

Turkey	32	Upper Volta	82	Yemen Arab Republic	125
Tuvalu	146	Uruguay	122	Yemen	143
Uganda	101	U.S.A.	47	(People's Dem. Rep.)	
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United Kingdom	67	Viet Nam	64	Zambia	113

Round Tables in San Remo on the Refugee Phenomenon

In June 1981 and April 1982 the International Humanitarian Law Institute organized two Round Tables in San Remo on the refugee problems. The subjects discussed were complementary: in 1981 participants examined the problems caused by the arrival *en masse* of people seeking asylum; in 1982 they studied the circumstances leading to the massive displacement of refugees.

The starting-point of the 1982 Round Table discussions was the fact that up till then discussions had almost exclusively concentrated on situations of mass exodus both past and present in order to bring aid to the victims. That had been the focal point of the 1981 Round Table discussions. However, it was considered high time to tackle the causes of these displacements of people, which are, primarily, violation of human rights, armed conflicts, foreign occupation and socio-economic factors.

The debates of the San Remo Round Tables were in line with the general concern apparent in the world with regard to the refugee problem. In recent years a number of proposals have in fact been made to the UN concerning international co-operation to prevent new flows of refugees, human rights and mass exodus, reinforcing the United Nations system for coping with natural disasters and other situations of a similar nature,

the new international humanitarian order, temporary refuge for hordes of people seeking asylum.

The San Remo discussions also dealt with the rôle of existing organizations in finding a solution to this problem. The general opinion seemed to be that existing organizations were sufficient and there was no need to set up a new one. On the other hand, it would appear that not enough use was made of the existing machinery which should be improved by a number of measures, for example: reaffirming the principles relevant to the treatment of refugees; creation of an early warning system charged with collecting objective information and detecting situations liable to lead to a mass exodus (fact-finding and monitoring); recourse to the good offices of the UN Secretary-General who could nominate a special representative.

About twenty persons from governments and governmental or non-governmental organizations took part in each of these Round Tables; there were jurists specializing in refugee law and ICRC delegates, whose presence allowed for a reaffirmation of the value of international humanitarian law. Those present took part in the meetings in their personal capacities.

The protection of refugees during armed conflicts will also appear on the agenda of the next annual Round Table of the International Humanitarian Law Institute, to be held in San Remo in September 1982.
