

# **INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS**

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## **Appointment to the Executive Board**

The Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in its meeting of 14 March 1985, appointed Mr. Pierre Keller as a member of the Executive Board. Mr. Keller took up his duties at the meeting of the Executive Board on 21 March 1985.

Mr. Keller has been a member of the ICRC Assembly since February 1984.

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## **The President of the ICRC in Lebanon**

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, accompanied by Mr. Jean Hoefliger, ICRC delegate general for the Middle East, visited Lebanon from 12 to 16 February. He was received in Beirut by the President of the Republic, Mr. Amin Gemayel, Mr. Rashid Karami, President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Dr. Selim Hoss, Minister for Labour and Education. Discussions on matters of mutual interest made it possible to strengthen even more the excellent relationship that exists between the ICRC and the Lebanese Government.

While in Beirut the President of the ICRC took the opportunity to visit the Lebanese Red Cross, where he was received by the president, Mrs. A. Issa-el-Khoury, together with members of the Central Committee. When discussing various matters the president of the Lebanese Red Cross did not hide the fact that the National Society had serious financial worries.

## ETHIOPIA

Joint ICRC and Ethiopian Red Cross relief operation.



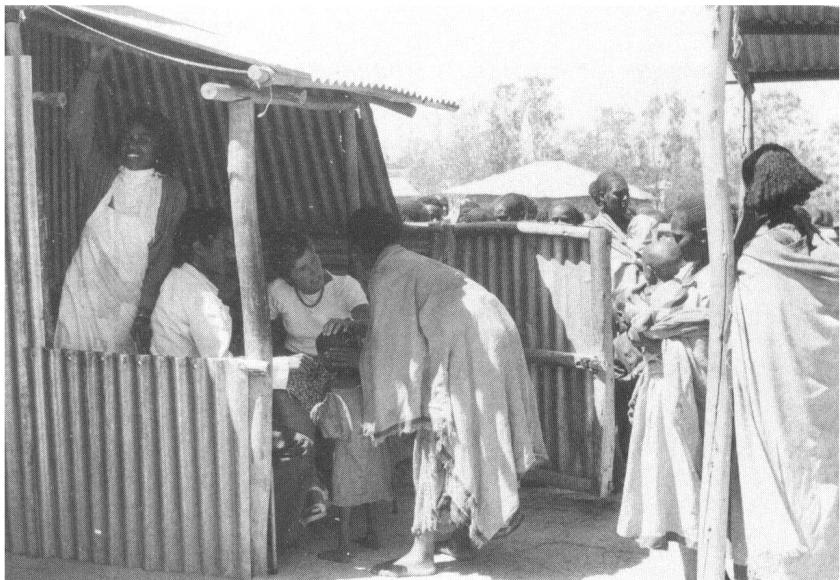
The displaced people and the victims of drought flock towards the Red Cross distribution centres in Axum and Mekele.

*Photos: Peduzzi/Chilvers—ICRC*



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Joint ICRC and Ethiopian Red Cross relief operation.



A food centre in Mekelle for undernourished children and a medical clinic.

Photos: Peduzzi/Chilvers—ICRC

The President of the ICRC also had numerous contacts with the sizeable ICRC delegation in Lebanon; the work that it does, effectively assisted by local Lebanese personnel, is very much appreciated. On 14 February, along with the head of the ICRC sub-delegation in Saida, he visited the city and the surrounding areas.

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## **Conference on the Emergency Situation in Africa**

Following an invitation by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, represented the ICRC at the Conference on the Emergency Situation in Africa, which was held on 11 and 12 March, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The Conference was aimed at drawing the attention of the international community to the distress prevailing in those African countries which are struck by drought and starvation, and at ensuring co-ordination of the efforts made by governments and organizations to face this emergency situation.

The President of the ICRC presented to the participants of this meeting two aspects of the African plight which are most worrying for the ICRC. Mr. Hay said: "The first aspect of the tragedy of starvation in Africa is that very often—and it is happening at this very moment—natural calamities like drought are aggravated by man-made disasters.

"In southern Africa, in the Horn of Africa and elsewhere, the ICRC, which was there because of internal and external conflicts long before the drought had reached the proportions it has today, had to expand its activities greatly to cope with recent developments brought about by war and by nature.

"That is a very serious matter because often, as a result of military operations, the ICRC, as a neutral intermediary accepted by all parties, is the only one that can do anything, including relieving the suffering brought about by natural phenomena.