

Official visits to the ICRC

On 31 August 1987 the Vice-President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, **Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam**, visited ICRC headquarters, where he was received by the institution's President, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga.

In his welcoming speech, the ICRC President paid tribute to Mr. Nurul Islam, who is also Justice Minister of Bangladesh and a former Chairman of the National Red Cross Society, as a special partner in the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

In his reply, Vice-President Nurul Islam spoke of his concern over the situation in his country following the recent serious floods. He also underlined the role played by the ICRC since Bangladesh gained independence and thanked the institution for its activities on behalf of victims.

During the courtesy visit, Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam was accompanied by the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations at Geneva, Mr. Ataul Karim. Before concluding their visit they had a private meeting with Mr. Sommaruga.

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H.E. Mr. Pedro Rodrigues Pires, Prime Minister of the Republic of Cape Verde, and his wife, visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross on 4 September 1987. They were welcomed by Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga.

H.E. Mr. Pedro Rodrigues Pires, accompanied by members of his government, discussed with Mr. Sommaruga various humanitarian matters of particular concern to the African continent. They

also talked about ICRC activities in that part of the world, as well as the activities of the young Red Cross Society of Cape Verde.

Recognized by the ICRC in 1985, the National Society is one of the most active in Africa. It has 13 local committees which cover all the islands making up the territory. As well as organizing the usual activities of a National Red Cross Society—health programmes, first-aid work, youth movement—the Red Cross Society of Cape Verde is also involved in literacy programmes, and works closely with the ICRC in disseminating international humanitarian law.

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The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross received the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, **Mr. Yasser Arafat**, at ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 7 September 1987.

The meeting focused on the humanitarian activities carried out by the ICRC in the Middle East, especially in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, in Lebanon, and in connection with the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The meeting took place as part of efforts by the ICRC to bring protection and assistance to all victims of the conflicts in that part of the world.