

## PRINCESS GRACE OF MONACO VISITS THE ICRC

On January 31, 1962, H.S.H. The Princess Grace of Monaco, President of the Red Cross of Monaco, paid a visit to the International Committee in Geneva<sup>1</sup>. She was accompanied by several personalities, notably by Mr. Henry Soum, Minister of Monaco in Berne.

At the entrance of the ICRC, the Princess was met by the President, Mr. Léopold Boissier and as she entered the building she was greeted by the applause of the institution's staff lining the hall.

After several members and directors of the ICRC had been presented to her, the Princess signed the institution's Golden Book, then went to the conference room, where she was welcomed by Mr. Boissier :

*It is a great honour as well as a great pleasure for the International Committee of the Red Cross to welcome the President of the Red Cross of Monaco to its headquarters. This Society, which is still young, since it was created and then recognized by the ICRC in 1948, has not ceased to increase its activity under Your Highness' inspiring and generous impulsion... We greatly regret that His Highness, Prince Rainier, was not able to accompany you. We would have liked to have expressed our gratitude to him for all the interest which he takes in the Red Cross of Monaco, of which he was the founder and to which he has given his enthusiasm and the wish to be of service.*

*Madam, amongst the tasks imparted to the Red Cross, those devolving on the International Committee of Geneva are the heaviest and sometimes the most tragic.*

*Called upon to come to the aid of the victims of wars in its capacity as neutral intermediary amongst the belligerents, it intervenes wherever there is fighting, wherever men oppose each other with weapons in their hands, and in the same way as it gave its assistance to millions of*

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<sup>1</sup> Plate.



*Speech of welcome by the President of the ICRC...*

*... and reply by H.S.H.  
The Princess Grace of Monaco.*



*Princess Grace  
signs the ICRC's Golden Book...*



*... and visits  
the Central Tracing Agency.*



*wounded, sick and prisoners during the two great wars of the century, today it attempts to bring aid to the victims of civil wars, revolutions and internal disturbances which still devastate so many countries. As you will shortly see, the Committee's delegates expend themselves without stint in relieving the suffering of those who fall in fratricidal strife in Algeria, in the Congo, in Laos, in Indonesia and elsewhere.*

*Thus, the Red Cross brings its message of hope to those who have been delivered over to suspicion and to their own fears, proving by its action that love and human fellowship can still win the finest victories.*

The Princess, in reply, said that she was pleased to find herself once again in this city in which the Red Cross had been born, whose emblem of peace and human understanding she well knew the significance. She also realized in what an atmosphere of moral serenity the ICRC was carrying out its humanitarian task. That was why she expressed the wish that it would continue to accomplish its urgent work which today was so generally useful.

She then listened to two addresses, one given by Mr. J. Pictet, Director for General Affairs, who spoke of the history and the mission of the Red Cross and of the evolution of humanitarian law, followed by Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director, who gave an outline of some of the important relief actions being carried out at present in the world by the ICRC. A showing of the documentary film "Blood is still being shed", recalling some of the ICRC actions, was then given in the cinema hall.

Finally, the ICRC's guests visited the Central Tracing Agency building. Its head described to the President of the Monaco Red Cross the work which it had been carrying out for so many years.

This visit paid by H.S.H. the Princess Grace of Monaco will contribute to strengthen the bonds between the Principality and the Red Cross of Monaco and the institution founded nearly a hundred years ago through the inspiration of Henry Dunant. During her visit to the ICRC headquarters, the Princess, by her simplicity and her charm, aroused feelings of respectful and warm sympathy.