

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Appointment of the future President of the ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has approached Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, at present Swiss State Secretary for External Economic Affairs, to succeed Mr. Alexandre Hay, who has expressed the desire to retire from the presidency of the Institution before the end of his third term of office, which expires at the end of 1988.

Mr. Sommaruga has just accepted the ICRC's proposal. He will take up his duties during 1987 on a date to be specified later. Until then President Hay will continue in office full-time.

M. Sommaruga has already been appointed a member of the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross and will take up his seat once he has left the Federal Administration of Switzerland.

Born in Rome in 1932, a Swiss citizen originating from Lugano (Ticino), Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga graduated with a doctorate in law from the University of Zurich in 1957. He entered the services of the Swiss Confederation in 1960. Until 1973 he held various diplomatic posts in The Hague, Bonn, Rome and Geneva. Appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in 1973, he returned three years later to the Federal Office for Economic Affairs. He became Delegate of the Swiss Government for Trade Agreements in 1980 and, in 1984, he replaced Mr. Paul Jolles as State Secretary for External Economic Affairs.
