

## LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

### The Red Cross and Red Crescent: Development Challenges of the Nineties

By Ian McAllister  
Dhaka, Bangladesh  
07.06.90

It is a privilege to meet with you today. Prior to coming I had the pleasure of reading the progress review of the Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies (BIDS) and it brought back a flood of memories. In 1970 I was much helped by Professor Gordon Winston and the Staff of BIDS' predecessor, the Pakistan Institute for Development Economics - just before PIDE moved from Karachi to Dhaka. I am impressed to note how wide ranging your research interests now are, that they are drawing upon a number of disciplines, and that they are solidly focussed on the problems and opportunities of this region.

That is precisely why I hope to interest you in the work of (and challenges faced by) the International Red Cross Movement in general and of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in particular. There is scope for cooperation, I suggest, between our organizations - certainly at the individual level, on occasions perhaps at the institutional level. I am honoured to say that among us today are the Chairman of the BRDCS - Brigadier (Retd) Bari, the Secretary General - Major (Retd) Quoreshi, and a number of senior BRDCS staff, together with Mr. Michael Schultz, the League's head delegate in Bangladesh.

They will follow-up on my overview by providing more specifics on the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and its programmes.

My remarks today will respond to four main questions:

1. What is the background and general profile of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement?
2. What are some of the main issues being faced today by the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement?
3. As the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies take on a more 'developmental role', what are some of the implications and challenges?