

**Address at the Governing Board of the
International Federation of RCRC Societies
April 27, 2005**

H.E. Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid

Chairman

Standing Commission

- Thanks for invitation – a year of important developments & preparations for the statutory meetings;
- Expo – Movement Pavilion / volunteers / congrats Konoe
- Federation of the Future – findings of various analysis as well as recommendations stemming from the S2010 review will be discussed by you in plenary and in working groups;
- Above processes important not only for the Federation but for the Movement: The SC working group, led by Freddy Pedersen, is updating the Strategy for the Movement. - We want to ensure that it is well aligned and mutually reinforcing the strategic processes within the Federation context;
- Experiences and lessons learnt in the implementation of the Movement Strategy have been taken into account:
 - Now more concise, clearer action points;
 - 10 actions (previously 17) under the old, still valid overall objectives;
 - Clearer guidelines and expectations regarding NS work and expected outcomes.
 - Chance to reinforce commitment of NS to review/revise their statutes by 2010
- A <tripartite meeting> to ensure alignment and mutual reinforcement of all three processes is scheduled for 10 May – an example of good cooperation and coordination.
- Look forward to early consultations with SC re any changes in the future that may affect the functioning of the Movement as a whole

- SC meeting in March:

1. in addition to the updated Movement Strategy, draft preliminary agenda for the Council of Delegates, prepared by the SC working group chaired by Zoy Katevas, to be mailed to you in Mid May with my letter of convocation; Please note that it is still a draft provisional agenda – comments are still welcome!

Thank the Korea Red Cross NS for all their arrangements and welcome the new leadership into the Movement and our cooperation;

2. The Council to concentrate on the humanitarian challenges we face today, on how well our programmes are in tune with those challenges and how should we best organise our work as a Movement in response to the challenges and needs.
3. Access to victims and vulnerable people and Neutral and Independent Humanitarian Action = themes for work in the commissions;
4. Chaired by Janet Davidson, the SC working group on the Seville Agreement is finalising on 2-3 May its analysis of experiences from it – the SC will receive a final report in June and then decide on its proposals to the Council for you to debate how to make this important tool work even better; The group is working on both an Addendum to the Agreement and on recommendations for improved performance.

- However, the main item on our agenda was the emblem:

- The emblem issue has been on the agenda for years; it is not new. Since 1995, the Standing Commission has been trying to find a comprehensive and lasting solution to the emblem question – initially led by Christina Magnuson, now by Philippe Cuvillier – both in close co-operation with the ICRC and the Federation.
- Why? Universality & enhanced protection – saving lives, especially in international operations;
- Several WGs and – finally in 2000 - the draft protocol was produced as were the consequential other texts– such as changes in the Movement Statutes, which only concern article 4 paragraph 5 on the conditions for recognition of a NS.
- The aim is to build on the consensus reached in 2000 – we're not looking for something new;
- Changes in the <political climate>
- SC preparatory consultations in February-March by its Special Representative Philippe Cuvillier - conclusion: a window of opportunity seem to be open or opening to conclude the long lasting process provided that present circumstances prevail;
- Swiss government appointed Ambassador-at-large Didier Pfirter, to conduct preliminary

consultations to determine whether there is a wide enough consensus to reconvene the Diplomatic Conference, which was postponed in October 2000 to adopt a third additional protocol to the GC. He is presently on mission to some countries in the Middle East;

- Once the SC receives a report from the Swiss government on the outcomes and findings of these consultations, the SC is exploring various options to convene an International Conference as soon as possible; – Its sole task will be to integrate the consequential changes resulting from adoption of the 3rd additional protocol, the additional emblem, into the Statutes of the Movement.
- This would allow recognition of NS not able to use present emblems – provided they fulfil the conditions for recognition by the ICRC – to be followed by admission into the Federation.
- Separate processes:
 1. DC = governments (adopt protocol & additional emblem)
 2. Intern Conf = governments and RC/RC National Societies (changes in statutes)
 3. Important to note: text for both protocol and statutory changes same as in 2000!
 4. Recognition: by ICRC based on report from Joint Statutes Commission
 5. Admission: by the federation General Assembly once recognition by ICRC clear.
- The SC is committed to see all parts of the process completed as soon as possible to finally reach UNIVERSALITY;
- The Movement works in 2-year cycles: difficult yet to say if the process can be completed before Seoul;
- First we need to hear from the Swiss government, then decide on the next steps – the first one being the Movement's International Conference
- Cannot tell you today when it will take place but I can give you my commitment that it will take place as soon as formally possible once the diplomatic Conference has been called;
- The SC, as indeed the whole Movement, would like to see the process completed before Seoul: we want to achieve universality and we do not want to see any present member deprived of its full rights as member (If US in default = can vote but cannot be candidate for any governance positions)
- Amman meeting: important to promote cooperation between two strong neighbouring NS-to-be...
- Important that you as NS representatives and Board members are fully informed and can lobby your respective governments in support of the Swiss efforts now and of the international conference later.

Thank you