

Death of Professor Waldemar A. Solf

It was with great sorrow that the ICRC learned of the death of Waldemar A. Solf on 20 June last in Alexandria, Virginia (USA). With his passing, the world of international humanitarian law has lost one of its great figures.

Dr. Solf was born in Zurich in 1913 and went to the United States while still a child. After receiving a doctorate in law from the University of Chicago, he embarked on a military career in 1941 and held a succession of important posts, culminating in that of Chief of the Military Justice Division in the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the United States Army, before retiring with the rank of Colonel in 1968.

He went on to teach international law at American University in Washington. In 1970, he went back to the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, this time as a civilian, and served there for over 10 years, ultimately becoming Chief of the International Affairs Division.

During this period, Dr. Solf was the American delegate to the meetings of government experts on international humanitarian law organized by the ICRC and head of the U.S. delegation to the ICRC's meeting of experts on the signalling and identification of medical transports on land and sea. He was also a member of the U.S. delegation to the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts (1974-1977).

When Dr. Solf went into permanent retirement in 1979, he was one of the world's leading authorities on the law of armed conflict. After retiring, he remained active as a consultant in humanitarian law, a writer on legal matters and an adjunct professor of law at Washington College of Law, American University, in Washington.

During his lifetime, Dr. Solf wrote many authoritative books and articles on humanitarian law, including *New Rules for Victims of Armed Conflicts: Commentary on the Two 1977 Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949* (1982), prepared in collaboration with Profs. Bothe and Partsch. He also did invaluable work promoting humanitarian law in American academic circles and the armed forces.

With the many meetings in which he participated, Dr. Solf had a close working relationship with the ICRC. He had recently collaborated with J. Ashley Roach in the preparation of an index for the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols which is due to be published shortly.

The ICRC will remember with gratitude this great champion of the humanitarian cause.