

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Recognition of the Tonga Red Cross Society

GENEVA, 20 October 1981

CIRCULAR No. 519

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you that the International Committee of the Red Cross, on 15 October 1981, officially recognized the Tonga Red Cross Society.

This recognition, which constitutes a new step towards the universality of the Red Cross, brings to 127 the total number of member Societies of the International Red Cross.

This new Society officially applied for recognition by the International Committee on 2 April 1981. Its request was supported by a report on its activities, the text of its Statutes, and a copy of the 'Tonga Red Cross Society Act, 1972' recognizing it as a voluntary aid society and as an auxiliary to the public authorities, in particular of the armed forces medical services.

These documents, which were examined jointly by the International Committee and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, showed that the qualifying conditions for recognition of a new National Society by the International Committee had been formally fulfilled.

During a recent visit to the Tonga Red Cross Society a representative of the International Committee noted that the Society, founded as a branch of the British Red Cross in 1961, was currently being consolidated and was beginning to expand geographically to cover both groups of islands of the Tonga archipelago. The Society undertakes various medical and social activities: it provides assistance to sick, disabled and needy persons, and to handicapped children; it also gives first-aid courses and co-ordinates relief to victims of disasters.

The Government of the Kingdom of Tonga confirmed, on 22 March 1978, that the State was a Party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions by a declaration of succession, with effect from 4 June 1970, when Tonga became independent.

The Society is presided over by H. M. Queen Hala'evalu Mata'aho. Its headquarters is at Nuku'alofa. ¹

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Tonga Red Cross Society to membership of the International Red Cross, in accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies, and in expressing sincere good wishes for its future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Alexandre HAY

President

¹ The new Society's address is: Tonga Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 456, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.