

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.