

to them (Chapter 3). It is not always very easy to make this distinction as certain rights entail certain duties and vice versa.

It is obvious that medical personnel, when required to serve in a conflict, in their capacity as the agents of a State bound by the Geneva Conventions and possibly by the Additional Protocols, must obey the provisions laid down by these texts: any violation of these provisions would constitute a breach of national or international law, for which they would be held responsible, and would possibly lead to various sanctions. It is equally important, however, for medical personnel to be aware of their rights and not allow themselves to be unduly intimidated. Since they may find themselves required at any moment to perform their duties or assert their rights in the most unexpected way, it is essential for medical personnel to know what their rights and duties are.

It is also the duty of the public authorities to inform their citizens about the provisions of international humanitarian law, for in ratifying or acceding to the Conventions and Protocols the States assumed the obligation to disseminate knowledge of these same Conventions and Protocols in their respective countries "as widely as possible in time of peace and in time of armed conflict".

In view of the nature of the services provided by medical personnel, of their responsibilities and the conditions in which their duties are performed, and considering the number and complexity of the relevant provisions, it would be impossible to give medical personnel any adequate preparation for these aspects of their mission at the very last moment, when conflict breaks out. It is consequently imperative to start preparing them for their work in peacetime and it is hoped that this manual will be of some assistance.

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## THE NEW INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF CIVIL DEFENSE <sup>1</sup>

The new regulations of international law concerning the status of civil defence are an innovation: they create a completely new legal status, established in the general interest by the Diplomatic Conference

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<sup>1</sup> *New International Status of Civil Defence*, by Dr. Boško Jakovljević. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, The Hague—Boston—London, and Henry Dunant Institute, Geneva, 1983. 142 pages. In English. 32.50 dollars.

on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts, which met in Geneva from 1974 to 1977 and ended with the adoption of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

The book by Dr. Bosko Jakovljević, Secretary General of the Yugoslav International Law Association and member of the Executive Council of the International Law Association, is devoted to an examination of this new status.

The author begins by briefly retracing the ICRC's efforts for almost a quarter of a century to have this status acknowledged, in the face of a certain amount of opposition and incomprehension, for although civil defence is intended to protect civilian populations against the effects of war, it also appears to contribute indirectly to the belligerents' war effort. He goes on to examine this status in relation to international law and human rights, and then to analyse the provisions of Protocol I and Protocol II concerning civil defence.

In the second part of his book the author has assembled a whole series of documents relating to civil defence: resolutions adopted by the International Red Cross Conferences, declarations by other international organizations and institutions, the ICRC drafts for the additional Protocols, etc. Although these texts are already known, they are particularly interesting grouped together in this way, and their significance is accentuated.

Civil defence, the subject of Dr. Jakovljević's book, has assumed acute importance in the world of today, and the reader cannot fail to find his work extremely interesting.

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#### G. BOUTHOU, R. CARRÈRE AND J. L. ANNEQUIN: GUERRES ET CIVILISATIONS <sup>1</sup>

The *Institut français de Polémologie* was founded in 1945 to scientifically study the subjects of wars, peaces, conflicts, collective aggressiveness and political violence. Previously our Review presented a

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<sup>1</sup> *Guerres et civilisations (De la préhistoire à l'ère nucléo-spatiale)* "Wars and Civilizations (from prehistoric times to the nuclear and space age)" by G. Bouthoul, R. Carrère and J. L. Annequin, of the *Institut français de Polémologie*. Foreword by Jean Guilton of the Académie française. "Les Cahiers de la Fondation pour les études de défense nationale". Supplement to No 4 (4th quarter of 1979) for "Stratégique". In French only.