

Headquarters agreement between the State of Kuwait and the ICRC

A headquarters agreement was signed on 30 October 1991 between H.E. Sheikh Sabah Salem al Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, and Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the ICRC, to pave the way for the opening of an ICRC regional delegation for the Arabian peninsula. In addition to Kuwait itself, the delegation, which will have its headquarters in Kuwait City, will cover Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The agreement will enter into force once it has been ratified by the Council of Ministers in Kuwait.

This agreement was finalized during an official mission by the President of the ICRC, which took place between 28 and 30 October 1991 at the invitation of the State of Kuwait. During his visit, Mr. Sommaruga had discussions with State officials at the highest level: H.R.H. Sheikh Jaber al Ahmad al Jaber al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait; H.R.H. Sheikh Saad al Abdullah al Salim al Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister; H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud al Jaber al Sabah, Minister of the Interior; H.E. Ali al Seif, Deputy Minister of Health; and H.E. Ghazi Obeid al Sammar, Minister of Justice and Foreign Affairs.

Discussions centred mainly on humanitarian issues arising from the Gulf war, in particular the treatment of people detained in Kuwait and the whereabouts of Kuwaiti soldiers and civilians who disappeared during the occupation of Kuwait and may be detained in Iraq. The President also discussed the question of Kuwait's financial contribution to the ICRC.

Mr. Sommaruga also visited the headquarters of the National Committee for Prisoners of War and Missing Persons and met the leaders of the Kuwait Red Crescent, Dr. Abdel Aziz al Sager, President, and Dr. Barges Hemoud al Barges, Secretary General; with them he discussed the activities of the ICRC, the forthcoming International

meetings of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the question of the Kuwait Red Crescent's financial support for the ICRC.

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Elections

At its meeting on 12 December 1991, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross re-elected **Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga** as ICRC President, a post he has held since May 1987, for another four-year term.

The Assembly also elected **Mr. Pierre Keller** as non-permanent Vice-President to succeed **Mr. Maurice Aubert**. The latter, together with **Mr. Rudolf Jäckli**, was re-elected for a fourth term as a member of the Committee.

Mrs. Anne Petitpierre, **Mrs. Liselotte Kraus-Gurny** and **Mr. Paolo Bernasconi** were re-elected members of the Committee for a second term in office.

Honorary membership was conferred upon outgoing members **Mr. Hans Haug** and **Mr. André Ghelfi**, who have reached the statutory age limit and are now leaving the Committee after having respectively served ten years and seven years each.

In addition, the Assembly took note with great satisfaction of the election by the Council of Delegates, on 30 November 1991 in Budapest, of **Mr. Maurice Aubert** to succeed the late **Mr. Alexandre Hay** as Chairman of the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace.
