

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The President of the ICRC in Saudi Arabia

The President of the ICRC, Mr Alexandre Hay, accompanied by Mr Sergio Nessi, Chief of the Financing Division, and Mr G. B. Bacchetta, regional delegate for the Arabian Peninsula, went to Saudi Arabia on a short mission from 25 to 29 March.

There, the President of the ICRC met leaders of the various regional Arab organizations and drew their attention to the increase in ICRC financial requirements because of the extension of its activities throughout the world and, in particular, in the countries of the Near East, where the ICRC is intervening in the conflicts in Lebanon and between Iraq and Iran. It is hoped that these organizations will encourage the countries that are members of their associations to participate more actively in the financing of the ICRC.

The President of the ICRC was first received at Jeddah by the President of the Islamic Development Bank, Dr Ahmed Mohammed Ali, and his assistant, Dr S. Taouti, then by the secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Mr Habib Chatti, and the deputy secretaries general.

The President of the ICRC then had talks in Riyadh with Mr Abdallah Bishara, secretary general of the Gulf Co-operation Council, and with other notables.

The ICRC sincerely hopes that these approaches will have concrete results that will improve its financial situation and thus facilitate its humanitarian activities.

Egyptian President visits ICRC

President Hosni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt visited on 8 June the International Committee of the Red Cross. He was welcomed by ICRC President Alexandre Hay, along with members of the International Committee and senior ICRC staff.

In a brief address, President Mubarak commented that in the present world situation the need was greater than ever before for ensuring respect and strict adherence to international humanitarian law. He pledged his government's support for the ICRC's work, adding that Egypt would spare no effort to impress upon world leaders the need for action to counter what he termed "the vicious circle of violence and hatred".

The Egyptian President then had a private discussion with Mr. Hay, who outlined the ICRC's activities in the Middle East.

President Mubarak, who was making the first visit to the ICRC by an Egyptian Head of State, was accompanied by several senior aides, notably his Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kamal Hassan Ali.

Australian Prime Minister visits ICRC

The Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Robert Hawke, visited on 10 June the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. He was accompanied by Australia's Permanent Representative in Geneva, Ambassador David Sadleir, as well as other officials.

He was welcomed by the ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, and senior ICRC staff. During a private meeting, the Prime Minister was given a short account of ICRC operations in the world.

Accession of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the Protocols

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines deposited with the Swiss Government, on 8 April 1983, 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 in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

Pursuant to their provisions, the Protocols will enter into force for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on 8 October 1983.

This is the 32nd State to become party to Protocol I and the 26th to Protocol II.
