

*IN GENEVA***A Mark of Gratitude**

During its plenary session on 1 October 1970, the ICRC, through its President, expressed to its Delegate-General for the Far East, Mr. André Durand, on the occasion of his retiring from that office in order to assume other duties at central headquarters, its profound gratitude for his outstanding service in the Red Cross cause for nineteen years.

Mr. Naville pointed out that in 1962 the ICRC had awarded Mr. Durand its silver medal in grateful recognition of his dedicated co-operation. On the Committee's behalf, Mr. Naville reiterated its full appreciation.

It is of interest to note that at the beginning of August the Cambodian Red Cross organized in Phnom-Penh, on the occasion of Mr. Durand's departure, a reception attended by that Society's leading members. In her address, Miss Phlech Phiroun, President of the National Society, said, *inter alia* :

“ Just a word, before you leave, to express on behalf of the members of the Cambodian Red Cross, and in my own name, our deep gratitude for the very valuable assistance which you have given our Society for so many years. You may be sure that you will always be well remembered as a reliable friend of the Cambodian Red Cross for better or for worse. You have given of your best in the discharge of your functions which have not always been easy but which have contributed to the alleviation of human suffering. ”

Appointment

Mr Alain Modoux has been appointed Head of the Press and Information Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Modoux acted on several occasions as delegate of the ICRC in the Middle East, Africa and the Far East, and was then a member of the Legal Department. He had been since the beginning of this year Acting Head of the Information Service of the ICRC.

Accessions to the Geneva Conventions

In its issue of August 1970, the *International Review* had mentioned that 126 States were parties to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. The ICRC has since been informed by the Federal Political Department in Berne of the accession of two more States to these Conventions. The Swiss Authorities received on 5 August the notification of accession from the Republic of Chad, and on 18 August the declaration of continuity from Mauritius, which is thus bound to the Conventions as from 12 March 1968, when it became independent.

The number of States expressly bound by the Geneva Conventions is now 128.