

International Committee of the Red Cross

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

NEW EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE

At the meeting of its Assembly, on 2 May 1991, the International Committee of the Red Cross decided to set up a single executive body. The decision was prompted by the need to keep pace with the growing complexity of the ICRC's humanitarian work worldwide and to respond with optimum efficiency to the marked expansion in its activities.

Part of the former Directorate will now be incorporated into the Executive Board. The new Board will have direct responsibility for the three structures that oversee the ICRC's activities, i.e. the General Directorate, and the Directorates of Operations and of Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement.

The seven members of the new Executive Board will, as previously, be elected by the Assembly for renewable terms of four years. On 2 May the Assembly elected:

Guy Deluz, Director General, whose task it will be to co-ordinate administrative activities; **Jean de Courten**, Director of Operations, and **Yves Sandoz**, Director for Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement.

The other members of the Executive Board will be:

Cornelio Sommaruga, ICRC President; **Claudio Caratsch**, permanent Vice-President; **Rudolf Jäckli**, member of the ICRC; **Anne Petitpierre**, member of the ICRC.

André Ghelfi and Pierre Keller have asked to be relieved of their duties as members of the Executive Board while remaining members of the Assembly.

This new system will take effect on 10 May 1991. It follows a previous reorganization and the creation of the post of Director General in January 1990 and is the result of specific proposals put forward by a working group of Committee members following extensive consultations throughout the institution.

The Assembly, whose main task is to provide overall supervision of the institution's work and to determine the principles and policy that govern its activities, will remain essentially unchanged. It will continue to have 15 to 25 members, who are all Swiss citizens and most of whom serve on a voluntary basis, but has decided to increase the number of its meetings from eight to at least ten per year. In addition, it has set up a management control commission, consisting of five members not on the Executive Board. The commission will be chaired by Pierre Languetin and will assist the Assembly in supervising the institution's executive structure and administration.

The ICRC, always open to opportunities for dialogue, intends to step up its consultations with international experts and to establish closer working relations with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and their federation, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

PRESIDENTIAL MISSIONS

Luxembourg (12 March)

The President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Michel Convers, head of the Operational Support Department, travelled to Luxembourg on 12 March 1991.

He was received by H.R.H. the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, President of the National Society, in the presence of Mr. Henri Ahlborn, Vice-President of the Luxembourg Red Cross. The discussions were concerned mainly with a possible financial contribution by the Grand Duchy towards the work of the ICRC in Jordan and with the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

At government level, the ICRC President had talks with Mr. Jacques Poos, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, on various ICRC operations in the Middle East and Africa.

Financial issues were then examined in an interview with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Georges Wohlfart; Luxembourg's overall contribution to the ICRC is going to be considerably increased and should exceed 2.5 million Swiss francs in 1991.