

New Editor of the Review

Michel Testuz, who will be taking over from Jean-Georges Lossier as editor of the *International Review of the Red Cross*, started to take an interest in Oriental languages at a very early age. He took a science degree at the University of Lausanne, studied at the Higher School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and went on to Paris where he followed courses at the Ecole des Langues Orientales and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes.

It was while in Jerusalem, engaged in scientific research with the Dominicans there, that Michel Testuz was recruited to the local staff of the ICRC during the closing stages of the British Mandate in Palestine. In the summer of 1948, he was nominated by the ICRC to open its first office at Amman and from 1949 to 1950 was head of the ICRC delegation for the Bethlehem district of the ICRC's Commissariat for refugees. For a few months, too, he worked with UNRWA in Samaria.

In 1950, he returned to Europe to prepare his *doctorat ès lettres* which he obtained at the Sorbonne in 1957. He then taught Hebrew language and literature at the Universities of Lausanne and Rome and Arabic language and Arabic literature at the University of Geneva; he was for a time director of the Bodmer Library in Geneva, and while there he published a number of papers on the results of his research.

From 1960 to 1968 Michel Testuz was ICRC delegate in Japan, working more particularly in connection with the repatriation of Koreans wishing to return to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

His knowledge of the Japanese language was most useful for the study he made of the enormous problem of the refugees in the countries of the Far East. His report was among those consulted by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees as a basis for its own studies on the status of stateless persons.

After two years with the ICRC delegation in Cambodia, Testuz returned to Geneva to take up the post of ICRC deputy delegate general for Asia and Oceania. Up to 1975, he completed several missions in Pakistan, as head of the ICRC delegation, and later in Timor, assisting refugees. At the beginning of 1976, he was appointed head of the ICRC delegation in Cairo, whence he has now returned to take up his new post.