

*IN GENEVA***Presidency of the Executive Council**

As announced in our issue of September 1975, Mr. Roger Gallopin's mandate as President of the Executive Council will terminate on 31 December this year.

Mr. Gallopin has discharged that function since July 1973. Associated in ICRC activity since 1936, and Director of the institution for many years, Mr. Gallopin was elected member of the International Committee in 1967. In that capacity he continued participating in the work of the ICRC as a member of the Assembly.

On 1 January 1977, Mr. Alexandre Hay will assume the presidency of both the ICRC and its Executive Council.

**Participation in the Geneva Conventions**

In a letter of 4 July to the Swiss Federal Council, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam stated that, with the same reservations as the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Republic of South Viet Nam, his country would continue to participate in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims.

In addition, on 30 September, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Surinam wrote the Swiss Federal Council that his State considered itself bound to the Geneva Conventions by their earlier ratification by the Netherlands; the Republic of Surinam declared itself to be a party to the Conventions since its independence on 25 November 1975.