

## **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 Cooperation 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.

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## **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.

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## **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

16 December, while in the neighbourhood of Lobito, he was killed in an armed attack. An inquiry is in progress to determine the exact circumstances of this tragic incident.

Although he had only recently joined the institution, Marc Blaser was highly thought of by all his colleagues for his good nature and his competence. The ICRC is grieved by the loss of this young delegate and has expressed to his parents and friends its profound sympathy.

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### **Accession of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros to the Geneva Conventions and to the Protocols**

The Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros deposited with the Swiss Government, on 21 November 1985, its instrument of accession to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and to the Additional Protocols I and II adopted on 8 June 1977.

Pursuant to their provisions, the Geneva Conventions and the Protocols will enter into force for the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros on 21 May 1986.

The Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros thus becomes the 162nd State party to the Geneva Conventions, the 52nd party to Protocol I and the 45th to Protocol II.

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### **Ratification of the Protocols by the Holy See**

On 21 November 1985, the Holy See deposited with the Swiss Government an instrument of ratification of Protocols I and II additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of the victims of international and non-international armed conflicts, adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977. This instrument of ratification was accompanied by a declaration reproduced hereafter.

Pursuant to their provisions, the Protocols will enter into force for the Holy See on 21 May 1986.

The Holy See thus becomes the 53rd State party to Protocol I and the 46th to Protocol II.