

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Missions by the President of the ICRC

Pakistan

Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Michel Amiguet, deputy delegate-general of the ICRC for Asia and the Pacific, visited Pakistan between 11 and 17 November 1985.

In Islamabad, Mr. Hay had discussions with the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Mohamad Kahn Junejo, and thanked him for the support provided by Pakistan for the ICRC's humanitarian work for the victims of the Afghan conflict. The discussions also provided an opportunity to make an overall examination of the ICRC's main activities throughout the world and highlight the difficulties the institution encounters principally because of the internal and lengthy nature of most present-day conflicts. The ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions was also discussed during this meeting.

In the Pakistan capital the President of the ICRC also met the Pakistan Head Commissioner for Afghan refugees and the Secretary-General of the Pakistan Red Crescent.

In Peshawar Mr. Hay had discussions with the Governor of the North West Frontier Province and later in Quetta with the Governor of the province of Baluchistan. During these occasions an overall view of the ICRC's activities in these two provinces was made.

Both in Peshawar and Quetta, discussions were held with the people in charge of the local branches of the Pakistan Red Crescent. President Hay confirmed that the ICRC wished to hand over to the National Society, as soon as possible, responsibility for the paraplegic centre set up and administered by the ICRC and providing treatment both for Afghan and for Pakistan patients. In these two cities Mr. Hay visited the various centres where the ICRC is engaged and had working meetings with the delegates.

Italy

President Hay went on mission to Rome on 5 and 6 December 1985 accompanied by Mr. Nessi, head of the ICRC Financing Division, and Mr. P. Küng, delegate-general for Europe and North America. He was received by President Cossiga, and Mr. Andreotti, Minister for Foreign Affairs, both of whom displayed great interest in the activities of the ICRC. Discussions were also held with Mrs. Agnelli, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Salleo, Director-General of the Department for Development Co-operation within the same Ministry, and with the directors of the Italian Red Cross, including Mrs. Fanfani, Dr. Ugo Tavernini, Special Commissioner, and Professor Renato Pons, Director General. Various other leading figures, including the Minister for Health and the President of the Senate, met President Hay during a dinner offered by Mrs. Fanfani. Finally a meeting took place with Italy's representatives at the Council of Europe.

Mission to Spain by a member of the ICRC

Accepting an invitation by the Presidents of the Senate and the Congress of Spanish Members of Parliament, Dr. Athos Gallino, a staff member of the ICRC, went to Spain between 3 and 5 December 1985. This mission had a two-fold aim: one to bring about an increased awareness of the ICRC and the other to meet Mr Leocadio Marín, the new President of the Spanish Red Cross.

Two information meetings about the ICRC and its work took place: one in the Senate and the other in Congress. The participants displayed a keen interest and asked numerous questions.

ICRC delegate killed in Angola

The ICRC learned with great sorrow of the death of Mr. Marc Blaser, a radio operator in Angola, on 16 December 1985.

Twenty-one years old and single, Marc Blaser went to Angola in October 1985 on his first mission for the ICRC. In the evening of