

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW MEMBER TO THE ICRC

At its last meeting in 1987, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross welcomed **Mrs. Liselotte Kraus-Gurny** as a new member of the Committee.

Mrs. Kraus-Gurny is from Zurich. She is a Doctor of Laws and worked in the legal division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva from 1961 to 1972. She devoted the following years to her family, and to political activities at the municipal and cantonal levels in Geneva, where she was particularly active in the field of education and training.

With the appointment of Mrs. Kraus-Gurny, the Committee, which is composed exclusively of Swiss citizens, now has 21 members.

OFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN BY THE ICRC PRESIDENT

ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga paid an official visit to Japan from 6 to 14 December 1987.

The President, accompanied by Mr. Hans Spiess, ICRC honorary delegate for Japan, Mr. Peter Küng, head of the regional delegation (Far East) and Mr. Cédric Neukomm, delegate responsible for dissemination and co-operation in Asia, first participated in a symposium on the theme "From small peace to large peace", which was organized by the Japanese Red Cross Society in collaboration with the NHK television station and the newspaper *Asahi Shimbun* and sponsored by the Union Bank of Switzerland.

In his address, the ICRC President began by paying tribute to the Japanese Red Cross and its continuous support for the ICRC during the Society's 100 years of existence. He then gave an outline of the ICRC's current operations.

The symposium's discussions, which were led by eminent university professors, highlighted the Movement's positive role and its contribution to peace. The participants recommended, in particular, that Japan increase its support for the ICRC's activities, and launched an appeal in favour of ratification by Japan of the Protocols of 8 June 1977.

During his visit Mr. Sommaruga was received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sosuke Uno. The ICRC President drew the Minister's attention, in particular, to the importance of greater support by the Japanese Government for the ICRC, and expressed the wish that Japan would soon ratify the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

The Minister declared his great respect for the work accomplished by the Red Cross and thanked the ICRC for its efforts with regard to certain issues of concern to Japan. He furthermore announced the donation of 30 million yen (about 300,000 Swiss francs) as an extraordinary contribution to the ICRC's activities in the Philippines.

Mr. Sommaruga also met the outgoing Prime Minister, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, and various other leaders of Japanese political and economic life in Tokyo and Osaka.

Finally, the ICRC President was received by the President of the Japanese Red Cross Society, Mr. Yamamoto, and his closest colleagues. On this occasion, H.I.H. Crown Prince Akihito presented the ICRC President with the "Golden Order of Merit", the highest distinction awarded by the Japanese Red Cross Society.

THE CHANCELLOR OF AUSTRIA VISITS THE ICRC

The Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, **Mr. Franz Vranitzky**, visited on 2 February 1988 the International Committee of the Red Cross, where he was received by Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga,