

ICRC says 'won't play politics'. (1995, August 27). *Sunday times*.

ICRC says 'won't play politics'

By Shelani de Silva

The International Committee of the Red Cross, under heavy fire from the government and the media for its role in the North has refused to discuss any allegations with government officials.

"We will discuss our work with officials, but not any allegation. It is all a political game and the ICRC will not play politics or get into any controversy", ICRC delegation spokesman, Paul Sruh said.

"If anyone want a clarification they could come and examine our work. I believe the government has not lost faith in the ICRC. We have had a good rapport, with all governments and despite these

allegations, I strongly feel that trust remains", he added, apparently referring to speculation that the ICRC team here might be expelled. Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar has denied any such move.

The ICRC is awaiting the green light from the government and the LTTE to resume the transportation. "We are ready to escort the ships provided that both parties, are willing to grant adequate security. We simply cannot unload food at the KKS harbour. It is too much of a risk, if the LTTE gives the clearance, we could start", Mr. Sruh added.

He denied the allegations that the ICRC ships had refused to be checked by the Sri Lanka Navy.