

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ADOPTION OF THE RED CRESCENT BY THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Circular No. 72

Geneva, 5 November 1980

*To the Central Committees of National Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On 4 July 1980 the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies of its decision to adopt the red crescent instead of the red lion and sun as the distinctive sign of its armed forces' medical service. As a result, the Iranian National Society has changed its name and emblem. It is henceforth the "Iranian Red Crescent Society".

In accordance with the procedure followed for previous changes of emblem, the ICRC asked the Iranian Authorities that States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 be officially informed of the change. In reply to a message from the Iranian National Society, the ICRC and the League, in a joint letter dated 30 July, underlined the necessity for such notification, adding that they could afterwards inform all National Societies and that this subject was included in the agenda of the next meeting of the League Executive Council.

On 4 September the Iranian Authorities notified the Swiss Government, the depositary of the Geneva Conventions, of the adoption by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the red crescent, and asked it to convey its decision to the States parties to the Geneva Conventions. This the Swiss Government did on 20 October.

At its meeting on 11 October, the League Executive Council was informed of the new name and emblem adopted by the Iranian National Society. The Council directed the League Secretary General to inform all National Societies members of the League.

Taking into consideration all the steps mentioned above, the ICRC and the League request all National Societies to take note of the new name and emblem of the Iranian National Society.

Yours faithfully,

H. Beer

*Secretary General
League of Red Cross Societies*

J. Moreillon

*Director
Department of Principles
and Law
International Committee
of the Red Cross*

Two new members of the ICRC

The Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross has elected two new members, Mr. Olivier Long and Mr. Dietrich Schindler, who took up their duties at the ICRC on 1 December 1980.

Mr. Olivier Long was born in Geneva in 1915 and studied law, economics and political science. He received a doctorate in law at the University of Paris, graduated at the *Ecole des Sciences politiques* in Paris and took a doctorate in political science at the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies.