

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Visits by ICRC President

Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, visited Damascus from 21 to 24 June and was received by Mr. Hafez el Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic. He also had talks with Mr. Abdel Halim Khaddam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, General Mustapha Tlass, Minister of Defence, Dr. Madani al-Khyami, Minister of Health, and Mr. Abdalla Al-Ahmar, Deputy Secretary-General of the Baath Party.

These talks enabled Mr. Hay to explain to the Syrian leaders the humanitarian concerns of the ICRC with regard to the situation in the Middle East. He was accompanied by Mr. J.-P. Hocké, ICRC Director of Operations, and Mr. D. Delapraz, ICRC delegate in Damascus.

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On 25 June, at Teheran, Mr. Hay was received by H.I.M. the Emperor of Iran, to whom he handed reports prepared by ICRC delegates following their visits to a score of places of detention in Iran.

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The President of the ICRC addressed the Swiss Institute of International Studies, of the University of Zurich, on 28 June 1977. The title of his lecture was *Humanitarian work in an inhuman world*.