

Federal Councillor Kaspar Villiger visits ICRC

On 13 November 1989, the Head of the Federal Military Department and Mrs. Villiger visited the International Committee of the Red Cross, where they were received by President Cornelio Sommaruga. Mr. Villiger was accompanied by Majors General Peter Eichenberger, Chief Medical Officer, Carlo Vincenz, Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, and Fritz Husi, Director of the Federal Office of Adjutancy.

President Sommaruga thanked the Federal Councillor for the support traditionally afforded to the ICRC by the Swiss Confederation and went on to review ICRC activities worldwide, emphasizing those of topical interest.

After signing the Visitor's Book, Mr. Villiger expressed the Federal Council's solidarity with the ICRC in connection with the abduction of the institution's two delegates in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Villiger's visit to the ICRC ended with a tour of the International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

President's mission to New York

For several days in October, the ICRC and humanitarian law had a high profile at United Nations Headquarters in New York. On 13 October, a ceremony was held there to mark the 125th anniversary of the original Geneva Convention of 1864. This was followed by the opening of an exhibition on the Geneva Conventions and the work of the ICRC.

Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, the ICRC President, took part in the two ceremonies. He had the opportunity to talk to the United Nations Secretary-General and representatives of the Security Council before, giving a press conference to the United Nations Correspondents' Association.

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