

Resignation of a member of the International Committee

At its meeting on 18 January 1979, the ICRC Assembly noted the resignation of Mr. Herbert Lüthy, who had been a member since September 1975.

Mr. Lüthy, who is Professor of contemporary history and Swiss history at the University of Basle, felt that his duties at the university did not leave him free enough to make a valuable contribution to ICRC work.

The Assembly regretfully accepted Professor Lüthy's resignation and thanked him warmly for his valuable assistance in the past.

Appointments at the Henry Dunant Institute

At its meeting on the 20th December 1978, the General Assembly of the Henry Dunant Institute appointed Mr. Jacques Meurant, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, in charge of statutory matters, as Director of the Institute. He succeeds Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who has reached retirement age.

Mr. Meurant joined the League Secretariat in 1962, first handling administrative subjects before assuming responsibility for legal and statutory matters. He conducted research and studies on the statutory texts, functions and structure of the League and National Societies and on the mission and development of the Red Cross in present-day society. He contributed to the studies on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross, took part in the revision of the League Constitution, and studied aspects of Red Cross policy on major issues, such as the Red Cross and peace. He was recently associated with the work of the Diplomatic Conference on the reaffirmation and development of international

humanitarian law, and he co-ordinated League activities for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross.

In the course of his duties Mr. Meurant has developed many contacts with National Red Cross Societies and worked closely with the ICRC, the Henry Dunant Institute, and specialized humanitarian agencies and institutions.

Mr. Meurant, a 46-year old French citizen with a doctorate in political science and an Arts degree, will take up his new duties on the 1st July 1979.

The same General Assembly appointed Mr. Jiri Toman, the Institute's Director of Research, to the post of Assistant Director. Mr. Toman taught international law at the University of Prague for some years before entering the Henry Dunant Institute in 1969 as its research worker. He is the author of several books and articles on international law.

Distinctions to the International Tracing Service

At the end of 1978 the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany showed its appreciation of the ICRC and of the work of the International Tracing Service at Arolsen by the award of the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit to the former directors of the International Tracing Service, namely, Mr. N. Burckhardt, who was director from 1955 to 1970, and Mr. A. de Cocatrix, director from 1970 to 1977.

A ceremony took place in Geneva on 19 December 1978 when, in the presence of Mr. Alexandre Hay, ICRC President, and a number of notabilities, the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany at the International Organizations in Geneva presented the award to Mr. Burckhardt and Mr. de Cocatrix.