

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Visit by the Prime Minister of India to the ICRC

The Prime Minister of India, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, visited the ICRC on 17 June. He was accompanied by Mrs. Gandhi and various officials: Mr. Romesh Bandhari, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Arun Singh, Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. C. R. Gharekhan, Additional Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Thomas Abraham, ambassador to Bern, and Mr. M. Dubey, ambassador and permanent representative for India to Geneva.

The Prime Minister was welcomed to the ICRC by Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee, together with some of his close staff members. In reply to the welcoming address by the President of the ICRC, the Prime Minister of India made the following very kind remarks about the International Committee: «There is very little difference in points of view among nations when it comes to basic principles and humanitarian values but sometimes, due to circumstances, it becomes difficult for nations to stand up for those values. It is at such times that international and multinational organizations must use their influence to bring people together again and to overcome these differences. The ICRC has a very good record on just such matters. Its work, so beneficial in times of disputes, and its mediation in bringing parties together when this would seem impossible are recorded in history. We are always ready to co-operate with you and we shall try to help you on such issues. We congratulate you on the work you have been doing.»

During a private interview, various humanitarian matters of mutual interest were discussed by the Prime Minister of India and the President of the ICRC.
