

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.

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.

From 14 to 16 May, the ICRC President, accompanied by the same persons, visited the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. He was welcomed at the airport by a large delegation, led by Mr. Ibrahim al Faquin Hasan, Minister of Social Security, on behalf of the Minister of Health, who was absent.

The ICRC President had talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ali Abdul Salam Treiki, and other officials at the same Ministry, during which he spoke of ICRC activities and the difficulties encountered in carrying them out. Problems of ICRC financing were also discussed.

Accession of the Republic of Cape Verde to the Geneva Conventions

On 11 May 1984 the Government of the Republic of Cape Verde deposited with the Swiss Government its instrument of accession to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. This accession brings to 156 the number of States parties to the Geneva Conventions.

Pursuant to their provisions, the Geneva Conventions will enter into force, for the Republic of Cape Verde, on 11 November 1984, six months after the deposit of the instrument of accession.

Ratification of the Protocols by the Togolese Republic

The Togolese Republic deposited with the Swiss Government, on 21 June 1984, the instruments of ratification of 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 the Togolese Republic on 21 December 1984.

This is the 41st State to become party to Protocol I and the 35th to Protocol II.
