

Dr. Michael Bothe, privat-docent at the Max Planck Institute, Heidelberg, analyses "the legal problems of relief operations for the civilian population in case of armed conflict".

Dr. Kay Hailbronner, reader at the same institute, considers the question of protection for airmen in distress, under the law of war, and puts forward solutions to questions left open by Article 36 of Protocol I, which was submitted to the second session of the Conference of Government Experts convened by the ICRC.

Lastly, Dr. Knut Ipsen, lecturer at the Institute of International Law of Kiel University, deals with the urgent and vital problem of open cities and zones under special protection. The writer's interpretation of Article 25 of the Hague Regulations leads to the conclusion that siege rather than attack is prohibited, and that the practice which arose during the Second World War of declaring undefended towns "open cities" would in no way have changed that meaning. Basing himself on this interpretation, he suggests that the two draft articles submitted to the second Conference of Government Experts, namely Article 53 (non-defended localities) and Article 54 (neutralized localities) be merged into a single provision which would further develop the idea embodied in Article 15 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (neutralized zones). Instead of non-defended localities, the writer puts forward the criterion of demilitarization and argues that in modern mobile warfare it would be very difficult to define and recognize what is prohibited and what is not.

These well documented papers will beyond a doubt give rise to further discussion regarding the development of international humanitarian law.

B. H.

RENÉ CASSIN: « LA PENSÉE ET L'ACTION »¹

René Cassin was one of the principal architects of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in 1968, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize by the Norwegian Parliament. This book is a tribute to

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a man who, to use the words of Alfred Kastler, himself a Nobel Prize winner, "drew attention to the immense problems whose solution was bound up with the future of mankind", but who counted more than anything else "on the part which education could play in developing feelings of human solidarity in children".

This illustrated book of some 300 pages is divided into two parts. One contains several important papers written by René Cassin, and the other, commendatory statements by outstanding figures, who remind the reader of the faith in human beings which the eminent jurist and professor of international law unceasingly affirmed. The Universal Declaration provided evidence of that faith. We should like to quote a few sentences which René Cassin wrote on the subject, for one of the book's merits lies in the fact that it allows us once again to read the splendid address he delivered at Oslo when presented with the Nobel Prize:

"...Up to 1940, the human community's collective effort for human rights was directed at fighting the scourge of slavery and the traffic in slaves. Humanitarian conventions ranged from the Charter of the International Red Cross, in 1864, to the Hague Conventions on the law of war. To that nucleus were added conventions related to communicable diseases or the prevention of the production of counterfeit money, the arms traffic, the traffic in women, and later on terrorism....

...The Commission, originally composed of eighteen members of different nationalities and occupations, acted correctly in deciding to draw up, in the first place, an international Declaration which would be in the nature of a manifesto by organized mankind. In less than a year and a half the Commission prepared a draft which was submitted to the General Assembly and which, after high-minded and sometimes passionate debates held at a hundred sittings, was adopted with its thirty articles on 10 December 1948.

The very existence of the Declaration, which was henceforth to be called "Universal" and which was not of a mandatory legal nature, was a historic event. It was the first ethical monument ever adopted by organized mankind, at a time when man's powers over nature were

¹ Editions F. Lalou, 92.100 Boulogne-sur-Seine, 1972.

greatly increased by scientific discoveries and it was necessary to see to what constructive task those powers could be directed. Morally and politically it had a marked effect. Six of the eight States which abstained when the Declaration was put to the vote, as against forty-eight for, now refer to the Declaration as if they had voted for it. All other States recently admitted to the United Nations have endorsed the Declaration, even where they have not introduced parts of it into their Constitution...”.

J.-G. L.

Alone in the Crowd, by A. Querido, *World Health*, Geneva, July-August 1973.

... People who at present call the city un-livable-in are not among the most vulnerable members of the city population, on the contrary they are often very mature persons with a strong sense of identity.

When we observe in what way they try to find a solution for their problem we see that they seek to establish solitude, either within or without the city. Solitude, as opposed to loneliness, solitude which enables the individual to be himself, logically implying relations to others, since without these relations the individual is nothing.

This behaviour of a certain type of modern city dweller seems to underline some fundamental mental hygiene principles. The crowd is deadly—against the crowd only one remedy exists—the consciousness of identity.

Therefore, whatever the authorities do in grappling with the modern city-monster; whatever the planners may dream about the city of the future; whatever the traffic experts may design and the engineers put on their drawing-boards—let there be at the centre of their efforts one purpose: to respect the individual.

Only then can the megalopolis be prevented from becoming a tyrannopolis, as Lewis Mumford said, in which a bright new world of robots can exist in a pseudo-life only.
