

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## **ICRC President in the USSR**

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, accompanied by the ICRC Director of Operational Activities, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, was in the USSR from 16 to 19 March. The ICRC delegate-general for Asia, Mr. Jean de Courten, and the regional delegate, Mr. F. Zen Ruffinen, had already arrived in Moscow on 14 March.

This trip enabled the ICRC representatives to meet high-level officials, with whom they exchanged views on humanitarian topics of common interest, including problems connected with the Afghan conflict.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President of the ICRC met the First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. G. M. Kornienko, and several members of his staff.

President Hay and the ICRC delegation visited the headquarters of the Alliance of Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, where they were received by the President of the Alliance, Mr. Valeri A. Baltiyski, and its first Vice-President, Mr. Yuri E. Danilov.

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## **New Vice-President for the ICRC**

At its meeting on 3 March, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross appointed as Vice-President Mr Victor H. Umbricht, who has been a member of the ICRC since 1970.

Mr Umbricht holds a doctorate in international law; he has worked successively for the Swiss diplomatic service (1941-1953), the World Bank in Washington and the Swiss Federal Finance Administration in Berne (from 1957). In 1962, he left the service of the Confederation and entered the commercial world: he became the chairman of Ciba Corporation in the United States and in 1964 was appointed a member of the board of Ciba-Geigy SA, in Basel. He has carried out several difficult missions for the Secretary General of the United Nations and for the ICRC.

International Review congratulates Mr Umbricht on his appointment to the Vice-Presidency of the ICRC, a post in which he succeeds Mr Harald Huber, a former federal judge, who has retired for reasons of age.