

### THE TEACHING OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

*At its centenary session in Rome on 14 September 1973, the Institute of International Law adopted a resolution on the teaching of international law. We believe our readers will be interested in this resolution which, worded in general terms, includes also the teaching of international humanitarian law:*

#### III. Recommendation on the Teaching of International Law at Universities

The Institute of International Law,

*Assembled* at Rome from 5 to 15 September 1973 for its Centenary Session,

*Convinced* of the increasing rôle of international law in the world of today,

*Emphasizing* that international law is essential to the solution of difficulties that may arise between States,

*Observing* with regret that in many Universities international law is not, or is no longer, a compulsory teaching subject,

*Recalling* that the United Nations Organization and UNESCO have on several occasions recognized the importance of the knowledge of international law,

*In line with* its mission to promote international law by contributing in particular "through publications, public teaching and any other means to the triumph of the principles of justice and humanity which ought to govern the relations among peoples" (Article 1 of the Statutes of the Institute of International Law),

1. HAS DECIDED to set up a working group to collect information on the present state of international law teaching in the

various parts of the world and to present Recommendations on the basis of such information at the next session of the Institute of International Law;

2. URGENTLY DRAWS the attention of Universities and other Teaching Institutions as well as of Governments and International Organizations to the importance of ensuring university teaching of international law to the greatest extent possible.

### INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL LAW

The *International Review* published some time ago an article<sup>1</sup> in which Professor Jovica Patrnic analysed the new trends of International Medical Law and drew attention to the heavy responsibility of that new scientific branch of law, the purpose of which he defined thus: to counter all trends which might lead to a change in medicine, and to encourage all measures designed to maintain and develop humane medicine. In a recent paper,<sup>2</sup> he again dealt with these questions and pointed out that International Medical Law also comprised rules on the protection of health in times of armed conflict. We give below a passage from the conclusion of the paper:

...Out of the relationship of confidence which is the basis of the relations existing between the doctor and the patient as well as a guarantee of successful health protection, results one of the most important duties of a doctor, i.e. keeping medical secret. If a patient seeks a doctor's advice, he must have complete confidence in the doctor's discretion. He must be assured that anything he says and that anything the doctor discovers is a secret between them and one that can be broken only with the patient's consent. This is the fundamental rule of the medical profession.

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<sup>1</sup> See *International Review*, March 1971.

<sup>2</sup> "Relationship between the doctor and the patient during medical interventions"