

## Visits to the ICRC

- ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga received the members of the *International Law Commission* (ILC) at ICRC headquarters on 7 June 1990.

The Commission is a subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly. Its 34 members are elected from among the most eminent representatives of the world's different legal systems. The Commission is entrusted with the task of promoting the codification and development of international law. It is currently working on the codification of offences against the peace and security of mankind (which include war crimes) and the setting up of an international criminal court.

During the visit the ICRC President stressed the need for the ILC and the ICRC to pursue their already constructive working relations and spoke to Commission members about the prohibition of the use of certain weapons causing unnecessary suffering, the ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and the dissemination of international humanitarian law. Mr. Sommaruga also outlined the ICRC's main concerns regarding its activities in the field and respect for international humanitarian law.

Professor Shi (China), Commission Chairman for 1990, thanked the ICRC for its unfailing readiness to co-operate with the Commission and stressed the importance of the ICRC's role in implementing international humanitarian law.

- The ICRC President met *Nelson Mandela*, Deputy President of the African National Congress (ANC), in Geneva on 9 June.

Mr. Mandela, who was released from detention in South Africa in February after 27 years, was visited regularly by the ICRC while he was in prison. Two of the delegates who participated in the visits were present during the meeting.

Nelson Mandela expressed his gratitude to the ICRC and praised its "professional and efficient" work. He also thanked the institution on behalf of all past and present ANC detainees, and said that only a prisoner could understand how beneficial and essential the visits were.

Mr. Sommaruga outlined the main activities of the ICRC in South Africa, especially the assistance programmes carried out in collaboration with the South African Red Cross for thousands of victims of the violence in Natal province.

- Mr. *Tadeusz Mazowiecki*, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland, and Mr. *Salim Ahmed Salim*, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), were received at ICRC headquarters on 12 June.

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## Missions by the President

From late May to July 1990, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, carried out missions to Liechtenstein, Czechoslovakia, Belgium and Iceland.

- **Principality of Liechtenstein**

At the official invitation of Mr. Hans Brunhart, Liechtenstein's Head of Government, and Princess Marie of Liechtenstein, President of the Liechtenstein Red Cross, the ICRC President, accompanied by Mr. Claudio Caratsch, ICRC Vice-President, went to Vaduz on 28 and 29 May 1990.

Mr. Sommaruga expressed his deep gratitude to the Principality for its generous contribution to the ICRC budget and voiced the hope that the Liechtenstein government and Red Cross would in future also be able to contribute to the institution's operational activities.

The National Society's General Assembly took place in the presence of the Reigning Prince Hans Adam and the Head of Government. The ICRC President addressed the Assembly, speaking mainly on the subject of humanitarian mobilization.

- **Czechoslovakia**

President Sommaruga was in Prague from 11 to 13 June to attend a symposium, organized by the League of Red Cross and Red Cres-