Press release No 1559
13 January 1988

EXPULSIONS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: ICRC REACTION

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has noted with consternation the expulsion by the Israeli authorities on 13 January 1988 of four people from the West Bank to Lebanon. The ICRC expresses its concern about the fate of these four people whose present situation is unknown.

It protests once more against a practice already used on several occasions in the past by the State of Israel, and which constitutes a grave violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The forcible transfer of groups or individuals from the occupied territories is forbidden by international humanitarian law, whatever the reason for it.

Furthermore, over the past weeks, the ICRC has reminded the Israeli authorities of their obligations resulting from all the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention applicable to the occupied territories.

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THE CHANCELLOR OF AUSTRIA VISITS THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - The Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Mr. Franz Vranitzky, today visited the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, where he was received by Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the institution, and several members of the Committee.

In his speech of welcome, the President of the ICRC thanked the Federal Chancellor for the support that the Republic of Austria gives to the ICRC. He also recalled the fact that the large number of conflict situations in the world demands constant diplomatic support, in the interest of the victims, especially from neutral countries.

The signing of the ICRC's visitors' book was followed by a meeting between Mr. Franz Vranitzky and the ICRC President, which focused on the application and dissemination of international humanitarian law, the financing of the institution and the operational involvement of the ICRC's 41 delegations worldwide.

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THE ICRC CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will be 125 years old on February 9 1988. To celebrate the event, a commemorative plaque will be unveiled in Geneva on the wall of the building where, on February 9, 1863, the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded was founded at a meeting of the Geneva Public Welfare Society.

The "Committee of Five" was to put into practice Henry Dunant's ideas for relief societies to care for the wounded in time of war, born of the suffering he witnessed among injured soldiers on the battlefield of Solferino in Italy in 1859. This Committee, which eventually became the ICRC, was composed of five citizens of Geneva: General Guillaume-Henri Dufour, Henry Dunant, the lawyer Gustave Moynier, Dr. Louis Appia, and Dr. Théodore Maunoir. The ICRC has remained an all-Swiss institution throughout its 125 years. Today it is active in more than 80 countries, giving protection and assistance to military and civilian victims of conflicts.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, founded by the ICRC, has developed into a worldwide operation with over 250 million members and volunteer workers. The National Societies, which form the international federation of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, are at work in 145 countries, giving emergency assistance during natural disasters and providing numerous medical and social services.

Over the next 18 months, many events will be organised around the world to mark the 125th anniversary. Two particularly significant dates are October 26, 1988 and August 22, 1989. In 1863, on October 26, representatives from 16 governments attended a conference in Geneva called by the newly-formed International Committee of the Red Cross, and decided to promote the creation of committees for the relief of the wounded in all countries, which were to become the National Societies. Less than a year later, on August 22, 1864, the First Geneva Convention was signed by 12 States at a Diplomatic Conference convened by the Swiss Federal Council. The ten-article treaty for "the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field" formed the basis of humanitarian law applicable in time of war. From then on, ambulances, military hospitals and
medical staff were recognised as neutral and protected, and wounded and sick combatants were collected and cared for. The treaty also established the importance of the red cross on a white background as the protective emblem of army medical services. Today, international humanitarian law is based on the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977.

Henry Dunant was given the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901, with the French humanist Frédéric Passy. The ICRC has received the award three times: in 1917, 1944, and jointly with the League in 1963.
REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ

Geneva (ICRC) - Twenty-eight disabled, sick and elderly Iraqi prisoners of war were handed over in Tehran today by representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for repatriation to Iraq.

The prisoners, escorted by a doctor, a nurse and two ICRC delegates, left Tehran for Bagdad aboard an aircraft chartered by the ICRC. Acting in its capacity as a neutral intermediary between the belligerents, the ICRC handed over the prisoners to representatives of the authorities of the Republic of Iraq.

Before the operation was carried out, the Iraqi prisoners of war were visited individually by ICRC delegates and doctors who interviewed them without witness.

This repatriation of 28 prisoners follows two similar operations carried out by the ICRC on unilateral decisions by Iran in 1987.

The repatriation, while hostilities continue, of severely wounded and sick prisoners of war constitutes one of the major obligations of belligerent States party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The ICRC hopes that all severely wounded and sick prisoners of war still held in Iran and Iraq will be able to benefit from this conventional measure as soon as possible.

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Press release No. 1563
March 10, 1988

Iran/Iraq conflict: civilian population affected by bombing

Geneva (ICRC) - The indiscriminate bombing of civilians in connection with the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq has been denounced by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on several occasions, in particular in its solemn appeal of 11 February 1987.

The ICRC is alarmed by the resumption of such bombing in recent weeks and feels compelled once again to protest against this very grave violation of the essential rules of international humanitarian law.

The Parties to the conflict are directly responsible for the ever more cruel suffering being inflicted on civilians in this breach of the most fundamental precepts of humanity.

The ICRC once more appeals to the Parties to put an end to this tragic escalation. The International Committee officially approached the two belligerents on 3 March last to express its very profound concern and insist that all necessary measures be taken to ensure that civilians are no longer subjected to indiscriminate attack.

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Press release No. 1564
14 March 1988

ETHIOPIA: HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS PARALYSED

Geneva (ICRC) – In northern Ethiopia, international aid for people threatened by famine has been largely paralysed during recent weeks, while the nutritional state of the population is deteriorating at an alarming rate.

The ICRC President’s appeal launched on 12 November 1987 for open roads for survival in Ethiopia was addressed primarily to the combatants, so that de facto they would undertake to allow food convoys organized by humanitarian agencies to travel unhindered.

Unfortunately, in recent weeks fewer and fewer convoys have been able to get through; most of the time they are held up for reasons which cannot be justified by the military situation alone.

Consequently, many regional warehouses are lying empty; relief distributions have had to be suspended even though the ICRC and other humanitarian organizations on the spot have the logistic means, the staff and the determination to prevent another catastrophe. The international community has supported their effort by sending enormous quantities of relief supplies, which in the present situation are not reaching the victims.

In an endeavour to avert a tragedy such as the world witnessed in 1984-85, the ICRC will continue doing its utmost to remove the obstacles currently depriving large sections of the civilian population in Ethiopia of the assistance to which they are entitled.

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The President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay at the ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - Mr. Julio Maria Sanguinetti, President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) late yesterday afternoon.

He was received by the ICRC President, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, together with several members of the Committee and other senior ICRC staff. Mr. Par Stenback, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, was also present.

Mr. Sanguinetti raised various questions of humanitarian interest in a private conversation with Mr. Sommaruga.

During his visit, the Uruguayan President was accompanied in particular by Mr. Luis Barrios Tassano, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. José Maria Araneo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

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Press release no. 1566
17 March 1988

AWARD OF THE PAUL REUTER PRIZE

Geneva (ICRC) - The jury of the Paul Reuter Prize, chaired by Professor Jean Pictet, Honorary Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and composed, in addition to members of the ICRC administration, of Professors L. Condorelli and G. Malinverni of the University of Geneva, unanimously decided that the second award of the Prize would be made to an American citizen,

Mrs. Heather Ann Wilson,

Ph.D., for her doctoral thesis entitled "International Law and the Use of Force by National Liberation Movements", presented at Oxford University.

The jury emphasized the remarkable quality of Mrs. Wilson's work, which represents a major contribution to international humanitarian law.

In 1982, Mr. Paul Reuter, Professor Emeritus at the Paris University of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, member and former Chairman of the United Nations International Law Commission, made a donation to the ICRC to set up the Paul Reuter Fund, whose income is used to promote better knowledge and understanding of international humanitarian law. The Fund also provides for the award, in principle once every two years, of a Paul Reuter Prize of 2,000 Swiss francs, in recognition of a particularly outstanding work in the area of international humanitarian law.

Mrs. Wilson will receive her prize in the course of this coming spring.

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Press release No. 1567
23 March 1988

IRAN-IRAK CONFLICT: THE ICRC CONDEMNS THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Geneva (ICRC) - In a new and tragic escalation of the Iran-Iraq conflict, chemical weapons have been used, killing a great number of civilians in the province of Sulaymaniyah.

The use of chemical weapons, whether against military personnel or civilians, is absolutely forbidden by international law and is to be condemned at all times.

The ICRC has therefore once again taken urgent steps to bring to an immediate end the use of chemical weapons. It has also informed the Islamic Republic of Iran of its readiness to provide emergency assistance for the victims.

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INTernational Committee of the red cross

Press release No. 1568
7 April 1988

Humanitarian assistance for Ethiopia: ICRC position

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been officially notified of the Ethiopian authorities' decision that its delegates based in Tigray and Eritrea must leave these provinces.

This decision comes at a time when intensified fighting has made the needs of the civilian population living in conflict zones particularly urgent. The ICRC is thus convinced that there is now an even greater need to continue and even increase the protection and assistance activities which it has been carrying out essentially in the most affected areas of Tigray and Eritrea, since November 1987.

In view of the gravity of the situation, the ICRC cannot renounce the mandate assigned to it by the international community to act as a neutral intermediary in times of armed conflict. It has a humanitarian responsibility for the fate of some five million people living in these areas. Nutritional surveys carried out by ICRC delegates in the field are already showing very high levels of moderate malnutrition (60 percent) and severe malnutrition (20 percent) among the children in the area.

Consequently, the ICRC immediately asked the Ethiopian government to reconsider its decision and to allow assistance programmes for the most threatened civilians to continue. In addition, the ICRC pointed out that it could not cope with the human needs on its own and that it hoped that the other relief organisations present in the area would also be able to continue their work.

While waiting to be able to resume its activities in keeping with the needs identified in the two northern provinces, the ICRC delegation will continue its traditional tasks which have proved so necessary in Ethiopia for a number of years.

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Joint Press Release

11 April 1988

ICRC No.1568
League No.2/88

Sixty-Seventh Distribution of Income from the Empress Shôken Fund

Geneva (ICRC - LEAGUE) - The Joint ICRC-League Commission entrusted with the distribution of the income of the Empress Shôken Fund met in Geneva under the Chairmanship of Mr. Maurice Aubert, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The Ambassador of Japan in Geneva, His Excellency Mr. Yoshio Hatano, was present at the meeting. The delegation of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was headed by Mr. Bengt Bergman, Under-Secretary General.

The income available on 1 January 1988, which totals 306,000 Swiss francs, will contribute to the financing of activities in the field of disaster preparedness, health, social welfare, first aid and Youth programmes of eleven Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in developing countries.

The grants will finance the following projects:
6) Papua New Guinea - 1 Ten-seater bus type "NISSAN G20" for the Youth Red Cross Development Programme 20'000

7) Senegal - 1 Diesel 4 WD "Pajero" for the supervision of medico-social activities 38'000

8) Solomon Islands - Clothing, cooking utensils, food, bush knives and axes for distribution by the Red Cross General Welfare Services 10'000

9) Syria - 1 Fifteen-seater bus for the Red Crescent Hospital at Aleppo 30'000

10) Tanzania - 1 Four-wheel-drive vehicle for the AIDS Control Programme 35'000

11) Thailand - 1 Six-wheeled water tank, 4000 litres, for the Disaster Relief Services 30'000

The Joint Commission has issued a booklet "75 Years of Service to Humanity" to recall 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 and its interest-bearing investments exceed five million Swiss francs.
Press release No. 1569
15 April 1988

RECOGNITION OF A NEW NATIONAL SOCIETY

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

This recognition, which took effect today, 15 April 1988, brings to 146 the number of National Societies which are members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

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LEAGUE OF RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

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JOINT PRESS RELEASE
ICRC No. 1570
League No. 4/88

25 April 1988

Embargo: 8 May 1988

WORLD RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT DAY 1988

Joint Message

This year marks the 125th Anniversary of the beginning of a world wide movement which arose out of the publication of A BOOK entitled "A Memory of Solferino" by A MAN (Henry Dunant), whose ideas were taken up by A PRIVATE GROUP (The Committee of Public Welfare) of A SMALL CANTON (Geneva) in what was - and still is - A SMALL COUNTRY (Switzerland). Today, 146 countries have either a Red Cross or a Red Crescent Society and the full membership of the movement is estimated to be more than 250 million people.

Born on the battlefield of Solferino, Dunant's essentially simple idea was that the dignity of people must be respected at all times - even in war. As a result of his vision and determination, there have been two significant developments: first, the Geneva Conventions - by which Governments pledge themselves to respect and protect victims of armed conflict - and secondly the establishment of a world wide neutral movement united by its commitment to the basic principle of people helping people.

Each year on May 8th, the birthday of Henry Dunant is celebrated throughout the world as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. In its 125th Anniversary year the Movement has adopted the slogan "125 Years at Work... and still developing". The growth of the Movement and the scope of the activities resulting from its concern for the victims of conflict and disaster - whether personal, local, national or international - have meant a new life for many people worldwide.

The term "Development" can mean many things. For the Red Cross, it can be reduced to two basic ideas. The first is the continuing development of the Movement itself. The second is constant vigilance to ensure that the assistance which it offers is adequate - neither excessive nor insufficient, and in no sense creating a situation of dependency in individuals or communities and, most of all, impartial. These two simple principles have been responsible for bringing about a change from strictly emergency aid to programmes designed to attack the root causes of continuing disasters.

/..
Immediate assistance to the victims of conflicts and natural disasters will, of course, remain a primary obligation for the Movement but attempts to find durable solutions, fully independent of any political pressure, with the participation of local populations, must continue and indeed grow. Only in this way can the long-term goals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent be achieved. The Movement still has a lot of growing to do both in size and, even more, in understanding its own potential. For this to be achieved it needs a great increase in public interest and support in every country.
Press release No. 1571
6 May 1988

ICRC: JACQUES MOREILLON TO LEAVE

Geneva (ICRC) - Mr. Jacques Moreillon has informed the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) of his intention to leave his present position as Director General on 31 October 1988 to take up the post of Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

The ICRC expresses its regrets about Mr. Moreillon's departure and has conveyed to him its profound gratitude for the devotion and talent with which he has served the cause of the Red Cross during the last 25 years.

Jacques Moreillon holds a Master's degree in law and a Ph.D. in political science. He began his association with the ICRC in 1963 while writing a thesis on "The ICRC and political detainees". Since then, he has carried out over 200 missions in some 70 countries on behalf of the Institution. In particular, he served as a delegate in India and Vietnam; Head of Delegation in Syria (1967) and in Israel (1969-1970); Regional Delegate in South America; and Delegate General for Africa. Since 1975 he has held the posts of Director of the Principles and Law Department, Director for General Affairs and, finally, Director General.

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FEDERAL COUNCILLOR ELISABETH KOPP VISITS THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - On 6 May 1988 Mrs Elisabeth Kopp, Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, visited the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), where she was received by the President of the Institution, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga.

The ICRC President took this opportunity to thank the Federal Council for its traditional support for the ICRC and went on to give Mrs Kopp a broad review of the ICRC's operations, particularly in certain trouble spots of the world.

Mrs Kopp then visited the Central Tracing Agency where some 60 million cards are stored, bearing the names of prisoners of war and other persons who have been the object of tracing enquiries since 1870.

For this general fact-finding visit to the ICRC Mrs Kopp was accompanied by Mr. Samuel Burkhardt, Secretary-General of her Department, and by Mr. Peter Arbenz, Delegate of the Federal Council for Refugee Affairs.

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THREE NEW MEMBERS OF THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - During its latest meeting, on 4 and 5 May, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appointed three new members to the Committee. The new members, Ms. Suzy Bruschweiler, Mr. Jacques Forster and Mr. Pierre Languetin, will take up their duties on 1 June next. These appointments bring membership of the ICRC, which is composed exclusively of Swiss citizens, to a total of 24.

- Ms. Suzy Bruschweiler, born in 1947 and originally from Salmsach, Thurgau, lives in Blonay, Vaud. She completed primary and secondary school in Kuesnacht, Zurich, and obtained a diploma from the School of Commerce in Châtel-St-Denis. She later obtained a nursing diploma and a teaching diploma from the ESEI (School of Advanced Nursing Education) and, lastly, a further education certificate from the Faculty of Law and Economics of the University of Neuchâtel. Since 1984 Ms. Bruschweiler has been Director of the Bois-Cerf Nursing School in Lausanne and President of the Swiss Association of Nursing School Directors. She also teaches at the College of Nursing in Aarau.

- Mr. Jacques Forster, born in 1940 and originally from Cerlier, Bern, lives in Hauterive, Neuchâtel. Mr. Forster studied economics at the University of Neuchâtel. From 1972 to 1977, he worked at the Office for Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern, where he headed the Latin America Service. Since 1980 he has been Director of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in Geneva.

- Mr. Pierre Languetin, born in 1923 and originally from Lignerolle, Vaud, lives in Bern. He holds a degree in economics and social studies from the University of Lausanne. He entered government service in 1955, in the Commerce Division of the Federal Department of Public Economy, and in 1966 was appointed Delegate of the Federal Council for Trade Negotiations, and Ambassador. In 1976 he became a member of the Governing Board of the Swiss National Bank, and between 1985 and 1988 was the Bank's President. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Bank for International Settlements in Basel. Mr. Languetin holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Lausanne.

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Press release no. 1574
1 June 1988

MESSAGE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement denounces the use of weapons that cause particularly cruel injuries. It strongly pleads for the adoption of new and effective measures in the field of disarmament and reaffirms that humanitarian action in armed conflicts is an important factor of peace.

In a message issued on the occasion of the Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament, taking place from 31 May to 25 June 1988 in New York, the Movement lays special emphasis on the terrible injuries caused by modern weapons that strike with particular cruelty.

These include:
- antipersonnel mines, which are often used without discrimination and kill or mutilate countless innocent victims;
- bullets that cause particularly appalling wounds;
- chemical weapons.

The Movement requests States to respect the rules prohibiting or restricting the use of such weapons, to ensure that these rules are strictly observed and to give favourable consideration to the establishment of additional rules.

The Movement reminds States that the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions reaffirm the fundamental principles applicable in this area and that the 1980 Convention establishes the rules on the prohibition or restriction of the use of certain conventional weapons. The States are invited to adhere to these instruments.

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ERITREA AND TIGRAY: THE ICRC IS FORCED TO BRING TO AN END ITS RELIEF ACTION

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), faced with the impossibility of continuing to assist and protect the victims of drought and conflict in Eritrea and Tigray, and guided solely by the interests of the victims, has asked donor governments to transfer to other organisations the foodstocks and logistical means at its disposal in Ethiopia. Such a transfer became inevitable from the moment that the authorities of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia confirmed the decisions they gave to the ICRC in April and May, requiring the ICRC to withdraw all its expatriate personnel engaged in the relief operation.

A few weeks before these measures were taken, the ICRC had 46 expatriate delegates in Ethiopia and 587 locally-recruited employees. The stocks currently in its possession total 36,000 tonnes (mainly cereals), worth 21 million Swiss francs. Furthermore, the ICRC has 208 vehicles, including 91 lorries.

It is with deep regret, and against its own wishes, that the ICRC has had to interrupt its relief operation in Eritrea and Tigray. At the end of February it succeeded in giving assistance to about 500,000 people, and had planned to reach one million before the end of July.

The ICRC is nevertheless maintaining a presence in Ethiopia, within the context of its activities on behalf of Somali prisoners of war. This part of its work, under the Geneva Conventions, has not been called into question by the Ethiopian Government, which is a State party to the Geneva Conventions.

Beyond the present difficulties and the serious humanitarian consequences they may have, the ICRC has repeated the offer of its services and hopes that a constructive dialogue will be able to lead to restoring a cooperative relationship to the benefit of the victims that the ICRC has a mission to assist and protect.

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THE HEAD OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT VISITS THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - The head of the Spanish Government, Mr. Felipe González, visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today, and was received by the institution's President, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, and several members of the Committee. The Spanish Prime Minister was accompanied by Mr. Javier Solana, Minister for Culture and government spokesman. The Secretary General of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Mr. Pär Stenbäck, and the President of the Spanish Red Cross, Mr. Leocadio Marin, also attended.

In a welcoming speech, the ICRC President thanked the Prime Minister for the support Spain had given the ICRC. Mr. González informed him that the Spanish Parliament had been presented with a proposal to ratify the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, and he hoped that Spain would soon be able to ratify these two humanitarian instruments.

After signing the ICRC'S visitors' book, Mr. González and Mr. Sommaruga continued talks they began at their first official meeting in Madrid in March, concerning the operational activities of the ICRC worldwide.

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Press release No. 1577
14 June 1988

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES VISITS THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - The President of the Republic of the Philippines, Mrs Corazón C. Aquino, today visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) where she was received by Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, the institution's President, and by several members of the Committee. Mrs Aquino was accompanied by Senator Aquilino Jr. Pimentel and the Presidential Spokesman, the Hon. Teodoro Benigno. The Secretary General of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Mr. Pär Stenbäck, was also present during the visit.

In his welcoming address, the President of the ICRC warmly thanked Mrs Aquino for supporting the entire work of the ICRC in the Philippines (visits to detainees, help for displaced persons, dissemination) and for according the Institution all the facilities necessary for carrying out its mandate.

In her reply, Mrs Aquino thanked the ICRC for its notable work in her country. She stressed the noble dimension of the ICRC's neutrality, a neutrality resolute and clear of compromise, guided by those absolute principles that protect the dignity and foster the well-being of man.

After the visitors' book had been signed, the visit ended with a private discussion between Mrs Aquino and Mr. Sommaruga.

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A NEW DIRECTORATE FOR THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - In view of the impending departure of Mr. Jacques Moreillon, Director General, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the institution's highest-ranking body, decided at a meeting on 30 June on a new structure for the ICRC Directorate and made the necessary appointments.

The Directorate, which until now consisted of the Director General and the Director of Operations, is to be composed of six members from 1st September, each responsible for one of the following Departments:

Operations Department: Mr. André Pasquier
Operational Support Department: Mr. Michel Convers
Department of Principles and Law and Relations with the Movement: Mr. Yves Sandoz
Finance and Administration Department: Mr. Jacques Hertzschuch
Human Resources Department: Mr. Philippe Dind
Communications Department: Mr. Alain Modoux.

The members of the new ICRC Directorate have all been executives within the institution for several years, and their average age is 42. Furthermore, five of them began working for the ICRC as delegates in the field.

The new Directorate is responsible for management and administration in accordance with the decisions taken by the ICRC Assembly (which meets eight times a year), the Executive Council (which holds weekly meetings), and the President of the institution, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga.

The ICRC currently employs about 3,600 people, with more than 80 percent of them working in the field among its 44 delegations. The total of the ICRC's various budgets for 1988 is around 500 million Swiss francs.
UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITS THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, today visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), where he met Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, the institution's President, and several members of the Committee.

Mr. de Cuéllar and Mr. Sommaruga made speeches in which they drew attention to both organizations' ceaseless endeavour to limit the use of force. They pointed out how necessary it was to encourage the world's States to become party to the instruments of international humanitarian law, in particular the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Both stressed that it was vital to maintain frequent contact between the headquarters of the two organizations and between their staff in the field, who over the years have built up a complementary relationship of mutual co-operation without in any way sacrificing their respective independence.

After the visitor's book was signed, a private meeting between Mr. de Cuéllar and Mr. Sommaruga concluded the visit.

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AT THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - Mr. Otto Stich, President of the Swiss Confederation, today visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Mr. Otto Stich was received by the President of the ICRC, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, together with members of the Committee and senior ICRC staff.

In his welcoming address, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga emphasized the importance of the generous support regularly provided to the ICRC by the Swiss people and its highest authorities. He drew attention to the universality of the Geneva Conventions, the essentially Swiss and neutral character of the ICRC and the importance that this Geneva institution attaches to its independence in implementing its humanitarian policy.

In his reply, Mr. Otto Stich fully endorsed the Confederation's moral and financial support to the delegates of the ICRC and its interest in ensuring that they are able to continue performing their task, spreading the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, respect for the individual and a positive image of Switzerland throughout the world.

Mr. O. Stich and Mr. C. Sommaruga then continued their meeting with a broad review of the ICRC's operations throughout the world.

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TWO DETAINEES SHOT DEAD IN ISRAEL: ICRC REACTION

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) learned with consternation that two administrative detainees had been shot dead at the Qeziot military detention centre on 16 August 1988. Some 2,500 persons from the occupied territories are currently being held at the Qeziot centre, which is on Israeli territory in the Negev desert. This tragic event occurred when clashes broke out between detainees and the guards, while ICRC delegates were carrying out a routine weekly visit.

The ICRC delegates had noticed during their visit that relations were extremely strained between some of the detainees and members of the Israeli forces present in the camp. Tension was obviously rising and, as the first direct clashes took place between detainees and guards, the delegates cut their visit short and immediately approached the competent authorities.

Ever since the Qeziot camp was opened in March 1988, the ICRC has repeatedly stressed to the Israeli authorities that detention and internment of persons from the occupied territories on Israeli soil, particularly in the harsh climatic conditions prevailing in this case, was not compatible with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and could only lead to tension and unrest.

The ICRC deplores these tragic incidents and appeals to the Israeli authorities to take the appropriate measures.

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OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: ISRAEL VIOLATES THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION

Geneva (ICRC) - On 17 August 1988, the State of Israel expelled to Lebanon four more people from the occupied territories. Moreover, that same day, the Israeli authorities issued expulsion orders against twenty-five other inhabitants of the occupied territories.

This brings to thirty-two the number of people expelled to Lebanon since the beginning of 1988, not counting the twenty-five expulsion orders issued on 17 August 1988.

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

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has on many occasions protested to the Israeli authorities against all measures taken in breach of the Fourth Convention, particularly collective penalties such as the destruction or walling-up of houses, bans on travel and on the growing of crops, and restrictions on economic activity.

The ICRC solemnly appeals to the State of Israel to put an end to such grave and repeated breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

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REPATRIATION OF ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI PRISONERS UNDER WAY

Geneva (ICRC) - The repatriation of thousands of Ethiopian and Somali prisoners of war, some of them detained for eleven years, began today with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The repatriation follows an agreement signed between Ethiopia and Somalia in April. A total of more than 3,700 POWs, captured in the conflict between the two countries that began in 1977, will be flown home over a period of some 10 days.

On its first flight today an aircraft chartered by the ICRC brought 176 Ethiopians and a Cuban from Mogadishu to Dire Dawa (Ethiopia), and returned to Mogadishu with 111 Somalis. The flights will continue tomorrow.

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ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA: REPATRIATION COMPLETED

Geneva (ICRC) - The repatriation of Somali prisoners of war and Ethiopian POWs and civilian internees, which began on 23 August 1988 following an agreement signed between Ethiopia and Somalia on 3 April 1988, was completed on 1 September 1988.

The Boeing 707 chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) carried out 20 round-trip flights between the Somali capital Mogadishu, and Dire Dawa in Ethiopia. It brought a total of 245 Somalis back to their home country and 3543 Ethiopians and a Cuban to Ethiopia after eleven years of detention.

The plane used by the ICRC had to make a forced landing at Djibouti on 26 August during its sixth flight between Mogadishu and Dire Dawa. However the passengers were able to reach Ethiopia the same day, on board aircrafts made available by the authorities in Djibouti and Ethiopia. The regular flights, with a new ICRC-chartered plane, resumed on 28 August.

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Press release No. 1585
12 September 1988

REPATRIATION OF IRAQI PRISONERS OF WAR RELEASED BY IRAN

Geneva (ICRC) - Seventy-two disabled, sick and elderly Iraqi prisoners of war were handed over in Tehran today by representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for repatriation to Iraq.

The prisoners, escorted by a doctor, a nurse and two ICRC delegates, left Tehran for Baghdad aboard an aircraft chartered by the ICRC. Acting in its capacity as a neutral intermediary between the Parties, the ICRC handed over the prisoners to representatives of the authorities of the Republic of Iraq.

Before the operation was carried out, the Iraqi prisoners of war were visited individually by an ICRC delegate and a doctor who interviewed them without witnesses.

The operation was the result of a unilateral decision by the Iranian authorities, and was not connected with the release and global repatriation of all the prisoners of war captured during the conflict between Iran and Iraq. The ICRC hopes to see this take place shortly, in accordance with Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention.

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RECOGNITION OF A NEW NATIONAL SOCIETY

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

This recognition, which took effect today, 29 September 1988, brings to 147 the number of National Societies which are members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
NEW MEMBER NOMINATED AT THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - The Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has co-opted Mr. Jacques Moreillon as a new member of the Committee, during its meeting of 28 and 29 September 1988. This appointment will enter into force on 1 November 1988 at which time Mr. Moreillon will have left his current position of Director general at the ICRC.

Jacques Moreillon holds a Master's degree in law and a Ph.D. in political science. He began his association with the ICRC in 1963 while writing a thesis on "The ICRC and political detainees". Since then, he has carried out over 200 missions in some 70 countries on behalf of the Institution. In particular, he served as a delegate in India and Vietnam; Head of Delegation in Syria (1967) and in Israel (1969-1970); Regional Delegate in South America; and Delegate General for Africa. Since 1975 he has held the posts of Director of the Principles and Law Department, Director for General Affairs and, finally, Director General. From the 1st November 1988, Mr. Moreillon will take up the post of Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

With the nomination of Mr. Moreillon, the Committee, which is composed exclusively of Swiss citizens, now has 24 members.

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IRAN-IRAQ: 50 PRISONERS OF WAR REPATRIATED

Geneva (ICRC) - Fifty disabled, sick and elderly Iranian and Iraqi prisoners of war were repatriated on 30 October 1988 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Twenty-five Iranian prisoners of war left Baghdad for Tehran on board an aircraft chartered by the ICRC. They were accompanied by a doctor, a nurse and a delegate from the ICRC and were handed over on arrival to representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Twenty-five Iraqi prisoners of war then boarded the ICRC plane and were flown to Baghdad, where they were met by representatives of the Republic of Iraq.

All the prisoners of war had previously been seen by a delegate and a doctor from the ICRC, who spoke to each of them without witnesses.

The ICRC will continue to urge the two parties to proceed without delay with the repatriation of all prisoners of war, in accordance with the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention.

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PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1589
11 November 1988

ICELANDIC PRESIDENT VISITS ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - Mrs. Vigdis Finnbogadóttir, President of the Republic of Iceland, yesterday visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), where she was greeted by ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga, members of the ICRC and leading officials of the institution. Representatives of the Geneva authorities were also present.

Mrs. Finnbogadóttir and Mr. Sommaruga had private talks on ICRC operational activities and reviewed various matters of humanitarian concern.

Mrs. Finnbogadóttir was accompanied during her visit by the Icelandic Ambassador and Permanent Representative in Geneva, and the President of the Icelandic Red Cross.

On leaving the ICRC, Mrs. Finnbogadóttir paid a visit to the International Museum of the Red Cross.

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Press release No. 1590
11 November 1988

AGREEMENT ON THE REPATRIATION OF WOUNDED AND SICK IRANIAN AND IRAQI PRISONERS OF WAR

Geneva (ICRC) - Since the start of negotiations between Iran and Iraq under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has also actively tried to help find a solution for the problem of prisoners of war captured since the conflict began.

Negotiations at the ICRC's Geneva headquarters from 2 to 11 November have now led to an agreement between the two Parties on the repatriation of all wounded and sick prisoners of war. Under this agreement with the ICRC, the operation will begin on 20 November with the return home of some 1,500 Iraqi and Iranian prisoners of war whose medical condition has been checked by ICRC doctors during visits to the camps.

The two Parties will give the ICRC a list of all other wounded and sick prisoners of war, who will be repatriated as from 5 December.

The repatriation by the ICRC of all these prisoners must be completed not later than 31 December 1988.

The ICRC welcomes the agreement and hopes that this favourable development will facilitate its efforts towards the repatriation of all prisoners of war and all civilians displaced during the conflict.

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ICRC APPEALS FOR PETER WINKLER'S RELEASE

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), still without news of its delegate kidnapped in southern Lebanon last week, appeals for his immediate release.

Ever since the abduction of Peter Winkler in Sidon on 17 November, ICRC delegates in Lebanon have been in constant contact with all parties in an attempt to break the silence and have him set free without delay.

As a neutral humanitarian organization independent of any power, whether international or local, the ICRC has been present throughout Lebanon since the conflict began; its delegates have brought protection and assistance to conflict victims of all communities, in particular during the country's darkest hours, and have co-operated with all parties to do so.

Aware of the confidence placed in the ICRC and the strictly humanitarian nature of its mission, the parties have assured it of their support and are endeavouring to find Peter Winkler and secure his release.

For want of any explanation for this abduction, the ICRC earnestly appeals to all those in Lebanon who know that at all costs its humanitarian activities must continue unimpeded. It calls for every effort to bring about Peter Winkler's release and enable him to resume his work on behalf of the country's various communities.

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PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1592
24 November 1988

REPATRIATION OF SICK AND WOUNDED IRANIAN AND IRAQI PRISONERS OF WAR

Geneva (ICRC) - In mid-November the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reached an agreement with Iran and Iraq whereby the belligerents undertook to repatriate all sick and wounded prisoners of war between 20 November and 31 December 1988.

The repatriation operation began on 24 November. Under the terms of the accord, 41 Iranian and 115 Iraqi prisoners of war were to be repatriated daily.

Only 19 Iranian and 52 Iraqi prisoners of war were flown home on 24 November because differences of interpretation arose between the two parties with regard to criteria and procedures.

Despite this setback, the ICRC intends to continue with the operation and is engaging in fresh negotiations to ensure that both parties comply fully with all provisions of the agreement.

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ABDUCTION OF PETER WINKLER

Geneva (ICRC) - According to a message received by a press agency in Beirut, the abduction of Peter Winkler, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), is not directed against the humanitarian institution for which he is on mission in Lebanon.

The ICRC nevertheless regards this act as an intolerable affront to its humanitarian mission, which requires that its staff, who work under the protection of the Red Cross emblem, be absolutely respected at all times and in all circumstances.

As a private international institution whose delegates in Lebanon, all of Swiss nationality, are engaged in practical relief work there, the ICRC is independent of any local, regional or international power. It therefore demands once again that Peter Winkler be released, so that he and all other delegates in Lebanon can continue their mission of protection and assistance for the benefit of all victims, without discrimination and regardless of any political or religious considerations.

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PRESS RELEASE

Press release No. 1594
5 December 1988

ICRC RELIEF OPERATION STARTS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

Geneva (ICRC) - On 4 December, after obtaining the consent of the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) began a relief operation for victims of conflict and famine in Southern Sudan.

During the first day, flights were organized from Khartoum to Wau, a town controlled by government forces, and from Lokichokio (northern Kenya) to Akon, a place held by the SPLA.

These flights, which carried food and medical relief supplies, delegates and medical staff to Akon and Wau, both in Bahr-el-Gazal Province, should continue on a daily basis.

In agreement with the parties concerned, the ICRC intends to extend its relief operation to Aweil (Bahr-el-Gazal), Malakal (Upper Nile), Juba (Equatoria), Yirol (Bahr-el-Gazal), Kongor (Upper Nile) and other places or areas according to requirements.

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THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT
SHOWS ITS SOLIDARITY

Geneva (ICRC) - Great appreciation was expressed by the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), at its meeting on 14 - 15 December, for the impressive demonstration of support by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement following the abduction of Peter Winkler, an ICRC delegate, in Lebanon on 17 November. This support took the form of a public appeal made on 12 December by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through the media of their respective countries.

In their appeal, Societies around the world stressed that: "Peter Winkler's abduction negates the very essence of the Red Cross and Red Crescent's universal humanitarian mission, which is to protect life and human dignity without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinion. Whatever the motives of his kidnappers may be, his abduction constitutes an intolerable affront to this vital mission. To release Peter Winkler would be to meet the expectations of all conflict victims, in Lebanon as elsewhere in the world, who have set their hopes on the neutral and independent assistance provided by the Red Cross and Red Crescent".

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PRESS RELEASE

Press release no. 1596
17 December 1988

ICRC DELEGATE RELEASED

Geneva (ICRC) - Peter Winkler, the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) kidnapped on 17 November 1988, was released in Sidon on 16 December.

The ICRC would like to thank in particular the Swiss authorities and the Swedish ambassador to Damascus, who played an essential role in his release. The ICRC also expresses its gratitude to all the parties present in Lebanon, to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and to all those who showed their solidarity with Peter Winkler, with his family, and with the ICRC.

The successful outcome can only facilitate the humanitarian mission of the ICRC in Lebanon. However, the ICRC remains concerned over the fate of all the other Lebanese and foreign hostages held in Lebanon, and hopes that they too will soon be freed.

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LEBANON: IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF ALL ICRC ACTIVITIES

Geneva (ICRC) - On 19 December 1988, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was informed that serious threats had been made against its delegates on mission in Lebanon, placing their lives in acute danger.

The ICRC therefore finds itself compelled to suspend its entire humanitarian operation there and to repatriate all its expatriate staff immediately.

In all circumstances the ICRC accepts the risks inherent in situations of conflict. It cannot, however, tolerate that its delegates should be subject to a threat that negates the very essence of its humanitarian mission.

The ICRC is ready at all times to resume its protection and assistance activities on behalf of all the victims in Lebanon as soon as these threats are clearly and unequivocally withdrawn.

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