

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

A BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY DUNANT

In 1962, Mr. Willy Heudtlass, then head of the Press and Radio Service of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, published a book on Henry Dunant. As the *International Review* pointed out in a long article (in November of that year), this was the most comprehensive biography published up to that time, and it was notable for the objectivity of its judgment, the abundance of previously unpublished material gleaned from various sources by the author, and by the new light thrown on some aspects of the life and work of the Red Cross founder.

Now, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, Mr. Heudtlass has published, at a most timely moment, a second edition of his book¹. It is embellished by many illustrations, and in their prefaces Mr. W. Bargatzky, President of the German Red Cross, Mr. H. Haug, President of the Swiss Red Cross, and the late Mr. C. J. Burckhardt who held high office in the ICRC, stress that the book has lost none of its topical interest, and point to its utility for anyone seeking to know all about the Red Cross movement, its development and the impulse and the thinking that lay behind its foundation.

This revised and augmented edition contains some interesting facts gathered in the course of research in several countries. It gives new details, for example, on Dunant's attitude to the Palestine problem of his time, and about the "Green Cross" which Dunant viewed as a movement enabling women to undertake social work in time of peace. Mr. Heudtlass also gives some information on the relationship between Dunant and Moynier, permitting of a more objective judgment of the rivalry engendered mainly by the difference of their characters which for the work and growth of the Red Cross were nevertheless complementary.

¹ Willy Heudtlass: *J. Henry Dunant, Gründer des Roten Kreuzes Urheber der Genfer Konvention*, Verlag W. Kohlhammer, Stuttgart, 224 pp.

The second edition has been simplified by the deletion of some parts, for example, the long recital of what was said at the 1863 Geneva Conference, seeing that the trends which were apparent during the meeting were recorded the following year in the First Geneva Convention. Finally, extracts from Dunant's correspondence during his latter years at Heiden show how deeply he felt his financial difficulties. This is shown clearly in his letters to his faithful friend Rudolf Müller, although this in no way detracts from the merit of the "man in white" at the Chiesa Maggiore at Castiglione, this man of vision who called each of us to help our neighbour whoever he may be.

The book concludes with an excellent summary by Mr. Anton Schlögel of the main ideas common to the four Geneva Conventions and to the Protocols signed in 1977 which will henceforth be inseparable from those Conventions. This new edition is therefore most welcome and it is to be hoped that in translation it will be read as widely as it deserves.

J. G. Lossier

I.P. BLISHCHENKO: "INTERNATIONAL CASE-LAW"¹

This work, in Russian language, presents a comprehensive, critical and lucid review of international case-law. It focuses in particular on a number of cases which have not yet been the subject of discussion in the Western doctrine. At the same time this book is the first publication in Russian on international case-law, a branch of international law which until now has, to a certain degree, been neglected by the specialists of international law in eastern European countries. This fact may be due in part to the general tendency of these scholars to recognize as sources of international law first of all international conventions, and then custom, so not much place is left for judicial decisions.

The book consists of an introduction and nine chapters: Liberation wars and international law; Subjects of international law; Territory and borders; International law of the sea; International air space law; Population and international law; International law of treaties; Peaceful means of settlement of disputes; Armed conflicts and international law.

In the last chapter, the author underlines that the most important problem of any armed conflict is to ensure the maximal protection of

¹ Moscow, 1977, 224 p.