

IN GENEVA

Death of Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, honorary member of the ICRC

The International Committee learned with sorrow of the death of Mr. Samuel A. Gonard on 3 May 1975.

Appointed to membership of the ICRC in June 1961, Mr. Gonard shortly thereafter resigned from his high office in the Swiss Army and took an active part in the work of the institution. He was elected one year later to the Presidential Council and in that capacity carried out a number of major missions on behalf of the ICRC in several countries.

In September 1964 he was unanimously elected President of the ICRC, which office he held until the end of 1968, when he asked to be relieved of his active functions because of his age. He was then made an honorary member of the ICRC.

As President, Mr. Gonard showed exceptional intelligence and energy. He was always ready to intervene actively to assure respect for the flag of the Red Cross, a symbol of humanity itself in a divided world in which the task of the institution to which he was devoted was more difficult than ever. He carried out missions in many parts of the world, during which he established and strengthened invaluable contacts with Governments and National Societies.

At this time, the International Committee recalls in particular the spirit of devotion and fidelity with which Mr. Gonard accepted the great responsibilities entrusted to him. Mindful of the immense contribution he made, the Committee will remember him with profound gratitude.