

British Prime Minister visits ICRC

On 12 August 1982, while on holiday in Switzerland, the British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, paid a private visit to the International Committee of the Red Cross. She was accompanied by her husband, Mr. Denis Thatcher. In the absence of the President of the ICRC, she was welcomed by Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, its Vice-President.

Replying to the speech of Mr. Pestalozzi, Mrs. Thatcher expressed her gratitude to the ICRC for its humanitarian work in the recent South Atlantic conflict and announced that her government would be making a special contribution to the ICRC programme on behalf of political detainees. She then went on to discuss various issues of a humanitarian nature in talks with Mr. Pestalozzi and ICRC representatives.

After having greeted the members of the International Committee and senior ICRC executives, Mrs. Thatcher and her husband were guests of honour at a reception attended by high-ranking officials from various international organizations in Geneva, the Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies and representatives of the Swiss federal authorities and the cantonal and municipal authorities of Geneva.

Ratification of the Protocols by Denmark

On 17 June 1982, Denmark deposited with the Swiss Government an instrument of ratification, dated 2 June 1982, of Protocols I and II additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of the victims of international and non-international armed conflicts, adopted on 8 June 1977.

This instrument was registered on 17 June 1982 and, in accordance with their provisions, the Protocols will come into force for Denmark on 17 December 1982.

The instrument of ratification is accompanied by a Government declaration of 8 June 1982, according to which the Danish Government recognizes *ipso facto* and without special agreement, in relation to any other High Contracting Party which accepts the same obligation, the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, mentioned under Article 90, paragraph 2, of Protocol I.

This ratification brings to 24 the number of States parties to Protocol I and to 21 the States parties to Protocol II.