

Death of Colonel G.I.A.D. Draper, O.B.E.

It was with great sorrow that the ICRC learned of the death of Colonel G.I.A.D. Draper, O.B.E., on 3 July last at the age of 75.

The members of the International Committee and many of its staff who knew him well are saddened by the loss of this great humanist who dedicated his life to the defence and promotion of the law.

Colonel Draper studied at the University of London where he was awarded the degrees of LL.B. in 1936 and LL.M. in 1938. He also qualified as a solicitor in 1936 and had a private law practice from 1936 to 1940. In 1941 he joined the Irish Guards and served in North Africa and Europe. Immediately after the war he became a military prosecutor at the war-crimes tribunals in Germany, a task which he performed until 1949. He was called to the Bar in 1946 and practised as a barrister from 1956. He was also Lecturer and Reader in Law at the University of London from 1956 to 1967, when he was appointed Professor of Law Studies at the University of Sussex. He held this post until he was made Professor Emeritus in 1979. He served as a delegate for the United Kingdom at various international law conferences, at conferences of government experts on the development of humanitarian law and at the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law (1974-1977).

Colonel Draper was without question one of the leading pioneers in the development of humanitarian law. Drawing on his military experience and work as a military prosecutor, he had very lucid views on important issues such as the relationship between military and State imperatives and respect for humanitarian principles and between human rights and the law of armed conflict.

The fruit of his reflexion was his many publications in areas as varied as history, the philosophy of law and diverse aspects of international humanitarian law. His writings carry great weight in academic, government and military circles.

He also had remarkable skills in disseminating knowledge of humanitarian law. The many legal advisers, military personnel of all ranks, teachers and students whom he taught in over two decades at the Universities of London and Sussex and at military academies in various countries can attest to his talent for teaching, which was backed up by his great erudition and sense of humour.

Beginning in 1956, he served as a consultant to the ICRC and all those who had the privilege of working with him appreciated his advice, suggestions and initiatives in the major effort mounted by the ICRC in the 50s to develop humanitarian law.

Colonel Draper's eminent career was that of a man close to the Red Cross and imbued with the spirit of service. Cruelly afflicted by physical disability while still a young man, his tenacity and courage were exemplary. The ICRC will remember with gratitude this outstanding champion of the humanitarian cause.

Spain ratifies the Protocols

On 21 April 1989 Spain ratified the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international (Protocol I) and non-international (Protocol II) armed conflicts, adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

The instrument of ratification for Additional Protocol I contained the following declaration concerning the International Fact-Finding Commission:

"The Government of the Kingdom of Spain declares that it recognizes ipso facto and without special agreement, in relation to any other High Contracting Party accepting the same obligation, the competence of the Commission to enquire into allegations by such other Party" (Original Spanish, ICRC translation).

Spain is the **thirteenth State** to make the declaration regarding the Commission, which will be set up once 20 States have made such declarations.

The instrument of ratification also contained the following interpretative statement concerning Protocol I: