

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.

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.

“The second aspect, which is confirmed by all reports received from our people in the field, is that in the next few months the worst is yet to come in the food situation and that there are no indications which would warrant a hope of a let-up in military operations”.

The President of the ICRC concluded with an expression of gratitude to all donors who make the work of the ICRC possible and urged governments not to overlook the possibilities which development should create in the long term.

An ICRC delegate killed in Sudan

The ICRC has learned, with deep sorrow, of the sudden death of Mr Michel Zufferey, delegate to Sudan, in a road accident on 5 January 1985.

Michel Zufferey, 40 years old, unmarried, joined the ICRC in 1972. He undertook his first mission in Bangladesh, and then was posted successively to Angola, Lebanon, Israel, Pakistan and Chad. He started his mission in Sudan on 22 January 1983.

Michel Zufferey, having spent over twelve years in the service of the ICRC, made many lasting friendships, and his death is profoundly regretted by the whole organisation. The ICRC extended to his parents and friends its deepest sympathy and condolences.
