

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

SWISS NATIONAL COUNCIL AT THE ICRC

The finance commission of the Swiss National Council visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 18 August. Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC, Mr. Victor Umbrecht, Vice-President of the Executive Board, and Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, Special Assistant to the President, with senior officials of various ICRC departments, received the International Committee's guests.

For the visit the ICRC had proposed a programme based on the theme "The ICRC: what it is and what it does", to give the visitors as complete and as up-to-date a picture as possible of the varied activities involved in ICRC operations, tracing of missing persons, development and teaching of humanitarian law, and public relations. A short multi-vision projection and a film illustrated the talks. The visitors were also taken on a commented tour of the Central Tracing Agency.

ICRC PRESIDENT VISITS INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, paid a visit to the International Tracing Service, at Arolsen (Federal Republic of Germany), from 24 to 26 July. The Service, operated for many years by the ICRC, which is the body responsible for its activities, is the central depository for all existing documentation on prisoners of war, deportees, migrant workers, etc., during the Second World War. Its work is to make searches and to deliver certificates, in the very numerous cases where problems arise in connection with the categories of people described.

The ICRC President was welcomed by Mr. A. de Cocatrix, Director of the ITS, and Mr. P. Züger, Deputy Director, surrounded by the

members of their staff.¹ Mr. Hay, addressing a staff meeting, emphasized the links between the ICRC and the ITS: "The similarity between your work and that of the ICRC in Geneva makes you, directly or indirectly, members of the Red Cross. You belong among us, and we are pleased and proud to have you with us. The work you perform is of the greatest importance, and you accomplish it in the spirit of the Red Cross movement, doing all in your power to redress the horror of the war years and to alleviate the hardships of those still suffering as a result of that time. . . . I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the unsparing hard work, zeal and dedication which you bring to your difficult and noble task."

¹ Plate.