

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

East. The ICRC also entrusted him with mandates which, in various commissions whose work is of interest for the Red Cross as a whole, he accomplished with greatest distinction. Mr. Huber is not retiring completely from active life, since he will continue to chair the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace, which he has presided over since 1976.

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At the same meeting the ICRC Assembly renewed the appointments, which according to the Statutes were due to expire, of Mr. Victor H. Umbrecht, a member of the ICRC since 1970, and of Mr. H. Huguenin, a member since 1974.

Accession of the Republic of Vanuatu to the Geneva Conventions

The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, by a note dated 11 October 1982 addressed to the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs and received on 27 October 1982, has deposited its instruments of accession to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims.

In conformity with the final provisions of the Conventions, the Republic of Vanuatu will become a Party to the Geneva Conventions six months after the date of deposit of the instruments of accession, namely on 27 April 1983.

The Republic of Vanuatu is thus the 152nd State party to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

Accession to the Protocols by Saint Lucia

On 7 October 1982 Saint Lucia deposited with the Swiss Government an instrument of accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), adopted at Geneva on 8 June 1977.

In accordance with their provisions, the Protocols will take effect for Saint Lucia as of 7 April 1983.

This accession brings to 26 the number of States parties to Protocol I and to 23 those parties to Protocol II.