

Recognition of the Red Cross Society of Western Samoa

GENEVA, 1 October 1984

CIRCULAR NO. 531

*To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you that the International Committee of the Red Cross, on 30 August 1984, officially recognized the Red Cross Society of Western Samoa.

Founded in 1952 as an overseas branch of the New Zealand Red Cross Society and independent since 1 January 1983, the Western Samoa Red Cross Society officially applied for recognition by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 21 June 1984. Its request was supported by various documents, including a copy of the most recent report on its activities, the text of its Statutes and a copy of the "Memorandum of Understanding" of 3 November 1983, by which the Government of Western Samoa recognizes it as a voluntary aid society auxiliary to the public authorities.

These documents, which were examined jointly with the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, showed that the ten conditions for recognition of a new National Society had been fulfilled. Since the independence of the Western Samoa Red Cross Society, the International Committee and the League have closely observed its activities. Representatives of both institutions have reported that the Society, which is active throughout the country, is developing numerous activities: information, first aid, health education, social assistance, preparedness in case of natural disaster. In the latter case, the Society assists the government and co-ordinates relief efforts.

The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 are in force on the territory of Western Samoa by virtue of the declaration of succession made by Western Samoa and received on 23 August 1984 by the Swiss Federal Council; the declaration of succession is retroactive to the date of the islands' independence, 1 January 1962.

The President of the Western Samoa Red Cross Society is Dr. Ioane Alama. The Society's headquarters are in Apia, and its address is: The Western Samoa Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 1616, Apia, Western Samoa.

With the simultaneous recognition of the Barbados Red Cross Society and the Red Crescent Society of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, this brings to 135 the number of member Societies of the International Red Cross.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is pleased to welcome the Western Samoa Red Cross Society to the International Red Cross, accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies. It expresses sincere good wishes for its future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Alexandre HAY
President
