

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

The 13th General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation was held in Vienna from 1 to 4 September 1970. The ICRC was represented by Mr. M. Borsinger, Delegate General for Europe, and the League of Red Cross Societies by the Secretary General of the Austrian Red Cross. Members of the Federation from 42 countries took part, representing 73 national associations of war veterans, ex-servicemen, war-disabled, war victims and resistance movement fighters.

The General Assembly adopted several resolutions relative to, *inter alia*, prisoners of war, war-disabled, peace problems and the prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons. Resolution No. 3 which we give here below is of special interest to the Red Cross ¹:

The thirteenth General Assembly,

1. *Considering that more than twenty years have elapsed since the adoption of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 instituting humanitarian standards for the treatment and protection of prisoners of war ;*
2. *Recalling the fact that the Conventions apply in armed conflicts of every kind between two or more parties, however the conflict may be characterized ;*
3. *Considering that the Conventions were signed by government representatives of 125 nations, including all those which are at present engaged in armed conflict ;*

¹ Our translation.

4. Considering that the responsibility of all signatories of the Geneva Convention to respect the obligations stipulated in the Geneva Convention was unanimously reaffirmed by 114 countries at the International Conference of the Red Cross meeting nearly a year ago at Istanbul in September 1969,
5. Requests all signatories to honour the obligations they entered into under the Convention to provide, as it is recalled in the Istanbul Conference, assurances that "all uniformed members of the regular armed forces of another party to the conflict and all other persons entitled to prisoner of war status are treated humanely and given the fullest measure of protection prescribed by the Convention, and further calls upon all parties to allow the Protecting Power or the International Committee of the Red Cross free access to prisoners of war and to all places of their detention".
6. Commissions at the same time the Executive Committee of the WVF to study, jointly with the ICRC and appropriate organizations, international ways and means for setting up one or more bases with facilities for the repatriation, exchange and shelter of prisoners of war, with a view to reducing the difficulties encountered in the application of the Geneva Conventions.

STUDIES ON PEACE

At two recent meetings, one in September 1970 at Vienna, the other in March 1971 at Louvain, the ICRC was represented, respectively by Mr. M. Borsinger, Delegate-General for Europe, and Mr. Veuthey, Legal Adviser.

1. *The International Seminar on Mediation Techniques and International Control of Violence* was organized by the International Peace Committee of the International Research Fund. It was attended by more than sixty diplomatic, university and military representatives from 29 countries. The seminar, studying problems