

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

HUMANITARIAN LAW AND ARMED CONFLICTS¹

The Brussels University Press has recently published, in a single volume entitled *Droit humanitaire et conflits armés* (Humanitarian law and armed conflict), the proceedings of a colloquium held in 1970 which was attended by the major experts on international humanitarian law.

Discussion centred on the problems of international law of concern to jurists in today's conditions, when war is taking on a different character and when increasing violence raises doubts as to the efficacy of the humanitarian conventions governing armed conflicts.

The agenda covered groups of subjects, each group being the subject of one chapter in the book: definition of international armed conflicts, their international character and the nature of the armed conflict itself; the status of belligerents; the application of the law of war and of humanitarian principles in guerrilla operations; the state of domestic legislation on the discharge of obligations under international humanitarian law.

In the course of the colloquium, an introductory paper on each subject provided a basis for subsequent discussion, in which several speakers gave their views. The papers and the contributions to the debate are included in the published volume, as is the general discussion which ended the colloquium.

Mr. Jean Wilhelm, director at the ICRC, represented our institution at the Brussels colloquium and acted as our spokesman: "Humanitarian law, for the Red Cross, is never an end in itself, but merely a means to help man maintain his dignity in all circumstances, even in the midst of the worst violence. . . . In its academic form, the same idea underlies this colloquium."

Since that event in Brussels in 1970, the Red Cross has made efforts to improve international humanitarian law: it has prepared draft Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. States have been discussing and modifying these drafts for some years.

M. T.

¹ Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles, 1976, 300 pages

**FIVE RECENT ICRC PUBLICATIONS
 ISSUED FOR THE DIPLOMATIC
 CONFERENCE
 ON THE REAFFIRMATION AND
 DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
 HUMANITARIAN LAW
 APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS**

Sw. Fr.

Draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, Geneva, 1973; 8vo, 46 pp.	10.—
Draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, Com- mentary, Geneva, 1973; 8vo, 176 pp. . .	20.—
Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, Geneva, (<i>first session</i>) 1975, 106 pp.	15.—
Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, Geneva, (<i>second session</i>) 1976, 231 pp.	22.—
Reservations to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, (C. Pilloud) Geneva 1976, 44 pp.	4.—