

A background in both environmental control and public health will enable the sanitary engineer to keep health criteria to the forefront in the planning and execution of environmental health projects. Health criteria are essentially planning criteria, and the health needs of the community are inextricably interwoven with the long-range resource development plans that have to be formulated.

TWO STUDIES ON THE PROTECTION OF WAR VICTIMS

In two recent numbers, the Revue belge de Droit international (Belgian Review of International Law) ¹ has published studies by ICRC legal advisers on the protection of various categories of war victims. The first, by Mr. Michel Veuthey and entitled « Règles et principes de droit international humanitaire applicable dans la guérilla » (Rules and Principles of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Guerrilla Warfare), may be summarized as follows :

Guerrilla warfare is a very old method of fighting, despite the fact that its modern name is as recent as the Spanish people's resistance to Napoleon's troops. Until the present day, the laws of war have tended to ignore, if not censure this method, which, considering its practical and theoretical development in the twentieth century, has condemned the law to impotence or uselessness in the majority of modern conflicts.

The law (meaning the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1907 Hague Conventions) must be adapted both in this form of warfare and in the conventional kind, so as to shield the victims from the unrestricted spread of hostilities. What happens to combatants and civilians, the methods of fighting and a set of model rules

¹ Brussels, 1971, No. VII (2) and 1972, No. VIII (1).

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are examined in turn, with close reference to the latest developments in the law both in the United Nations and in the conferences organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The second of these two studies is by Mr. Jean Mirimanoff-Chilikine. It is entitled Protection de la population et des personnes civiles contre les dangers résultant des opérations militaires (Protection of the Population and Civilians against the Dangers Arising from Military Operations). The main points are as follows :

The Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War deals mainly with occupied territories. To find out what are the obligations of belligerents towards the civilian population during hostilities, the only points of reference have, to this day, been the frequently outmoded provisions of the 1907 Hague Conventions and the oft contested principles of customary laws.

In order to catch up with the evolution of the means and technology of warfare, the ICRC, in 1956, drew up " Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers Incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War " applicable in all armed conflicts. It was greeted with favour at the time, but only as a formulation of principles.

This study, which appeared in the last two numbers of the *Revue belge de Droit international*, sets out the main problems in the way of providing better protection for civilians and their property in every conceivable war situation (conventional and guerrilla warfare, blockade, economic warfare, etc.). The proposals made by the ICRC in 1971 for a protocol on the protection of civilians are also examined in the light of the latest developments both in the United Nations and at the first conferences on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts.
