

then refused to discuss with it, the ICRC was confronted in Indochina with a delicate, arduous and often thankless task. It was only at the price of unremitting tenacity that significant results were obtained.

Mr. Berger's small book is a quick but dense summary of the ICRC's operations on a terrain and at a time which were both extremely difficult, but also very exciting. The ICRC found itself at grips with obscure hostile forces whose attitude perhaps served as an example and made for unfavourable reactions in other parts of the world and at other times, even right up to the present. These perspectives add to the interest of this short study which is easy to follow thanks to a map, chronological tables and photographs.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

It gives us pleasure to report the recent publication, under the auspices of the Libyan Arab Red Crescent,¹ of a *Brief summary of international humanitarian law*, in Arabic.

It is a small sized book (approximately 14 × 19 cm), of 30 pages by Mohammed Hamed Al-Asbali. The preface is dated 1 April 1980. In these few pages the author, in a short historical chapter, provides information on the origin and nature of international humanitarian law. He then gives a quick explanation of its principles. Although extremely simplified, this work may constitute a useful introduction to a complicated subject.

It is certain that in such small space not much can be said about international humanitarian law, which, after its recent developments in 1977, consists of almost six hundred articles. We hope this *Brief summary* will induce its readers to seek more information on the subject.

¹ Libyan Arab Red Crescent, P.O. Box 541, Benghazi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.