

MANILA WORLD LAW CONFERENCE

The World Peace Through Law Center in Washington organized its eighth meeting in Manila from 21 to 26 August 1977. This Conference was devoted primarily to the defence of human rights. Several of the points discussed touched on the spheres of activity of the ICRC. With this in mind, the World Peace Through Law Center had asked the ICRC to chair a discussion group on the legal aspects of international disaster relief operations and Mr. C. Pilloud was nominated for this task.

The Conference was attended by about a thousand delegates from various parts of the world, and by several thousand Filipino jurists.

In the realm of humanitarian law, discussions resulted in a resolution, the text of which will be found below. Another resolution was passed concerning international relief operations in case of natural disasters and the text adopted is also given below.

C.P.

Resolution No. 12

International Cooperation in disaster relief

The Manila World Law Conference,

Having received several reports and communications concerning international relief in case of natural disasters;

Invites all governments to contribute to the alleviation of the suffering caused by these disasters and urges governments, the territory of which has been stricken by disaster, to accept relief offered to them;

Calls on all governments to participate by financial contribution to the establishment of a permanent fund to meet the urgent need in case of disaster.

Resolution No. 13

International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed conflicts

The Manila World Law Conference,

1. Expresses its satisfaction and appreciation for the efforts made by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts which, after four consecutive sessions held in Geneva, adopted in June 1977 two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of August 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts;
2. Appeals to all governments to take all necessary measures in order to adhere and ratify the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions;
3. Appeals to all governments to disseminate and implement these Protocols, in particular by including the fundamental principles of the Protocols in the instructions given to Military Officers and troops;
4. Appeals to the International Committee of the Red Cross to strengthen its activities and to cooperate with governments and with other international organizations in the dissemination of the Additional Protocols.

**RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL FOR PROHIBITION
OF ASPHYXIATING GASES**

The Government of Uruguay, on 12 April 1977, expressed to the French Government, depositary of the Protocol, its ratification of the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925 for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare.

The Protocol entered into force for Uruguay as of 22 April 1977.