

COLLECTION

COMMUNIQUES DE PRESSE

DU COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE

1989

N° 1598 - 1628

anglais



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Information Department

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 · Telex 22269 · Telefax (022) 34 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1598
3 January 1989

NEW EXPULSIONS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: ICRC REACTION

Geneva (ICRC) - On 1 January 1989, thirteen more people from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were expelled by the State of Israel to Lebanon, bringing to 48 the total number of people expelled to Lebanon since the beginning of 1988.

Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention stipulates that individual or mass forcible transfers from occupied territory are prohibited, regardless of their motive.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stresses that the events in the occupied territories have resulted in several hundreds of victims since December 1987. It has on numerous occasions protested to the Israeli authorities against all measures taken in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The ICRC once again earnestly appeals to the State of Israel to put an end to these expulsions and all other practices which constitute a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Information Department

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 34 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1599
9 January 1989

TRAGIC INCIDENT IN UGANDA

Geneva (ICRC) - On 9 January an attack was made by gunmen on three vehicles belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The convoy was travelling from Soroti to Amuria in eastern Uganda to distribute relief to displaced persons.

Uganda Red Cross employee Michael Egabu, a passenger in the first vehicle, was killed outright while the driver, ICRC delegate Jürg Bühler, was wounded.

The ICRC team was able to return to Soroti, where the injured delegate was given first aid by a MSF-Holland unit before being flown to hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. His condition is not critical.

The ICRC deplures this incident. All the vehicles involved were clearly marked with the Red Cross emblem and all the parties present in the area were aware of the ICRC's humanitarian activities.

The ICRC offers its condolences to the family of Michael Egabu, who lost his life in the service of the Red Cross.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Information Department

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 · Telex 22269 · Telefax (022) 34 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1600
24 January 1989

PRISONERS OF WAR REPATRIATED FROM IRAQ TO IRAN

Geneva (ICRC) - Two hundred and fifty-five Iranian prisoners of war were handed over by the authorities of the Republic of Iraq to delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Baghdad on 23 and 24 January 1989 for repatriation to Iran.

The prisoners, all wounded, sick or elderly, left Baghdad for Tehran in two groups on board an aircraft chartered by the ICRC. They were accompanied by a doctor, two nurses and an ICRC delegate. The first group, repatriated on 23 January, comprised 131 prisoners, the second, on 24 January, 124. On their arrival the ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary, handed them over to the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

ICRC delegates and doctors had visited the prisoners individually and without witnesses before their repatriation.

The operation was the result of a unilateral decision by the Iraqi government to release these prisoners; this decision was taken outside the framework of the November 1988 agreement on the release of wounded and sick prisoners of war.

The ICRC intends to pursue its efforts to bring about the repatriation at the earliest possible date of all prisoners of war interned in Iran and Iraq.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 34 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1601
6 February 1989

ICRC RETURNS TO LEBANON

Geneva (ICRC) - Following the assurances given during intensive representations made in Lebanon and the support expressed by several States, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has decided to resume its activities in the country, which it was forced to suspend on 20 December 1988.

This decision was taken in pursuance of the mandate conferred upon the institution, whose work is governed in all circumstances by its principles of independence and impartiality.

Confident in the renewed and sustained support and respect of all, without which it cannot operate, the ICRC is resuming its mission with fresh determination, for the benefit of the victims who are awaiting its protection and assistance.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 34 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1602
23 February 1989

PRISONERS OF WAR REPATRIATED FORM IRAN TO IRAQ

Geneva (ICRC) - Two hundred and thirty-three Iraqi prisoners of war were handed over by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Tehran on 21, 22 and 23 February 1989 for repatriation to Iraq.

The prisoners, all wounded, sick or elderly, left Tehran for Baghdad in three groups on board an aircraft chartered by the ICRC. They were accompanied by a doctor, two nurses and two ICRC delegates. The plane made three flights, carrying 80, 75 and 78 prisoners respectively. The ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary, handed them over to the authorities of the Republic of Iraq.

The operation was the result of a unilateral decision by the Iranian government to release 260 prisoners of war, outside the framework of the November 1988 agreement on the release of wounded and sick prisoners of war. Twenty-seven of these prisoners refused to be repatriated and remained in Iran.

Six months after the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran came into effect, the ICRC is doing its utmost to bring about the repatriation of all prisoners of war at the earliest possible date.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Information Department

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 · Telex 22269 · Telefax (022) 34 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1603
16 March 1989

RECOGNITION OF A NEW NATIONAL SOCIETY

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has recognized the Dominica Red Cross.

This recognition, which took effect yesterday, 15 March 1989, brings to 148 the number of National Societies which are members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Information Department

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 · Telex 22269 · Telefax (022) 34 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1604
10 April 1989

PRISONERS OF WAR REPATRIATED FROM IRAN TO IRAQ

Geneva (ICRC) - Sixty-six Iraqi prisoners of war were handed over by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Tehran on Monday, 10 April 1989, for repatriation to Iraq.

The prisoners of war, all wounded, sick or elderly, left Tehran for Baghdad on board an aircraft chartered by the ICRC. They were accompanied by a doctor, two nurses and an ICRC delegate. The ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary, handed them over to the authorities of the Republic of Iraq.

This repatriation took place in accordance with a unilateral decision by the Iranian government to release 70 prisoners of war. Four of these prisoners refused to be repatriated and remained in Iran.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

11 April 1989

ICRC No. 1605
League No. 9/89

**SIXTY-EIGHTH DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME
FROM THE EMPRESS SHOKEN FUND**

Twelve Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in developing countries will receive grants totalling approximately CHF 350'000 under the sixty-eighth distribution of income from the Empress Shôken Fund. The money will finance activities in the fields of disaster preparedness, health, social welfare, first aid and youth programmes.

The National Societies were selected by the joint ICRC-League Commission entrusted with the distribution of the income of the Fund at a meeting in Geneva at the end of March. The Commission's meeting was chaired by Mr. Maurice Aubert, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The delegation of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was headed by League Secretary General Mr. Pär Stenbäck. The Ambassador of Japan in Geneva, H.E. Mr. Yoshio Hatano, was present at the meeting.

The grants will finance the following projects:

		<u>Swiss francs</u>
1) Ecuatorial Guinea	- 1 Ambulance type "Renault" or "Peugeot" and First Aid supplies	40'000
2) Guinea (Conakry)	- 1 Mini Bus type "Toyota Hi-Lux" for Youth Red Cross activities	28'000
3) Guyana	- 2 Station Wagons type "Mazda 323" to develop Youth activities, First Aid and Rescue programmes, and Social Welfare activities	52'000
4) Lebanon	- To up-date teaching material for First Aid programmes	7'000
5) Madagascar	- 1 Lorry for use in Disaster Preparedness, Community Health and Youth Red Cross activities	52'000



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies form, with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

The ICRC, founder body of the Red Cross, is a neutral intermediary in times of armed conflict and strife. It tries to ensure, on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions, protection and assistance to victims of international and civil wars and of internal strife and tension.

The League's function is to contribute to the development of the humanitarian activities of National Societies, to co-ordinate their relief operations for victims of natural disasters and to care for refugees outside areas of conflict.

6)	Morocco	- 1 Mini Bus type "Renault trafic" for Disaster Relief Emergency Centre in Rabat	23'000
7)	Panama	- 1 Mini Bus type "Toyota Hi-Lux" for Health, Social Welfare and Youth Red Cross activities	25'000
8)	Solomon Islands	- 1 Mini Bus to develop the Blood Transfusion Services	26'000
9)	Togo	- 1 Mini Bus for the training and activities of First Aid teams	26'000
10)	Tonga	- 1 Twelve-seater van type "Toyota Hiace" for the transport of Disabled, Youth Red Cross and First Aid teams, etc.	24'000
11)	Tuvalu	- 1 Mini Bus "Toyota Hi-Lux" for Rehabilitation programmes for Disabled, Blood Donor recruitment and Youth Red Cross activities	26'000
12)	Yemen (Arab Rep.)	- To equip and furnish the First Aid Emergency Centre in Sana'a	20'000

The Joint Commission issued in 1987 a booklet "75 Years of Service to Humanity" which is still available and which recalls that the Fund was set up in 1912 by a gift from Her Imperial Majesty of Japan, for the purpose of encouraging the development of humanitarian activities among National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Empress Shôken died on 11 April 1914. The Fund has received repeated gifts from the Imperial Family of Japan, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross Society. Its interest-bearing investments exceed six million Swiss francs.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Information Department

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 34 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1606
14 April 1989

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: URGENT APPEAL BY THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - On 13 April, six Arab inhabitants of the village of Nahalin, in the Israeli-occupied territories, were killed and about thirty others were wounded in the course of an operation by the Israeli armed forces. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) vigorously protests against this latest tragic incident, during which troops opened fire without discrimination and without restraint.

For several months the ICRC has been extremely concerned by the increasingly frequent use of firearms and by acts of physical violence against defenceless civilians. In addition, the evacuation of the injured has been hampered, as well as the work of medical staff and hospitals in the occupied territories.

Following numerous representations the ICRC has now addressed an urgent appeal to the Israeli authorities, calling for an end to such practices which violate the fundamental principles of humanitarian law.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 34 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1607
14 April 1989

ICRC PLEA ON BEHALF OF CIVILIANS IN LEBANON

Geneva (ICRC) - For a month Lebanon has been battered by massive and indiscriminate shelling which has hit densely populated urban areas, causing numerous casualties among the civilian population.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), profoundly disturbed by this situation, solemnly calls on all parties to the conflict to respect the fundamental principles of humanitarian law.

On three occasions, the ICRC delegation in Beirut has urged the belligerents to do everything possible to spare civilians and civilian property.

Throughout the fighting the ICRC delegation in Lebanon and Lebanese Red Cross teams have worked untiringly to bring assistance and relief to the victims, and to provide support for medical services in response to the most urgent needs.

Emergency medical supplies have been distributed to all the affected areas, and several thousand displaced people have received food aid.

The ICRC has also stepped up its operation in Lebanon by sending in extra medical personnel and supplies.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 · Telex 22269 · Telefax (022) 34 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1608
28 April 1989

LEBANON: ICRC ASSISTANCE TO THE DISPLACED POPULATION

Geneva (ICRC) - Since 14 March, the civilian population in various parts of Lebanon has been subjected to indiscriminate shelling. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), with a team of 25 Swiss delegates and about 100 local staff, has been monitoring the situation closely, providing medical supplies to hospitals and dispensaries and distributing food to the families in greatest need.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to abandon their homes. The latest surveys carried out in southern Lebanon point to an alarming situation. In the face of the large-scale movement of displaced people, the economic situation has rapidly deteriorated. The ICRC has therefore decided to step up its relief activities without delay, so as to provide assistance to about 100,000 families displaced by the conflict.

Using emergency stocks set up in Lebanon, the ICRC will come to the aid of 20,000 families within the next few days. To continue its assistance programme, it will charter a boat to transport 600 tonnes of rice, 600 tonnes of beans, 80 tonnes of sugar, and 60 tonnes of oil directly from Europe to southern Lebanon. This special operation has been made possible by the European Economic Community, which has agreed to finance the cost.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 34 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1609
23 May 1989

PRISONERS OF WAR REPATRIATED FROM IRAN TO IRAQ

Geneva (ICRC) - In accordance with a unilateral decision by the Iranian government to release a group of prisoners of war, 49 Iraqi prisoners of war were handed over by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Tehran on Tuesday, 23 May 1989, for repatriation to Iraq.

The prisoners of war, all wounded, sick or elderly, left Tehran for Baghdad on board an aircraft chartered by the ICRC. They were accompanied by a doctor, two nurses and an ICRC delegate. The ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary, handed them over to the authorities of the Republic of Iraq.

++++



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone (022) 734 60 01 · Telex 414 226 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press Release No 1610
8 August 1989

USSR ratifies the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions

Geneva (ICRC) - Representatives of the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) have informed the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that on 4 August 1989 the Supreme Soviet approved the ratification of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, without making any reservation or declaration of interpretation.

The ICRC was extremely gratified to hear of this important decision.

The two Protocols of 8 June 1977 strengthen the protection of victims of international and non-international armed conflicts.

Their ratification by the USSR brings the number of States party to Protocol I to 86 and those party to Protocol II to 76.

++++

The *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)* and the *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies*, together with the *National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies*, form the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The ICRC, which gave rise to the Movement, is an independent humanitarian institution. As a neutral intermediary in the event of armed conflict or unrest it endeavours, on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions, to bring protection and assistance to the victims of international and non-international armed conflict and internal disturbances and tension.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 8280

PRESS RELEASE

Press Release No 1611
14 August 1989

ICRC APPEAL FOR IMMEDIATE TRUCE IN LEBANON

Geneva (ICRC) - For the past five months the civilian population of Beirut and its surroundings have been subjected to indiscriminate and increasingly heavy shelling. The escalation in the violence since Thursday last has not only caused hundreds of casualties among civilians; it has also seriously hampered the work of the medical services. In view of this alarming situation, on Sunday 13 August the ICRC delegation in Lebanon launched an urgent appeal to all the belligerents to call a truce on humanitarian grounds.

The ICRC, gravely concerned by the devastating effects of the fighting, feels that a halt to the shelling is essential to enable the medical services and hospitals to reorganize and to evacuate and treat the wounded, and to allow civilians trapped in shelters without water or electricity to come out for supplies.

The ICRC reiterates the appeal made in Lebanon by its delegation and calls on the belligerents to do everything possible to ensure respect for the elementary rules of humanitarian law affording protection to the civilian population, the wounded and medical establishments.

++++



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 6001 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1612
21 August 1989

PRESIDENT OF SWISS CONFEDERATION VISITS ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - Mr. Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, President of the Swiss Confederation, today visited the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

He was received by Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, ICRC President, together with members of the Committee, senior staff of the institution and Mr. Pär Stenbäck, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Swiss President was accompanied by Mrs Delamuraz, for whom a tour of the Central Tracing Agency had been arranged.

In his welcoming address, Mr. Sommaruga drew attention, on the eve of the 125th anniversary of the original Geneva Convention, to the remarkable similarity of views between the Federal authorities and the ICRC. The Swiss Confederation, depositary State of the Geneva Conventions, had in several ways been instrumental in enabling the ICRC to discharge its mandate worldwide. The ICRC President stressed, however, that the principles of independence and neutrality were vital to the institution's humanitarian work. Indeed, Switzerland's longstanding tradition of neutrality had favoured the development of the ICRC's activities the world over. Here Mr. Sommaruga took the opportunity to thank the Swiss people and the country's authorities for their generous contribution to those activities.

In his reply, Mr. Delamuraz declared that it would be a proud and moving moment for him the next day to celebrate, in his capacity as President of the Confederation, 125 years of humanitarian commitment and in so doing demonstrate his regard for international humanitarian law. His visit to ICRC headquarters and to the International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent had increased his admiration and gratitude for the battles fought daily by the ICRC in favour of humanity, history and peace. On behalf of his government, Mr. Delamuraz then paid eloquent tribute to the institution's record of noble and often unrecognized dedication and to the completely independent vocation of the ICRC.

The visit ended with the signing of the Visitors' Book.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.





INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1613
24 August 1989

ICRC APPOINTS A DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Geneva (ICRC) - At its ordinary session of 24 August 1989, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) decided to appoint Mr. Guy Deluz as its Director-General.

As planned in September 1988, the International Committee took stock of how its new administrative structures had functioned during their first year. It decided to strengthen the Directorate established at the time by appointing a Director-General at its head.

During the '70s Mr. Guy Deluz served on a number of occasions as ICRC delegate and head of delegation, then as head of the institutions' Logistics Division. Mr. Deluz is currently Chairman and Managing Director of Pathé Marconi EMI France. He will take up his post as member of the Directorate and Director-General of the ICRC on 1 January 1990.

The Committee also examined a series of measures designed to improve the functioning of the institution and strengthen its internal cohesion.

++++



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1614
28 August 1989

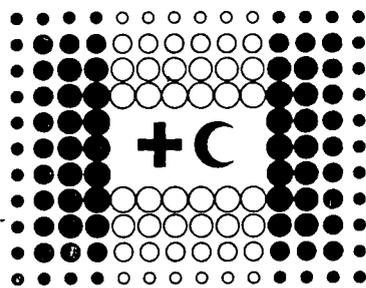
ICRC DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS ASKS TO BE RELIEVED OF DUTIES

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) regrets to announce that Mr. André Pasquier has asked to be relieved of his duties as ICRC Director of Operations, with effect from October 1989.

Mr. Pasquier decided to step down following the International Committee's adoption on 24 August last of a plan to reorganize the Institution's Directorate.

The ICRC wishes to express its gratitude for Mr. Pasquier's commitment and dedication during his four years in the key post of Director of Operations. Mr. Pasquier will continue to work with the Committee; from 15 October next he will be attached to the Executive Board as the ICRC President's special representative for negotiations in humanitarian matters.

++++



SUPERCAMP 89

Supercamp '89 is being jointly organized by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross with the participation of the Swiss Red Cross.

Le Supercamp 89 est organisé conjointement par la Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge, le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge et la Croix-Rouge italienne, avec la participation de la Croix-Rouge suisse.

El Supercampamento 89 está siendo organizado juntamente por la Liga de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja, el Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja y la Cruz Roja Italiana, con la participación de la Cruz Roja Suiza.

يُجرى تنظيم مخيم الشباب لعام ١٩٨٩ بالاشتراك ما بين رابطة جمعيات المليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر واللجنة الدولية للمليب الأحمر والمليب الإيطالي والمليب الأحمر السويسري.

Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge, C. P. 372, CH-1211 Genève 19, Tél. (022) 34 55 80, Tx 22555 LRCS CH, Téléfax (022) 33 03 95

Joint press release

ICRC No. 1615 - League No. 13/89

8 September 1989

UNIQUE EVENT IN GENEVA ON 11 SEPTEMBER

Geneva (ICRC/League) - To mark the 125th anniversary of its founding, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has, for the first time ever, brought together almost 600 young people from 131 nations.

SUPERCAMP 89 is currently taking place in Castiglione/Solferino, Italy, in the very spots where the idea of the Red Cross was born. The young people are spending 10 days in Italy, drafting a message from the Movement's youth which they will read out and hand over during an important ceremony in front of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, on 11 September at 6 p.m.

The young people will travel from Italy to Geneva by special train. At 5 p.m. they will walk in procession to the Place des Nations. After being greeted by the authorities of the City of Geneva, by Mr. Karl Kennel and Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, Presidents of the Swiss Red Cross and of the ICRC, and by Mr. Pär Stenbäck, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the young people will read out their message, intended to lay the groundwork for the future activities of the largest youth organization in the world (90 million members).

Federal Councillor Kaspar Villiger, representing the Swiss Federal Council, and Mr. Jan Martenson, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, will then briefly address the gathering. This event will bring the 125th anniversary of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to a close.

For further information contact:

Ann Naef, 734 55 80 (ext. 372)

Serge Caccia, 734 60 01 (ext. 2392)

++++



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 6001 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1616
5 October 1989

RECOGNITION OF A NEW NATIONAL SOCIETY

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has recognized the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross.

This recognition, which took effect yesterday, 4 October 1989, brings to 149 the number of National Societies which are members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

++++

The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone (022) 734 60 01 · Telex 414 226 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1617
6 October 1989

TWO ICRC DELEGATES ABDUCTED

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) confirms that two of its orthopaedic technicians, Mr. Emanuel Christen and Mr. Elio Erriguez, were abducted by four unidentified armed men at 7.30 this morning in Sidon, in front of its orthopaedic unit at the Orphan Welfare Centre.

The two ICRC delegates were on their way to work as usual at the orthopaedic centre, where they were training Lebanese orthopaedic technicians and producing artificial limbs and orthopaedic appliances for the war disabled.

The ICRC wishes to stress that it is continuing its neutral and impartial activities in Lebanon and calls for the prompt release of its delegates so that they can resume their work in aid of victims of the Lebanese conflict.

++++

The *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)* and the *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies*, together with the *National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies*, form the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The ICRC, which gave rise to the Movement, is an independent humanitarian institution. As a neutral intermediary in the event of armed conflict or unrest it endeavours, on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions, to bring protection and assistance to the victims of international and non-international armed conflict and internal disturbances and tension.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1618
10 October 1989

APPOINTMENTS AT THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - At its latest meeting of 4 and 5 October, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appointed two new members to the Committee and nominated an acting Director of Operations.

The two new members of the Committee are Mr. Max Daetwyler and Mr. Marco Mumenthaler. Their appointment brings membership of the ICRC Assembly, which is composed exclusively of Swiss citizens, to 25.

- Mr. Max Daetwyler, who holds a degree in economics and social sciences from Geneva University, was born in 1928 and is originally from Unterentfelden in the Canton of Aargau. Mr. Daetwyler is currently living in Geneva. He studied in Zurich, Geneva and the United States, and his professional activities have taken him to Japan, Pakistan and Zaire. He has held several posts at the International Management Institute (IMI) in Geneva and has maintained close connections with the institution as a member of its Faculty, running seminars for members of Boards of Directors.

- Mr. Marco Mumenthaler, Professor of Neurology at the University of Bern, was born in 1925 and is originally from Langenthal in the Canton of Bern. He went to school in the Canton of Tessin and in Italy and later attended the Medical Faculties of the Universities of Zurich, Paris, Amsterdam and Basel. He has been in practice as a neurologist in Paris, Zurich, Winterthur, the United States and Bern. He was recently appointed Rector of the University of Bern. Professor Mumenthaler is the author of numerous scientific publications and carried out a medical mission for the ICRC in 1989.

Mr. Jean de Courten, currently Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific, will be taking up the post of acting ICRC Director of Operations on 16 October next, thereby succeeding Mr. André Pasquier.

++++



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1619
13 October 1989

ICRC APPEALS FOR RELEASE OF EMANUEL CHRISTEN AND ELIO ERRIQUEZ

Geneva (ICRC) - One week after the abduction in Sidon of two of its delegates, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), having still had no news of them, once again appeals most urgently for their release.

Mr. Christen and Mr. Erriquez are orthopaedic technicians and were sent to Lebanon to help people who have lost limbs in the conflict there. The abduction of these two delegates negates the very essence of their humanitarian mission.

The ICRC wishes to emphasize that in recent months its delegates in Lebanon have worked tirelessly to assist the hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, to forward thousands of messages between members of separated families, to visit detainees, to provide support for the hospitals and to act as a neutral intermediary between the parties to the conflict.

As an impartial and independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC therefore demands that the delegates' detention be brought to an end, thus restoring the respect required, at all times and in all circumstances, to enable the International Committee of the Red Cross to carry out its mission on behalf of the victims of war.

The ICRC thanks all the parties who have given it their confidence and support in Lebanon and trusts that they will do everything possible to ensure that this appeal is heard.



**LEAGUE OF RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

PO. BOX 276, CH-1211 GENEVA 19,
TELEGRAM: LICROSS-GENEVA
TELEPHONE 34 55 80
TELEX 22555 LRCS CH

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS**

19, AVENUE DE LA PAIX, CH-1202 GENEVA
TELEGRAM: INTERCROIXROUGE
TELEPHONE 34 60 01
TELEX 22269 CICR CH

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

26 October 1989

ICRC No. 1620
League No. 22/89

APPEAL IN BEHALF OF THE ICRC DELEGATES KIDNAPPED IN LEBANON

Geneva (ICRC/League) - At the opening meeting of the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which will go on until 27 October 1989, an appeal was launched in behalf of the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) abducted in Lebanon on 6 October.

The appeal reads as follows:

"The 149 National Societies meeting in Geneva at the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,

convey to the ICRC the expression of their solidarity and support following the kidnapping on 6 October of Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, orthopaedic technicians on mission in Sidon, Lebanon,

recall the resolution adopted at the Thirteenth International Conference of the Red Cross (Bucharest, 1977) condemning hostage-taking,

consider the kidnapping of the two ICRC delegates to be an unacceptable act, constituting an affront to the very essence of the humanitarian mission of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and cruelly depriving hundreds of disabled in Lebanon of medical assistance,

call for the immediate and unconditional release of Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, to restore the respect the ICRC requires, at all times and in all circumstances, to carry out its neutral and impartial humanitarian mission, and to enable the ICRC to continue unhindered its work for the victims of war."

++++



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies form, with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

The ICRC, founder body of the Red Cross, is a neutral intermediary in times of armed conflict and strife. It tries to ensure, on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions, protection and assistance to victims of international and civil wars and of internal strife and tension.

The League's function is to contribute to the development of the humanitarian activities of National Societies, to co-ordinate their relief operations for victims of natural disasters and to care for refugees outside areas of conflict.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1621
6 November 1989

ICRC DELEGATES STILL HELD

Geneva (ICRC) - A month after their abduction in Sidon on 6 October 1989, Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez are still being held hostage in Lebanon.

Throughout these long weeks of captivity, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has made constant and intensive representations to all the Lebanese parties and to the PLO and other Palestinian organizations present in Lebanon. All have condemned this outrageous and unjustifiable act and assured the ICRC of their active support in obtaining the release of the two men. The ICRC has also sought the good offices of the Syrian and Libyan authorities and of Iran and Algeria, which have likewise pledged their support.

The ICRC, which despite the distressing circumstances has so far maintained its activities in Lebanon, hopes that these expressions of support will bring about the release of Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez. Today the institution and the families of the two kidnapped staff members once again call for an end to this ordeal.

++++



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 8280

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1622
13 November 1989

THE ICRC ELECTS A NEW VICE-PRESIDENT

Geneva (ICRC) - From 1 June 1990, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will have a new permanent Vice-President, Mr. Claudio Caratsch. Mr. Caratsch was co-opted by the Assembly, which met in Geneva on 9 November 1989, and will become a member of the International Committee on 1 March 1990.

Born in 1936, Mr. Caratsch is a citizen of S-chanf and Santa Maria im Münsterthal, in the Swiss canton of Graubünden. He studied in Berne, Basel, Paris and Neuchâtel, obtaining a diploma from the Institute of Political Studies at the University of Paris, an arts degree and a diploma from the Institute of Economic and Social Development Studies. In 1960 he joined the Federal Political Department, where he held several diplomatic posts (London, Berne, Cairo, Warsaw, Vienna). From 1984 to 1988 he was Swiss Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Niger and Guinea. He will remain in his present post of Swiss Ambassador to Egypt and Sudan until he joins the ICRC on 1 March 1990.

++++

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1623
15 November 1989

ICRC APPEALS FOR IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN TRUCE IN SAN SALVADOR TO EVACUATE WOUNDED

Geneva (ICRC) - The heavy fighting that has been raging in San Salvador for several days has had tragic consequences for the civilian population, many of whom have been wounded or killed. The wounded must be evacuated and given the necessary medical assistance, but the Red Cross (the ICRC and the Salvadoran Red Cross) has not been able to obtain access to combat zones.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) therefore urgently appeals to all the parties to the conflict to agree to an immediate truce so that Red Cross ambulances can evacuate the wounded - civilians, soldiers and combatants - from areas in San Salvador where there is fighting to hospitals in the capital.

The ICRC counts on the agreement of all the parties so that its delegates and first-aiders from the Salvadoran Red Cross can start their humanitarian work without delay.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 8280

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1624
17 November 1989

ICRC EARNESTLY APPEALS FOR RESPECT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN EL SALVADOR

Geneva (ICRC) - In view of the extreme gravity of the situation in El Salvador, in which the civilian population and the wounded are caught in the midst of intense fighting without any protection or truce to bring them assistance, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) proclaims its acute concern at their plight.

It earnestly appeals to the parties concerned to respect international humanitarian law and likewise ensure that it is respected by all persons involved in the conflict.

The ICRC reminds them that in accordance with the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and the rules contained in Article 3 common to the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and 1977 Additional Protocol II, the civilian population and all persons hors de combat must be spared and protected from the effects of hostilities.

These rules require in particular that the wounded and sick be given assistance in all circumstances, that medical personnel, ambulances and hospitals be allowed to work without hindrance and that the Red Cross emblem be respected at all times.

The ICRC demands that the parties take all necessary steps to enable its delegates and the Salvadoran Red Cross to help the victims, and above all to evacuate the wounded to hospital. It therefore urgently appeals for an immediate truce.

++++



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1625
29 November 1989

INCIDENT IN KHIAM PRISON: ICRC REACTION

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was most concerned to learn of the death of a detainee during recent incidents at the prison in Kham, located in the southern Lebanon border zone.

The ICRC deplores this tragic event and appeals to the authorities concerned to safeguard the physical and mental integrity of detainees in all circumstances. It also regrets that, despite repeated representations, it has been unable to discharge its humanitarian mandate in the prison, as required by the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilians in time of war.

The ICRC hereby calls for international humanitarian law to be respected and once again asks the relevant authorities to grant it access to Kham prison.

++++



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1626
4 December 1989

SRI LANKA: ICRC BEGINS VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION

Geneva (ICRC) - In 1983, the situation in Sri Lanka prompted the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to offer its services to the Sri Lankan authorities. This offer was regularly renewed.

On 9 October 1989, following its most recent negotiations with the Government, the ICRC was authorized to go to Sri Lanka and conduct its traditional humanitarian activities there. An initial team of delegates arrived in Colombo on 16 October.

The ICRC now has 14 delegates in Sri Lanka. From 22-29 November, a team visited persons held by the Sri Lankan authorities in Boosa Army Detention Camp, near the town of Galle. The visit was carried out in accordance with standard ICRC criteria and the delegates were able to interview the detainees without witnesses.

The ICRC has already started visits to other places of detention in Sri Lanka.

++++



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1627
18 December 1989

ABDUCTED ICRC DELEGATES: ICRC PRESIDENT GOES TO LEBANON

ICRC (Geneva) - Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Mr. Elias Hraoui, President of the Lebanese Republic, met today in Lebanon within the framework of the intensive representations conducted by the ICRC over the past two months to obtain the release of its two delegates, Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, abducted in Sidon on 6 October.

The meeting, which focused on matters of strictly humanitarian concern, was also an opportunity to discuss the fighting in Lebanon in 1989 and its cruel effects on the civilian population. Mr. Sommaruga reminded the parties of their humanitarian responsibility to ensure respect, in all circumstances, for the civilian population, medical personnel and hospitals, the wounded, prisoners and objects vital to the survival of the population.

While giving his assurances that the ICRC meant to continue its activities in Lebanon, jeopardized at present by the abduction of its two delegates, Mr. Sommaruga launched an urgent appeal for their release so that ICRC delegates can once again fulfil their humanitarian mission throughout the country in an atmosphere of renewed confidence and respect.

++++



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

19, avenue de la Paix · CH-1202 GENEVA
Phone 734 60 01 · Telex 22 269 · Telefax (022) 734 82 80

PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1628
19 December 1989

ABDUCTED ICRC DELEGATES: PRESIDENT SOMMARUGA IN SYRIA

Geneva (ICRC) - Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), met Mr. Farouk El Shara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, and Mr. Abdel Halim Khaddam, the country's First Vice-President, in Damascus on 19 December. Their meeting was part of intensive representations made in recent weeks to obtain the release of Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, ICRC delegates abducted in Sidon on 6 October. The two Syrian officials assured the ICRC of their government's complete support.

++++

