

IN GENEVA

ICRC VICE-PRESIDENCY

The International Committee of the Red Cross has nominated Mr. Jean Pictet and Mr. Harald Huber to be Vice-Presidents for 1971 and 1972 as from 1 July 1971.

PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL

The International Committee of the Red Cross has elected Mr. Max Petitpierre and Mr. Victor Umbrecht to be members of the Presidential Council for 1971 and 1972 as from 1 July 1971; they will sit with the President and the two Vice-Presidents mentioned above, who are ex-officio members of the Council.

New Member of the International Committee

In plenary session on 6 May 1971, the International Committee of the Red Cross welcomed Mr. Pierre Micheli, whom it had nominated as a member at a previous plenary session.

Mr. Micheli was born in Geneva in 1905, studied at the universities of Oxford, Berlin and Geneva, and has a degree in law. In 1933, he joined the Swiss Foreign Affairs Department and has since represented Switzerland in a number of countries, as consul and later as counsellor of legation. In 1952, he was appointed Head of the International Organizations Division in the Foreign Affairs Department at Berne, with the rank of minister plenipotentiary.

After having taken part in a great number of international conferences, as a member of delegations and also at their head, he was nominated Minister of Switzerland, and later Ambassador, in France. In 1961, he was appointed Secretary General of the Foreign Affairs Department and Head of the Political Affairs Division, a post which he occupied until 1970.

Throughout his career, Mr. Micheli had many opportunities to become familiarized with the work of the Red Cross. In particular, he was Secretary General of the Diplomatic Conference that met in Geneva in 1949, at the issue of which the four Geneva Conventions were signed.

By his long experience, his deep comprehension of the realities of life and his knowledge of Red Cross problems, Mr. Pierre Micheli will furnish a worthy contribution to the work of the International Committee, which is most happy to be able to count straight away on his valuable co-operation.

For victims of pseudo-medical experiments

The Neutral Commission appointed by the ICRC to decide on applications by Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments in Nazi concentration camps during the Second World War, met on 30 April, 1 May and 4 May 1971 at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. It consisted of Mr. W. Lenoir, President, a judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, Dr. S. Mutrux, assistant director of the Bel-Air psychiatric clinic in Geneva, and Dr. P. Magnenat, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and assistant at the Nestlé Hospital university clinic at Lausanne.

The Neutral Commission awarded 91 victims whose claims were found to be justified indemnities totalling DM 2,530,000. The total amount of the assistance which the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has paid to Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments on the basis of the Neutral Commission's decisions has now reached the sum of DM 28,540,000.