

125th ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 1989

To mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May 1989, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were asked to urge their governments to make some exceptional humanitarian gesture to protect human life and alleviate suffering, thereby demonstrating their commitment to the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. (See International Review of the Red Cross, No. 269, March-April 1989, p. 153.)

The Review is publishing here under the text of the joint message issued by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross on that occasion.

On 8 May, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga and Mr. Mario Villarroel, the Presidents of the ICRC and the League respectively, held a press conference during which they both reiterated this appeal to governments and emphasized the importance of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. We are also publishing the reference paper on the Humanitarian Gesture.

As of 19 May 1989, a total of 56 countries had undertaken to make humanitarian gestures, all of which are recorded in a Roll of Honour open for signature by State representatives until 22 August 1989, which will be the 125th anniversary of the signature of the First Geneva Convention. In one of its next issues, the Review will be reporting on response to the Movement's humanitarian appeal and on the various measures adopted by governments worldwide.