

### *NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS*

## **New members elected to the Executive Board ICRC appoints new Director General**

At its meeting of 19 March 1992, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross elected **Mr. Jacques Forster** and **Dr. Peter Fuchs** to the ICRC's seven-member Executive Board. Dr. Fuchs was appointed Director General and will take up his duties on 1 May 1992.

Mr. Jacques Forster, a professor at the University of Geneva Graduate Institute for Development Studies, has been a member of the International Committee since 1989. He replaces a 13-year member of the Executive Board, **Mr. Rudolf Jäckli**, who will remain a member of the Committee.

Dr. Peter Fuchs is taking over the post of Director General from **Mr. Guy Deluz**, who recently expressed his desire to step down and devote himself to other activities. At its meeting of 20 February, the ICRC Assembly accepted Mr. Deluz' resignation and thanked him for the commitment and skill that he had brought to his work in the institution. The ICRC will continue to benefit from Mr. Deluz' experience as he will serve as a consultant on a number of studies in which he has been closely involved.

Dr. Peter Fuchs was born in 1946. He is from Wettingen in the Canton of Argau, and is domiciled in Bondo, Canton of Graubunden. He studied medicine at Zurich University, where he was later a lecturer, and held a number of positions at the Zurich Cantonal Hospital before becoming head of the medical department of the Zurich Prisons Service. Dr. Fuchs joined the ICRC in 1982. He carried out numerous medical missions in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, and was appointed Deputy Director of Operations in 1988, a post he occupied until February 1990. Afterwards he conducted occasional missions and headed the task force set up in early 1991 to coordinate ICRC activities in the Gulf crisis.

When the ICRC adopted a new executive structure in May 1991, general management became the task of three Executive Board members, in charge respectively of Principles, Law and Relations with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Operations and General Affairs. As Director General, Dr. Fuchs will be responsible for general coordination and matters concerning communication, personnel, finance, administration, data processing and telecommunications.

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### *MISSIONS BY THE PRESIDENT*

Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the ICRC, has conducted a number of missions since the beginning of the year. They have taken him to the United States, to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, and to Germany, Portugal and Norway.

#### ● **New York (6-8 January 1992)**

From 6 to 8 January, President Sommaruga took part in the opening session of the ninth seminar on international humanitarian law for diplomats accredited to the United Nations. Following the seminar, which was organized jointly by New York University and the ICRC, Mr. Sommaruga met members of the UN Security Council, the new Secretary-General and a number of permanent representatives to the world body.

At a lunch given by the ICRC for Security Council members, Mr. Sommaruga spoke of the regrettable postponement of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the need for the ICRC to maintain a well-defined framework for multilateral dialogue with the governments. Drawing a distinction between the right to assistance and the "right of intervention", he warned of the danger of politicizing humanitarian endeavour.

He went on to outline the serious financial problems faced by the ICRC in carrying out its work in the territories occupied by Israel, in Afghanistan, in Somalia and elsewhere, appealing to governments to be generous in their contributions.