

EDITORS OF THE REVIEW

Tribute to Michel Testuz

For reasons of health, Mr. Michel Testuz has been obliged to give up his position as editor of the *International Review of the Red Cross*, in which he served with distinction since 1977, and enter into early retirement.

Those who have seen him at work, during a career devoted to the humanitarian cause for nearly forty years, and in particular the readers of the *Review*, will greatly regret this decision and the loss it entails, while deferring to the circumstances which made it necessary. This scholarly man, with his rich culture and brilliance as an editor, maintained the standards of this traditional voice of the ICRC at the high level befitting its function and assured the universal respect it enjoys.

With his skill and judgement in producing the ICRC's principal medium for the regular communication of basic information, he made certain of the value and depth of thought of its contents, as the most essential thing, and also provided the variety and vivacity of style which made it a pleasure to read. Imbued with a feeling for work well done, and never satisfied with things that were "good enough," he put together every issue of the magazine with scrupulous care, adding to it the felicitous touches of his own style in numerous important articles that he wrote himself.

Michel Testuz deserves the gratitude of the Red Cross world for other things as well. Before becoming editor of the *Review*, he had served as head of an ICRC delegation, having worked in the field since 1948. In his early academic career he specialized in Oriental Studies and graduated with a doctorate from the Sorbonne. He later wrote a number of scholarly works and became a professor of Hebraic and Arabic literature at the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva. Fluent in ten languages, he was particularly well fitted to work in Asia and the Middle East. Accordingly, he first served the ICRC as a delegate in Palestine and then in Japan, for eight years. He subsequently became head of delegation in Cambodia and served in the same capacity in Pakistan and Egypt. It is impossible here to enumerate all the missions he carried out, with consistent success, or to do more than mention the remarkable work he accomplished in the Far East for refugees and stateless persons. We can only say, in summation, that his perspicacity, negotiating talent

and dedication were remarkable and gained him universal esteem.

In 1980, he wrote an illustrated publication under the title *The ICRC and its Activities in the World*, a popularized work of great value in dissemination, with the essentials expressed briefly and clearly.

As this exceptional but unassuming man leaves us, we wish to express to him our great appreciation for the eminent services he has rendered to the humanitarian cause, together with our warm and friendly wishes that the improvement of his health will enable him to enjoy to the full his well-earned retirement and to continue at leisure the scholarly work which is so dear to him.

J. P.

New editor-in-chief of the *International Review*

Mr. Jacques Meurant, who succeeds Mr. Michel Testuz as editor of the *International Review of the Red Cross*, was born in Lille, France, in 1932. After studying in Lille and Paris, Mr. Meurant became a teacher in 1957 and taught English at the Henry IV High School and the Jules Ferry High School in Paris.

Following a period with the French Red Cross, Mr. Meurant went to the League of Red Cross Societies in January 1962 as Special Assistant attached to the Secretary General's office.

In 1973, Mr. Meurant was appointed Special Adviser to the Secretary General and was responsible for statutory and legal matters. In this capacity, he advised the Secretary General on legal and constitutional issues relating to the statutes and functions of the League of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as to the doctrine and principles of the Red Cross, international humanitarian law and human rights. He was closely involved with the work of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law (1974-1977) and co-ordinated League activities in the field of dissemination of international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles and ideals.

In 1979, Mr. Meurant succeeded Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as Director of the