

# MISCELLANEOUS

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## THIRD ROUND TABLE ON CURRENT PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law held its third Round Table on current problems in international humanitarian law in San Remo from 31 August to 4 September 1976.

This meeting, like the two previous ones, the private nature of which encouraged frank and constructive discussion, considered the principal problems to be dealt with by the last session (Geneva, 17 March to 10 June 1977) of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts.

The questions studied were the following:

- the future work of the ad hoc committee on conventional weapons;
- the ban on reprisals and the rules for taking legitimate counter-measures;
- the problem of reservations to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions;
- the definition, status and treatment of mercenaries;
- relief actions to aid the civilian population in international and non-international armed conflicts;
- protection of refugees during international armed conflicts;
- the draft Protocol relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts: its future, and some questions still outstanding.

One whole day was devoted to a Red Cross symposium, the chairmen of which were Dr. Carlo Masini, President of the Italian Red Cross, and

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Mr. Kai Warras, Vice-Chairman of the League of National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies. The proceedings included a report on results of the third session of the Diplomatic Conference of particular interest to the Red Cross, and a discussion of some matters of immediate concern, such as the definition of the fundamental Red Cross principles in the Protocols, and the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

Those present at the Round Table included 77 international experts, taking part in a private capacity. The ICRC was represented by Mr. A. Hay, President, Mr. J. Pictet, Vice-President, Mr. C. Pilloud, Director, Mr. J. Moreillon, Head of the Department of Principles and Law, and Mrs. D. L. Bujard, Head of the Legal Division.

The discussion, chaired in turn by Judge Hussain (Pakistan), Mr. G. Aldrich (USA), Mr. D. Miller (Canada) and Mr. A. Abada (Algeria), gave the experts the opportunity to compare views and to outline solutions to problems still facing the Diplomatic Conference, and in this way to make a useful contribution to the successful outcome of that Conference.

*D. L. B.*