

in which people from all parts of the world will be able to live in peace and understanding between each other. Even then the organisation of the Red Cross will not be superfluous because it is also in peace time, in more normal times, able to solve and assist in difficulties in innumerable parts of the world. It has given also the lead in how assistance can be given to people in need and distress because even if we get, which we all hope, lasting peace we would not have solved all the problems of mankind and it will be necessary under certain conditions always to have an organisation which is ready and capable of stepping in when mankind, with all his shortcomings can no longer keep going. With these words may I express again my gratitude for your kind words of recognition; for this opportunity of seeing you in your own home and residence; and the hope that the organisation you represent will continue to thrive and to grow in evidence and respect throughout the world.

After the projection of a short documentary film on the ICRC's work in the Yemen, made possible by generous and effective support from the Norwegian and other Red Cross Societies, His Majesty was conducted round the Central Tracing Agency. He then took leave of the ICRC, thus concluding a visit which testified to the excellent connection between Norway and the International Committee, and to the will to maintain and strengthen that link.

Meetings in Geneva

A delegation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR consisting of Dr. Fiodor Zakharov, Vice-President and Mrs. Lilia Tcherkasskaya, Head of Foreign Relations, visited the ICRC in March 1968 to discuss questions of mutual interest.

Mr. S. A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, and Mr. R. Gallopin, Director-General for External Affairs, had a meeting on April 5, 1968 with U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The discussions were connected with various points of common interest and the work which the ICRC is carrying out in the theatre of several armed conflicts.

On 11 April 1968 H.E. Mr. D. T. Arap Moi, Kenya's Vice President and Minister of Internal Affairs, took advantage of a trip to Geneva to pay a visit to the ICRC. The institution was honoured to receive him in company with his colleague the Hon. S.O. Ayodo, Minister of Tourism.

Mr. Arap had discussions with the institution's leading officials. He also saw a film on the present-day tasks undertaken by the Red Cross and listened to talks on the International Committee's work in various parts of Africa. He then expressed, in his own name and on behalf of the Republic of Kenya, his keen interest in the ICRC's humanitarian mission.

Further accessions to the Geneva Conventions

In its issue of October 1967, the *International Review* stated that 116 States were parties to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. Since then, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been informed by the Federal Political Department of the participation of two new countries to these Conventions.

This was first the accession of the Republic of Malawi which was received in Berne on January 5, 1968.

Then on March 29, 1968, the Swiss authorities received the declaration of accession of the Republic of Botswana.

The accession of these two countries therefore brings to 118 the number of States expressly parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.