

## **Fourteenth Annual Conference of Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

The Annual Conference of the Arab National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was held in Bahrain from 23 to 25 January. The ICRC was represented by a delegation led by its President, Mr. Alexandre Hay; Mr. de la Mata, President of the League, and Mr. Abu Gura, President of the Standing Commission, were also present.

About twenty resolutions were adopted, aiming for the most part at strengthening collaboration between Arab National Societies and of these Societies with the international Red Cross institutions.

Some of the resolutions are of particular interest to the ICRC. One concerning the situation in Lebanon asks the ICRC to continue its assistance to civilians and prisoners of war, and to the "Palestinian Red Crescent" and the Lebanese Red Cross. The resolution also asks Arab Societies to intervene with their own governments to ratify the 1977 Protocols and to provide the ICRC with sufficient financial backing.

Another resolution relating to the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran calls for the application of the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention on behalf of prisoners of war held by both sides.

As regards the development of the Arab Red Crescent Societies, with a view to which the League had drawn up and submitted an extensive mutual assistance programme, the Conference has handed the draft for study to an *ad hoc* commission made up of representatives of the Red Crescent Societies of Algeria, Kuwait and Syria.

Lastly, it was decided that the next meeting of Arab Societies would take place in Tunis at a time not yet specified.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See the ICRC President's speech at the Conference in Bahrain, at the beginning of this Review.