

### A THIRD ICRC PUBLICATION ON THE USE OF CERTAIN WEAPONS

In our March issue, after bringing to our readers' attention the end of the second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, held under ICRC auspices in Lugano from 28 January to 26 February 1976, we announced that we would revert to that subject. We now do so on the occasion of the publication of the Report on the work of that conference.

This Report <sup>1</sup> is one of three, the other two being *Weapons that may Cause Unnecessary Suffering or have Indiscriminate Effects* (ICRC, Geneva, 1973) and the *Report on the Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons* (ICRC, Geneva, 1975).

A comparison of the three publications shows the progress made in a few years. Governments now have before them several proposals on various categories of conventional weapons. There is now a widespread conviction that in the fairly near future one or more international legal instruments will be forthcoming to forbid or restrict the use of some of those weapons.

This third report comprises an account and the summary records of the plenary meetings, the report of the General Working Group under the chairmanship of H. E. Ambassador Kussbach from the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the reports of three sub-groups on general and legal questions, mines and traps, and small-calibre projectiles. All proposals submitted to the Conference are given in an appendix. Professor Kalshoven of Leyden University was the Rapporteur for both the plenary and the General Working Group meetings.

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<sup>1</sup> *Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (Second session)*; of more than 200 pages and available in English, French or Spanish from ICRC Documentation Service, at the price of 22 Swiss francs. (ICRC, Geneva, 1976).

As mentioned by Mr. J. Pictet, ICRC Vice-President and Chairman of the Conference, at the closing meeting, to reach consensus on many points had proved more difficult than had been expected. He pointed out that both the Lucerne and the Lugano sessions had achieved results which would later bear fruit. He added that, in view of the humanitarian stakes, the ICRC would be prepared to continue with the work. In the new publication here presented, the reader will see what general tendencies have emerged, and may take cognizance of the copious documentary material.

It is now for governments, particularly those whose plenipotentiaries are at this moment meeting in Geneva for the third session of the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law, to decide the best procedure to bring to fruition the work so far carried out in this undoubtedly difficult field, but one which is so important for mankind, as it concerns the security of States.

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### **“THE RED CROSS AND MY COUNTRY” IN ETHIOPIA AND PORTUGAL**

On a number of occasions *International Review* has mentioned the ICRC efforts to make known, through the school textbook *The Red Cross and My Country*, the underlying principles of the Geneva Conventions. More than a million copies of twenty versions of the textbook have been distributed. In more than sixty countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, it has been a pronounced success. It is intended to imbue primary school pupils with a sense of the fundamental Red Cross principles, and is supplemented by a “Teacher’s Manual”.

It was recently introduced into Ethiopia and Portugal.

#### **Ethiopia**

On 3 March 1976, at the headquarters in Addis Ababa of the Ethiopian Red Cross, a ceremony took place to mark the presentation by the ICRC, represented by its delegate Mr. R. Gaillard-Moret, of 30,000