

*IN GENEVA***New Member of the International Committee**

At its plenary session on 14 May 1970, the International Committee of the Red Cross elected Mr. Victor H. Umbricht as a new member.

Mr. Umbricht was born at Untersiggenthal in the canton of Aargau in 1915. After studying at various universities he obtained a doctorate in international law. He was a member of the Tribunal of Baden and then, from 1941 to 1953, was in the Swiss diplomatic service. He subsequently became assistant director of operations at the World Bank, Washington, for Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. In 1957 he was appointed Director of the Federal Administration of Finances in Bern.

After undertaking a mission for the United Nations in the Congo, he became President of the CIBA Corporation in the United States from 1962 to 1964, when he became a member of the Board of CIBA SA in Basle.

The advice of M. Victor H. Umbricht will be particularly useful to the International Committee, which is happy to have the benefit of this new member's collaboration in the humanitarian work of the Red Cross.

International Tracing Service

Mr. Nicolas Burckhardt, Director of the International Tracing Service, will be leaving his post at the end of June 1970. The position, which he has occupied since 1955, will immediately be taken over by Mr. Albert de Cocatrix, who is at present Assistant Director.

At the plenary session of the ICRC on 14 May, the President of the International Committee recalled the important tasks Mr. Burckhardt had carried out in the service of the Red Cross since 1936. He was firstly member of the ICRC Secretariat and then of the Central Prisoners of War Agency; since 1944 he has been an ICRC delegate in many places in Europe and Asia.

Mr. M. A. Naville recalled Mr. Burckhardt's characteristic keen sense of duty, of which he has given ample proof during his fifteen years at Arolsen. The President then congratulated Mr. Burckhardt and expressed the sincere gratitude of the ICRC.

Training Courses for Delegates

The ICRC organized its first "training course for delegates" in Geneva from 11 to 14 May.

The theory lessons (humanitarian law, Geneva Conventions) and practical lessons (delegates' activities on mission), which were introduced by various ICRC collaborators, the Swiss Red Cross and medical experts, were prepared in close collaboration with the Henry Dunant Institute. During the seminar, Professor O. Reverdin gave a lecture on the subject "Switzerland and the concept of neutrality".
