

Round Table in San Remo

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law held its eighth Round Table on the current problems of international humanitarian law and Red Cross Symposium from 8 to 11 September, attended by about a hundred lawyers, diplomats and representatives of National Red Cross Societies. The ICRC was represented by its President Mr. Alexandre Hay, by Committee members Mr. M. Aubert and Mr. D. Schindler, and by several staff members.

The first day's work was concerned with "The United Nations forces and international humanitarian law: applicability and instruction". The second day of the Round Table was devoted to the subject "Journalists in armed conflicts: their role, responsibility and protection on dangerous professional missions". The third day was reserved for the "Protection of refugees in armed conflicts and internal disturbances". On the fourth day an ICRC report was given on "Follow-up action on the resolutions adopted by the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference" (in Manila in November 1981).

After the Round Table, the Council of the Institute held its annual assembly. Note was taken of the year's activities; these are developing satisfactorily, particularly the courses on the law of war. The Council decided to hold another Round Table in 1983 and organize courses on the refugees law for the first time this winter, under the sponsorship of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Congress on penal military law

The International Society of Penal Military Law and Law of War held its 9th International Congress from 2 to 6 September 1982 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

On its agenda were several problems arising from recent developments in the law of war. Each State has to give guidelines to its armed forces. It must first of all incorporate the new international norms into its own legal system and subsequently give the explanations and orders necessary for their application.

It appeared particularly appropriate to consider the following points: better protection, under the new international law, of the civilian population against the dangers resulting from hostilities; widening of the categories of combatants entitled to prisoner-of-war status in case of capture, which raises problems of responsibility and interpretation; training of legal advisers to the armed forces, whose status and responsi-