

Resolution of the Organization of American States

Invited to attend the sixteenth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), which was held in Guatemala City from 10 to 15 November 1986, the ICRC was represented by Mr. Serge Nessi, Head of the Financing Division, and Mr. Harald Schmid de Gruneck, ICRC representative in New York.

The ICRC was mainly interested in one point on the Assembly Agenda entitled "Support to the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross". A draft resolution was adopted by acclamation at the end of brief discussions.

In the resolution, the text of which is set out below, the General Assembly reiterated the recognition of the Member States of the OAS of the humanitarian work done by the ICRC in various parts of the world and, particularly, in the Americas, and urged Member States to continue their support and to facilitate the ICRC's humanitarian work and to promote a better understanding of the international activities of the Red Cross.

During this session, ICRC delegates had an opportunity to establish numerous contacts with the delegations of various governments which were members of the OAS.

SUPPORT TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

CONSIDERING:

That the mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is to provide protection and aid to victims of armed conflicts, on the basis of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, to which all members of the Organization of American States are parties;

That the humanitarian work of the International Committee of the Red Cross is the living expression of what solidarity and co-operation throughout the world can accomplish;

That the lofty mission of the International Committee deserves the broadest and most determined support of the world community and regional organizations;

That the Council of Europe approved a very explicit request to the Member States to give their determined support to the International Committee, in view of the many activities it carries out on a worldwide basis;

That the financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross is a responsibility of the Signatory States of the Geneva Conventions, which recognize the mounting costs of the actions the Committee must undertake in very remote areas of the world, among which are those it carries out in Central America;

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate the recognition of the Member States of the Organization of American States of the humanitarian work done by the International Committee of the Red Cross in various parts of the world, and particularly in the Americas;

2. To urge the Member States to continue their support to the International Committee of the Red Cross and to facilitate its humanitarian work, and, to the extent of their abilities, to strengthen and broaden the economic aid they provide each year, as well as any other assistance they can provide to enable the Committee to fulfil its mission;

3. To urge the Member States to promote a better understanding and a broader knowledge of the international activities of the Red Cross, in co-ordination with their respective National Red Cross Societies.
