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Anglais
(Manque 1465)
Press release No 1456
January 21, 1983

New member of the ICRC Assembly

Geneva (ICRC) - The Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has elected a new member, Professor Hans Haug, with effect from 1st March 1983.

Professor Haug, who is Doctor of Laws, teaches International Law at the Graduate School of Economics, Law, Business and Public Administration in St. Gallen. After becoming Secretary-General of the Swiss Red Cross in 1952, Professor Haug was elected its President in 1968, a post he held until last year. Professor Haug was also for many years one of the Vice-Presidents of the League of Red Cross Societies.

In December 1982 the ICRC Assembly accepted the resignation of one of its Vice-Presidents, Mr. Harald Huber, who had reached retirement age.

Mr. Huber, who has had a long career in public life, was member of the Swiss parliament and of the St. Gallen cantonal parliament. A judge, Mr. Huber attained the position of President of the Swiss Federal Court, the highest judicial body in the country. He was elected member of the ICRC in 1969 and became Vice-President in 1971. Mr. Huber has been named Honorary Member of the ICRC, and he will continue his association with the Committee as the chairman of the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace, a position he has held since 1976.

The total membership of the ICRC Assembly remains unchanged at 22.

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Press release No 1457
February 4, 1983

THAILAND : FIGHTING WORSENS PLIGHT OF TENS OF THOUSANDS REFUGEES

Geneva (ICRC) - Seven people were killed this morning and a still unknown number were wounded when a shell exploded about 250 meters from the field hospital set up to treat casualties among the tens of thousands of civilians who had fled their refugee camp in the Nong Chan border area between Thailand and Kampuchea.

At 3 and 6 km south on Nong Chan are two main concentrations of refugees, totalling 41,000 according to Khmer sources; among them is a group of 249 Vietnamese land refugees. While an unknown number of casualties are trapped in the combat zone, non-urgent and lightly wounded cases are treated in the concentration area in two emergency medical units run by the Thai Red Cross and "Médecins Sans Frontières". A medical team of 3 doctors and 3 nurses of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is also working in these forward areas evacuating wounded through the ICRC ambulance network.

Since fighting flared up around Nong Chan on 31 January 1983, a total of 87 severely wounded have been evacuated to the medical facilities in Khao I Dang camp (the only surgical hospital available to refugees in the central sector of the border). The ICRC medical team there comprises 10 doctors and 18 nurses from 7 National Red Cross Societies.

Deeply concerned at the plight and dangerous location of the mass of civilian refugees, including a high proportion of women and children, the ICRC appeals to all parties to be allowed to carry out its tasks, in particular of protection and medical care, more effectively and in a safer area. So far, circumstances met by ICRC delegates, U.N. and voluntary agencies in their relief task have been most difficult.

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Press release No 1458
February 4, 1983

US VICE-PRESIDENT VISITS ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - The Vice-President of the United States of America, Mr. George Bush, today visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He was welcomed by the ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay.

Mr. Bush and his entourage had a private meeting with President Hay and senior ICRC staff, in which they discussed a number of humanitarian issues.

The US Vice-President was accompanied by the US ambassador to Switzerland, Mrs Whittlesey and the US Permanent Representative to the UN office in Geneva, Mr. Swaebe, as well as other officials.

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Joint press release ICRC No. 1459
League No. 4-83
February 25, 1983

INDIAN VICE-PRESIDENT VISITS
LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES AND ICRC

Geneva (League-ICRC) - Mr. Hidayatullah, Vice-President of the Republic of India and President of the Indian Red Cross Society, today visited in Geneva the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

After a welcome by League Secretary-General Hans Hoegh and his principal colleagues, Mr. Hidayatullah and the people accompanying him were given an insight into the League's activities to promote the development of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to provide assistance to victims of natural disasters and to the disabled, and into its work on behalf of young people. During a private discussion with the Secretary-General, several humanitarian problems were raised.

Mr. Hidayatullah and his retinue then went to the headquarters of the ICRC where they were received, in President Hay's absence, by Vice-President Richard Pestalozzi. After a review of the institution's activities during Mr. Hidayatullah's meeting with members of the International Committee and with directors of the secretariat, the Protocols to the Geneva Conventions were discussed.

The Indian Vice-President was accompanied by the Indian Ambassador to Switzerland, the Indian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva, and other senior officials.

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Sixty-Second distribution of income from the Empress Shôken Fund

Geneva (ICRC - League) - The Joint Commission responsible for distributing the income from the Empress Shôken Fund met on 25 March 1983 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Maurice Aubert, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Chairman of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund. H.E. Mr. Kazuo Chiba, Ambassador of Japan, was present.

The Empress Shôken 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. Since then, the Fund has received several gifts from the Imperial Family of Japan, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross Society.

The income distributed during the current year will enable eleven National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Latin America, Africa and Asia to improve their equipment, to carry out blood transfusion and first aid activities and to take part in the forthcoming leadership training seminar organized by the Henry-Dunant Institute for National Societies.

The Joint Commission thanked the Japanese Red Cross and, through it, the Imperial Family of Japan and the Japanese Government for the help given towards the development of many National Societies all over the world. In the name of the ICRC and the League, the Joint Commission expressed to the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross the sincere gratitude felt by all members of the Red Cross movement.
PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1461
April 7, 1983

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED WEST BANK : AN ICRC RECOMMENDATION

Geneva (ICRC) - Following the sudden and mysterious hospitalisation of hundreds of people in the occupied West Bank, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sent a doctor-delegate, Dr Franz Altherr, to assess the situation (an enquiry being not within the ICRC's actual mandate).

Dr Altherr, a general practitioner, has carried out numerous evaluation missions in the Israeli-occupied territories over a period of ten years.

During his recent mission, between March 31 and April 4, he met Israeli doctors who had treated the first cases, and went to several hospitals in the West Bank to examine the patients and discuss the cases with their Palestinian doctors. He also met several West Bank personalities, as well as the Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Health.

In view of the objective findings of its doctor delegate and of his considering the number of hospitalisations and the uncertainty being experienced by the victims and the population of the area in general, the ICRC recommends the setting up of a full fledged enquiry. It should be performed by a competent body, acceptable to all parties, with a mandate to proceed to thorough and prolonged examinations in order to determine as soon as possible cause and eventual treatment of this ailment.

In this regard, the ICRC noted with satisfaction the decision by the United Nations to send a group of experts to the area.

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VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
IN IRAQ-IRAN CONFLICT - ICRC APPEALS

Geneva (ICRC) - Since the outbreak of the conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq the highest authorities of both those States have several times confirmed their intention to honour their international obligations deriving from the Geneva Conventions. Despite these assurances and its repeated representations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has had a delegation in both countries since the start of hostilities, more than thirty months ago, has encountered all kinds of obstacles in the exercise of its mandate under the Geneva Conventions.

Faced with grave and repeated breaches of international humanitarian law which it has itself witnessed or of which it has established the existence through reliable and verifiable sources, and having found it impossible to induce the parties to put a stop to such violations, the ICRC felt in duty bound to appeal on 9 May to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions. The ICRC stressed that, pursuant to its policy, it undertakes such an overt step only in very exceptional circumstances, when dictated by the urgent need to protect the victims and when its confidential representations have failed to put an end to the violations.

In a memorandum to the two belligerents and to all other signatories to the Conventions the ICRC outlined the conditions in which the PoWs in each country are held. It also pointed to grave violations committed by both countries, such as the summary execution of captive soldiers, abandoning of enemy wounded on the battlefield and indiscriminate bombardment of towns and villages.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of the Red Cross Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross. 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.
In the Islamic Republic of Iran the violations are all the more serious, considering the large number of prisoners, and to most of them the ICRC no longer has access. According to the Iranian authorities they are holding between 45,000 and 50,000 Iraqi prisoners of war. Although the Third Geneva Convention confers on those prisoners a legal status entitling them to specific rights, the Iranian authorities' continuous delaying tactics since May 1982, the obstacles and restrictions they have raised and their refusal to allow the ICRC to visit some PoW camps have prevented the ICRC from carrying out its work for the prisoners whom the Iranian authorities admit they are holding.

Moreover, the ICRC memorandum states, the Iraqi prisoners of war are subjected to ideological and political pressure, contrary to the Convention, and constituting an affront to the prisoners' dignity and disregard of their well-being. Such pressure - intimidation, humiliation, forced participation in demonstrations decrying the Iraqi Government - has been increasing since September 1982.

The ICRC also reports that events in some camps have led to death and injury of prisoners.

In addition, most of the severely wounded and sick prisoners have not been repatriated as required by the Convention.

In the Republic of Iraq the ICRC had registered by 1 March 1983 some 6,800 Iranian prisoners of war who, after initial difficulties, have been able for the last few months to correspond with their families in a satisfactory manner. Every month since October 1980 ICRC delegates have visited the prisoners of war, in a manner consistent with the procedure laid down in the Geneva Convention. However, the ICRC is convinced that some Iranian prisoners - several hundred of whose names are known to it - have been concealed from it since the beginning of the conflict and are imprisoned in places to which it has never had access. Only a few dozen such prisoners have been returned to the prisoner-of-war camps and registered by the ICRC. Ill treatment of PoWs has been witnessed and disorders in camps have been quelled by force of arms. Most of the severely wounded and sick have not been repatriated as required by the Convention.

Furthermore, tens of thousands of Iranian civilians have been deported to Iraq by the army, in breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention.
The ICRC has asked the States parties to the Geneva Conventions to make every effort - in discharge of the obligation they assumed under article 1 of the Conventions not only to respect but to ensure respect for the Conventions - to see that international humanitarian law is applied and these violations affecting tens of thousands of persons cease. It is imperative that the ICRC be enabled to fully discharge the humanitarian task the States have entrusted to it. Every means provided for in the Geneva Conventions to ensure their respect must be used to effect, especially the Protecting Powers which should be appointed to represent the belligerents' interests in their enemy's territory.

It is hoped that the ICRC's appeal will be heeded and that the importance of its mission and of the rule of law will be recognized, in the transcending interest of humanity and as a step to the restoration of peace.
EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT VISITS ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - President Hosni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt today visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

He was welcomed by ICRC President Alexandre Hay, along with members of the International Committee and senior ICRC staff.

In a brief address on arrival, President Mubarak commented that in the present world situation the need was greater than ever before for ensuring respect and strict adherence to international humanitarian law.

He pledged his government's support for the ICRC's work, adding that Egypt would spare no effort to impress upon world leaders the need for action to counter what he termed "the vicious circle of violence and hatred".

The Egyptian leader then had a private discussion with Mr. Hay, who outlined the ICRC's activities in the Middle East.

President Mubarak, who was making the first visit to the ICRC by an Egyptian Head of State, was accompanied by several senior aides, notably his Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kamal Hassan Ali.

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AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER AT ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - The Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Robert Hawke, today visited the Geneva headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He was welcomed by the ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay.

Mr. Hawke and his entourage had a private meeting with President Hay and senior ICRC staff, who gave an account of ICRC operations.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Australia’s Permanent Representative in Geneva, Ambassador Sadleir, as well as other officials.

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PRESS RELEASE

Press Release No 1466
June 30 1983

RELEASE OF CZECHOSLOVAKS AND PORTUGUESE
HELD BY UNITA

Geneva (ICRC) - Today, June 30 1983, 45 Czechoslovaks and 10 Portuguese held captive by UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) in Southern Angola were set free and taken, as a first stage to their repatriation, to Johannesburg, where they arrived at 16h25 local time.

The operation, supervised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), began at 0700 local time, when an ICRC-chartered aircraft took off from Johannesburg. In Southern Angola, UNITA officially handed over the freed captives to an ICRC delegation, on the spot since Friday, June 24. Those released comprised 21 children, 17 women and 7 men of Czechoslovak nationality, as well as the 10 Portuguese.

On arrival in Johannesburg, the 10 Portuguese were handed over to representatives of their government, while the Czechoslovak citizens are to board another flight for the Zairean capital, Kinshasa, where Czechoslovak consular officials are awaiting them.

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SRI LANKA : AUTHORITIES REFUSE ICRC OFFER OF SERVICES

Geneva (ICRC) - The authorities of the Republic of Sri Lanka today turned down offers made by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to protect and assist the wounded and persons displaced or arrested as a result of events. The two ICRC delegates who arrived in Colombo on 29 July will consequently leave the country forthwith.

The ICRC regrets what it hopes is a provisional measure, especially since its offer was intended above all to ensure better protection for persons in jeopardy. The effects of its departure upon assistance activities will, however, be attenuated by aid sent by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in response to an appeal launched by the Sri Lanka Red Cross and relayed by the League of Red Cross Societies.

It must be recalled that besides sending two delegates, the ICRC had taken the initiative, immediately after the communal disturbances began, of dispatching emergency medical and food aid to Sri Lanka worth approximately 100,000 Swiss francs.

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LEBANON : THE ICRC DEMANDS AN IMMEDIATE AND GENERAL CEASE-FIRE

Geneva (ICRC) - Tens of thousands of people, displaced in the Lebanese mountains, face a worsening situation because of the fighting and many wounded urgently need to be evacuated. However, joint efforts by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Lebanese Red Cross to help these people have failed because locally-negotiated cease-fires have been violated.

In order to be able to carry out its humanitarian mission, the ICRC calls on all parties for a general, immediate and effective cease-fire, and urges them to take all necessary measures to end the suffering of innocent victims.

Repeating its urgent appeal made in Beirut on September 5th, when a first cease-fire broke down, the ICRC stresses that it is essential and in everyone's interest to spare the civilian population, and to respect at all times the emblem of the Red Cross, ambulances and hospitals.

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Press release No 1469
Geneva, September 9, 1983

RECOGNITION OF NEW NATIONAL SOCIETY

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has recognised the Red Cross Society of Zimbabwe.

This recognition, which took effect on September 9, 1983, brings to 131 the number of National Societies which are members of the International Red Cross.
LEBANON : THE ICRC APPEALS FOR
12 MILLION SWISS FRANCS

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has launched an appeal to governments and national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies for 12 million swiss francs, to allow it to provide urgently-needed relief supplies to 105,000 people in Lebanon who have fled their homes because of the fighting.

43 ICRC delegates, including four doctors and five nurses, based in Beirut, Sidon and in the Bekaa Valley brought more than 50 tons of food supplies to the Chouf mountains between the 9th and 12th of September. Half this amount was for the village of Deir el Kamar. During the first week of fighting in the mountains, the delegates - together with the Lebanese Red Cross - evacuated 70 casualties. The ICRC has also delivered medical supplies to hospitals and dispensaries taking care of the wounded. Five tons of relief supplies, as well as blood, have been sent to Lebanon and a logistics base is to be opened at Larnaca in Cyprus.

The ICRC is once again extremely concerned about the fate of the civilian population. In the past few days detailed surveys have pin-pointed the needs of some 87,000 displaced people in need of water, food and blankets. The ICRC estimates that another 18,000 displaced people are now in the region, but because of the fighting its delegates have not been able to reach them.

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Press release no. 1471
Geneva, October 3rd 1983

VISIT TO THE ICRC BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Geneva (ICRC) - During his visit to Geneva, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Julius K. Nyerere, today visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) where he was welcomed by the ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay.

The Tanzanian president discussed various humanitarian matters during talks with President Hay and senior ICRC officials.

President Nyerere was accompanied by the Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Mr. Chagula, and Tanzania's Ambassador to Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Diria.

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INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TO HOLD
SECOND CONFERENCE ON PEACE

Geneva (ICRC/League) - A second world Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace is to be held in September 1984 on the Finnish island of Aland. Joint hosts of the Conference will be the Finnish and Swedish Red Cross Societies.

The decision approving the Conference was taken by the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross during its meeting in Geneva 13 and 14 October. The Council is made up of representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and National Societies. The first Peace Conference was held in Belgrade in 1975.

The topic of Red Cross and Human Rights appeared on the Council's agenda for the first time. The theme was debated at length; discussion focussed on economic and social rights (health and the protection of the family).

The Council also discussed Red Cross assistance to refugees and displaced persons, and studied the question of emergency telecommunications.

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PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1473
Geneva November 2, 1983

GRENADA: WOUNDED CUBANS LEAVE BARBADOS FOR HOME

Geneva (ICRC) - 67 Cubans, captured by the multinational force during the fighting on the Caribbean island of Grenada, left Barbados at 17.15 GMT today for Cuba aboard an airliner chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The group includes 57 wounded and sick and 10 Cuban medical personnel.

The DC-8 airliner is due to land in Havana at 21.15 GMT. Five ICRC delegates, including medical staff, are also on board the plane.

The Cubans were transferred from Grenada earlier on Wednesday under ICRC supervision.

Meanwhile ICRC delegates on Grenada are continuing their visits to prisoners.

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Geneva (ICRC) - Tens of thousands of civilians, Palestinians and Lebanese, are today directly affected by the fighting taking place in the region of Tripoli between the various armed factions deployed in the area.

In the camps of Nahr el Bared and Bedaoui, and in certain sectors of the city of Tripoli, civilians are at the mercy of indiscriminate shelling. After 24 hours of fighting, the ICRC already has knowledge of hundreds of dead and wounded among the population.

Once again in Lebanon, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is appealing to combatants to respect civilian lives.

It is calling on all parties to do everything possible to avoid hitting civilian targets, and to cease all bombardments of Palestinian refugee camps and certain sectors of Tripoli.

In addition, the ICRC insists on the fact that the presence of armed elements among the civilian population does not justify the indiscriminate shelling of women, children and old people.

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PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1475
November 4, 1983

PRESIDENT AMIN GEMAYEL VISITS ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - The Lebanese President, Mr Amin Gemayel, visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today. Accompanied by Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Mr Ibrahim Karma, Mr Gemayel was received by the ICRC President, Mr Alexandre Hay, and ICRC officials.

Welcoming the Lebanese President, Mr Hay expressed the wish that peace will return to Lebanon as soon as possible. In his reply, President Gemayel thanked the ICRC in the name of all the women, children and old people the institution has helped and is continuing to bring assistance to; Mr Gemayel concluded by expressing the wish that Lebanon could soon be able to contribute to Red Cross action instead of being the beneficiary.

The visit ended with private talks.

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PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1476
November 5, 1983

GRENADA : TRANSFER OF CUBAN PRISONERS
UNDER ICRC AUSPICIES

Geneva (ICRC) - The transfer home of Cuban prisoners held in Grenada, which began yesterday, is to continue throughout the weekend, under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The first group, of 100 prisoners, was taken from Grenada to Barbados aboard a United States aircraft. ICRC delegates there handed the prisoners over to Cuban representatives for the flight home to Havana.

Further transfers will be made today (Saturday) and tomorrow. The ICRC, which was asked by the governments concerned to supervise the operation, has stationed delegates in Grenada, Barbados and Cuba.

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Press release No 1477
Geneva, December 8th 1983

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP OF ICRC ASSEMBLY

Geneva (ICRC) - During its last session of the year (December 7th-8th) the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has taken leave of four of its members who are retiring either because of their age or because they had not asked to prolong their mandate. They are, on the one hand, Mr. Hans-Peter Tschudi and Mr. Jakob Burckhardt, and on the other Mr. Marcel A. Naville (who was President of the ICRC from July 1969 to June 1973) and Mr. Thomas Fleiner. The Committee is to welcome to its ranks, from the beginning of next year, a new member, Mr. Peter Arbenz of Winterthur.

In another development, the new full-time vice-president of the ICRC from January 1984 is to be Mr. Maurice Aubert. He takes over from Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, who has held the position since July 1979. Mr. Pestalozzi will, however, continue to sit in the Assembly and on the Executive Board.

Mr. Maurice Aubert was born in Geneva in 1924. He is a Doctor of Laws and a barrister. He has had a career in banking and at the same time has fulfilled various political mandates for the legislative bodies of the City and Canton of Geneva. He is currently the Chairman of the Foundation of the Institute of Development Studies in Geneva. Mr. Aubert has been a member of the ICRC Assembly since January 1979, and has had a seat on the Executive Board since September of this year. In taking over the full-time Vice-Presidency of the ICRC, Mr. Aubert will give up his other professional and political activities.

The new member of the ICRC, Mr. Peter Arbenz, was born in Winterthur in 1937. An economist, he is at present on the municipal council in his home town. He was formally director of Helvetas, a Swiss technical aid association. Mr. Arbenz has also worked for the Swiss Confederation as an expert in matters of cooperation and development.

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PRESS RELEASE

Press release no 1478
Geneva, December 13, 1983

Freeing of prisoners by Israel and the P.L.O:
ICRC expects agreement to be fully respected

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is still trying to resolve the cases of several prisoners who should have been released in the operation mounted by the ICRC on November 23 and 24 but who are yet to be freed.

After several months of negotiations, the ICRC had obtained written agreements from both Israel and the P.L.O for the simultaneous freeing of six Israeli prisoners and all prisoners detained by the Israelis in Southern Lebanon, including the whole of Insar camp (altogether some 4'300 people), as well as another 100 people detained in Israel itself. The latter group had all been named on an official list agreed by Israel the day before the operation.

One prisoner, Mr. Ziad Mohamed Ahmed Abou Ein, was registered by ICRC delegates at Tel Aviv airport, along with the others being freed, before embarkation. However, at the last minute he was taken by the Israeli authorities from a bus driving him and other prisoners to a waiting aircraft. The ICRC was not informed of this, and was only able to ascertain his absence when the plane arrived at its destination. Since then, Mr. Abou Ein has been visited by the ICRC in an Israeli prison.

This is not an isolated case, and the ICRC knows of some other prisoners who, having been duly registered on leaving Insar camp, were also taken from buses without the knowledge of the ICRC as they were being driven to the airport. The ICRC does not know where they are.

Finally, the ICRC has also noted that, while the agreement also foresaw the freeing of all the prisoners held by Israeli forces in military command posts in Southern Lebanon, some of these have not in fact been released.

While accepting that a prisoner release on this scale, carried out in such a short time, carries a certain risk of error, the ICRC expects the terms of the agreement to be strictly respected.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
Information Department

17, avenue de la Paix • CH-1211 GENEVA
Phone 34 60 01 • Telex 22 269
PRESS RELEASE

Press release no 1479
Geneva, December 15th 1983

IRAN/IRAQ: ICRC APPEALS TO BELLIGERANTS

Geneva (ICRC) - In the conflict between Iran and Iraq, the ICRC has once again taken note of bombardments of Iranian towns which the Iraqi authorities justify as reprisals.

Faced with the increase of such actions, whatever their context, the ICRC stresses that civilians must not be the object of attack, nor of reprisals. It calls on both parties to respect these basic humanitarian rules, everywhere and at all times.

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