

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## **The ICRC President re-elected**

The Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in its meeting of 27 and 28 June, re-elected Mr. Alexandre Hay to the Presidency of the ICRC for a third term of four years beginning on 1 January 1985.

Mr. Alexandre Hay, born in 1919, has been a member of the International Committee since 1975 and its President since 1 July 1976.

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## **President of Costa Rica visits ICRC**

Mr. Luis Alberto Monge, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, visited on 12 June 1984 the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in Geneva. He was received by the ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, and with him President Monge discussed various humanitarian issues.

The President of Costa Rica was accompanied by several personalities, among them Mr. Guillermo Sandoval, Minister of Labour, Dr. Hugo Muñoz, Minister of Justice and Ambassador Elias Soley Soler, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

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## **The President of the ICRC visits the League of Arab States**

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, accompanied by Mr. Jean Hoeffiger, delegate-general of the ICRC for the Middle East, and by Mr. S. Nessi, chief of the Finance Division, paid a visit to Tunis from 22 to 25 March, during which he went to the headquarters of the League of Arab States. There he met the Secretary-General of the League, Mr. Chedli Klibi, together with Mr. Assad el Assad, Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Moncef el May, the League's permanent observer in Geneva, and Mr. Ahmed Harguem, chief of the Diplomatic Relations Department.

The President of the ICRC expressed the International Committee's appreciation to the Secretary-General for the initiative he took in 1980 in having the Council of Arab Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs adopt a resolution recommending the member States of the League to ratify the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and to take a greater part in financing the ICRC. Then, having briefly outlined to the Secretary-General the activities of the ICRC, particularly in Arab countries and in the Middle East, he once again raised the question of financial support by the member States of the Arab League for the activities of the ICRC in that part of the world.

The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States offered a lunch in honour of the President of the ICRC, which was attended by several leading figures in Tunisia as well as by the above-mentioned members of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

The ICRC is pleased with the good relations it has had over a number of years with the League of Arab States—relations which this visit to Tunis has further strengthened.

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### **ICRC President in Saudi Arabia and Libya**

From 2 to 6 April, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, accompanied by Mr. Jean Hoefliger, delegate-general for the Middle East, and Mr. S. Nessi, head of the Financing Division, carried out a brief mission to Saudi Arabia, where he met with government authorities and informed them about ICRC activities and the problems encountered by the institution, in particular in Iraq, Iran and Lebanon. The ICRC President also wished to discuss questions of ICRC financing.

Mr. Hay successively met Prince Saud al Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Muhammad Aba al Khail, Minister of Finance and Economy, Mr. Abdallah Bishara, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Mr. Rafik Hariri, Saudi mediator in the Lebanese conflict. All of these persons were extremely cordial and understanding and stated that they would try to smooth out any difficulties besetting the ICRC in the political or economic areas under their responsibility.

Shortly after this visit, the ICRC had the pleasure to learn that Saudi Arabia had decided to donate 3 million Swiss francs to the institution. This announcement was received with gratitude.