

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ICRC President in Italy...

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, was in Italy from 15 to 20 June for an official visit. He was accompanied by Mr. Sergio Nesi, head of the Financing Division, and Mr. Melchior Borsinger, delegate-general for Europe and North America. The purpose of the visit was to contact the Italian authorities, to give them a detailed account of the ICRC role and function and to obtain greater moral and material support from them.

The first day of the visit was mainly devoted to discussions with the leaders of the National Red Cross Society and a tour of the Society's principal installations.

On the same day Mr. Hay was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Sandro Pertini. Other discussions with government officials enabled the ICRC delegation to explain all aspects of current ICRC activities throughout the world. Mr. Hay's interlocutors were Mr. Filippo Maria Pandolfi, Minister of Finance; Mr. Aldo Aniasi, Minister of Health; Mrs. Nilde Iotti, Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies; Mr. Amintore Fanfani, President of the Senate; Mr. Paulo Emilio Taviani, Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Affairs Commission and Mr. Giulio Andreotti, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Commission. Discussions were held also with the leaders of the Italian main political parties.

On 20 June President Hay, Mr. Nesi and Mr. Borsinger were received in audience by H.H. Pope John-Paul II, after conferring with H.E. Cardinal Casaroli, the Vatican Secretary of State, and H.E. Cardinal Gantin, Chairman of the "Cor Unum" Pontifical Council and of the pontifical Justice and Peace Commission.

Several officials being absent from Rome during the June visit, Mr. Hay and Mr. Nesi returned a month later, and on 21 and 22 July met Mr. Emilio Colombo, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lelio

Lagorio, Minister of Defence, and several other senior officials of those two ministries.

All the people with whom the ICRC representatives had talks were greatly interested in the institution's humanitarian activities and declared their willingness to give it henceforth more tangible—particularly financial—backing.

... and in Libya

Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, accompanied by Mr. Sergio Nessi, head of the Financing Division, and Mr. Jean Hoefliger, delegate-general for the Middle East and North Africa, was in Tripoli (Libya) from 7 to 9 July. He was received by Colonel Moammar Qaddafi; Mr. Jadallah Azouz At-Talhi, President of the People's General Council; Mr. Abu Zaid Omar Durda, Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Dr Muftah Al-Osta Omar, Minister of Health and President of the Libyan Red Crescent, who was accompanied by Dr. Ahmed Abdallah Es-Sherif, Secretary-General, and Mr. Abdel Rahman Bonkela, adviser, to the National Red Crescent.

In the course of his thorough discussions, the President of the ICRC gave the Libyan leaders an account of the Committee's many activities throughout the world and of the problems confronting it. Colonel Qaddafi and the other Libyan notables extended a cordial welcome to the ICRC delegation, displayed keen interest in the humanitarian activities of the ICRC and gave an assurance that they would give their full support, both moral and material. In particular, it was agreed to intensify and extend the authorities' co-operation with the Libyan Red Crescent, the ICRC and the entire movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.
