

Recognition of the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society

Circular No. 557

Geneva, 3 October 1991

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have the honour of informing you that the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society has been officially recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross. This recognition, which took effect on 3 October 1991, brings to 148 the number of National Societies that are members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Formerly a branch of the British Red Cross, the Society was founded on 15 July 1983 and officially applied for recognition by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 26 July 1990. In support of its application, it forwarded various documents, including a report on its activities, the text of its Statutes and a copy of the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society Act 1983 (No. 4 of 1983) incorporating the Society. This Act was adopted by Parliament on 9 June 1983 and signed into law by the Governor-General on 6 July 1983. It attests that the Society is recognized by the Government as a voluntary aid society auxiliary to the public authorities in accordance with the provisions of the First Geneva Convention of 1949.

These documents, which were examined jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, showed that the ten conditions for recognition by the ICRC of a new National Society may be considered as fulfilled.

The progressive development of the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society has been closely observed by the ICRC and the League and their representatives have visited the Society several times in recent years. They have ascertained that the Society has a sound infrastructure which enables it to extend its activities throughout the national territory. These activities are being conducted in several spheres: health education, blood-donation campaigns,

assistance to sick children and to leprosy patients, active participation in the work of the National Council for disaster preparedness.

On 6 July 1981, the Swiss Federal Council, depositary of the Geneva Conventions, received notification of the declaration of succession by Solomon Islands to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, which entered into force retroactively from the country's accession to independence in 1978.

On 19 September 1988, Solomon Islands furthermore acceded to the two Protocols of 8 June 1977 additional to the said Conventions. The Protocols entered into force there on 19 March 1989.

The Chairman of the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society is Mr. Moon Pin L. Kwan. The headquarters is located in Honiara at the following address:

Solomon Islands Red Cross Society
P.O. Box 187
Honiara

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Solomon Islands 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