

delegate general for Europe, at the invitation of the Finnish Red Cross. In the course of the ceremonies, the President of the Finnish Republic bestowed on Mr. Hay the Cross of the Finnish Red Cross.

Also present in Helsinki were Mr. J. Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, and Mr. H. Beer, League Secretary General, together with representatives of many National Red Cross Societies.

From 26 to 28 May, the ICRC President was in Tokyo, invited by the Japanese Red Cross to take part in the commemorations of its centenary. Mr. Barroso too was present. The two Red Cross officials were received in private audience by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor and Her Imperial Majesty the Empress, who is President of the Japanese Red Cross, just before the opening of the centenary celebrations, which took place in the presence of Their Majesties.

ICRC Meeting on Medical Matters

The ICRC Medical Division organized a seminar from 3 to 5 May at Cartigny, near Geneva, for about 50 Swiss doctors who had carried out medical missions abroad. Those taking part in the meetings included ICRC staff, members of the Swiss Red Cross and of the Swiss Disaster Relief Corps. Two Danish doctors were also invited.

The purpose of the seminar was to pool experience gained in various medical missions abroad, to put forward constructive suggestions and at the same time to provide doctors with supplementary medical data, mainly relating to hygiene, nutrition, epidemiology and tropical diseases, which might be useful for future missions.

After consideration of the practical problems arising from four ICRC missions (Nigeria/Biafra, Laos, Angola and Cambodia), each of a highly different nature, the following subjects were discussed: medical teams in disaster situations, the function of general medicine and pediatrics in emergency situations, mobile medical teams (function and efficiency), medical and nutritional aid, standardisation and storage of medicaments, the role of ICRC medical delegates in visits to places of detention.

The doctors expressed the following wishes at the conclusion of the seminar: that steps be taken to give additional training to Swiss doctors going on mission outside Switzerland and that a documentation centre

be set up for all Swiss doctors who might be concerned, that an appropriate solution be found for planning and co-ordinating gifts of medicaments, such gifts having given rise in every previous operation to problems relating to their quantity, quality and often to their unsuitability for certain regions; and that medicaments be better packed, with due regard to specific transport and climatic conditions.

ICRC Member resigns

In a letter dated 27 May 1977, Mr. Mierre Micheli, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, tendered his resignation from the ICRC for health reasons, with effect from 1 June.

It was with deep regret that the ICRC took note of this decision. In a letter sent to Mr. Micheli, a member of the International Committee since 1971, the Committee expressed its appreciation of his valuable co-operation during those six years and its best wishes for improvement in his health.

Australian Red Cross honours Roger Gallopin

On the occasion of the meeting of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross, held in Geneva at the beginning of May, Mr Roger Gallopin, former President of the ICRC Executive Board, received the Medal of Honour of the Australian Red Cross from Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, President of the Society.

In conferring the decoration, Sir Geoffrey said that the Australian Red Cross Society wished to honour this man, devoted to the Red Cross, who, both as a diplomat and as a legal expert, "had shown brilliant qualities of leadership and above all, extraordinary sensitive knowledge of men and events".