

# **The First East Asia Military Seminar on the Law of War**

*(Singapore, 23-27 March 1992)*

The first military seminar on international humanitarian law (IHL) for the countries of East Asia was held in Singapore from 23 to 27 March 1992. It was attended by 25 generals and high-ranking officers representing eleven countries,\* and was organized by the ICRC in close cooperation with the Singapore Red Cross Society.

The purpose of the seminar was to promote systematic and coordinated instruction in IHL within the armed forces of the countries present and, by encouraging an exchange of views and experience between officers from within the same region, to foster close cooperation in such instruction both between those States and between the services responsible for giving it. A further objective was to encourage all the countries in the region to join in centralized courses, especially those arranged by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo and, together with the ICRC, to create "pools" of IHL instructors.

The ICRC was represented by Mr. René Kosirnik, head of the Legal and Cooperation-Dissemination Divisions, Mr. Bruno Doppler, coordinator of dissemination for the armed forces, Mr. Christophe Swinarski, former head of the Hong Kong delegation, Mr. Peter Küng, his successor, and Mr. Pierre Pont, head of the Jakarta delegation. The Singapore Red Cross was represented by Mr. Ho Wah Onn, legal adviser, and Professor L.R. Penna of the University of Singapore.

The seminar, which was directed by Mr. Doppler, took the form of lectures and discussions and dealt with various aspects of IHL. The participants' positive assessment at the end of the meeting holds out promising prospects for the development of dissemination in this region and, in particular, for the organization of national seminars.

Alongside the seminar, Mr. Kosirnik was able to meet the Attorney-General of Singapore, Mr. Tan Boon Teik, and the Director of Legal Services at the Ministry of Defence, Mr. Jeffrey Chan Wah Teck. Discussions centred on the question of Singapore's ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and on other matters of common interest, including a forthcoming study visit to

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\* Brunei, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Viet Nam.

ICRC headquarters, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Swiss Red Cross by a delegation from the Singapore Ministry of Defence. Mr. Kosirnik, together with Mr. Pont, also met the leaders of the Singapore Red Cross.

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## **Declaration of succession of the Republic of Slovenia to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols**

On 26 March 1992, the Republic of Slovenia deposited with the Swiss Government a declaration of succession, without reservations, to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977. These instruments were already applicable to the territory of Slovenia by virtue of their ratification by the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 21 April 1950 and 11 June 1979 respectively.

In accordance with international practice, the entry into force in Slovenia of the four Conventions and the two Protocols is retroactive to 25 June 1991, the date of the Republic's independence.

The Republic of Slovenia is the **169th** State to become party to the Geneva Conventions. It is the **109th** State party to Protocol I and the **99th** to Protocol II.

The instrument of succession was accompanied by a declaration regarding the recognition by Slovenia of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, under Article 90 of Protocol I. The Republic of Slovenia is the **27th** State to make the declaration concerning the Commission.

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