

# 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

*Geneva, 3-7 December 1995*

*The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was held in Geneva from 3 to 7 December 1995. It was organized jointly, for the first time, by the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and brought together approximately 1,200 delegates representing 143 States party to the Geneva Conventions, 166 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC, and the Federation, as well as 68 governmental and non-governmental organizations and emergent National Societies attending as observers.*

*The Conference was preceded by several meetings of the Movement itself, including those of the Executive Council and the General Assembly (Xth Session) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and of the Council of Delegates (1 and 2 December 1995).*

## OPENING CEREMONY

*(3 December 1995)*

Following an impressive multivision slide show on humanitarian action entitled "The Way Things Are", *Botho Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein*, as Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, welcomed the participants. He then appealed to governments to facilitate the work of the Movement and to continue supporting its efforts to strengthen humanitarian aid and social assistance. He ended by urging the participants to unite in honouring the Movement's commitment to counteract violence and oppression and to safeguard respect for human life, health and dignity.