responsible for hospitaller missions to assist lepers, now extends its scope to encompass a second area of activity by working with pregnant women with AIDS in order to prevent the disease from being passed on to their children.

In the year 2000, I chaired the annual Hospitaller meetings which took place in Germany (European meeting) and

Miami (American hemisphere meeting). At these conferences, the most important current issues in the field of the Order's humanitarian and charitable activities were discussed. Following this example, an international meeting of the Chancellors of the Order's Pories and National Associations was held in Venice from 1 to 3 December 2000. This meeting tackled the major issues facing the Order today: internal and external communication, our organisation in Latin America, and relations in the field between the Pories and National Associations on the one hand and the Diplomatic Missions on the other.

This picture of the Order's work would not be complete if I did not also mention the existence of 20 hospitals, 40 clinics, a host of dispensaries and socio-medical centres, almost 50 centres for elderly people, establishments for the handicapped, hostels for the homeless, basic health services for the third world, assistance for refugees, pharmaceutical services and the whole range of health and social services provided by the various Ambulance Corps.

Most of these activities are carried out by volunteers; all our institutions place a very high value on their participation, since they represent an exceptional added value to the Order of Malta's mission of compassion to the poor and the sick.

Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager

Grand Hospitaller



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AMBULANCE CORPS, RELIEF SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS

The Order's first **Ambulance Corps** was founded in Ireland in 1938. The Irish corps remains one of the largest, together with those in Austria, Hungary, France and, especially, Germany. Everywhere ambulances can be seen driving under the sign of the Maltese Cross, and the reliability and quality of the assistance provided are acknowledged by the local authorities. The Austrian Government, for example, consistently asks the Austrian Grand Prior to be part of the first-aid service during official visits by Heads of State or Government.

Today, the Order's **Relief Services** have become one of its most important activities. These services have been developed with notable success in Central and Eastern Europe since the removal of the Berlin Wall. Volunteers active in over thirty countries provide first aid at public events and demonstrations, as well as in the event of accidents or natural disasters.

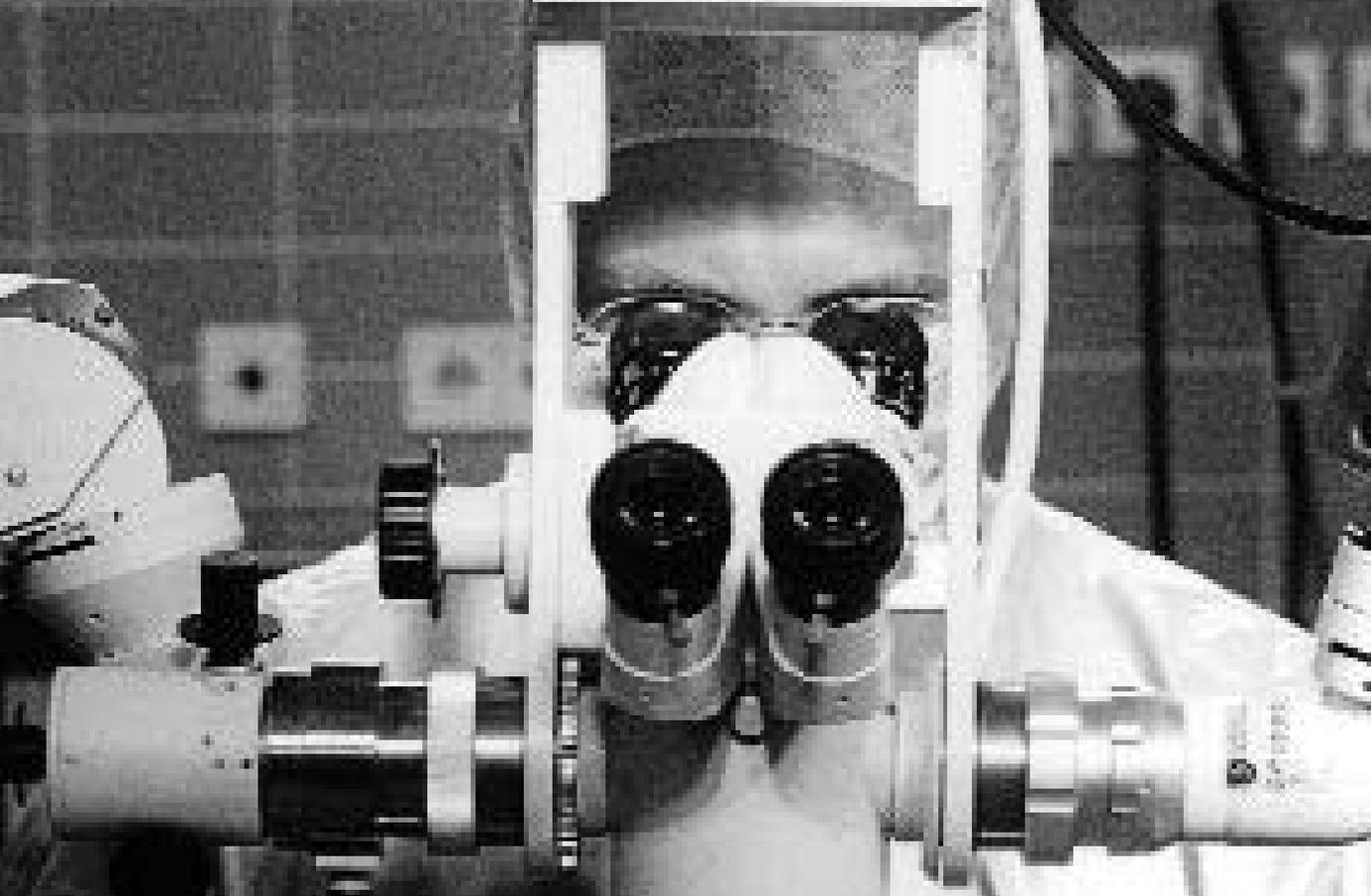
Some examples, selected from among many:

- In **France**, the Œuvres Hospitalières Françaises de l'Ordre de Malte (OHFOM) manned three of the ten first-aid posts at the world's most spectacular gathering of traditional navies, the "**Brest 2000**".
- In **Germany**, the Malteser Hilfsdienst provided a guard of paramedics during the **EXPO in Hanover** and at the **Formula One Grand Prix in Nürburgring**.

- In **Spain**, as in all the Jacobean Holy Years, the Spanish Association maintained a First Aid station, from June to September 1999, in the cloister of the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela. In addition to the teams of volunteers from the Spanish Association, the station was manned by volunteers from Italy, Germany, France and Britain. Approximately 800 pilgrims received assistance during this period.

Navarre: the Delegation of the Spanish Association in Navarre maintains a hostel and provides basic care to pilgrims travelling to Santiago de Compostela at the historic building which formerly belonged to the Commandery of Cizur Menor. In 2000, it attended to over 2,100 pilgrims during the three summer months in which it is open to the public, and the number increases every year.

- **Internationally**, the Order of Malta assembled teams from throughout the world to man permanent first-aid posts in the four major basilicas during the **Jubilee Year in Rome**, between 24 December 1999 and 6 January 2001. The scale and duration of this first-aid operation made it undoubtedly one of the biggest the Order had ever undertaken (see box).



AN UNPRECEDENTED WORLDWIDE MOBILISATION

JUBILEE YEAR 2000 IN ROME - 371 days of uninterrupted first aid.

Throughout the Holy Year, the Order provided human resources for running four first-aid posts in the four main Roman basilicas of St.Peter's, St.John Lateran, St.Mary Major and St.Paul's Outside the Walls.

These first-aid posts were operational eight hours a day for 53 weeks, with two teams, each consisting of a doctor, a nurse and two ambulance workers, working continuously in relays.

More than 1,950 volunteers (including 500 doctors, 395 nurses and 60 paramedics) worked a total of 15,000 hours in 371 days. The team assisted over 15,000 pilgrims from 115 countries. Two births took place in the first-aid posts, and two pilgrims died in the basilicas.

The Grand Priories and National Associations of the following countries provided teams of volunteers for the first-aid posts: Austria, Belgium, Britain, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and Yugoslavia, together with the three Associations from the United States and those from Cuba, Uruguay, the Lebanon and South Africa.

In particular, we would like to highlight the outstanding contribution of the **Italian Grand Priories**, which filled any gaps, dealt with last-minute problems and provided interpreters for the foreign delegations, and that of the **German Association**, which ran two of the first-aid posts single-handedly throughout the entire Holy Year.

HOSPITALS AND SOCIO-MEDICAL CARE CENTRES

The Order runs or supports, either totally or in part, a vast network of hospitals, clinics, medical centres and dispensaries across the world. The nature of these centres is dictated by local needs - be they a need for services to complement the local public health services, or a need to cope with particular illnesses, or other health problems.

North-South solidarity can be seen in action in the Order's hospitaller programmes. The European and American Associations, in particular, give active support to many hospitals and medical centres in disadvantaged countries in the form of financial aid, by providing doctors and nurses, medicines and equipment, or by helping to run the centres.

The Order owns and supports both general medical centres and centres specialising in particular illnesses, pathologies or age groups. Below, the first kind are described, while the others are covered under separate headings in this Report, in the context of medical and social programmes.

There are **general hospitals** in Europe, in Britain and Italy, and there are also some in Benin, Togo, Senegal, Palestine and Madagascar. The following examples illustrate work carried out in a wide variety of environments over the past year:

In Chad

- Surgical ward of N'Djamena Central Hospital: 475 specialised orthopaedic operations, 4,481 patients taken in, 9,650 consultations.
- Amtoukouï Medical Centre: 38,637 patients given primary care, intensive care, gynaecological follow-up and vaccinations in the year 2000.
- Biobé Medical Centre: 8,557 patients treated, 133 inpatients and 47 deliveries in 2000.

In Palestine

- The Holy Family Maternity Hospital in Bethlehem: this hospital, which is under the direct responsibility of the Hospitaller of the Order, is financed by several National Associations and, since this year, by a Foundation set up specifically for this purpose by the United States Federal Association (with its head office in Washington). The hospital is run by the Œuvres Hospitalières Françaises de l'Ordre de Malte (OHFOM). More than 25,000 babies have been born there since it opened in 1990. (see box).

In Haiti

- The CRUDEM Hospital in Milot, supported particularly by the American Association, now has electronic equipment which makes it possible to perform even very delicate and lengthy surgical operations. Thanks to the voluntary work done by a team of surgical specialists from Rochester, this hospital was able to launch Haiti's first open-heart surgery programme for destitute patients.

The Order runs many **medical centres** throughout the world, notably in Poland, Hungary, the United States, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Peru and South Africa, while most of its **dispensaries** and **private general hospitals** are in the Lebanon and El Salvador, where they were set up during the civil wars.

The Order also opened two emergency Mobile Medical Units for casualties in **Southern Lebanon**. Another project was the inauguration, at the Bhanes Hospitaller Centre, of the largest and most modern balneotherapy pool in the Middle East.

In **El Salvador** the Association's twelve centres cared for 140,000 patients in the year 2000, while their two dental laboratories treated 23,000 patients.

The **rehabilitation** of hospitals and dispensaries is also one of the missions of the Order, especially in countries at war. This work was done in the Balkans, and is still going on in the areas of Africa where there is armed conflict. In the Great Lakes region in Africa, and in Kerala in India, the Order is helping to introduce **basic public healthcare services**.

On many occasions, the German Association's Relief Corps provided **medical care for United Nations personnel on peace missions**. The Order has also pro-

vided a medical unit consisting of five doctors, two nurses and seven paramedical assistants for UNIKOM (the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observation Mission) from 1995 onwards and, since December 2000, another team of two doctors and two nurses for UNTAET (the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor).

Care for the **terminally ill**, in specialised establishments or in their homes, has become **a priority** among the Order's activities. The hospitals in Britain and Belgium, and some of those in Germany, have units staffed by specialists in **palliative care** for treating the terminally ill. There are other units in Argentina, Italy, South Africa and Australia.

Finally, the Order's Associations and Foundations apply the concept of **quality management** in the medical establishments they run. The German Association was the pioneer in this context, with several pilot projects, some of them organised under the aegis of the German Ministry of Health.

BETHLEHEM: LIFE GOES ON IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING

In 1990 the Holy Family Hospital first opened its doors in a building that had belonged since 1882 to the Sisters of Charity. In 1985, at their request, it was completely renovated by the Order, which also decided to reinstall a maternity unit in one of the wings.

The hospital is run by the French Association and financed jointly by the Grand Magistracy of the Order and the British, French, German, Irish, Swiss and American Associations, and, since this year, by the American Foundation, set up specially for this purpose by members of the Order in Washington.

With a highly qualified staff of 94 (including eight specialist doctors, five resident doctors and 45 nurses and midwives), the maternity unit has 40 beds for obstetrics and gynaecology, and recently opened a neonatal unit and a training room for expectant mothers. It has a mobile clinic, with a team which practises antenatal care and provides gynaecological and obstetrical follow-up in the areas around Bethlehem and in the villages of Hebron. Since the maternity

unit was opened in 1990, more than 25,000 babies have been born there, with a record 3,052 births in 2000, while 15,000 consultations were given during that year.

Since the start of the new intifada in October 2000, working conditions at the hospital have become extremely difficult. With borders being more and more firmly closed and towns and villages blockaded, the work of the mobile team has been paralysed and many mothers are finding it impossible to reach the hospital. The number of admissions is falling noticeably, creating serious difficulties in an area where the unemployment rate is over 50%. Thanks to the courage, devotion and determination of the management team and staff, however, the maternity unit is still operational, so great is the need for it.

Jacques de Dumast

President of Œuvres Hospitalières Françaises
de l'Ordre de Malte

President-delegate of the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem

MEDICAL PROGRAMMES AND SPECIALISED ESTABLISHMENTS

LEPROSY

The fight against Hansen's disease has been one of the Order's missions for centuries.

Although the disease is receding, it is still contracted by 2,000 people each day throughout the world and it remains a public health problem in 24 countries, of which 12 account for 92% of reported cases. Moreover it is estimated that some two million patients, who have been cured but remain handicapped, await assistance with rehabilitation.

The International Committee of the Order of Malta (CIOMAL), which was founded in 1958, coordinates the various activities undertaken by the National Associations to combat leprosy and assist lepers. CIOMAL represents the Order at the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations.

The main elements of CIOMAL's programmes are:

- free access for all patients to MDT (multi-drug therapy);
- the stepping up of early screening policies for patients with leprosy;
- preventive treatment;
- medical, surgical, orthopaedic and ophthalmological rehabilitation;
- raising awareness of the disease and spreading information among those with leprosy, medical personnel and the general public;
- training by medical and paramedical staff so that patients can learn how to care for themselves.

During the year, the Order had a presence in the field in nine countries in the areas of the world most seriously afflicted by leprosy - Asia, Africa and Latin America.

- **In Cambodia:** national screening, treatment and rehabilitation programme: a 34-bed hospital in Phnom Penh; two 10-bed clinics in the provinces; mobile teams caring for the 17,000 people affected by the disease, medically monitored and treated on a regular basis.
- **In Thailand:** the Don Bosco Centre in Nakhon Srithammarat: 60 recovered patients cared for and helped with socio-economic reintegration; schooling provided for 52 children with Hansen's disease, support for former patients with their accommodation. The centre dispenses MDT treatment to new patients, and provides them with basic healthcare and training.
- **In Vietnam:** six referral centres, set up and run with the support of the French Association, provide palliative surgical care and rehabilitative physiotherapy. This infrastructure is reinforced by a network of mobile consultation teams, currently being developed.

- **In Senegal:** at the Dakar Institute for Applied Leprology (ILAD), the Order manages the outpatients department and cares for patients from Senegal and neighbouring countries, provides access for patients to surgery and limb-fitting; screening, prevention and monitoring. There is a permanent staff of 45, all Senegalese.
- **In Cameroon:** the Rohan Chabot Hospitaller Centre, run by the French Association, is the only hospitaller institution in the far northern province. It is open to all, lepers and non-lepers, and provides healthcare, a limb-fitting service and rehabilitation.
- **In Equatorial Guinea:** a lepers' hospital and village at Micomeseng: rehabilitation and expansion, with financial support from the Spanish Association.
- **In Argentina:** programme supported by the Argentinean Association, CIOMAL and two private Foundations: after-care for patients in the 16 provinces; 700 new cases a year, a constant number of 10,000 patients and 3,500 cures in five years.
- **In Brazil:** contribution to the anti-leprosy programme in Picos in the State of Piaui: screening of patients; delivery of MDT; awareness-raising among the general public. In 2000: 5,000 consultations, 112 new cases diagnosed and 112 patients completing their treatment.
- **In Cuba:** assessment mission at the invitation of the Government: early screening and public awareness programmes, and care of 150 elderly, non-infectious patients in precarious socio-economic situations.
- **In Uruguay:** the Cottolongo Centre, supported by the Uruguayan Association, gives assistance to a small number of officially recognised lepers.
- **In France:** the Saint Louis Hospital in Paris runs specialised research and training programmes.
- **In Spain:** the Spanish Association finances annual international programmes, given at the Leprosaria de Fontilles (Alicante), for the training of missionaries, medical personnel and paramedics in the treatment of lepers.

A key step forward in the eradication of leprosy

In 2000, research took an important step forward with the sequencing of the genome of the bacillus *M. Leprae*. This scientific project, carried out by Prof. Stewart Cole's unit in the Institut Pasteur and that of Prof. Bart Barell at the Sanger Center (RU), with special support from CIOMAL, opens up new prospects for eradicating the disease, notably in terms of vaccination, assistance with diagnosis and the hope of coming up with a single-dose treatment.

AIDS

Programme to combat AIDS

CIOMAL was recently put in charge of a programme to provide assistance for pregnant women with AIDS by means of treatment designed to prevent the transmission of the virus to the child.

The main elements in the programme are:

- providing screening;
- free access to therapies before the birth, and afterwards for the child;
- if the child is born with AIDS, treating the mother and child for infection;
- meeting the child's socio-economic needs in the event of its mother's death (aid to its foster-family).

Activities under this programme have already begun in Argentina, Senegal and in Mexico.

In Senegal: in Dakar, CIOMAL has put in place treatment for pregnant women who have no access to preventive treatment for the vertical HIV infection to protect the unborn child.

The ILAD laboratory has screened numerous samples from AIDS patients.

In Mexico: together with the National Institute of Perinatology and the AMERICARE organisation, the Mexican Association and CIOMAL run a programme to combat vertical infection.

In addition to supplying anti-retroviral medicines, the programme includes advice and testing services, together with support for the mothers, especially in feeding their newborn babies.

The programme also promotes birth by Caesarean section to prevent contamination through the mother.

From June to December 2000, a number of infected women were cared for using this treatment. All of them gave birth to healthy children.

Assistance to patients

In addition to CIOMAL's programmes, a great many initiatives were undertaken during the year by the Order's national organisations, to bring relief to people with AIDS. These activities ranged from support to healthcare, hospitalisation programmes and individual assistance to patients. Among the countries in which the Order's Associations or organisations are active in this sphere are Austria, Cuba, Honduras, Mexico, the Philippines and South Africa. In Chad, the programme is run by our ambassador.

OTHER DISEASES AND PARTICULAR HEALTH PROBLEMS

The Order has also seen some new areas of specific intervention emerging in its activities at national level. Eye disease and diabetes have been among the diseases featuring most strongly in the programmes of several of the Order's National Associations in different parts of the world.

Eye diseases: in Brazil, Spain, Morocco, Guatemala and Equatorial Guinea.

Diabetes: in Spain, Bolivia, the Czech Republic, Guatemala, Morocco and Paraguay.

COLLECTION OF MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES



The recovery of unused medicines and medical and paramedical equipment – supplemented by the purchase of new medicines – is one of the traditional activities of the Order of Malta. Thanks to the cooperation of many thousands of volunteers, under the direction of pharmacists, patients in the most disadvantaged countries can have free or very inexpensive access to medicines and treatment.

The example of France

In France, the French Association has set up a network which covers almost the entire country, for collecting, sorting and dispatching unused medicines, for recycling spectacles, medical equipment and other basic necessities.

In 70 collection and sorting centres and five dispatch centres, more than 2,000 volunteers, supervised by over 100 pharmacists, create a permanent chain of solidarity. Rigorous sorting and closely controlled distribution are needed to ensure that this health service meets the required health and quality standards. To prevent the circulation of unusable or out-of-date medicines, sorting is carried out on the basis of requests from local correspondents and in compliance with the rules on expiry imposed by States.

Systematic inspections are carried out in the field.

During the year 2000, the following dispatches were sent to 88 countries:

- **243 tonnes of unused medicines**, including:
 - Antibiotics: 38 tonnes;
 - Analgesics: 35 tonnes;
 - Medicine for high blood pressure: 49 tonnes;
 - For skin care, wounds: 42 tonnes;
 - Respiratory devices, vitamins, miscellaneous: 79 tonnes.
- **Medicines purchased (because not found among the unused medicines):**
 - Anti-malarials: 2,000,000 days' prevention;
 - Anti-worm treatment: 250,000 days of treatment;
 - Anti-amoeba treatment: 350,000 days of treatment;
 - Cholera epidemic in Madagascar: 227,000 patients treated.
- **Medical supplies:** 450 tonnes.

Elsewhere in the world

Many of the Order's bodies take part in this effort to collect and sort medicines, equipment and essential supplies, forming a vast solidarity network which is effective and appreciated worldwide.

The specialised bodies of the Order in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil (São Paulo and Southern Brazil), Costa Rica, Portugal, Spain and the United States have been among the most active in this work. Those of Colombia, El Salvador, the Philippines and Poland then dedicate themselves to distributing these medicines and donations. The German Association donates and transports a great amount of medical equipment and relief goods to the former communist countries in Eastern Europe.

TRAINING



The quality of the care and the reliability of the services provided by the organisations in the Order of Malta depend to a large extent on the initial and ongoing training of its many volunteers and its permanent staff.

The training most frequently provided by the National Associations of the Order is mainly for first-aid workers and ambulance staff, and for emergencies. These programmes are often open to staff from outside organisations or institutions with which the Order has partnerships. In several countries, these programmes enable trainees to obtain officially recognised diplomas or certificates.

Case highlights of the year included:

In Germany - Participation in Interschutz 2000 in Augsburg, the largest world-scale exhibition devoted to protection against fire; presentation of innovative, interactive features for first-aid training.

In Belgium - Training courses for volunteers, focussing on techniques for providing care and assistance for the sick and handicapped.

In Spain - Training programme for volunteers working with the elderly.

In Germany - More than 190,000 first aiders trained; almost 10,000 trained in specialist first aid for paediatric emergencies; 2,000 first aid trainers were trained or received advanced training; 56,000 people were trained in basic aid (as a condition for receiving a driving licence); 12,500 assistant nurses received training or advanced training.

In France - School for Ambulance Staff run by the French Association: training of future ambulance staff, emergency training for craftsmen and other support professionals, cooperation missions abroad.

Emergency Relief Training Centre: training in the use of a semi-automatic defibrillator; training for paediatric emergencies.

In Honduras - Programme to train volunteers in emergency relief in the event of natural disasters.

In Madagascar - Training programme for maternity hospital staff, in collaboration with the French Association.

In Poland - Training programme in pre-medical first aid; training for first-aid workers.

In the Czech Republic - Running of a third-level vocational school for general nurses and paediatric nurses.



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ESTABLISHMENTS AND SERVICES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The medical and hospital sector remains at the heart of the vocation of the Order of Malta. But its mission of assistance is not confined to care for the sick and wounded – it also includes relief for the destitute. In contemporary society, destitution is reflected not just in economic precariousness – it often comes in the forms of dependence, loneliness or rejection. Combating exclusion and fighting for the reintegration of people in difficulty is written into the programmes of a great many of the Order's organisations worldwide.

Assistance to the handicapped is included in the activity programmes of almost all of the Order's Associations. The aims here are to improve the quality of life of the handicapped, so they can retain their independence, and to facilitate their integration into society. Intervention can come in a material, moral or spiritual form; it may have to do with treatment, everyday problems, professional life or recreational activities. Fund-raising, which is carried out chiefly in Germany, France and the United States, makes it possible for orthopaedic equipment and wheelchairs to be distributed in the most destitute areas.

Programmes of **home visits** and **recreational activities** are organised in many countries. In Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic and elsewhere, special **transport services** are arranged.

Ireland, Chile and other countries have set up training **workshops** for the handicapped.

The running of **establishments for those with physical or mental disabilities or with behavioural problems** is particularly well developed in France and in the countries where the French Association has a presence and provides support.

In Rochefort-sur-Mer and Sallanches, the OHFOM opened two centres for autistic young adults in 2000. In Greece, they collaborated on setting up the Zitsa House, an educational and residential centre for autistic people in the region of Epirus. They also continued to help run centres for physically or mentally handicapped children in Bulgaria, Ecuador, the Lebanon and Syria.

The International Camps for young handicapped people, which take place in the summer and in a different country every year, have become a traditional activity for the Order's National Associations, many of whom send delegations. In recent years the camps have been held in Switzerland (1994), Germany (1995), Poland (1996), Austria (1997), Belgium (1998), Italy (1999) and Ireland (2000).

To mark the Church's Jubilee Year, an unprecedented mobilisation of the Order's organisations enabled hundreds of handicapped people from the world over to make a pilgrimage to Rome, something they could never have managed from their own resources.

ESTABLISHMENTS AND ASSISTANCE FOR DEPENDENT ELDERLY PEOPLE

Establishments and Assistance for Dependent Elderly People

In a society where the family unit takes less and less responsibility for elderly people at home, and where the lengthening of lifespan is leading to greater numbers of dependent elderly, visits to solitary people, at home or in hospital, although always very important, are no longer enough.

This situation calls for different services, including the running of homes for the elderly.

Most of the Associations of the Order expend considerable efforts in this area, through the devotion of their members and volunteers. A vast range of services is provided: home visits, medical care, help with dressing, household chores and getting about, while leisure activities and holidays are also organised. The British and German Associations are especially active in this area.

For a considerable time, the Order of Malta has been working on two fronts: home help, and care in specialised establishments.

Assistance in the Home and Palliative Care

Most people nearing the end of their lives would prefer to die at home, in familiar surroundings. The Order's specially trained volunteers bring these people precious help in these situations, respecting their dignity and their wishes. They also assist their families with advice and comfort, relieving them of some of the material constraints imposed by the approaching death.

The German Association has played, and continues to play, a pioneering role in this type of volunteer training. In the past year, the Hospitaller of the Order confirmed that one of the priorities for the National Associations will be to develop palliative care and assistance in general for the elderly - activities which will entail a drive to recruit and train volunteers.



Specialised Establishments

The countries in which the Order has the largest specialised establishments for the elderly are Germany, Britain and the United States.

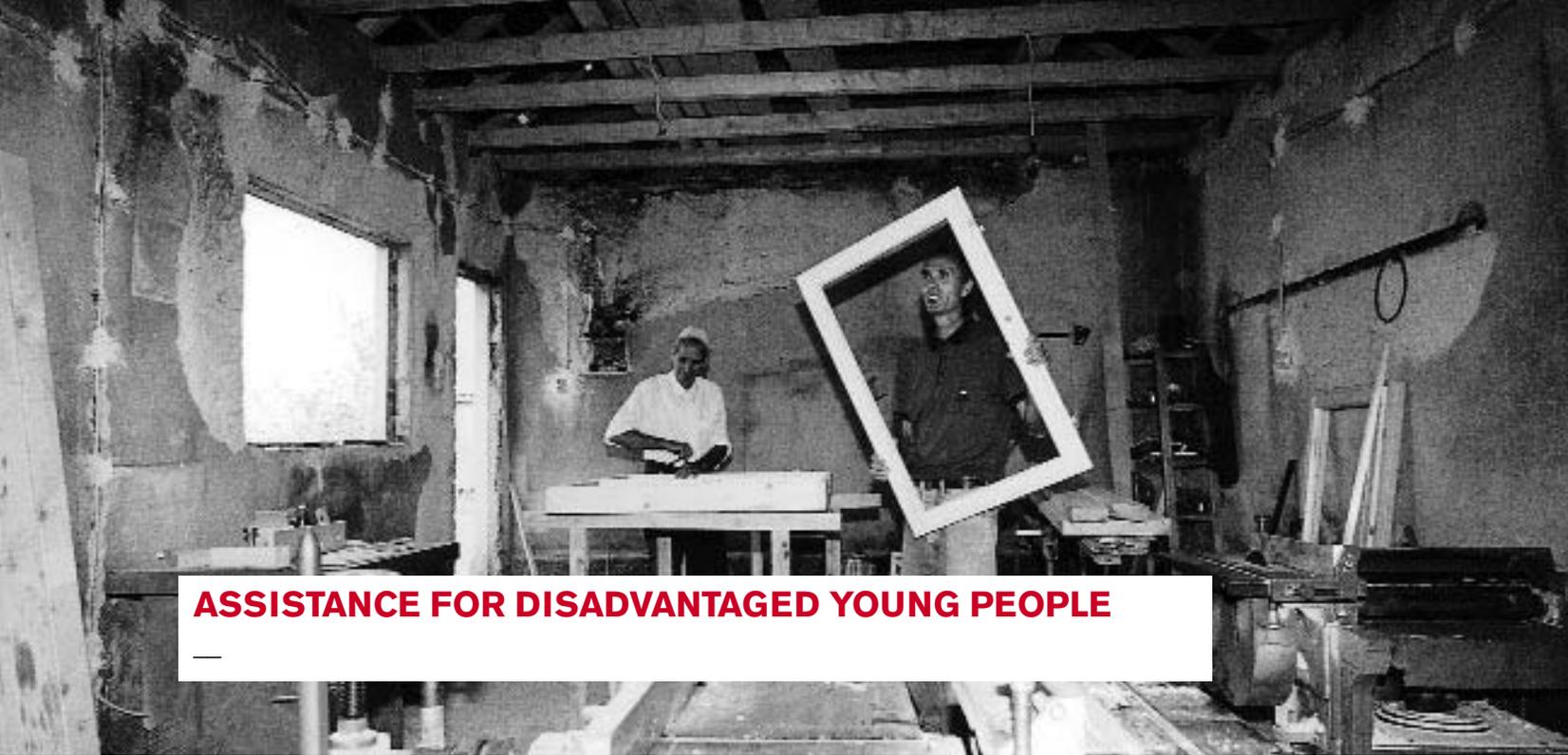
Other establishments are founded every year – new ones have been set up in Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Chile, France and Spain.

In Britain - The Order of St John Care Trust was founded in 1991. The Trust currently runs 35 residential and treatment centres and seven old people's homes for the destitute. It has 1,485 employees, caring for the well-being of 1,400 elderly residents. Its day-care centres cater for 1,500 people a week, and its volunteer programmes provide assistance for several hundred elderly people living in other establishments.

In Germany - The German Association runs 12 hostels for elderly people, a hospice, a palliative care section in a specialised hospice and a centre for palliative medicine in Bonn. Two new retirement homes were opened in 2000, one in Cottbus and the other in Wismar.

In the United States - the Federal Association (Washington) sponsors and gives financial support to six establishments for the elderly, two in Syracuse, New York, one in Washington and three in New Orleans.

In France - in Nice, the French Association opened the Villa Hélios St Jean, which specialises in caring for people suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other forms of senile dementia. In 2000 there were 84 residents.



ASSISTANCE FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE

Destitution, precariousness and the risk of marginalisation appear particularly cruel and unacceptable when they affect young people. All the bodies within the Order are concerned with providing assistance to young people in difficulty.

The volunteer corps in the National Associations include many young people, who are often in the best position to understand the problems of their contemporaries and to show solidarity with them. On their own, however, they cannot tackle the most serious kinds of distress, so other ad hoc projects, adapted to local conditions, are conducted in most countries.

In **Brazil** (Brasilia and Sao Paolo), in **Chile** and **Mexico**, programmes to help the young disadvantaged are well established.

Ad hoc projects

In Germany - themed events have been, and continue to be, organised for the benefit of adolescents in crisis or in difficult situations, especially those from refugee or immigrant families.

In Belgium - camps for children in trouble with the law.

In Hungary - 50 abandoned children placed with host families; 1,200 undernourished children looked after every weekend.

In Poland - schooling for disadvantaged children; Catholic Rehabilitation and Education Centre for children and adolescents; Crisis Intervention Centre for young people addicted to drugs or medicines.

In Canada - centre for socially maladjusted children (Toronto). Refuge for pregnant adolescent girls and young women (14-25 years) who have no other shelter or place to turn to.

ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS, THE HOMELESS, DRUG ADDICTS AND THOSE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The fight against leprosy, the oldest known form of disease, has been one of the Order's priorities since its foundation. In ancient times, the word 'leprosy' also covered unknown diseases which led people to be excluded from society - as we know, lepers had to carry a bell or a rattle to warn other people and give them time to move away. In our modern societies, other so-called lepers appear, who are also threatened with loneliness and exclusion: clandestine immigrants, the homeless, those who are addicted to alcohol or drugs or who are deprived of their freedom – all are strongly represented among the most vulnerable groups.

Immigrants, migrants or displaced persons, and asylum-seekers

In Germany - Since 1989, the German Association has provided services for immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees in 13 reception centres run by the local, federal or State authorities. 450 delegates have assessed the day-to-day needs of residents and given them individual assistance and advice to help them adapt better to the difficulties of daily life and integrate socially.

In 2000 a special effort was made to prepare the refugees from Kosovo who wished to return to their country.

In Colombia - the Association helped, and continues to help, to find solutions to the problems of displaced persons: 800 arrive in Bogota every day.

Almost two million of these people find themselves with no roots and no support.

In Spain - under a two-year agreement with the regional authorities, up to this year the Valencia Delegation of the Spanish Association ran a Residential Centre which took in immigrants for up to three months. As well as food and shelter, residents received direct help with looking for a job and integrating socially. This project, which was funded by the European Union, has been most successful.

In the United States - Among the projects supported by the American Association (New York) for the benefit of immigrant workers in Florida, the St Anne Mission takes pride of place. It has 500 families, mainly clandestine immigrants of Mexican origin.

In the Lebanon - With the participation of an Italian NGO, the ICU, and the Order of the Antonine Fathers, the Order of Malta conducted a programme to 'support the return of displaced persons' which received part-financing from the European Union. This project focussed on encouraging the return of people who had been forced to leave the region of Jezzine, in the south of the country.

Help for the Homeless

In Belgium - more than 120 volunteers are in charge of running the two reception and treatment centres set up by the Belgian Association for homeless and disadvantaged people, to enable them to recover their dignity. Showers, a hairdresser, infirmary, laundry, sewing workshops and cafeteria are among the services provided. During the year, over 20,000 visitors found comfort here and regained their confidence.

In France - every Friday and Saturday night in winter, a vehicle with four first-aid workers scours the streets of Paris in search of homeless people. From 15 December 1999 to 15 January 2000, the ambulances of the French Association took part in the 'Good Samaritan' operation, set up to mark the new millennium. The Order's volunteers gave direct support to the local authority's first-aid teams, searching the city to find and offer shelter to homeless people.

Le Fleuron ('the Flagship'), a barge anchored in the Seine in the very heart of Paris provides a hostel for people described as having 'no fixed abode' accompanied by their dogs - often their last defence against total loneliness (see box).

Addicts

The German, Italian and Portuguese Associations are among the most active in assisting drug addicts, particularly in setting up rehabilitation centres.

THE BARGE OF HOPE

Le Fleuron, the hostel-in-a-berge in the heart of Paris, on the River Seine, was set up jointly by the Thirty Million Friends Foundation (the *Fondation '30 Millions d'Amis'*) and the Order's French Association.

The year's activities in figures:

13,600 nights' accommodation, with an average of four dogs per night; 15,200 meals served; 120 volunteers in relays, eight every night, to welcome people, provide services and organise activities. The average age of the homeless people given shelter on the barge was 36.

Thanks to their having come on board, between 30% and 40% of the people taken into the hostel found new work, 5% began training, 10% remained unemployed. 40% were asylum-seekers.

After their stay on *Le Fleuron*, 35% of people found a degree of stability in new accommodation and were admitted into Social Accommodation and Rehabilitation Centres.



Prisoners

In Portugal, the National Association gives social and moral assistance to prisoners in the Caxiãs Prison in Lisbon.

In Chad, the Order maintains permanent medical services in the prison in N'Djamena, which in 2000 provided care, gave 5,698 consultations and helped to meet the huge need for medicines for prisoners who could not themselves afford them.

This presence, together with regular individual visits, has had very positive results in creating respect for prisoners' rights.



EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AID

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ECOM - EMERGENCY CORPS OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

Humanitarian aid to those affected by natural disasters or armed conflicts has been one of the Order's traditional tasks since the middle of the 19th century, and was also carried out during both world wars.

This type of aid grew considerably during the second half of the last century.

Neutrality, impartiality and the apolitical nature of the Order enable it to bring relief and assistance in situations where many organisations would come up against difficulties of access.

In this process the Order's diplomatic missions in the countries concerned provide essential support.

ECOM (Emergency Corps of the Order of Malta)

To make the Order more readily available in the event of natural disasters several European Pories and National Associations worked together to create ECOM - the Emergency Corps of the Order of Malta. Eight National Associations currently belong to ECOM and seven more have observer status with the Corps.

ECOM's primary mission is to bring immediate humanitarian relief to victims in the form of the need established on the spot.

In the field and under certain circumstances, however, it has sometimes proved useful to maintain this assistance into the medium term and even the long term. This is the case especially when what is at stake is ensuring the survival of refugees or displaced persons and preparing their return home. It also applies to projects for the rehabilitation of infrastructures, health systems and habitation.

ECOM's interventions respect the international standards of quality established for humanitarian aid (for example, the Sphere Project Code of Conduct). On several occasions, intervention was carried out in close cooperation with the office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

The German Association (Malteser Hilfsdienst), the Austrian Grand Priory's hospitaller organisation (Malteser Hospitaldienst Austria) and the French Association's hospitaller organisation (Œuvres Hospitalières Françaises de l'Ordre de Malte), which are founding members of ECOM, are among the partner organisations of ECHO, the European Community Humanitarian Office, an institution of the European Union for the supply of humanitarian aid.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS BELONGING TO ECOM OR WITH OBSERVER STATUS:

MEMBERS OF ECOM

Austria, Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

OBSERVERS

Brazil, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Poland and Spain.

NATURAL DISASTERS

Either through ECOM or on the initiative of National Associations, the Order of Malta has intervened several times in recent years to bring emergency aid to the victims of natural disasters, whose effects on population groups have been considerable.

Among the disasters which hit the headlines were the earthquakes in Friuli, in Italy, at the end of the 1970s, in Armenia (1989), in Italy (1997), in Colombia and Turkey (1999), in El Salvador (2001) and in India (2001); the accidental explosion in Mexico City (1997), Hurricanes George and Mitch in the Caribbean and in Central America (1998), the flooding in Ukraine, Hungary, Romania and Poland (1998) and in Mozambique (2000).

In Honduras: aid to the victims of Hurricane Mitch

Honduras was one of the three countries in Central America to have been ravaged by Hurricane Mitch, which passed over it at the end of October 1998. At the start of November 1998, ECOM conducted an assessment mission with the local authorities and with the support of the Honduran Association of the Order it was decided to intervene in the region of **Choluteca**. Situated at the extreme south of the country, Choluteca, **a city of 100,000 inhabitants**, was particularly badly hit by the cyclone and flooding.

Initially, the French organisation OHFOM (Œuvres Hospitalières Françaises de l'Ordre de Malte) organised **the sending of more than 60 tonnes of medicines, provisions, nutritional products, medical supplies and clothing**.

Aid workers from the German Association, the Malteser Hilfsdienst (MHD), were already on the spot shortly after the disaster and distributed provisions, household articles and toiletries, mattresses and other emergency supplies to the needy. *In Choluteca, from December 1998 a nine-member French medical mission had been caring for around 2,000 people who had become homeless.*

The regional coordinator of rescue measures transferred to OHFOM the task of setting up and running a **paediatric centre** to treat the thousands of children living in extremely precarious conditions, often suffering from dehydration, ophthalmic infections and serious food poisoning (from contaminated water etc.).

The mission also launched **daily medical rounds** for children and adults living in the surrounding villages and in the makeshift camps, where the teams were also able to **distribute provisions** supplied by Caritas Honduras and the WFP (World Food Programme).

The French Association concluded its mission at the end of February 1999, and was followed by a medical team from the Order's German Association. **Funded by the European Union** and launched with the cooperation of the Honduran Ministry of Health, the project aimed to improve healthcare generally in the region. It included elementary and advanced training programmes for auxiliary nurses.

Another main focus of the work of the German Association in 2000 was the provision of homes for people in distant areas of the country who, two years after the devastating hurricane Mitch, were still forced to live in makeshift shelters.

In cooperation with the authorities and municipal bodies, the MHD provided direct support for 60 families by providing them with the equipment to rebuild their homes, working together with their neighbours.

As part of the support for the educational sector in Honduras, support was also provided for the 'Instituto Hondureño de Educación por Radio', a Honduran institution independent of the state, which provides instructions for its pupils - young people and adults - in various subjects throughout the country via radio. Among the MHD's actions were the purchase of machinery and the construction of another classroom.

Mozambique: relief for those affected by flooding

Following the call for international aid sent out by the government of Mozambique in February 2000, a team of ECOM volunteers went to Maputo, the capital, to assess the possibilities for assisting the groups left destitute by Hurricanes Connie, Eline and Gloria. From the middle of March an ECOM team (with members from Belgium, France and Germany) was in the **Chiputo region**, which had been completely cut off by the flooding of the River Limpopo, to take charge of **the medical side of running three camps sheltering groups affected by the flooding**. Here, with financial support from the German foreign ministry and the European Community Humanitarian Office, the Order of Malta provided emergency medical aid to over 20,000 victims of the floods, in particular in the treatment of patients suffering from malaria and diarrhoea and in the treatment of undernourished children. Within the scope of the medical rescue services 5,000 refugees were provided with pre- and post-natal care and vaccinations.

Ethiopia: international solidarity and the fight against famine

In April 2000, the famine in the Horn of Africa, especially in Ethiopia, reached catastrophic proportions. In addition to the scarcity of food, there was dire need for basic medicines for those suffering from malnutrition and exhaustion caused by lack of nourishment, most of whom were children.

The **parched region of Mandura** in the north-west of Ethiopia, less publicised in the media than Somalia or Ogaden, but with an enormous need of emergency health care, has been designated a priority intervention area. Thanks to a project carried out by the MHD the 30,000 inhabitants of the Mandura community again

have access to clean drinking water. The programme involved **providing emergency supplies of food products, medicines and medical supplies**.

Regional Offices in Africa and Asia

With regard to the rapid deployment of the intervention missions and their effective logistical support from start-up, two permanent Regional Offices were set up in the most sensitive parts of the world.

The office in Africa is based in **Nairobi** and the Asian one in **Bangkok**. Both are run by the Order's German Association (MHD).

AID TO VICTIMS OF CONFLICT AND TO REFUGEES

During the two world wars, **humanitarian aid** was provided for the victims of armed conflict and, in particular, to refugees. Then, during the second half of the last century, among the main projects of this type were: assistance to refugees during the Hungarian crisis in 1956; founding and running a hospital during the Vietnam war; aid to refugees in Thailand; medical aid during the civil wars in the Lebanon and El Salvador; assistance to refugees in the Great Lakes region and a number of large-scale operations during and after the crisis in the Balkans.

In March 1999, a few days before the NATO air raids, an ECOM evaluation mission studied the possibilities for support action in Albania and Macedonia, the countries to which most of the Kosovars of Albanian origin were fleeing. Conditions in the areas bordering on Kosovo were disastrous, and the most urgent needs were for good sanitary conditions, drinking water, medical care, food and shelter. **In cooperation with the UNHCR and the German foreign ministry ECOM's first relief programme therefore centred on aid to the refugees and the socially vulnerable population in both countries.**

In Macedonia

Aid to refugees was also accompanied by aid to the socially vulnerable population of Macedonia, to reduce the tensions between the refugees and the population in need. In Albania, assistance to the Albanian government was

considered a priority owing to the combination of internal tensions within the country and the lack of an adequate infrastructure to cope with the huge influx of refugees.

ECOM's teams were active mainly in the camps in Durrës and Shkodra.

OHFOM provided medical care in the **Spitale / Durrës** camp, which took in some 5,000 refugees. The Association set up a paediatric, a general medical and an intensive care unit, as well as an out-patients unit.

Its team, consisting of two doctors, a nurse and three logistical staff, gave almost 100 daily consultations.

The camp at **Shkodra** was set up and run by the Order's German Association, which took charge of installing infrastructure (roads, electricity, etc.) and tents and supplying drinking water, provisions and medicines. Two drinking water processing facilities provided the camp with fresh water until the appropriate wells were drilled. The German Malteser Hilfsdienst team of four nurses and a doctor ensured the medical care of people in need. In all 82 aid workers were involved in the operation, 68 of them unpaid.

The Austrian Malteser Hospitaldienst Austria provided aid to the refugees in the **Austria** camp, which was also situated at the Shkodra site.



In Kosovo

Aid for reconstruction was started in Kosovo immediately after the ending of the war. It was concentrated on strengthening local business and the local economy.

In cooperation with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a long-term programme entitled '**Women's initiatives in Kosovo**' was launched to encourage projects by women for women, as part of the rehabilitation of the country. In 2000 alone, the Order of Malta supported a total of almost 100 projects such as literacy and computer courses as well as training courses in crafts. In this way the women improve their chances on the labour market and obtain the possibility of acquiring an income of their own.

With ECOM's assistance, over 200 carpenters' workshops were opened up again so carpenters could help their compatriots rebuild their houses. The Order of Malta equipped workshops in the area around Prizren and Mitrovica with machines, generators, spare parts and building materials. In return for this the craftsmen produced around 5,200 doors and 8,700 windows, which were given to 3,500 families for the repair of their homes. In addition, 800 prefabricated housing units were built and distributed to people returning home.

From July to October 1999, under the hospital at **Vucitrn** (situated between Pristina and Mitrovica), a team of nine people sent by the OHFOM carried out a medical mission focussed mainly on general medicine, gynaecology and casualties.

When the refugees returned to Kosovo, other projects were launched by ECOM to help them resume living in relatively normal conditions.

The cooperation between the American, Austrian, Dutch, French and German volunteers who worked together directing operations in the Kosovo crisis was extremely effective.

FINANCING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORDER

While in Italy and Austria the Grand Pories have recovered their property, thereby helping to finance the Order's administrative expenses, in all other countries the Pories, National Associations and Foundations of the Order fund their medical, hospitaller and humanitarian activities from the subscriptions and donations they receive from their members, from gifts and legacies and from fundraising campaigns directed at thousands of regular donors.

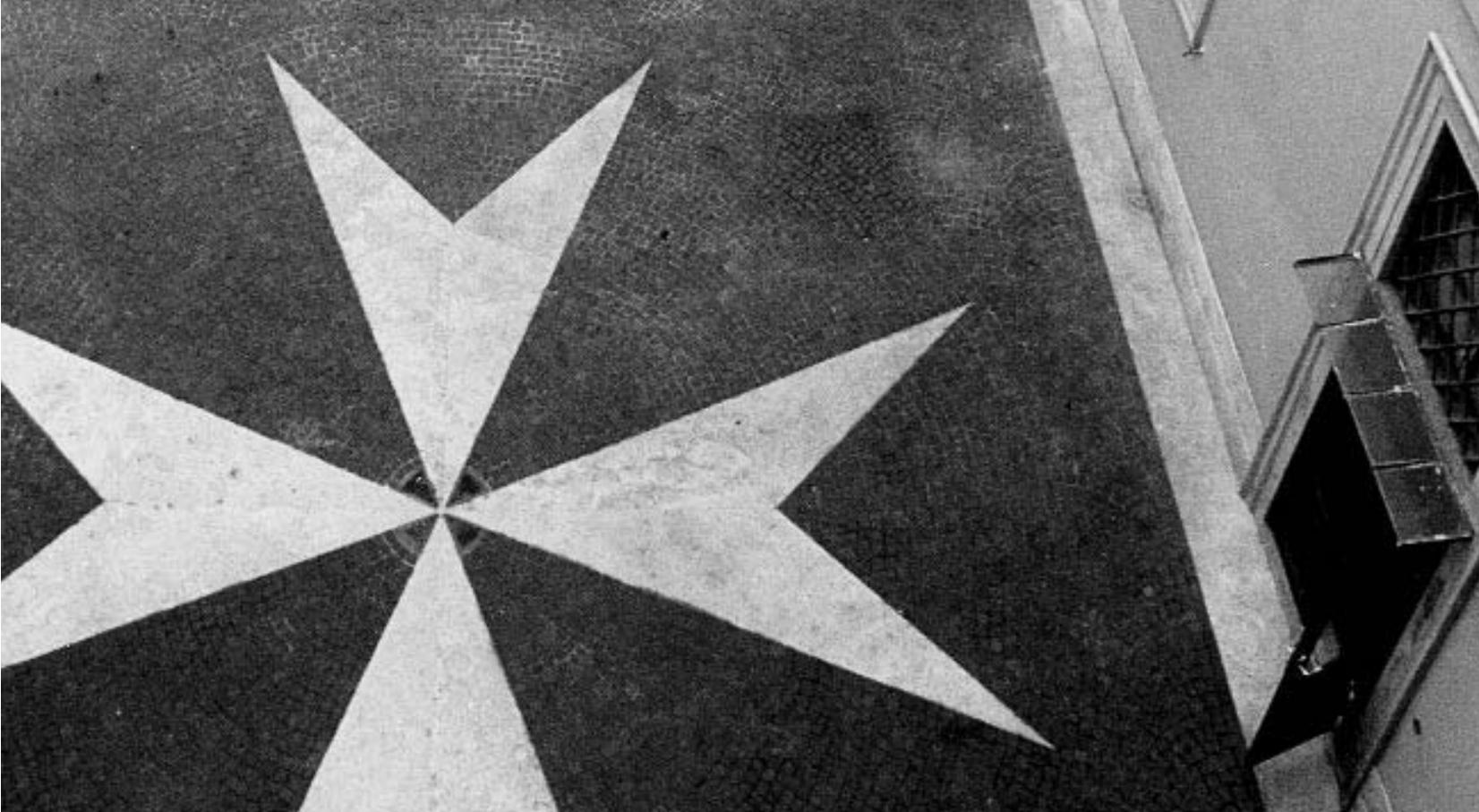
In Europe, however, many socio-medical care centres and hospitaller establishments of the Order receive major funding from the national health and social security systems, together with donations from members or persons outside the Order and subsidies from governments and large foundations.

The financing of activities in the developing countries is from a variety of sources. In general it comes from the Pories and National Associations; but for large-scale projects, or those which call for a sustained effort over time, the National Associations concerned seek contributions from the European Union, the specialised agencies of the United Nations or national governments, or donations from international foundations.

The same financing systems are employed for emergency humanitarian aid operations, where donations requested for a specific cause or project are absolutely vital. This is particularly true in Germany and France, where the Order can mobilise hundreds of thousands of donors. The diversification of funding sources makes it possible to deal with situations that are very different in terms of emergency and scale, while remaining completely politically independent of governments and public donors.

Part-financing by public authorities, international institutions or the major foundations calls for strict conditions on the allocation of funds, with clearly defined medium- and long-term objectives, whilst donations from members of the Order and from individuals allow for greater flexibility in reacting swiftly and effectively to new or different needs.

The accounts of all of the Order's Associations and organisations, and all its hospitaller establishments, are subjected to regular audits by external accountants, in conformity with the practice and legislation in force in each country. In addition to these local inspections, **all these bodies are also subject to the overall control of the Board of Auditors of the Order of Malta**, whose headquarters is in the Grand Magistry in Rome.



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UNIQUE ROLE OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

The origins of the Sovereign, Military and Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta - better known as the Order of Malta - go back to the eleventh century.

When the crusaders arrived in Jerusalem in AD 1099, the Hospitallers were administering the Hospital of St John the Baptist, which had been built around 1048 to care for pilgrims coming to the Holy Land and for the indigenous Christian, Jewish and Muslim population. Made a religious Order by a bull issued by Pope Pascal II in 1113, the Order had to defend the Christian sick and Christian territory. **Today, its mission is an exclusively humanitarian one, as its military role ended with the loss of its territory in 1798.**

Two characteristics distinguish the Order from other charitable and humanitarian organisations:

- the Order has a permanent presence in most countries in the world, both developed and developing. This presence has been built up over nine centuries of colourful history, in which it took part in the great exchanges between Europe and the Mediterranean basin and the rest of the world, gradually extending its scope to cover most of the geographical areas in which its charitable mission could usefully be conducted.

- the Order's mission is not confined to any particular forms of distress in the spheres of health or humanitarian aid. Following its historic principle of service to the sick and needy, the Order has always been responsive to the major relief needs in every era.

Because of its centuries-old experience and its members' active involvement in the major trends in society, the Order has been able to adapt its resources and methods rapidly, keeping constantly up to date, to be in a position to tackle the new and ever-growing needs for medical aid, emergency relief and humanitarian works.

Today the Order is a major global, professional organisation in terms of the humanitarian aid, medical care and emergency medicine it provides, in its management of hospitals, specialised homes for dependent elderly people, socio-medical care centres, the collection and transporting of medicines and the training of workers and ambulance staff.

DIPLOMACY AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITARIAN AID

Although the Order of Malta is first and foremost a secular religious Order with a mission to defend the Faith and serve the sick and the poor, it is also subject to international law, maintaining diplomatic relations with over 90 countries and with permanent missions to the United Nations in New York, Geneva, Paris and Vienna, as well as to the European Commission and other international organisations.

In humanitarian activity, the Sovereign Order has the advantage of having its own diplomatic corps. The role of the Order's ambassadors is a special one, as they must combine traditional diplomacy and negotiation skills with the ability to develop humanitarian activities.

Ambassadors for the Order are frequently recruited from the ranks of professional diplomats who are leaving active service but wish to offer further years of service in a voluntary capacity. Ambassadors are appointed by the Grand Master and assume their responsibilities as soon as their credentials are presented to the Head of State of the country to which they are to be accredited.

Ambassadors' missions are strictly humanitarian. However, in countries without a National Association, the ambassador is also responsible for coordinating hospitaller activities. In such cases, in addition to his diplomatic brief, the ambassador works with other National Associations active in the country of the diplomatic mission.

As well as the network of bilateral relations with sovereign states, in 1987 the Order was officially accredited by the European Commission, and its representative to the EC has the rank of ambassador. The Order has observer status at the United Nations and has established permanent missions in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Rome and Paris.

The development of its relations with international organisations, an acknowledgement of the Order's position and role in the world, enables it to strengthen its special contribution to reflection and action in the humanitarian arena and to work in the defence of the dignity of the human being.

In Geneva, Ambassador Pierre-Yves Simonin (former Swiss Ambassador to Israel, Belgium and NATO) works in an environment which includes the main United Nations agencies concerned with human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

In Vienna, Ambassador Helmut Liedermann (former Austrian Ambassador to Belgrade and Moscow) actively participated in the campaign that culminated in the prohibition of the use of antipersonnel mines.

In Brussels, seat of the European Commission, Ambassador Philippe de Schoutheete (former Belgian Ambassador to Madrid and former Belgian Permanent Representative to the European Union) is accredited to the European Commission, which is the world's principal humanitarian aid donor. He monitors the programmes and services offered by EuropeAide and the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO). ECHO has maintained particularly active partnership relations with the Order, most notably during the Balkan crisis.

A most important and discreet task falls to the diplomats of the Order when they are asked to participate in efforts to prevent conflicts or civil wars or to mediate or intervene. In the case of hostage-taking, for example, or in other serious crises, such as the events in Cambodia and the Lebanon, the Order's representatives were in a position to act successfully.

The Order has also acted to protect humanitarian relief workers in areas of conflict and natural disasters, as it has done, and does, for those working in leprosy programmes. Count Carlo Marullo di Condojanni, Grand Chancellor of the Order (Minister for Foreign Affairs), expressed the Order's position on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations:

"...the Order is politically neutral and transcends the nation state. It is therefore qualified, capable and willing to conduct peace-making, mediation and cooperative activities, in cooperation with the United Nations, respecting the principle of mutual dialogue and understanding between peoples."

THE ORDER'S DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WORLDWIDE

The Order has diplomatic missions at ambassador level with over 90 countries, as well as delegations to governments of other countries and permanent missions to the main inter-governmental and international organisations.

STATES WITH WHICH THE ORDER HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

EUROPE Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Holy See, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Moldavia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation*, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Yugoslavia.

THE AMERICAS Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent-Grenadines, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.

ASIA Afghanistan, Armenia, Cambodia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Philippines, Tajikistan, Thailand.

AFRICA Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cap Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Republic of Congo, Sao Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Togo.

OCEANIA Micronesia.

* Relations with the Russian Federation are maintained through a diplomatic special mission.

THE ORDER IS ACCREDITED BY DELEGATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES

Belgium	France	Germany
Luxembourg	Principality of Monaco	Switzerland

THE ORDER HAS PERMANENT MISSIONS TO THE FOLLOWING INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

United Nations - New York, Geneva, Vienna
European Commission - Brussels
FAO - United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization - Rome
UNHCR - United Nations High Commission for Refugees - Geneva
ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross - Geneva
WHO - World Health Organization - Geneva
UNESCO - Paris
Council of Europe - Strasbourg
International Committee for Migration - Geneva
International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacology - Brussels
Organization of Central American States - Washington
UNIDROIT - International Institute for the Unification of Private Law - Rome



THE ORDER'S PRESENCE IN BRUSSELS

Official Representation of the Order of Malta to the European Commission

The Order of Malta has been officially accredited to the European Commission since 1987, with its Official Representative listed in the accredited diplomatic corps at ambassador level. The present incumbent is **Ambassador Philippe de Schoutheete de Tervarent**, former Belgian Ambassador to Spain and to the European Union. The Representation has an administrative unit under the auspices of the Belgian Association of the Order of Malta. Its role is to maintain contact at all levels with the European Commission and its various departments, and to keep the Government of the Order and its national bodies informed of developments in policy on humanitarian and development aid.

The departments with which the Official Representative has most frequent contact are ECHO (the European Community Humanitarian Office, which is the leading humanitarian aid donor in the world and deals especially with crisis situations brought about by natural disasters), the Development Directorate-General, which is responsible for third world aid, the External Relations Directorate-General (especially where projects in Eastern Europe and the PHARE and TACIS programmes are concerned), and the new organisation, EuropeAid.

In this context, the Official Representative of the Order of Malta takes part in the annual meeting of ECHO's partners. **In March 1999 the Order of Malta, through three of its branches (Œuvres Hospitalières Françaises de l'Ordre de Malte, Malteser Hilfsdienst /Germany and Malteser Hilfsdienst /Austria), signed a framework partnership contract with ECHO.**

These activities are carried out with full respect for the principles of international humanitarian law, in particular non-discrimination between the beneficiaries of aid on grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, nationality or opinion, neither guided by nor subordinated to political considerations.

THE ORDER AND PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS



Official Representation of the Order of Malta to the United Nations in New York

Extracts from the statement by **Ambassador Frà José Antonio Linati-Bosch**, Observer at the United Nations, delivered to the United Nations General Assembly Committee on Peace-keeping Operations on 15 February 2000:

“The Order of Malta, with 900 years of uninterrupted activity and thus being probably the oldest of the international humanitarian organisations, is now closely associated with United Nations peace-keeping operations.

“In 1991, the Order offered its services to the United Nations for the first time, making available to it a medical assistance team at the United Nations Observer Mission in Central America.

“During subsequent peace-keeping operations, at the request of the office of the High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the Order opened in Rwanda several camps, a field hospital equipped with surgical and paediatric departments and a maternity unit.

“Also in cooperation with the office of the UNHCR, aid was brought to refugees and a nutritional centre for children was set up in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1999.

“The Order also intervened in Uganda, bringing relief to Sudanese refugees in the Aruja district.

“Since 1996, a German MHD medical team has worked side by side with the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission.

“At the request of the German Government, **the Order recently set up a rapid deployment medical unit. This team, which is in a permanent state of alert, can be mobilised in under forty-eight hours to take part in any new, urgent peace-keeping mission.** This specialised medical unit is to be reinforced to enable it to participate immediately in other peace-keeping missions under agreements similar to those signed with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“The Order of Malta, which declared its neutrality at the start of the eighteenth century and has scrupulously respected it since, enjoys a well-earned reputation for impartiality and independence. **It stands ready to contribute to future peace-keeping operations on the basis of the needs and requests expressed by the United Nations.**”

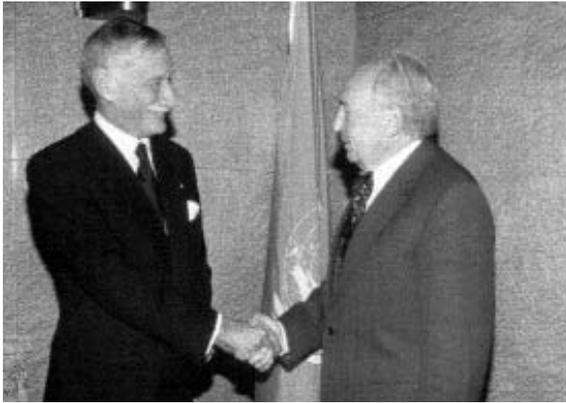
NEW YORK, HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 19 DECEMBER 2000

The ‘Champion of Peace’ prize awarded to the Associations of the Order in the United States

In a ceremony organised in the context of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Order’s three Associations in the United States jointly received the Champion of Peace prize from Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the United Nations, and President of the Path to Peace Foundation.

The American Association (New York), the Federal Association (Washington) and the Western Association of the United States were awarded this distinction in recognition of their humanitarian work in the United States and throughout the world, especially in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.

The aims of the Foundation are to spread the messages of the Holy Father, the Holy See and Catholic organisations on justice, charity and peace; to study the social teachings of the Church and to promote cultural events; and to conduct charitable and humanitarian projects on basic human rights.



THE ORDER AND AID TO REFUGEES

Permanent Observation Mission of the Order of Malta at the Office of the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva

Extracts from the statement delivered by **Ambassador Pierre-Yves Simonin**, Permanent Delegate and **Madame Marie-Therese Pictet-Althann**, Permanent Assistant Observer, to the Executive Committee of the office of the High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) on 6 October 1999:

“The tragic events in Kosovo and East Timor have once again highlighted the complexity of security problems in areas peopled by refugees and returnees.

“Despite the legal provisions on this subject and increased concerted efforts by the international community, respect for and protection of refugees and humanitarian personnel are often ignored in situations of armed conflict and their lives are often in danger.

“Thanks to its frequent presence in dangerous areas, in the past and still today, the Order of Malta is particularly well informed on security implications.

“It has experience of intervention in dangerous regions both with and without military back-up. Recent examples in Albania illustrate the differences in operating conditions in each of these scenarios.

“In the first case, at the request of the UNHCR, ECOM (the Emergency Corps of the Order of Malta) was in charge of a camp in the region of Shkodra, without military protection. While staff were working to repatriate refugees in Kosovo, criminal armed bands thoroughly looted the camp, taking everything from tents to the last piece of electrical wire.

“During the same period, the Order's Austrian Grand Priory, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), was running a camp sheltering 3,000 refugees. Thanks to the military personnel seconded to the operational structure by the Austrian government, the security of refugees and humanitarian personnel was assured at all times. The soldiers also provided the transport that was vital in building the camp.

“It is essential to find solutions to ensure that, even in an atmosphere of extreme violence, the dual nature of the refugee camps – civil and humanitarian – is preserved. In this spirit we share fully the opinion expressed by the High Commissioner: ‘soldiers may lend their support but must not be a substitute for organisations bearing a humanitarian mandate’.

“For many years the Order has been working in the field in partnership with the UNHCR. The Great Lakes region, Uganda, Sudan, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Balkans have recently been scenes of their joint intervention.

The High Commission can rely completely on the support of the Order of Malta for future intervention, in cooperation with its own departments, anywhere this may prove necessary.”



THE ORDER AND CRIME PREVENTION

Permanent mission of the Order of Malta at the United Nations Office in Vienna

Extracts from the statement by **Ambassador Helmut Liedermann**, Permanent Observer, to participants in the Tenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Delinquents, 12 April 2000:

“The Order of Malta fully endorses the objectives of the United Nations in relation to the reduction of criminality, a more successful application of the law, a more effective administration of justice and greater respect for human rights and freedoms.

“It supports the application of the United Nations Charter in these matters.

“The Order stresses the need to reinstate the values of morality and respect for the law in public opinion. If our society does not have even a basic regard for what is right and what is not, it will be incapable of protecting itself against organised crime in the future.

“The Order condemns all forms of organised crime, which violate basic moral values such as dignity and the inalienable rights of individuals. **The Order takes a particularly strong stand against forced immigration, which is generally caused by inhuman living conditions and extreme poverty.**”

“THE ORDER OF MALTA: 900 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS”
Exhibition at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, April 2000

Organised by the Permanent Mission of the Order in Geneva, and placed under the patronage of the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, Mr Vladimir Petrosvky, and the Grand Chancellor of the Order, this exhibition was held in the Palais des Nations and was inaugurated when the Human Rights Commission was holding its meetings there.

The exhibition presented to international circles as well as to the general public a completely up-to-date image of the Order, both in its traditions and in its modernity.

Acknowledging the success and the impact of the exhibition, the Director-General of the United Nations underlined “the active participation by the Order in collective efforts to improve the lot of humanity and to promote peace, stability and well-being”, observing that “the principles that have constantly guided the Order since the eleventh century are in perfect harmony with the fundamental values and objectives enshrined in the United Nations Charter”.

GOVERNMENT



COMPOSITION AND OPERATION



Governance of the Sovereign Order of Malta is similar to the structures for state governments. However, it also includes specific features associated with its nature as both a lay and religious order, as well as particular terminology evolved from nine centuries of history.

The Order's system of governance is divided into three powers: **legislative** power, which resides with the Chapter General, the representative body for the knights, and the Grand Master with the Sovereign Council; **executive** power, which also resides with the Sovereign Council; and **judicial** power, which is in the hands of the Courts of the Order. The Grand Master is the Order's Supreme Leader and is elected for life by the full Council of State. Members of the Chapter General and the full Council of State are drawn from representatives of the Grand Pories, the Sub-Pories, the National Associations and the Order's bodies established around the world.

The Grand Master governs the Order, assisted by the Sovereign Council, which he chairs. It is made up of the four High Offices, of Grand Commander, the religious superior of the Order's religious members, who stands

in for the Grand Master in his absence; Grand Chancellor (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Interior); Grand Hospitaller (Minister for Health and Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and International Cooperation); Receiver of the Common Treasure (Minister for Finance and Budget), together with six other members, all elected by the Chapter General from among the Professed Knights or Knights in Obedience.

The Constitutional Charter and Code governs the life and activities of the Order.

The Chapter General of 1999 instituted an Advisory Board to the Order's government - the Government Council. The Board of Auditors is responsible for economic and financial control. Every five years, the members of these two bodies are elected by the Chapter General.

The Order's Courts are Courts of First Instance and of Appeal, with the President, Judges, Judicial Auditors and Auxiliaries appointed by the Grand Master, with voting rights for the Chapter General. Legal questions of extraordinary importance are submitted for advice to a technical body, the Juridical Advisory Council.

GOVERNMENT OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM, OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

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Prince and Grand Master His Most Eminent Highness Fra' Andrew Bertie

HIGH OFFICES

Grand Commander

The Venerable Bailiff Fra' Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein

Grand Chancellor

H.E.Ambassador Count Don Carlo Marullo di Condojanni,
Prince of Casalnuovo (to 31.12.2001)

Count Jacques de Liedekerke (from 01.01.2002)

Grand Hospitaller

Bailiff Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager

Receiver of the Common Treasure

Marchese Gian Luca Chiavari

MEMBERS

The Venerable Bailiff Fra' Carl E. Paar

Fra' Carlo Arditì di Castelvetero

Fra' John A. McPherson

Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto

Grand Cross Richard J. Dunn

Grand Cross Jean-Pierre Mazery

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Fra' Elie de Comminges

Winfried Graf Henckel von Donnersmarck

Count Jacques de Liedekerke

Ambassador M. Thomas Francis Carney, Jr

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JUDICIAL STRUCTURE

MAGISTRAL COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE

President

Prof. Av. Paolo Papanti Pelletier de Berminy

Judges

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Prof. Av. Giovanni Giacobbe

Prof. Av. Gianpiero Milano

Chancellor of the Magistral Courts

Colonel Alessandro Bianchi

MAGISTRAL COURT OF APPEAL

President

Prof. Av. Cesare Maria Moschetti

Judges

Prof. Av. Giancarlo Perone

Prof. Av. Mattia Persiani

Prof. Av. Leonardo Perrone

KEY DATES IN THE ORDER'S HISTORY

1048: JERUSALEM

The birth of the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem as a monastic community dates back to around 1048, from which time the knights of the Order cared for pilgrims, the sick and the needy.

Founded by the Blessed Gerard, and by virtue of the Papal Bull of 1133 issued by Pope Paschal II, the hospital of St. John was placed under the aegis of the Church and granted exemptions.

With the responsibilities of military defence of the sick and the Christian territories, the Order evolved into both a religious and military chivalric Order.

1310: RHODES

In 1291, with the fall of St. John of Acre, the last bastion of Christianity in the Holy Land, the Order was forced to leave the island, and settled in Cyprus.

It acquired territorial sovereignty on taking possession of the island of Rhodes in 1310. To defend the Christian world, the Order assembled a powerful military fleet, patrolling the eastern seas and engaging in several celebrated battles.

Governed by a Grand Master as Sovereign Prince of Rhodes, together with a Sovereign Council, it came to mint its own currency and established diplomatic relations with other States.

The Order's knights were victorious over numerous Ottoman attacks, until, overrun by Sultan Suliman the Magnificent with his powerful fleet and large army, they were forced to surrender on January 1st, 1523, and, with the Sultan's recognition of their bravery, left the island with full military honours.

1530: MALTA

The next seven years saw the Order without territory, but retaining its sovereignty, a situation which prevailed until Emperor Charles V granted the knights the islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino, and the city of Tripoli, as a sovereign fiefdom. On October 26, 1530, the Order took possession of Malta, with the approval of Pope Clement VII.

During the Great Siege, May to September 1565, the knights routed the Ottomans under the leadership of Grand Master Fra' Jean de la Vallette (who gave his name to the capital of Malta). The fleet of the Order of St. John (or of Malta, as they are now known) was one of the mightiest in the Mediterranean and played its part in the final destruction of the Ottomans at the battle of Lepanto in 1571.

1798: EXILE

In 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte occupied Malta en route to his campaign in Egypt. He met with no resistance from the knights, as their Regulations forbade them to fight other Christians, and thus the Order was forced to leave the island.

By 1801, Malta was occupied by the English, and, despite the recognition of the Order of Malta's rights of sovereignty as enshrined in the Treaty of Amiens (1802), it was unable to retake possession of the island.

1834: ROME

Having temporarily resided in Messina, Catania and then Ferrara, the Order settled in Rome in 1834, in properties with extraterritoriality status: the Grand Magistry in via Condotti and the Villa Malta on the Aventine Hill. From this time, the Order's original mission of service to the poor and the sick again became its main activity. The Order carried out hospitaller and charitable activities during World War I, and again during World War II. These activities were further developed and intensified under the stewardship of Grand Master Fra' Angelo de Mojana (1962-1988) and continue today under his successor, the 78th Grand Master, Fra' Andrew Bertie.

XXIth CENTURY

Spanning a history of almost nine centuries, the Sovereign Order of Malta can proudly claim to be the sole successor of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, recognised by the Catholic Church in 1113. The Order has the unique characteristic of being both a religious and a chivalric Order of the Catholic Church. It is the sole organisation with an uninterrupted sovereignty to have professed knights, the direct successors of its founders. The Grand Master is chosen from their ranks, as are most of the members of the Sovereign Council.

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	Bolivia		Mexico
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