

GENEVA

ICRC Presidential Council

The International Committee of the Red Cross has appointed Dr. Hans Meuli and Dr. Jacques de Rougemont to the Presidential Council for the next two-year period.

Further participation in the Geneva Conventions

In its number for June 1968, the *International Review* mentioned that 118 States were parties to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. Since then, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been informed by the Federal Political Department in Berne of the participation by the Kingdom of Lesotho in these Conventions.

Such participation was made under the form of a declaration of continuity, received in Berne on May 20, 1968 and which took effect on October 4, 1966, date of that country's accession to independence.

There are now 119 States expressly bound by these Conventions.

Discussion with United Nations Secretary-General

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Samuel Gonard, was received on 8 July by U.N. Secretary-General U. Thant. With him were Mr. Jean Pictet, ICRC Director-General and Mr. Pierre Basset, Assistant Director.

Red Cross relief work, particularly in Nigeria, and the protection of civilian populations against the dangers of war were discussed.

International Tracing Service

On May 5, 1955 the four Powers (Federal Republic of Germany, United States, France, Great Britain) entrusted the administration of this service (ITS) to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The agreements on the ITS, having expired on May 5, 1965 for a second time, have now been extended for an indefinite period with one year's notice of termination between the contracting parties.