

### NEW RULES FOR VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS <sup>1</sup>

The Geneva Protocols of 8 June 1977 stress the need to disseminate as widely as possible knowledge of international humanitarian law and in particular of the provisions of the Protocols adopted in 1977.

It was with this in mind that the authors wrote the book *New Rules for Victims of Armed Conflicts*. All three participated, as members of their governments' delegations (the Federal Republic of Germany for the first two, the United States of America for the third, and the United Kingdom for the collaborator), in the work of the Diplomatic Conference from 1974 to 1977, which resulted in the adoption of the Protocols; they were therefore particularly well prepared for the task which they assumed.

Faced with the difficulty of having an extensive commentary on the Protocols speedily published, the authors wrote, as they said in their preface, a guide to the two Protocols based mainly on the history and the development of the draft texts which they had been dealing with in the four annual sessions of the Diplomatic Conference. Carefully going through each article of the Protocols and taking one term in the texts after another, they explain the concepts and intentions behind the proposals to the Conference, the discussions which took place on them and the clashes of opinion between the representatives of the various countries and schools of thought which were present at the meetings. They show lastly how, why, or for what specific purpose, these terms were finally adopted by the Conference. We have here, therefore, a lively and informative account.

The volume comprises a general introduction in which is to be found a summary, extremely condensed, of the development of humani-

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<sup>1</sup> *New Rules for Victims of Armed Conflicts, Commentary on the Two 1977 Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949*, by Michael Bothe, Karl Joseph Partsh, Waldemar A. Solf, with the collaboration of Martin Eaton. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, the Hague/Boston/London, 1982. XXII + 744 pages. 145 US dollars. Text in English.

tarian law and a short history of the Diplomatic Conference of 1974-1977 (preparations — procedures and decisions). A bibliography has been added at the end of the book.

We are quite sure that this book, by the amount of information it contains, by its clarity and attention to detail, will be extremely useful, and appreciated by all those who are interested in international humanitarian law.

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### ATLE GRAHL-MADSEN: TERRITORIAL ASYLUM <sup>1</sup>

Professor Atle Grahl-Madsen is an authority on international asylum law. He holds the chair of international law in the University of Uppsala and is also Director of the Swedish Institute of International Law. He has served in a great many international organizations providing practical aid and legal assistance to refugees.

In this book Professor Grahl-Madsen explains the present state of the law of asylum: the right of States to grant asylum to any person applying for it; the constitutional and statutory provisions in different States giving the individual the possibility to seek refuge, and the rudimentary provisions of international law prohibiting the extradition and forcible return of refugees to countries where they would not be safe from persecution.

The projects for an international convention on territorial asylum are discussed in detail and certain particular problems, such as the «refugees in orbit», are also examined. A section towards the end of the book is devoted to documents, which include a large number of international instruments dealing with refugees and the law of asylum.

At a time when numerous National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have to face the serious humanitarian implications of the presence of refugees on their countries' territory, Professor Grahl-Madsen's book will no doubt be read with interest and profit.

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<sup>1</sup> Almqvist and Wiksell International, Stockholm, Oceana Publications Inc., London-Rome-New York, 1980, 232 pp.