

the considerable development of fraternal and friendly links between the ICRC and its Red Cross partners; the skilful and cordial way in which the respective mandates of the ICRC and the UN organizations were defined: all this and more can be credited to Paul Ruegger.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is proud to have been able to rely, in those difficult times, on the intelligence and dedication of Paul Ruegger. The ICRC pays heartfelt tribute to his memory.

The President of the Swiss Confederation at the ICRC

Mr. Otto Stich, President of the Swiss Confederation, visited on 11 August 1988 the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Otto Stich was received by the President of the ICRC, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, together with members of the Committee and senior ICRC staff.

In his welcoming address, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga emphasized the importance of the generous support regularly provided to the ICRC by the Swiss people and its highest authorities. He drew attention to the universality of the Geneva Conventions, the essentially Swiss and neutral character of the ICRC and the importance that this Geneva institution attaches to its independence in implementing its humanitarian policy.

In his reply, Mr. Otto Stich fully endorsed the Confederation's moral and financial support to the delegates of the ICRC and its interest in ensuring that they are able to continue performing their task, spreading the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, respect for the individual and a positive image of Switzerland throughout the world.

Mr. O. Stich and Mr. C. Sommaruga then continued their meeting with a broad review of the ICRC's operations throughout the world.
