

M. M. BOGUSLAVSKY: THE INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY ¹

Preservation of cultural property is an important field of international co-operation. A book on this topic, in Russian, was published last year by the Soviet scholar Mark M. Boguslavsky. The author describes mainly the efforts and the activities in recent years of Unesco in the field of protection of cultural values. But the fifth chapter of the book, entitled "Protection of cultural property in case of armed conflicts", is of special interest to Red Cross readers.

In this chapter, the author analyses The Hague Convention of 1954 which was prepared with the active participation of the Red Cross and was the first international all-purpose agreement with many norms providing for the protection of cultural property in case of armed conflict. The author writes that this convention embodies, to a considerable extent, the ideas of Nikolai Roerich, the Russian artist and humanist, who, in the 1920s, suggested the signing of an international treaty on the protection of cultural treasures. This treaty was named Roerich's Pact. In proposing this pact Roerich was inspired by the humanitarian activities of the Red Cross. M. Boguslavsky's book is dedicated to the memory of Nikolai Roerich and his struggle for the preservation of cultural treasures. It is an interesting contribution to the very urgent problem of the preservation of cultural values on a worldwide scale.

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¹ Moscow, Mezhdunarodniye Otnosheniya, 1979, 192 pp.