

Death of Mr. Michel Testuz

(Thursday 2 April 1987)

The ICRC learnt with deep sadness of the death of Mr. Michel Testuz, former editor of the *Review*, as a consequence of the heart attack which had forced him to be absent from the ICRC since autumn 1985.

Mr. Testuz began his career with the ICRC in 1948: while engaged in special studies at the School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, he was recruited to work for the ICRC in Palestine.

From 1950 to 1960, he first continued his studies and then taught Hebrew language and Literature at the universities of Rome, Lausanne and Geneva. During 1960, he gave courses at Geneva University and at the same time was curator of the Bodmer Library. Over the same period he published about ten works of scholarship, several articles for periodicals and a number of other papers.

In 1960 he rejoined the ICRC and was sent to Japan as head of delegation, a post he held until 1968. Between 1968 and 1970, when he was head of delegation in Cambodia, he also conducted numerous missions to various neighbouring countries.

He was recalled to Geneva in 1970 to take up the post of deputy delegate-general for Asia. From 1971 to 1973 he was back in the field as head of delegation in Pakistan. He headed the delegation in Cairo in 1976.

When Mr. Jean-Georges Lossier retired, Mr. Testuz became editor of the *Review* and from 1977 he skilfully edited this publication until bad health forced him to leave in the autumn of 1985.

Mr. Testuz was a highly cultivated man and a humanist in the real sense and, as those who knew him can confirm, a most unassuming person. Extremely agreeable to those with whom he associated, during his many missions he was able, better than anyone else, to grasp and to respect the differing sensibilities of the people he met. Witty and amusing in the company of friends, Mr. Testuz was very careful never to hurt anyone.

As editor of the *Review* he was very exacting and his readers always appreciated this quality in him.

The staff of the ICRC and his numerous friends throughout the world will remember him with affection.