

Mr. Alexandre Hay, in a full-time capacity at ICRC headquarters, starting on 1 February.

The ICRC welcomes this appointment and is glad that it will soon have the benefit of Mr. Pestalozzi's valuable counsel.

## **Mark of gratitude**

On 16 December, the International Committee at its headquarters manifested its gratitude to three members of its staff.

President Alexandre Hay presented the ICRC's silver medal to Mrs. Rose Parmelin and Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir for their thirty years of service, and its silver salver to Mr. Joseph Abramiec for his twenty years of service.

Speaking for himself and his colleagues, Mr. Maunoir expressed thanks to the Committee for its recognition of their services.

## **Death of Miss P. Y. Tombet, Director of the ICRC**

The International Committee learnt with deep regret of the death, on 15 December, after a short illness, of Miss Paulette Y. Tombet, a member of the ICRC directorate and Director of the Central Tracing Agency.

Miss Tombet joined the ICRC staff in December 1940 as an employee of the French section of the Central Prisoners of War Agency. In 1947 she was appointed head of the French Service secretariat, and in 1951 head of the Hungarian Service. In 1957 she was promoted assistant head of the Agency directorate. While carrying out these functions she assumed in 1964 the secretariat of the ICRC Presidency and also directed the Protocol service. In 1966 she was appointed Director of the Central Tracing Agency and became a member of the ICRC directorate in 1973.

Paulette Tombet devoted thirty-six years of her life, almost to the day, to the ICRC. Her practical intelligence, constant dedication and untiring selfless efforts were an example to all.

The International Committee is profoundly grateful to her, and her many friends will long remember her winning personality.

During the funeral Mr. M. A. Naville, member and former President of the ICRC, delivered an oration in which he said:

*She who has just left us had accustomed us to her presence and her welcome. We came and went, while she stayed faithfully at her post, ever ready. . . . Every day hundreds of names filed past her eyes and she was aware that behind each index card was a heartrending story of family tragedy. To be director of the Agency is a heavy responsibility; she discharged it with courage, impelled by her dedication and need to devote herself to a work which is a ceaseless challenge and a source of renewed motivation. Generosity came naturally to her.*

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