

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.

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.

His fervent idealism and generosity and his vast experience in relief assistance were of invaluable service to the ICRC and will always be remembered by the Committee with profound gratitude.

Ratification of the Protocols by the Kingdom of Belgium

The Kingdom of Belgium, on 20 May 1986, ratified the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

This ratification was accompanied by interpretative statements, the translation of which is reproduced hereafter.

Pursuant to their provisions, the Protocols will enter into force for the Kingdom of Belgium on 20 November 1986.

The Kingdom of Belgium is the 58th State to become party to Protocol I and the 51st to Protocol II.

Declarations of interpretation

On depositing the instrument of ratification by Belgium of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), done at Geneva on 8 June 1977, the Belgian Government makes the following declarations of interpretation:

1. The Belgian Government, in view of the travaux préparatoires for the international instrument herewith ratified, wishes to emphasize that the Protocol was established to broaden the protection conferred by humanitarian law solely when conventional weapons are used in armed conflicts, without prejudice to the provisions of international law relating to the use of other types of weapons.

2. The Belgian Government, in view of paragraph 3 of Article 43 (Armed forces) and the special status of the Belgian Gendarmerie (constabulary), has decided to notify the High Contracting Parties as follows of the duties assigned to the Belgian Gendarmerie in time of armed conflict. It considers that this notification fully satisfies any and all requirements of Article 43 pertaining to the Gendarmerie.