

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

DAVID P. FORSYTHE: HUMANITARIAN POLITICS¹

David P. Forsythe, a professor of political science at Nebraska University, contributed to the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross directed by Mr. D. Tansley and completed in 1975. He was the author of the background document entitled "Present Role of the Red Cross in Protection" and his conclusions were reproduced by Mr. Tansley in his final Report "An Agenda for Red Cross".

In the course of his research, Mr. Forsythe thoroughly examined the ICRC and its activities and in his book he gives the English-speaking reader a good overall view of the institution.

After a foreword and a general introduction, Mr. Forsythe describes the ICRC's position in the Red Cross movement and the international system; he gives an account of the way in which the ICRC works, its quasi-diplomatic methods and its efforts to bring about international regulations more favourable to the victims of armed conflicts.

He devotes a chapter to the administrative organization and financial and manpower resources of the ICRC. In his conclusions and epilogue he attempts to predict the position and activities of the ICRC in future years.

The book contains, by way of an annex, the text of the Conditions for the recognition of National Societies, the 1969 Agreement between the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC, and other documents, but not, unfortunately, the Statutes of the International Red Cross or of the ICRC.

On some subjects the author expresses views which are debatable. Nevertheless, on the whole, Mr. Forsythe gives an accurate picture of the ICRC and its activities, and his book will certainly contribute to a better knowledge of the institution in English-speaking countries.

C. P.

¹ David P. Forsythe: *Humanitarian Politics—The International Committee of the Red Cross*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London, 1977, 298 pages.