

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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### L'INSPECTION INTERNATIONALE<sup>1</sup>

Is there, in international society, an inspection function? Replying to this question, the *Centre de recherches sur les institutions internationales à Genève* has just published a volume which contains fifteen monographs by various authors on State and international organization practices. These papers were put together in a compendium by Mr. Georges Fischer and Mr. Daniel Vignes, who have written an introduction. The book is one of the "*International Organization and Relations Collection*" under the general editorship of Mr. Jean Siotis.

The first part of the book contains five papers on international inspection in the sphere of international peace and security. The second part deals with technical and economic matters. The third part is devoted to an analysis of various social and humanitarian problems.

This third part contains a study by Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC, on ICRC participation in visits to prisoner-of-war camps and to civilian internees. Other contributions in this part refer to international labour legislation, the World Health Organization, international narcotics control, and enquiries relating to human rights.

M. T.

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### INDEX TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS — KOREAN TRANSLATION<sup>2</sup>

In its November 1976 issue, the *International Review* announced the founding by the National Red Cross Society of the Republic of Korea of an Institute of Humanitarian Law in Seoul.

The Director of that Institute, Mr. Choe Eun Bum in co-operation with Mr. Chu Tong Keum has just published the Korean translation of the index to the Geneva Conventions for the protection of war

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<sup>1</sup> Etablissements Emile Bruylant, Brussels, 1976, 522 p.

<sup>2</sup> The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Humanitarian Law Institute, Seoul, 1976, 190 p.

victims. This was published in English in 1973 by Mr. Jiri Toman, Director of research at the Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva.

This publication is a fine achievement. As it is printed in Chinese characters, with the fewest possible Korean letters, it will probably be very useful also, with little difficulty, for Chinese and Japanese readers.

M. T.

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**Health as a human right, *WHO Chronicle No 30, Geneva, 1976***

Historically, and in contrast with the early introduction of a number of other rights, the right to health was one of the last to be proclaimed in the constitutions of most countries in the world. There are no references to the right to health in eighteenth and nineteenth century constitutions, whereas a number of other rights are specifically mentioned.

At the international level, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established a breakthrough in 1948, by stating in Article 25:

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family including food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children whether born in or out of wedlock shall enjoy this same social protection.

The Preamble to the WHO Constitution also affirms that it is one of the fundamental rights of every human being to enjoy "the highest attainable standard of health" and that "governments have a responsibility for the health of their peoples which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social measures".

A resolution adopted by the Twenty-third World Health Assembly in 1970 goes far beyond these provisions in declaring without qualification that "the right to health is a fundamental human right". Another resolution adopted by the same World Health Assembly elaborates on what may be considered as being the philosophy relating to the right to health and gives the latter a specific dimension. This resolution states that "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health" is the main long-term objective of the World Health Organization and that the most important condition for this is the development of efficient national health systems in all countries.