on the express agreement of the three States directly concerned, the ICRC esteems that it has, in advance, " depoliticized ", the mission which would be entrusted to it, in circumstances which, one must emphasize, could lead to a general war.

On November 23, 1962, Mr. Thant, whilst thanking the President of the ICRC, informed him that the embargo around Cuba having been lifted, there was no further reason for resorting to the good offices of the International Committee.

GENEVA CONVENTIONS

The International Committee of the Red Cross has received from the Federal Political Department in Berne, the certified true copy of the instrument by which the Government of Ireland ratified the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on September 27, 1962. Such ratification will take effect from March 27, 1963.

Furthermore, the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the Federation of Malaya, handed their instruments of accession to the Geneva Conventions to the Federal Political Department, the former on May 23, and the latter on August 24, 1962. These Conventions will thus enter into force on November 23, 1962 for the Republic of Cyprus, and on February 24, 1963, for the Federation of Malaya.

Finally, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania confirmed on October 30, 1962, its participation in the Geneva Conventions, such participation having taken effect from November 28, 1960, the date of that country's independence.

States formally participating in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 thus now number ninety-one.