Geneva (ICRC) - Extracts of the first summary report on Iranian places of detention visited in April-May 1977 by delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross have recently been published by the Iranian authorities and in the press.

The ICRC wishes to draw attention to the fact that its delegates' findings in places of detention are set forth in confidential reports which it sends to and intends solely for the authorities concerned. Should this condition not be observed and an incomplete version of such reports published, the ICRC reserves the right to publish the reports concerned in full. It is indeed important to ensure that the impression given of detention conditions corresponds to that conveyed by the full reports.

In this present case, the ICRC summary report may be consulted at its headquarters.

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ICRC DELEGATE KILLED IN ACCIDENT IN UGANDA

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was grieved to learn of the sudden death in a car accident in the morning of 17 January 1980 of Miss Christine Rieben, a delegate in Uganda.

Two other ICRC delegates in the car were injured: Mr. Pierre Pont, in charge of the ICRC delegation in Kampala, and Miss Catherine Vontobel, secretary. An employee of the Ugandan Red Cross, Mr. Jimmy Lumu, in the car was slightly injured.

Miss Rieben, single, 30 years of age, joined the staff of the ICRC in July 1978. After training with the Central Tracing Agency she went out to N'Djamena for the Agency in March 1979. After six months in Chad and a short time at ICRC headquarters, she was posted to Kampala on 18 December last.

Her loss is deeply felt by all the ICRC which extends to her family and friends its profound sympathy.

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AFGHANISTAN: ICRC MISSION ACCEPTED

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been authorized to visit regularly and without witnesses all political and security prisoners in Afghanistan as well as all persons captured while fighting. This was the result of a visit to Kabul by an ICRC delegation which was received by the President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Babrak Karmal.

The Afghan Government has given a formal assurance to the ICRC that it will in all circumstances respect the principles of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to which Afghanistan is a party, and in particular that all armed forces on Afghan territory will abide by the rules of Article 3 of these Conventions, which relates to armed conflicts not of an international character.

The ICRC delegation was informed that there were 57 political detainees in Afghanistan and no prisoners captured as a result of the fighting.

A tracing agency will be set up jointly by the ICRC and the Afghan Red Crescent Society for the purpose of transmitting family messages to and from relatives outside Afghanistan, and of searching for missing persons.

The ICRC and the Afghan Red Crescent will together examine whether relief operations are necessary. If so a programme will be implemented jointly by these organizations.
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MAKES APPEAL FOR REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN

Geneva, 31 January 1980--As approximately half a million ill-equipped refugees from Afghanistan confront bitter winter cold in the mountains of Pakistan, the International Red Cross yesterday launched an appeal for the estimated SF 14.5 million the Pakistan Red Crescent urgently needs to accomplish its part of a government-supervised refugee relief action.

The Pakistan Red Crescent’s programme of medical assistance and relief, drafted with assistance of the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), will offer emergency assistance to some 100,000 refugees over a period the Red Cross estimates may last a year. The Pakistan Red Crescent’s programme currently calls for large quantities of medicine, tents, blankets, quilts, shoes, clothing, cooking stoves and soap, as well as vehicles, fuel and other expenses.

This appeal supplements a 16 January appeal launched by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to governments.

Of the refugees now in Pakistan, about four-fifths have sought asylum in North-West Frontier Province, the remainder in Baluchistan.
SOUTH EAST ASIAN REFUGEES: A MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE RED CROSS

Singapore (League/ICRC) - The 4th meeting of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on South East Asian refugees, held in Singapore on 4 and 5 February 1980, ended up with the acceptance of a 12 million Swiss Francs budget for the coming 6 months, i.e. for the period February 1 to July 31, 1980.

The budget reflects the willingness of both the operating and participating Societies to take all possible measures to continue to alleviate the suffering of tens of thousands of people in search of a permanent asylum. It has to be noted that the costs of operations going on in Thailand on behalf of the Kampuchean refugees are not included in this 12 million Swiss francs budget. As a part of the global effort undertaken in this country, the relevant Thai Red Cross programmes are being covered by the budget drawn up jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF).

Red Cross efforts are complementary to the programmes carried out for many months by various national agencies or international organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

During the discussions, the 8 operating Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Macao, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand), while asking for continuing support of their emergency programmes, expressed their gratitude to the International Community for the generous aid offered over the last months and years.

At this meeting, convened by the League and the ICRC and hosted by the Singapore Red Cross Society, the representatives of 17 countries strongly renewed their concern about the traffic fate of the refugees falling into the hands of the pirates and expressed hopes that, through energetic interventions by the various authorities concerned, protection could be ensured to those defenceless people.
Geneva (ICRC) - The International Motor Show in Geneva, from 6 to 16 March, will be the fiftieth to be held in this city. To mark this jubilee the organizers are donating to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) a heavy-duty ambulance specially equipped for difficult missions.

The ambulance was delivered to ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 20 February, in the presence of Mr. Alexandre Hay, ICRC President, and Mr. François Peyrot, President of the Geneva Motor Show.

The ambulance will be used for relief missions in Pakistan where the ICRC must meet an emergency caused by the flood of Afghan refugees. In such circumstances logistic equipment is vital. The ICRC is therefore grateful for such vehicles as that donated by the Motor Show.

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Geneva, 20 February 1980
JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday, 5 March 1980

ICRC - 1389
League - general 5/1980

THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS* LAUNCHES AN APPEAL
FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Geneva, 5 March 1980--An appeal launched jointly today for Southeast Asian refugees by the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reminded the world that the Boat People still need continued International Red Cross assistance.

The joint appeal asks for SFr 12,019,000, the amount currently estimated as necessary so operating Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (or their branches) in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Macao, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand can continue to fulfill their mandates toward the refugees for a six-month period ending 31 July. They are assisted in the field by the League-ICRC Joint Southeast Asian Refugee Task Force.

According to figures furnished to the International Red Cross by the UNHCR, there has been an influx since 29 November 1979 of more than 5,500 Boat People and over 7,200 refugees arriving by other routes. The UNHCR figures also show that the total number of refugees has fallen from approximately 300,900 to about 258,900 during the same period (these figures do not include some 260,000 refugees in China, or Kampucheans coming into Thailand).

The estimated expenses on which the current appeal is based were worked out at a meeting of operating and participating Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held 4-5 February in Singapore. That meeting drew up a budget intended to apply to foreseeable expenses covering a period from 1 February to 31 July.

The International Red Cross points out that though encouraging progress has been made in resettling refugees, the needs of those still awaiting resettlement, as well as those still arriving, make continued Red Cross action imperative. The Red Cross also noted in the appeal that many potential refugees remain in the area, necessitating a high degree of flexibility and readiness to cope with any eventuality.

The International Red Cross will consider the need for future appeals in this action as the situation develops.

*International Red Cross: (League of Red Cross Societies, International Committee of the Red Cross)
Press release No 1390
19 March 1980

GREEK PRESIDENT VISITS ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - The President of the Hellenic Republic Mr. Constantin Tsatsos, while on a private visit in Geneva, went to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Wednesday, 19 March.

Mr. Tsatsos was received by the ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, Members of the International Committee, the institution's Directors and leading officials of the League of Red Cross Societies.

After signing the Visitors Book and seeing a display of the work of the Central Tracing Agency, President Constantin Tsatsos discussed questions of topical interest with the ICRC representatives before leaving for Athens by air.

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CHAD: ICRC APPEAL TO THE COMBATANTS

Geneva (CICR) - On account of the violent fighting which, for the past week, has been causing heavy casualties among the inhabitants of N'Djamena, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) handed a letter on 27 March to the heads of the two main groups in Chad, urgently asking that the parties to the conflict should find a peaceful solution to the dispute at the earliest possible moment. For the immediate future, the ICRC has demanded that two humanitarian measures should be taken:

- The protection of the Central Hospital, where most of the wounded among the civilians and troops have been taken and where, on several occasion, the combats came so close to the hospital that the ICRC surgeons were obliged to suspend operating upon the patients. The ICRC has demanded that the Central Hospital, together with the buildings around the hospital, shall be declared to be a neutralized and protected zone; that this zone shall be marked by flags and that no attacks shall be directed against it. The ICRC has undertaken that no military installations shall be set up in the zone and no armed men shall be allowed to penetrate inside it.

- A cease-fire lasting not less than forty-eight hours, to allow ICRC delegates to evacuate the civilians caught in the line of fire between the two adversaries to localities designated by the parties at a safe distance away.

According to our latest reports the cease-fire should enter into force today, 28 March, at 12 noon.

President Goukouni Weddeye, who communicated the tenor to the mediation conference, stated he was very much moved by its terms. He also proposed that no heavy artillery should be employed on both sides.

Mr. Hissene Habré declared that he gave his unqualified approval for the application of both ICRC proposals.
COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE — PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1392
8 april 1980

BOGOTA : DOMINICAN EMBASSY HOSTAGES SEEN BY ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) — On 6 and 7 april 1980, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited the hostages held at the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Bogota. At the request of the Columbian Government and with the agreement of the persons occupying the embassy, an ICRC delegate saw all the hostages and spoke with them without any witnesses being present.

The ICRC delegate was given every facility by the Columbian Government and the persons occupying the embassy to carry out the visit, which did not in any way imply any participation whatsoever by the ICRC in the negotiations in progress, and the purpose of which was of a strictly humanitarian nature. The ICRC delegate's mission was to find out what were the living conditions in which the hostages were held and their state of health, and to give them moral support.

The ICRC has obtained assurances from the Columbian Government and the members of the M-19 group occupying the Dominican Embassy that a further visit might be arranged at a later date.

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QUEEN ELISABETH II AND PRINCE PHILIP VISIT ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - During their state visit to Switzerland, Her Majesty Elisabeth II of the United Kingdom, and H. R. H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva on 30 April. The royal couple were accompanied by Federal Councillor Mr. Pierre Aubert and Mrs Aubert.

The Queen and Prince Philip and their suite were welcomed by the President of the Geneva State Council, Mr. Guy Fontanet, the Mayor of Geneva, Mr. Roger Dafflon, and by the President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay. Among the eminent persons then presented to Her Majesty were the Generals Directors of several international inter-governmental organizations, officials of the canton, the municipality and the League of the Red Cross Societies, and members of the ICRC.

After an address of welcome by Mr. Fontanet and a speech by Mr. Hay, the royal couple signed the canton's, the town's and the ICRC's visitors' books.

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Food aid to Khmer population

Geneva (ICRC) - Conflicting reports having been recently published concerning food aid programmes for the benefit of Khmer civilians, the International Committee of the Red Cross wishes to put the record straight.

As announced in their joint statement of 23 May 1980, the ICRC and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which are conducting the food programme in Kampuchea and along the Khmer-Thai frontier, have endeavoured to obtain the conditions necessary for the continuation of their operations, asking in particular that:

- relief supplies be distributed fairly to all civilians in need,
- distributions be properly supervised,
- safety be ensured during distributions.

Efforts undertaken since then having so far not achieved the desired results, highlevel negotiations will start next week in Phnom Penh and Bangkok with a view to determining future action. For that purpose officials of the World Food Programme, UNICEF and the ICRC will go first to Thailand and then to Phnom Penh, were they are expected on 21 July.

The ICRC regrets that, in consequence of differences of views between its representatives in Thailand and those of UNICEF, initiative was taken unilaterally in food distribution. As a result, the headquarters of the two institutions are in contact to co-ordinate their policies prior to the discussions to start in Bangkok.

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Press release Nr 1396
10 July 1980

ICRC President in Libya

Geneva (ICRC) - ICRC President Alexandre Hay was in Tripoli (Libya) from 7 to 9 July, accompanied by Mr. Serge Nessi, head of the Finance Division, and Mr. Jean Hoefliger, delegate-general for the Middle-East and North Africa. He was received by Colonel Moammar El Gaddafi, the President of the People's General Council and the Ministers of Public Health and the Economy, the latter also being interim Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In-depth discussions with the Libyan leaders enabled the President of the ICRC to explain the many activities of the Committee throughout the world and the problems facing it. Colonel Gaddafi and the other Libyan government officials expressed considerable interest in the ICRC's humanitarian action and assured the presidential delegation of their full support. It was agreed in particular that co-operation between the Libyan authorities and Red Crescent on the one hand, and the ICRC and the entire Red Cross and Red Crescent movement on the other, would be intensified.
Since the autumn of 1979, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in co-operation with FAO and WFP, have conducted a major relief operation in favour of the Kampuchean people. Although much has been achieved, even more remains to be done if the situation is not to become very serious once again in the months ahead. But the ability of the partners in this operation to achieve their objectives depends, on the one hand, on the willingness of the international community to provide active support and adequate financial and material resources and, on the other, in no small measure, on the authorities of the countries involved to grant the guarantees necessary for this operation to truly and fully meet the needs of the affected populations.

ICRC/UNICEF policy throughout has been - and remains in the short and medium term - to ensure the procurement, delivery and distribution of the quantities of relief supplies, particularly food and medicine, necessary to help avert famine and alleviate the most pressing health problems within Kampuchea. This policy aims at encouraging Kampucheans to remain in or return to their homes rather than establish themselves on the Thai border. Closely allied to this is the imperative need for adequate quantities of rice seeds to be distributed in order to be planted in time. While the bulk of the aid is reaching Kampuchea through the country's ports, additional entry points in the East and in the West agreed by all parties concerned would greatly help distribution; arrangements are already being finalized to provide relief goods through Vietnamese ports to the eastern provinces. The failure to pursue the above-mentioned policy and implement the necessary measures to improve delivery and distribution would lead to the danger of further massive influx of Khmers to the border area and/or into Thailand.

In respect of the joint programme's responsibilities in the border areas, it should be noted that while it is fundamental to humanitarian law that medical aid be provided to wounded military and civilians alike, it is essential in this situation that civilians who constitute the only category entitled to food and other non-medical aid, particularly women and children, should be physically separated from combatants.

In summary, unless adequate relief is continued, sizeable elements of the Kampuchean population will soon face again a serious risk of starvation. For this, there are two essential prerequisites. First, substantially more material assistance must be received from the international community, including increase means of transport to support a more adequate distribution system within Kampuchea in the near future. Second, the joint UNICEF/ICRC programme must be assured that relief being provided will be equitably distributed among the whole civilian population in need. Without such an assurance, it cannot be expected that sufficient resources will be entrusted to the responsible organizations, nor in the prevailing circumstances should the organizations themselves be expected to continue their humanitarian work. Therefore, they need the indispensable cooperation of all concerned to enable them to attain the goals outlined above.

Geneva, 23 May 1980
Press release nr. 1397
28 August 1980

Clarification by the ICRC on its visits to places of detention in Uruguay

Geneva (ICRC) - According to press reports of affirmations made recently in Paris by the "Committee for the defence of political prisoners in Uruguay", "members of the International Red Cross" have made public statements on the conditions of detention in "La Libertad" prison in Uruguay.

In this connection, the International Committee of the Red Cross wishes to point out once again that neither its delegates, nor the International Committee itself, make public any of their findings in the places of detention which the ICRC is authorized to visit. If it were to waive this rule, the ICRC would obviously not be able to maintain the policy of discretion which humanitarian imperatives compel it to follow.

In the specific case of Uruguay, seventeen places of detention, including the "La Libertad" prison, were visited by the ICRC in the period from the end of January to the middle of May 1980, and its team of four delegates, one of whom was a doctor, spoke without witness with 1,428 detainees. On 8 July 1980, the ICRC delegates received authorization to visit a second time the "La Libertad" prison, they were granted the same facilities as at the first visit and spoke without witness with about 40 detainees.

The ICRC has followed the same practice in the 75 countries which it has visited since the second world war and where it has seen some 300,000 "political detainees", and it is determined to continue its policy of discretion in Uruguay and other countries. Any statements attributed to the International Committee of the Red Cross or its representatives which run contrary to this policy are completely groundless.

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Afghanistan: Appeal by the International Committee of the Red Cross

Geneva (ICRC) 16 September 1980: Since the beginning of the armed conflict in Afghanistan, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been greatly concerned over the fate of the civilian and military victims of the fighting. In accord with the mandate conferred on it by the Geneva Conventions of August 12th 1949, and by the Statutes of the International Red Cross, the ICRC on several occasions reminded the parties militarily engaged in the conflict of their obligations under international humanitarian law. The ICRC also offered its services to bring protection and assistance to the victims.

The ICRC was able to start these activities, but despite repeated approaches to the authorities in Kabul, it was unable to expand them to reach all the victims. On top of that, its delegates were refused permission to remain in Kabul after June 15th 1980.

During the few months it was present in Afghanistan, the ICRC had to limit its activities to two visits to the prison of Puli Charki in Kabul (in February and April 1980), and to handing over a small amount of medical relief supplies to hospitals in the capital.

Since its departure from Kabul, the ICRC has made several new approaches to the Afghan authorities, in which it proposed sending to Kabul a high-level delegation to try to resolve the problems preventing the development of its action. On July 26th, the Afghan government made it clear that it was not prepared to receive the ICRC envoys.

In a message sent to President Babrak Karmal on August 1st, the ICRC called on the Afghan authorities to reconsider their position; it stressed that its insistence on being allowed to work in Afghanistan was prompted solely by its concern to aid the victims. Approaches were also made to the government of the Soviet Union.

In the absence of a reply to its different initiatives, the ICRC now appeals publicly to all the parties militarily engaged in the conflict in Afghanistan to respect international humanitarian law and to allow the ICRC to carry out fully its traditional tasks of protection and assistance. In particular, the ICRC asks the Afghan government for permission to recommence and develop the activities it had undertaken from January to June this year.

All the States which are parties to the Geneva Conventions have an obligation to ensure that these Conventions are respected. The ICRC therefore calls on them to give this appeal their full support.

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Press release nr. 1399
Geneva, September 22, 1980

ICRC delegate killed in an accident in Sudan

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was greatly dismayed to learn of the sudden death of one of its delegates in Sudan, Mr Jürg Baumann, in a road accident on 21 September 1980.

A nurse from the Swiss Red Cross, Mr Günther Omozik, was also in the car and was slightly injured.

Jürg Baumann was 25 years old and a bachelor; he had followed the delegates' training course from 28 January to 2 February 1979; on 21 February he was sent to Israel, where he worked as a delegate until 27 September. On 3 October 1979 he took up his new post in Khartoum.

His death has come as a great loss to the ICRC as a whole, which expresses its deepest sympathy and sadness to his family and friends.

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Geneva (ICRC) - Hostilities between Iraq and Iran having erupted, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on 23 September, reminded the parties to the conflict, through their Permanent Missions to Geneva, of their obligations under the four 1949 Geneva Conventions.

In particular, the ICRC urged the two governments to ensure that the wounded, the sick, the prisoners of war and civilians are protected and treated humanely, and that hospitals and medical units are respected.

In addition, the ICRC stated that it was prepared to undertake the tasks devolving on it in such a situation, consistent with the Geneva Conventions, for the benefit of military and civilian prisoners of war, and missing persons.

The ICRC, which already has a two-man delegation in Iran is ready to despatch one or more delegates to Baghdad.

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Chad conflict: humanitarian aid deadlocked

Geneva (ICRC) - For many weeks, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been endeavouring to get the parties to the conflict in Chad to agree to establish the necessary practical conditions for the conduct of humanitarian operations in the field.

Having failed in its efforts to lift the negotiations out of the deadlock, the ICRC had to inform each of the opposing forces, led by Goukouni Weddeye and Hissène Habré, that it has decided to suspend its activities in Chad.

At the same time, in its message to both sides, the ICRC expressed the earnest hope that constructive talks would be resumed and ways and means found to enable its delegates to work again on each side of the front, in a spirit of impartiality and neutrality in conformity with the ICRC's mission and under adequate conditions of safety.

The ICRC has pointed out that it is the duty of the parties to an armed conflict to help the ICRC to carry out its humanitarian work in aid of all the victims.

In N'Djamena, which has been the scene of combats for several months, there have been large numbers of casualties, and the medical facilities are quite insufficient to cope with them.

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Presse release no 1402
Geneva, October 10, 1980

Conflict between Iraq and Iran: first visit to prisoners of war

Geneva (ICRC) - Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today carried out a first visit to a group of Iranian prisoners of war held by the Iraqis. The group comprised wounded soldiers in hospital. The visit was made according to the usual conditions laid down by the ICRC.

The ICRC delegates are to make other visits tomorrow (saturday), sunday 12th and monday 13th October to other groups of prisoners of war.

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Press release Nr 1403
October 23, 1980

Conflict between Iraq and Iran: New visits to prisoners of war

Geneva (ICRC) - Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross have begun visiting Iraqi prisoners of war held by the Iranian authorities. The first visit started yesterday (22nd October) and continued today; it went ahead according to the ICRC's usual procedure.

The next visit is planned to take place on Saturday, 25th October.

The purpose of the delegates' visits is to ensure the application of the Third Geneva Convention, under which prisoners of war are protected. This includes checking their conditions of detention and physical state, helping them send messages to their families and, if necessary, providing them with material assistance. As laid down in the Convention, ICRC delegates talk to the prisoners in private and send confidential reports to the detaining power and to the prisoners' country of origin.

Visits to Iranian prisoners of war held in Iraq began on 10th October.

To cope with the expanding work brought about by the conflict, the ICRC is reinforcing its delegations in the two countries at the beginning of next week. At present there are four delegates in Baghdad, and six in Teheran.

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Press release No 1405
1 December, 1980

TWO NEW ICRC MEMBERS

Geneva (ICRC) - Two new members have been elected by the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross and will be taking office on 1 December 1980.

Mr. Dietrich Schindler is a doctor of laws and a professor of international, constitutional and administrative law at Zürich University. He was already a member of the ICRC from 1961 to 1973; he became an honorary member in 1973 and continued collaborating in the work of the Legal Commission.

Mr. Olivier Long is a doctor of laws, a doctor of political science and a professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies. He discharged various duties in the Federal Political Department and was Swiss ambassador to London before being appointed Director General of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) in 1967, a post he held until recently.

As from 1 December 1980 the ICRC Assembly will number 22 members.

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Press release No. 1406
Geneva, December 18, 1980

President of ICRC and Executive Board re-elected

Geneva (ICRC) - At its session of 17-18 December 1980, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) re-elected Mr. Alexandre Hay to the Presidency of the ICRC for a period of four years.

Mr. Hay had succeeded Professor Eric Martin as ICRC President and had taken up his duties on July 1, 1976. He will continue, as ICRC President, to chair the Executive Board.

The ICRC Assembly also re-elected Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, Mr. Jakob Burckhardt, Mr. Athos Gallino and Mr. Rudolf Jäckli to membership of the Executive Board and accepted the resignation of Mrs. Denise Bindschedler-Robert, to whom it expressed its warmest thanks for her distinguished services since the Executive Board was set up in 1973.

Mrs. Bindschedler-Robert remains a member of the Assembly.

The Assembly elected Mrs. Andrée Weitzel, who became a member of the ICRC in 1979, to take Mrs. Bindschedler-Robert's place on the Executive Board.

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Press release Nr. 1407
December 19, 1980

ICRC returns to Chad

Geneva (ICRC) - A plane chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) left Geneva on 19 December 1980 for Chad, with a team of five people aboard (three delegates, one of whom is a specialist of the Central Tracing Agency, and two nurses).

Following the taking of N'Djamena by the forces of the GUNT ( Transitional Government of National Union) on 15 December, medical requirements are considerable, according to the first estimate made by a delegate based in Kousseri (Cameroon), Dr Charles Jeanmaire. The ICRC had been compelled to retire from Chad in October, because its delegates were no longer able to carry out their duties on both sides of the front for security reasons.

The ICRC team's first concern will be to provide immediate assistance to the wounded, both civilian and military, to visit combatants taken prisoner and to resume Tracing Agency activities, which had been interrupted for two months.

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Joint Press Release
UNICEF/ICRC No 1408
29 December 1980

Kampuchea: UNICEF/ICRC end Joint Operation

Geneva (UNICEF, ICRC) - On 31 December 1980, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will end their joint participation in the humanitarian assistance programme for the Kampuchean people; the two organizations, however, will continue to work closely together.

UNICEF will continue to be the lead agency in the United Nations system for relief assistance to the Kampuchean people until March 1981 and possibly throughout the entire year. It will also provide assistance to Kampuchean civilians along the border and assist the Thai Government to rehabilitate some 200,000 Thai villagers affected by the influx of Kampucheans into Thai Border areas.

The ICRC, meanwhile, will focus on its traditional activities. Within Kampuchea, it will continue to provide medical assistance during the next months and try to develop Tracing Agency and protection activities. Along the Thai/Kampuchean border, the ICRC will continue its protection, medical and tracing activities to Kampuchean refugees. In addition, ICRC's Bangkok delegation will still serve as the logistical base for the Kampuchea relief operation by maintaining relief flights between Bangkok and Phnom Penh.

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