

The ICRC President in the People's Republic of China

Responding to a long-standing invitation from the Chinese Red Cross, the ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, was in the People's Republic of China from 2 to 11 November, accompanied by his wife, by the Director of the Operations Department, Mr. J.-P. Hocké, and by the Chief of the Dissemination and Documentation Division, Mr. R. Gaillard-Moret.

The presidential mission was warmly welcomed by the Chinese Red Cross and by its President, Mr. Qian Xin Zhong, who is also Minister of Health, and discussions were extremely fruitful.

The ICRC mission also had talks with senior government officials of the People's Republic of China including the Vice President of the Standing Committee of the People's National Assembly, Mr. Liao Cheng Zhi; the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Zhang Wen Jin; the Deputy Director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Defence, General Yan Jin Cheng; and the Vice Minister of Education, Mr. Kao Yi. Discussions centred on topics of common interest, like the ratification by the People's Republic of China of the 1977 Protocols, the dissemination of international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles among the armed forces and in schools and ICRC activities throughout the world, in particular in the Cambodian conflict.

Mr. Gaillard-Moret prolonged his stay in Peking to discuss with the Chinese Red Cross, at the request of the Vice Minister of Education, the teaching and dissemination of international humanitarian law. He gave three lectures on the subject for the Chinese Red Cross, the People's University and Peking University.

ICRC mission in Moscow

An ICRC delegation, led by Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, Vice-President, who was accompanied by Mr. J. Moreillon, director of the ICRC Department of Principles and Law, and by Mr. Ph. Grand d'Hauteville, regional delegate for Europe, went to Moscow at the invitation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, and stayed there from 27 to 31 October 1980.