

*IN GENEVA***Guests of the ICRC**

On a visit to Switzerland, H.I.H. Princess Yuriko Mikasa, Honorary Vice-President of the Japanese Red Cross Society, called at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross on 14 March 1973.

Princess Mikasa, who was accompanied by her daughter Princess Masako, Mr. Tadateru Konoe, the Japanese Ambassador to the International Organizations in Geneva, and Mrs. Kitahara, was received by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, and members of the Committee and the Directorate.

Historic documents on the Japanese Red Cross were shown to Princess Mikasa, who then visited the Central Tracing Agency.

A Word of Clarification

On 21 March 1973, the ICRC issued the following press release: According to press reports on 14 March, the Delegation of the Republic of Vietnam in Paris, replying to a communication from the "Communauté vietnamienne" mentioning ill-treatment in Con Son Prison, said that "the South Vietnam detention camps, including Con Son, has been visited by international humanitarian organizations, including the International Red Cross".

The International Committee of the Red Cross would make it clearly understood that the last time its delegates inspected Con Son prison was on 11 January 1969. Since then they have been several times to Con Son but were allowed to see only several dozen prisoners of war, not the civilian detainees who constituted the immense majority of the inmates.

The ICRC repeats its earlier statements that it was precisely because of the restrictions imposed by the South Vietnam Government—particularly the prohibition of private talks with detainees—that in March 1972 it discontinued visits to interned civilians.¹

¹ See *International Review*, December 1972.