

Austrian President visits ICRC

While in Switzerland, the President of the Republic of Austria, Mr. Rudolf Kirchschläger, visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva on 9 September 1981. As guest of the Swiss Federal Council during his State visit, Mr. Kirchschläger, was accompanied by Mr. Kurt Furgler, President of the Swiss Confederation and Mr. Georges-André Chevallaz, Federal Councillor, as well as the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of External Commerce.

On their arrival at ICRC headquarters, Mr. Kirchschläger and his entourage were welcomed by ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, who introduced to them members of the Committee and of the ICRC directorate and representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, the Swiss Red Cross and its Geneva branch, and the Henry Dunant Institute.

ICRC President visits the United States

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, visited Washington from September 13 to 17 for talks with senior representatives of the United States administration. It was his first official visit to the United States. Mr. Hay was accompanied by Mr. J.-P. Hocké, director of the department of Operations in ICRC, Mr. A. Modoux, head of the division Press and Information, Mr. M. Veuthey, head of the division for International Organisations.

Mr. Hay met the American Vice-President, Mr. George Bush, Mr. Alexander Haig, Secretary of State, and the US ambassador to the United Nations, Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick, as well as government officials, members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

While in Washington Mr. Hay also met senior members of the American Red Cross, including its President, Mr. G. M. Elsey, and its Chairman, Dr. J.H. Holland.

The ICRC President's discussions centred on three main points: the need for increased and sustained financial support for ICRC activities in the world, the spread of violence which constitutes a problem of growing concern, and the ICRC's wish for the United States to ratify the 1977 Protocols.

Inauguration of the International Red Cross Audio-Visual Centre

The International Red Cross Audio-Visual Centre in Geneva was officially inaugurated on 30 September.

A joint creation of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies, the Centre produces and distributes a full range of audio-visual material on the history and activities of the Red Cross. Its services are available to all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the media and the general public.

The opening of the Centre, located in the building of the League of Red Cross Societies, is an important step in the co-operation between the two international organizations which for the first time undertake the joint administration of a permanent service.