

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.

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## 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,

President of the institution, and several members of the Committee.

In his speech of welcome, the President of the ICRC thanked the Federal Chancellor for the support that the Republic of Austria gives to the ICRC. He also recalled the fact that the large number of conflict situations in the world demands constant diplomatic support, in the interest of the victims, especially from neutral countries.

The signing of the ICRC's visitors' book was followed by a meeting between Mr. Franz Vranitzky and the ICRC President, which focused on the application and dissemination of international humanitarian law, the financing of the institution and the operational involvement of the ICRC's 41 delegations worldwide.

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