

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Recognition of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Rwanda

GENEVA, 8 October 1982

CIRCULAR No. 524

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition, by the International Committee of the Red Cross, of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Rwanda. This recognition, which came into effect on 6 October 1982, brings to 130 the number of National Societies members of the International Red Cross.

The new Society submitted its request for recognition, dated 13 August 1982, to the International Committee of the Red Cross through a mission of representatives of the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies, who visited Rwanda from 9 to 17 August 1982. It also presented, together with the text of its Statutes and a report on its activities, a copy of the presidential decree of 29 December 1964 conferring legal status upon the Rwandan Red Cross association and recognizing it as a voluntary aid society auxiliary to the public authorities.

These various documents have been jointly examined by the ICRC and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, who certify that the ten conditions required for the recognition of a new National Society have been fulfilled. It remained necessary, under the legislation in force in Rwanda, for the Statutes of the National Red Cross to be approved by the competent authorities; this final formality was completed by a decree issued by the Ministry of Justice on 4 October 1982.

Representatives of the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies have visited the Rwandan Red Cross Society several times in recent years. They observed that the Society had a considerable number of volunteers and that its operational capacity was of a high standard. The Society has extended its activities throughout the country, and each commune has its own local section.

The Rwandan Red Cross has set up a national relief service whose activities consist of preparation for intervention in time of war alongside the medical services of the armed forces; intervention in natural disasters, epidemics or accidents; assistance to refugees; and the prevention of accidents or disasters. The Society also trains first aid volunteers and community health workers, organizes courses for the population on basic hygiene and the prevention of disease and provides assistance for the needy and the sick. In addition it has important achievements to its credit in the field of blood transfusion and aid to orphans. It has a well-structured youth organization.

The Republic of Rwanda acceded on 21 March 1964 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, by a declaration of succession which became effective on 1 July 1962.

The President of the Red Cross of the Republic of Rwanda is Dr. Claudien Kamilindi; its Secretary General is Dr. Alphonse Nteziimana. The Society has its headquarters at Kigali, at the following address: Rwandan Red Cross, B.P. 425, Kigali, Republic of Rwanda.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has great pleasure in welcoming the Red Cross of the Republic of Rwanda as a member of the International Red Cross and accrediting it, by the present circular, with

its warmest commendations, to all National Societies . The International Committee of the Red Cross wishes the Rwandan Red Cross every success for its development and for its humanitarian activities.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Alexandre HAY

President

Resignation and Appointment to the Executive Board

Mr. Jakob Burckhardt last summer requested the ICRC Assembly to release him from his functions on the Executive Board. The Assembly has expressed its profound gratitude to Mr. Burckhardt for the outstanding services he had rendered since July 1978, during his four years as a member of the Board. Mr. Burckhardt will continue to be a member of the Assembly.

To replace Mr. Burckhardt, the Assembly has appointed Mr. Olivier Long, who began in September to take part in the meetings of the Executive Board. Mr. Long has been a member of the ICRC since December 1980.

Resignation and re-elections at the ICRC Assembly

At its meeting on 15 December 1982 the ICRC Assembly accepted the resignation of Mr. Harald Huber, Vice-President, who has reached retirement age. The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, warmly thanked him on behalf of the International Committee, which appointed him an honorary member.

Mr. Harald Huber, who has occupied a prominent place in Swiss public affairs throughout his career, was a member of the Grand Council of the Canton of St Gallen and of the Swiss National Council, then judge and finally President of the Federal Tribunal, the supreme court in Switzerland. He was elected a member of the ICRC in 1969, and became its Vice-President in 1971. Mr. Huber has conducted delicate negotiations for the ICRC and has carried out difficult missions to various European and Asian countries, and very recently to the Middle