

SWITZERLAND

The 89th Ordinary Assembly of Swiss Red Cross delegates, which took place at Interlaken on 15 and 16 June 1974, was not only an occasion to review the work of the year, but also—adding to its importance—an opportunity, as mentioned by Mr. Hans Haug, the National Society president, in his opening address, “to decide the objectives and tasks we wish to achieve and carry out, to define policy, to seek new forms, structures and co-operation for our organization”. This forward-looking approach was reflected in the proceedings which followed a paper by a sociologist on community working methods applied by a humanitarian institution, in which the future “identity” of the Swiss Red Cross and directives relating to the structural changes which would ensue from the choice of this “identity” were discussed. These problems had previously been dealt with by an *ad hoc* working group which will continue its task with a view to the reorganization of the National Society.

The first part of the Assembly was devoted to consideration of agenda items required by the Society’s Constitution. It was concluded with an address by the president of the ICRC, Mr. Eric Martin. He gave an account of the current activities of the International Committee in various countries and of the investigations today taking place in order the better to situate the Red Cross and define its action in a constantly and rapidly changing world.

For his part, Mr. Hans Haug, at the beginning of the meeting, appealed to the delegates to be ever mindful of the human being “without whom our work would have neither life nor spirit”. Mr. Eric Martin also affirmed that to improve the organization would be useful but inadequate if the right spirit did not motivate the men whose mission it was to serve the Red Cross.