

SECOND ROUND TABLE ON CURRENT PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

A second Round Table on Current Problems of International Humanitarian Law was held from 3 to 6 September 1975 at San Remo (Italy), under the auspices and at the headquarters of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law.

The purpose of the informal meeting was to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on the results of the second session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts (Geneva, 3 February to 18 April 1975) and for a preliminary study of some of the problems to be considered at the third session of the Conference (Geneva, 21 April to 11 June 1976).

The Round Table gave its attention to the following questions:

- Rules relating to reprisals in the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

The discussions on this subject provided a useful contribution to the study which the governments and the ICRC were requested to make for the third session of the Diplomatic Conference.

- Individual penal responsibilities provided by the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions.
- The notion of lawful combatants in the light of Articles 1 and 42 of the draft Protocol I and in the light of the proposed amendments to Article 42.

At the second session of the Diplomatic Conference this article was the subject of a preliminary study by Commission III. A list of points at issue was drawn up in order to prepare the ground for discussions at the third session.

— Relations between draft Protocols I and II and prospect regarding draft Protocol II.

The Round Table meeting was the occasion for a Red Cross colloquium, chaired by Mr. K. Warras, Vice-President of the League of Red Cross Societies, on the references in the draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, to the role and activities of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations.

In addition, a working group on the teaching of humanitarian law in military institutions met under the chairmanship of Mr. P. de La Pradelle, President of the Scientific Committee of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law. The working group approved a programme of lectures and the organization by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law of the three courses to be given in different towns in 1976.

Seventy experts from different parts of the world took part in the proceedings in their personal capacity. The ICRC was represented by Mr. J. Pictet, Vice-President, Mr. C. Pilloud, Director, Mr. J. Moreillon, Director of the Department of Principles and Law and Mrs. D. Bujard, Head of the Legal Division.

Meeting under the chairmanship of Professor H. Sultan, a member of the Egyptian Institute, the participants discussed the gratifying results achieved during the second session of the Diplomatic Conference and engaged in a useful exchange of ideas with a view to an early and successful outcome of the efforts under way to reaffirm and develop international humanitarian law.

S. J.