

*IN GENEVA***A Medal of Honour for the President of the ICRC**

On 30 October, at ICRC headquarters, Mr Eric Martin was presented with the Australian Red Cross Society's medal of honour by Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris. Sir Geoffrey delivered a short speech in which he explained the reasons for this award to the President of the ICRC. The citation accompanying the medal summed them up as follows:

As President of the International Committee of the Red Cross since 1973 Dr. Martin's fine leadership has enhanced the work of the ICRC both in its services in the field and in the advancement of humanitarian law.

A new booklet on the Geneva Conventions

An illustrated booklet, in English and French, entitled "Handbook of the Geneva Conventions — Essential Rules", has just been issued by the ICRC. The aim of this 45-page publication is to present in simple and practical form the essential provisions of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949. As its preface states:

Even in war, certain rules of conduct must be observed in regard to the enemy. The principal expression of those rules is embodied in the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, signed by almost every State in the world.

The Geneva Conventions are based on respect for human beings and their dignity. They lay down that persons not directly taking part in hostilities and those put out of action by sickness, wounds,

captivity or any other cause shall be respected and protected against the effects of war, and that those who suffer shall be aided and cared for without discrimination.

The purpose of this Handbook is to lay emphasis on the essential rules of the Conventions and to facilitate their study and teaching for all, whether military or civilian, who need to learn them or apply them.

It is hoped that National Societies will take an interest in this new publication. ¹

¹ The booklet may be obtained from the ICRC, Geneva, price Sw. fr. 3.00 per copy.