

tors. In the medical and emergency oxygen systems, liquid oxygen is used instead of the compressed gaseous oxygen used in commercial transports.

The twin-jet has a range of more than 2000 miles and a cruising speed in excess of 500 m.p.h.

ROUND TABLE ON INFORMATION IN ARMED CONFLICTS

A round-table meeting on information in armed conflicts was held at Menton, France, on 18 and 19 November 1972. It had been organized jointly by the *Commission médico-juridique de Monaco* and the *Institut international de Droit humanitaire*, of San Remo, and was attended by jurists from a number of countries and representatives of journalists' organizations. The ICRC was represented by Mr. A. Modoux, Head of Press and Information Division.

Discussions were focused on the question of protection for journalists whilst on dangerous missions, and the action of the United Nations in that field. Reference was also made to the work of the two sessions of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law which, at the request of the United Nations, had also considered that question.

CONGRESS FOR THE STUDY OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

The Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem (AWR) held its twenty-second Annual Congress at Geneva from 13 to 16 October 1972. At the opening meeting, after addresses of welcome had been delivered by the representatives of the Swiss

Federal Authorities, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Council of Europe and the President of the National Section of the AWR in Switzerland, Mr. H. G. Beckh, President of the AWR, made his opening speech. He said that the purpose of the AWR was to study the refugee problem from a scientific viewpoint and that it aimed at providing the appropriate authorities in every land with the necessary basic material for seeking a solution to these problems. For that reason, the question of State sovereignty was at the centre of the considerations revolving around the refugee problem. If it were rigidly exercised and in too absolute a manner, it could often be a cause of the appearance of refugees. Basing himself on his own personal experience as an ex-delegate of the ICRC, Mr. Beckh pointed out that the fact that humanitarian needs were taken into consideration by a State did not jeopardize its sovereign rights. In this connection, he submitted a draft resolution which was unanimously adopted by the Congress. The resolution called upon the AWR President and his colleagues to contact international jurists, with the aim of organizing together with them round-table conferences whose purpose would be to reconcile the different doctrines relating to the notion of State sovereignty.

About thirty papers were read before the various commissions on the legal problems of refugees, the history of the refugee problem and its sociological and economic aspects. Other subjects discussed included a draft Convention on the right of asylum, the position of the AWR as a non-governmental organization in questions relating to Human Rights, and the problems relating to the refugees of the third world.

The Congress adopted a second resolution, submitted by Professor Veiter, secretary general for the scientific section, containing a proposal to collect rulings made by national courts in matters concerning rights of refugees.

We may add that the AWR, which so far has concerned itself mainly with refugee problems in Europe, now intends to break new ground and to extend its activities to refugees outside Europe.

As there had always been links between the Red Cross and movements dealing with refugees, a representative of the ICRC was asked to address the opening session of the Congress. Mr. J. Pictet,

Vice-President of the ICRC, spoke of the excellent relations which had always existed in the past between the ICRC and the AWR and traced the work carried out by the International Committee after the end of the First World War for refugees and stateless persons, and the relief operations undertaken by the League of Red Cross Societies to come to the aid of victims of disasters, conflicts and other events.

“ In the legal sphere ”, he said, “ the ICRC was not inactive. In the Second World War, it instituted a “ travel document ” which was a sort of passport for facilitating the repatriation or emigration of displaced persons and which had proved to be very useful. When, after four years of preparation, the plenipotentiaries of States met in 1949 to discuss the revision of the Geneva Conventions and to conclude for the protection of civilians a special new Convention which was eagerly awaited following the terrible suffering endured by so many civilians, the ICRC managed to obtain the introduction, in this Fourth Convention, of a number of fundamental provisions concerning refugees, whereby the latter were placed on the same footing as persons protected by the Law of Geneva.”

Mr. Pictet went on to say how much apprehension was being caused by the upsurge of violence, which rendered increasingly arduous any attempt to go to the assistance of victims. He concluded by declaring his belief in the rule of law, our surety for peace and justice.

CHILD WELFARE IN AFRICA

In Nairobi a seminar was held last year on “ Planning and Co-ordination of Child Welfare Work ”. The results were published in International Child Welfare Review¹ together with a report highlighting some of the questions raised in papers submitted by the

¹ Published by the *International Union of Child Welfare*, Geneva, 1971, No. 11-12. The report reproduced here is by Mr. G. Kaburu Ndubai.