

## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

### ● *IN MOSCOW*

#### **Fourth International Seminar on International Humanitarian Law in the Contemporary World**

Organized jointly by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law of San Remo, and the Patrice Lumumba Peoples' Friendship University of Moscow, the Fourth International Seminar on International Humanitarian Law in the Contemporary World was held in Moscow from 3 to 7 June under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the ICRC. It was attended by representatives of the governments and National Societies of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the USSR.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, who was accompanied by Mr. Ghassan Arnaout, Director of the UNHCR's Division of Refugee Law and Doctrine, took part in the seminar. The ICRC was represented by Mr. Michel Veuthey, Delegate-General for Europe and North America, and Mrs. Cristina Kruck, Dissemination Delegate for Europe and North America. The International Institute of Humanitarian Law was represented by its President, Professor Jovica Patrnogic, and its Secretary General, Dr. Ugo Genesisio.

The place and role of international humanitarian law in the contemporary world and respect for the fundamental human rights of refugees and displaced persons were discussed. The participants emphasized that international humanitarian law is an important instrument for the humanization of international relations and the protection of human rights, life and security, particularly in the nuclear age.

Mr. Veuthey presented a report on the difficulties of applying humanitarian law. Following a communication by Mrs. Kruck the delegates stressed the particular role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in disseminating humanitarian law, the standards of which, embodied in the mottoes *Inter Arma Caritas* and *Per Humanitatem ad Pacem*, should, they said, be universally accepted, particularly by those who control weapons and other means of mass destruction.

Discussing respect for the fundamental human rights of refugees and displaced persons, participants noted the magnitude of the problem and the importance of international co-operation in resolving it. The role of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and non-governmental organizations in promoting such respect was emphasized.

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law will publish a record of the seminar's reports and discussions.

## ● IN GENEVA

### **International colloquium: The 1977 Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions—Ten years later**

To mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the Geneva University Faculty of Law organized an international colloquium from 11 to 13 June entitled: "The 1977 Protocols additional to the 1949 Conventions—Ten years later".

Some 50 legal specialists from all over the world participated in this colloquium which was headed by Professor Luigi Condorelli, professor of public international law at the Geneva University Faculty of Law. The colloquium was also attended by several members of the ICRC: Mrs. D. Bindschedler, Mr. M. Aubert, Vice-Presidents, Mrs. A. Petitpierre, Mr. P. Bernasconi and Mr. D. Schindler; and by ICRC legal experts, Mrs. S. Junod, Mr. Y. Sandoz, Mr. H.-P. Gasser, Mr. R. Kosirnik, Mr. M. Veuthey and Mr. B. Zimmermann.

At the opening session at Geneva University on 11 June speeches were made by the Rector of the University, Mr. M. Guenin, the President of the ICRC, Mr. C. Sommaruga, the Director of Public International Law at the Swiss Confederation Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. M. Krafft, and the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Mr. A. Dufour.