

customary rules and international treaties (the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Convention of the Organization of African Unity, the 1949 Geneva Conventions), which aim to provide solid legal bases for the protection of refugees.

The authors give particular attention to the problems posed by refugees in countries of asylum. In a poor country, they put considerable strain on its economy, social welfare services and the labour market. The rich countries make their position clear by declaring that economic recession imposes stringent limits on their ability to receive and absorb refugees.

In the following part of their study, the authors make a systematic analysis of the regional aspect of refugee movements: four distinct sections deal in turn with Africa, South-East Asia, the Middle East (this section is mainly concerned with the issue of Palestinians in Lebanon, with detailed explanations of the mandates of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the UNHCR) and Central America. In each section, the authors put forward general considerations on the main causes of refugee movements and on the legal principles which might be invoked for the refugees' protection.

Next they examine the historical, legal and political situation in the refugees' countries of origin and the administrative and economic efforts made by countries of asylum, in particular with regard to their ways of dealing with the influx of refugees.

The authors' approach to the problem and to the structure of the different sections is deliberate: in their view, it enables them to meet the need of certain international organizations to have an overview of the main aspects (especially statistical) of large-scale refugee movements today.

The final chapter is devoted to a few general remarks on the possible and conceivable solutions. The authors feel that additional efforts on the part of the international community, the richest countries in particular, would not only improve the situation of refugees in countries of asylum, but also prevent other such movements by helping eradicate one of their causes, namely poverty and misery.

The study contains a series of notes and a selected bibliography on refugee movements, based for the most part on documents available at the UNHCR documentation centre.

The scope of this work and the information it provides make it indispensable to every student, researcher or international civil servant interested in recent refugee problems.

M.Z.

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## THE 1985 YEARBOOK OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law recently published its 1985 Yearbook \* containing a wide range of studies and essays on a

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\* International Institute of Humanitarian Law, *Yearbook 1985*, San Remo, 1986, 260 p. (Articles in English and French).

number of highly topical issues of humanitarian law. The latest developments in this law are analysed in articles dealing with a variety of problems: fight against torture, status of refugees, detention of refugees and asylum-seekers, present-day migrations, protection of journalists, status and treatment of deserters, etc.

The choice of subjects for the Yearbook faithfully reflects the objectives which the International Institute of Humanitarian Law set itself when it was founded in San Remo in 1970: to defend, reaffirm and develop international humanitarian law and to promote all initiatives aimed at putting it into application.

The publication is also intended as a reference work, for it reproduces and comments on official United Nations documents and other international instruments concerning refugees, the fight against torture, protection of migrant workers and their families, etc.

Lastly, a large part of the Yearbook is devoted to the Institute's recent activities, more specifically to the 11th Round Table (September 1985) whose main topic was the relation between guerrilla warfare, terrorism and humanitarian law.

As Mr. A. Hay, President of the ICRC, states in his foreword to the Yearbook, over the past fifteen years the ICRC and the San Remo Institute have striven, in a spirit of constructive co-operation, to diminish the evils of war and other man-made disasters. This publication is intended as yet another contribution towards a veritable humanitarian mobilization.

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## News and Reviews

*Hunger and socio-economic problems in the Third World, especially in Africa, refugees and terrorism are topics of constant concern to the international community and are the current subject of comment and analysis in a large number of periodicals.*

*The Review has selected a few of these for the benefit of its readers:*

● The third issue of **League**, which is a quarterly publication produced by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, contains a series of articles on the problem of refugees. The journal describes the situation of millions of refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers throughout the world and reviews the international and regional instruments adopted by the international community to protect these persons "living in limbo land". *League* then goes into a number of ways in which National Societies assist refugees. It also includes an article on the work done by the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency and by the new department set up within the League to promote and coordinate National Society programmes in favour of refugees.