

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

RICHARD PERRUCHOUD: LES RÉOLUTIONS DES CONFÉRENCES INTERNATIONALES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ¹

The International Red Cross Conference is "the supreme deliberative body", the "parliament", of an institution which is represented the world over. It meets every four years and representatives of governments signatories to the Geneva Conventions take part in its proceedings. It adopts resolutions which give the Red Cross guidance for the future. Nevertheless, and strange as it may seem, Mr. Perruchoud's book is the first devoted entirely to International Red Cross Conferences and their resolutions.

The book contains two parts. The first, on the legal framework, gives a history of the International Red Cross Conference, a chapter on the organization of the International Red Cross and a chapter on its place in the international legal order. These are subjects known to few people although everyone knows of the Red Cross. In fact the Red Cross is a complex organization, difficult to grasp and to fit into any particular category. It is national and international, private and official, and its legal system defies classification into any known pattern. The author analyzes these disparate elements, puts them in order and educes their profound reality.

The second part of the book studies the content, effect and implementation of resolutions adopted by the International Red Cross Conferences. The author draws a distinction between fundamental and compulsory resolutions relating to the constitution and law of the Red Cross, and resolutions which are no more than recommendations referring to health, relief, and all the movement's activities.

Finally, fairly well developed and particularly interesting conclusions give some general considerations on the basic ideas, structure and principles of the institution, and also on its prospects.

The reader will find in the book a detailed study, a systematic exposition and a personal view on each point. After painstaking research, analysis and synthesis, the author does not hesitate to broach thorny issues and propose original solutions, without launching into abstract and artificial speculation. His book will be highly appreciated by all who are interested in the Red Cross.

M. T.

¹ Henry Dunant Institute, Geneva, 1979, 470 pp.