

*“The Geneva Law Faculty, which was quite naturally the first to take an interest in the teaching of international humanitarian law, felt that the four-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the Reformation, which constitutes one of our city’s chief claims to fame, was a particularly appropriate occasion to honour the jurist who for the past ten years has outstandingly and efficiently been presiding over the fortunes of the ICRC.”*

This public tribute to the President of the ICRC honours all those who have the privilege to work under his leadership. The *International Review of the Red Cross* expresses here the great appreciation felt by all.

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## **Missions by the President of the ICRC**

During May, Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, carried out a series of missions taking him first to the United Kingdom (1-2 May) and then to Asia (3-15 May), where he visited Malaysia, Thailand, Burma, India and Bangladesh.

In *London*, Mr. Hay had a meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, which was concerned mainly with the ratification by the United Kingdom of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

In *Kuala Lumpur*, the ICRC President took part in the opening ceremony of the Second workshop on the dissemination of international humanitarian law for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Asia and the Pacific (see the section “In the Red Cross world”). He also met the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

In *Bangkok*, Mr. Hay had talks with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as with Princess Sirindhorn, Executive Vice-President of the Thai Red Cross Society, and the Society’s Secretary-General.

In *Rangoon*, President Hay visited the prosthetic centre of the hospital for the disabled where the ICRC carries out assistance work in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and the Burma

Red Cross Society. He also had talks with the leading members of the National Society.

While in *New Delhi*, the ICRC President was unable to discuss with any government members because a cabinet reshuffle was in progress, but he had talks with the representatives of the Indian Red Cross Society.

During his stay in *Dhaka*, Mr. Hay was received by the Head of State, President Hossein Mohammad Ershad, and had meetings with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs respectively. He also met Mr. Abdul Jabbar, Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Cross Society and Vice-President of the Executive Council of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as other senior members of the National Society.

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### **Death of Mr. Rodolfo Olgiate, honorary member of the ICRC**

It was with great sorrow that the ICRC heard of the death on 31 May 1986 of Mr. Rodolfo Olgiate, honorary member of the ICRC.

Born in Lugano in 1905, Mr. Olgiate was a graduate in mathematics and physics of the Federal Polytechnic School and a former student of Italian language and literature at the University of Perugia. He taught in several boarding-schools in Germany and Great Britain before going to Spain, where he was in charge of the *Œuvre suisse de secours aux enfants* (aid to children) from 1937 to 1939. He was also the founder of the *Cartel suisse de secours aux enfants victimes de la guerre* (for aid to child war victims), Director of the *Don suisse*, later to become known as Swissaid, and President of the *Office central suisse d'aide aux réfugiés*.

Mr. Olgiate was elected to the Committee on 20 October 1949. He was a member of various ICRC commissions, mainly those dealing with relief and welfare issues, and carried out numerous missions for the ICRC. For the Red Cross he also concerned himself with problems besetting refugees and migrant persons. More generally, he strove constantly to make the Red Cross idea more universal and better known, wanting its "western" connotation to be less pronounced so as to facilitate its acceptance by all civilizations. In December 1970 Mr. Olgiate was named honorary member of the Committee.