

## 52nd CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION

The 52nd Conference of the International Law Association was held in Helsinki from August 14 to 20, 1966. The International Committee of the Red Cross was represented there by Mr. Frédéric Siordet, one of its members.

In the sphere of international medical law the Conference passed two important resolutions whose texts were as follows.<sup>1</sup>

### Resolutions

The 52nd Conference of the International Law Association, held in Helsinki in August, 1966,

**Thanks** the President, the Rapporteur and the members of the International Law Committee for the considerable work they have done ;

**Reaffirms** the necessity of applying the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to any armed conflict, whether of an international or a non-international character, and particularly insists upon :

- (a) The universal application of the principle that nobody should be penalized for having succoured the victims of any such conflict, and
- (b) The obligation undertaken by States parties to these Conventions to publish them in time of peace ;

**Recommends** that the national Branches of the International Law Association use their influence with their respective Governments to promote the above-mentioned objectives ;

**Requests** the International Medical Law Committee to propose and formulate, in co-operation with the humanitarian international organizations, such as the International Red Cross Committee, the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy and the International Committee for the Neutrality of Medicine, solutions consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and acceptable to all parties concerned ; and

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<sup>1</sup> Unofficial text.

**Expresses the wish** that a legal study of the prevention and punishment of violations of humanitarian rights be undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations in co-operation with the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations and the principal humanitarian organizations.

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**Noting** the unanimous Resolution adopted at the International Red Cross Congresses in 1963 and 1965 recommending, respectively, that the United Nations adopt a solemn declaration accepting that the four Geneva Conventions of August 12th, 1949, apply to their Emergency Forces, and that appropriate arrangements be made to ensure that armed forces placed at the disposal of the United Nations observe the provisions of these Conventions and be protected by them ;

**Notes** that the diplomatic Conference convened by UNESCO in The Hague in 1954 in a unanimous resolution expressed the hope that the competent organs of the United Nations should decide, in the event of military action being taken in implementation of the Charter, to ensure application by the armed forces taking part in such action of The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of May 14th, 1954 ;

**Notes** with satisfaction that States providing contingents to the United Nations Force in Cyprus have undertaken, in their agreements with the United Nations, to take appropriate steps to ensure the enforcement of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the UNESCO Convention of 1954 in respect of the members of their contingents serving the Force ;

**Notes** the provisions in Article 2 common to the four Geneva Conventions and in Article 18 (3) of the UNESCO Convention to the effect that the contracting parties are bound by the Conventions even in relation to a non-contracting Power, if the latter accepts and applies their provisions ;

**Recommends** that, in order to secure legal protection under these Conventions for the members of the armed forces on both sides and for all other persons involved in any armed conflict in which any United Nations might become involved, the United Nations should declare that it accepts the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of August 12th, 1949, and The Hague Convention of May 14th, 1954, and that any forces of the United Nations will apply these provisions.