

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 article¹ 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,² 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.

¹ See *International Review*, March 1971.

² "Relationship between the doctor and the patient during medical interventions"

MISCELLANEOUS

The whole of the art and science of medicine is based on the intimate personal relationship between patient and doctor. But this is a matter of particular importance to International Medical Law. The resolutions concerning the medical secret during armed conflicts adopted by the Third International Congress of the Neutrality of Medicine (Rome, April 1968) and by the Medical Law Commission of the International Law Association at its 53rd Conference (Buenos Aires, 1968) pointed out the complexity of the problem of the medical secret and the necessity to formulate international rules as soon as possible. It is very necessary to point out that the principles of the relationship between the doctor and the patient must be applied in all circumstances, including armed conflicts.

Finally, we have to admit that it is very encouraging that some international organizations have taken into consideration the problem of the development of International Medical Law, e.g. the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, the International Committee of the Neutrality of Medicine and the *Commission médico-juridique de Monaco*. The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross adopted several resolutions concerning International Medical Law which were presented by the International Committee of the Red Cross. This Committee is particularly interested in the position of medical personnel, their status and obligations during armed conflicts, and the medical protection of wounded and sick members of the armed forces and civilian population.”
