

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## Three new members of the International Committee

The Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross on 1 February 1978 co-opted two new members, Mr. Maurice Aubert and Mr. Rudolf Jäckli. On 4 April the Assembly co-opted a third new member, Miss Andrée Weitzel.

Mr. Aubert was born in 1924 in Geneva, where he was educated, obtained the degree of Doctor of Laws and qualified as a practising lawyer. After experience in New York he returned to Geneva where he started his banking career. At present he is a partner in a private financial institution in his home town. Mr. Aubert takes a keen interest in public affairs: for ten years he was a municipal councillor and for nine years a deputy, and latterly President of the Grand Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

Mr. Aubert is the author of various publications, mainly on banking law, civil law and public international law. He was one of the founders of the *Institut universitaire d'Etudes du Développement*, of which he is the President, and he is a member of the *Association de soutien de l'Institut africain*.

Mr. Rudolf Jäckli was borne at Kloten (Zurich) in 1924. He studied at the Federal Polytechnical School in that town and obtained the Doctor of Science degree. In 1950 he was employed by an oil company for which he worked as a geologist in various parts of the world before being appointed a manager. He retired in 1975.

Apart from his occupational activities, Mr. Jäckli took an interest in a number of community projects: rural co-operatives, foundation of professional associations, award of scholarships. He is a member of a church council and of a committee for assistance to aged persons. Since 1977 he has been a special adviser to the ICRC and has carried out several missions abroad.

Miss Weitzel was born in 1917 at Lausanne where she was educated before doing a year's course at Oxford. She then launched out into a dual career in journalism in Switzerland and abroad and in the Swiss women's military service. She was attached to that service during the Second World War and from 1953 to 1977 was head of the women's auxiliary service of the Federal Military Department in Berne, the equivalent in Switzerland of the ministry of defence. At present she is engaged in writing a study on scope for women in national defence.

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## *CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA*

### **ICRC APPEAL**

On 20 March 1979, Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC made the following statement at a press conference in Geneva:

*Unusual situations provoke unusual reactions.*

*As the guardian of the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been involved in virtually every armed conflict in the modern history of man. It channels and distributes relief to victims on both sides of political dividing lines, visits places of detention and monitors observance of the humanitarian rules that form the "raison d'être" of the Conventions of Geneva.*

*In this context the ICRC holds a position that is unique: in many situations its delegates, protected by the universally recognized emblem of the Red Cross, respected for their discretion and scrupulous impartiality, have access where others are barred.*