

### BARRIERS AGAINST WEAPONS<sup>1</sup>

In this brochure published by the Swedish Red Cross, the author retraces the development of weapons and the parallel development of international conventions drawn up in an attempt to, if possible, limit their effects. His purpose in writing it is clearly understood from the sub-title: *Development of Weapons and Restrictions on Their Use*. The brochure is absolutely terrifying, but essential reading for a Red Cross and Red Crescent public, because their co-operation and support is indispensable for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to accomplish its proposed goal for peace and the limitation of weapons.

The author, Torgil Wulff, a Commodore in the Swedish navy and an Honorary Doctor of Laws at Uppsala University, holds a post of expert in the Swedish Ministry of Defence. In addition to contributing to TV and radio programmes, he has written several other books, including *War and Humanity* (1975), *Weapons at Any Price* (1977), and *Handbook in International Law during War, Neutrality and Occupation* (1980).

In "Barriers Against Weapons", T. Wulff studies in turn so-called conventional weapons, biological and chemical weapons, and nuclear weapons, describing the developments in production in each of these three categories in recent years. It is here that the reader will realize what extremes of horror and abomination man's inventiveness can attain when it comes to hurting his fellow man. For each category of weapons, the author describes the limitations he deems necessary. In the brochure's final chapter, he proposes what he considers the most urgent efforts needed to restrict weapons and achieve disarmament.

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<sup>1</sup> Torgil Wulff: *Barriers Against Weapons—Development of Weapons and Restrictions on Their Use*. Swedish Red Cross, Stockholm, 1984. 52 pages.

In the brochure's foreword, the Chairman and the Secretary General of the Swedish Red Cross emphasize that the Red Cross Movement has been an active force for the restriction of weapons and that it is now intensifying its efforts along two lines: on the one hand it is trying to promote peace, and on the other it is urging governments to outlaw entirely such weapons and methods of warfare which cause suffering such as no military necessity can possibly justify.

While nuclear weapons have generated an international protest movement, other weapons and methods of warfare have not been condemned to the same extent, even though their use in all present-day armed conflicts causes extensive loss of life and acute suffering in various countries throughout the world. The Swedish Red Cross hopes that Torgil Wulff's study will be a source of inspiration to all those who recognize the need to work not only against the nuclear threat, but also against all weapons with indiscriminate effects. His description of conventional, chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and their capacity for destruction highlights the imperative need to strengthen existing conventions and adopt new conventions to restrict the use of arms.

*Ph. Eberlin*

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