

## **Cornelio Sommaruga takes office as ICRC President Tribute to Alexandre Hay**

The new President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, took office on 7 May 1987. The official handover took place the previous day during the ICRC's meeting in Assembly.

Twelfth President of the ICRC, Cornelio Sommaruga replaces Alexandre Hay who led the institution from 1 July 1976 to 6 May 1987.

Marking the occasion, the members of the Committee and the Directorate paid tribute to the outgoing President, recalling in particular the profound humanity and determination with which Alexandre Hay carried out his responsibilities throughout a decade fraught with innumerable disasters that struck each and every continent. They were pleased to find that Mr. Hay will remain a member of the Committee; as such he will preside over the "Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace."

In his allocution the new President stated that he wants to be guided, in the performance of his duties, by three principles: steadfastness, integrity, humility. **Steadfastness**: to show the determination that must sustain all members of the institution and prevent them from becoming discouraged. **Integrity**: particularly in the areas of respect for international humanitarian law, implementation of ICRC doctrine and monitoring the use of funds granted to the institution by governments and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. **Humility**: to illustrate the ICRC's position side by side with National Societies and numerous organizations working, with remarkable results, in their own specific humanitarian domains; and also to recall the constant efforts that the ICRC must make to bring assistance to all victims of conflict.