

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ICRC Vice-President received by Queen Beatrix

During a private visit to Geneva, Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and His Royal Highness Prince Claus on 3 September 1985 received the Vice-President of the International Committee, Mr Maurice Aubert, in the absence of the ICRC President. The audience took place at the residence of Ambassador Robert J. van Schaik, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands in Geneva; the conversation was concerned mainly with the activities of the ICRC.

Recognition of the Red Cross Society of São Tomé and Príncipe

Geneva, 30 October 1985

CIRCULAR NO. 536

*To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition of the Red Cross Society of São Tomé and Príncipe by the International Committee of the Red Cross. This recognition, which took effect on 3 October 1985, brings to 137 the number of National Societies members of the International Red Cross.

Founded on 20 January 1976, the Society officially applied for recognition by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 1 July 1985. In support of its application it forwarded various

documents, including a report on its activities, the text of its Statutes, and a copy of Government Decree No. 6/76 of 13 January 1976 and of the Additional Ministerial Declaration of 1 August 1985, attesting that the Red Cross Society is recognized by the Government as a voluntary aid society auxiliary to the public authorities in accordance with the provisions of the First Geneva Convention of 1949.

These documents, which were examined jointly by the International Committee and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, showed that the ten conditions for the recognition of a new National Society by the International Committee had been fulfilled.

The International Committee and the League have observed the activities of the Red Cross Society of São Tomé and Príncipe for several years. Representatives of the two institutions have ascertained that the Red Cross Society of São Tomé and Príncipe, which has a sound infrastructure, extends its activities throughout the national territory and that these activities are being developed as regards information, first aid, and assistance for the aged. The Society is training first-aid workers whose task is to provide primary medical care in villages and plantations where there are no medical facilities.

On 21 May 1976 the Swiss Federal Council received notification of the accession of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, which therefore entered into force on the territory of São Tomé and Príncipe on 21 November 1976.

The Red Cross Society of São Tomé and Príncipe is presided over by Mrs. Maria Amélia Pinto da Costa. Its headquarters is located in São Tomé. The address is as follows: Sociedade Nacional da Cruz Vermelha de São Tomé e Príncipe, C.P. 96, São Tomé.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Red Cross Society of São Tomé and Príncipe to membership of the International Red Cross, in accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies, and in expressing sincere good wishes to the Society for its future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Alexandre HAY
President