

developed in several spheres: first-aid training, social assistance for the elderly and the destitute, disaster preparedness and emergency aid to disaster victims.

On 1 April 1981, the Swiss Federal Council received notification of the accession by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, which entered into force in that country on 1 October 1981.

On 8 April 1983, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines furthermore deposited an instrument of accession to the two Protocols of 8 June 1977 additional to the said Conventions. The Protocols entered into force there on 8 October 1983.

The Director General of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Society is Mrs. Yvonne Patterson. The headquarters is located in Kingstown at the following address: **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Society, P. O. Box 431.**

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Society to membership of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies, and in expressing sincere good wishes to the Society for its future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS  
**Cornelio Sommaruga**  
*President*

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## **Course on international humanitarian law for Dutch-speaking countries**

The Flemish Section of the Belgian Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross jointly organized a course on international humanitarian law for representatives from all regions where Dutch is spoken. The course, the first of its kind, was held in Bruges, Belgium, from 10 to 17 September 1989 and was attended by 38 people, including students, a professor, dissemination officers, trainee diplomats and representatives of various ministries from the Netherlands, Flanders, Indonesia and Suriname.

Opening remarks were made by Mr. Daniel Coens, Minister of Education of the Flemish Community, Mr. J. J. van der Weel, President of the Netherlands Red Cross and Mr. V. Leysen, President of the Belgian Red Cross

(Flemish Section). The course itself dealt with humanitarian law, its development and dissemination. Talks were given by professors from the Universities of Leyden and Limburg in the Netherlands and Antwerp, Louvain and Brussels in Belgium, as well as by a representative of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and members of the two National Societies which organized the course.

This course was of a high academic level and was greatly appreciated by those who took part. A similar course will be organized in the Netherlands in 1990.

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## **Death of H.S.H. Princess Gina of Liechtenstein**

It was with great sorrow that the ICRC learned of the death on 18 October 1989 of Her Serene Highness Princess Gina of Liechtenstein, founder and President from 1945 to 1985 of the Liechtenstein Red Cross.

Her passing deprives the Movement of one of its most eminent figures, whose lifelong devotion to the Red Cross was exemplary.

It was on Princess Gina's initiative that the Liechtenstein Red Cross was created on 30 April 1945 to assist the thousands of refugees fleeing hunger and destruction during the last days of the Second World War. The Princess herself set the example by distributing relief to destitute men, women and children. In the ensuing decades the President of the Liechtenstein Red Cross was often to be found in the front ranks, working with the utmost devotion to help refugees from Hungary in 1956, from Czechoslovakia in 1968 and from Indo-China in 1979.

Princess Gina initiated many humanitarian activities, including development schemes for National Societies, and launched numerous operations to assist the victims of disasters, such as the drought and famine which have afflicted Ethiopia in recent years. She also worked tirelessly for the benefit of handicapped children in Africa.

In her own country, Princess Gina was well known for her child care programmes and her projects to provide medical care for the sick at home and assistance for the elderly.

Her immense contribution to and personal participation in humanitarian activities nationally and internationally and her outstanding dedication to the wounded, the sick and war victims made of her an outstanding champion of the humanitarian cause.