

NEW PUBLICATIONS

● **International law governing the conduct of hostilities**

This volume is a collection of treaties of the law regulating the conduct of hostilities.

This body of law, often referred to as the “law of the Hague”, is of particular importance in alleviating the effects of armed conflict in that it regulates and limits the methods and means of warfare used by the parties to the conflict. This law has developed over the centuries through the customs of States and in addition to this customary law, a number of treaties have been concluded. Some treaties, such as the Hague Regulations of 1899 revised in 1907, codified a wide range of existing customary law, whereas others, e.g. the St. Petersburg Declaration of 1868 and the Geneva Gas Protocol of 1925 codified or regulated specific areas.

Although not reproduced in this volume, as they are published separately, it should be noted that the Protocols of 1977 additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 provide a very important contribution to the law on the conduct of hostilities, in particular by reaffirming the customary law principle, hitherto unstated as such in treaty form, that the civilian population should not be made the object of attack.

All treaties regulating the conduct of hostilities, as well as international customary law which binds all States, are based on two connected fundamental principles, namely, those of military necessity and humanity, which together mean that only those actions necessary for the defeat of the opposing side are allowed, whereas those which uselessly cause suffering or losses are forbidden. The two major areas of regulation to achieve this aim are those of the choice of targets and the use of weapons, as will be seen from the collection of treaties in this volume. It presents the texts of a series of international agreements relating to neutrality, weapons and the conduct of hostilities on land, at sea and in the air.

Published by the ICRC; 1990, 200 pp. (also published in *French* and *Spanish*).

Price: 15 Swiss francs.

Orders for this publication may be sent to the ICRC's Publishing and Documentation Service (COM/EDOC).

- **Principales nociones e institutos del derecho internacional humanitario como sistema internacional de protección de la persona humana**

(Main ideas and principles of international humanitarian law as an international system for the protection of the individual)

This 102-page handbook for Spanish human rights instructors has just been published by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in San José (Costa Rica) and the ICRC. It was compiled at the suggestion of the Institute, which regularly gives interdisciplinary courses (to which the ICRC has contributed since 1983) on human rights and humanitarian law.

The handbook was written by *Christophe Swinarski*, ICRC Regional Delegate for Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It deals with the origin, definition and development of international humanitarian law, its content (“Law of The Hague”, “Law of Geneva”), its field of application and its implementation, the mandate and activities of the ICRC, and international humanitarian law and human rights.

JUST PUBLISHED

- ***Humanity*—News from the International Promotion Bureau**

Humanity is the monthly bulletin of the International Promotion Bureau, edited by its co-directors Maurice Graber and George Reid. The Bureau was established by the ICRC and the League in June 1990 to organize the World Campaign for the Protection of Victims of War, to set up, together with the Spanish Red Cross, the Movement’s programme for the 1992 Universal Exposition in Seville and to find sponsors and carry out the promotional activities necessary for the success of the Campaign and the aforesaid programme.

The first issue of the Bulletin, published in English, French and Spanish, contains information on the progress of the Campaign (see the *Review* of March-April 1990, No. 275, p. 138, and May-June 1990, No. 276, p. 275) and on the projects of a number of National Societies. It gives a first list of National Society co-ordinators responsible for organizing the Campaign at the national level, as well as news about the Red Cross and Red Crescent pavilion at Expo’ 92 in Seville.

The International Promotion Bureau will regularly supply the National Societies with promotional material such as posters, badges and T-shirts, and photos and articles for their publications.

COMING SOON

● Children in war

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum is currently preparing an exhibition on children in war. The exhibition is supported by UNICEF and will be inaugurated on 11 September 1990. When opened in 1988, the Museum itself already had a collection of some 10,000 photographs from over 60 countries, many of them showing the plight of children in wartime. It has meanwhile added many photos of modern conflicts and will be presenting a selection of 105 photos on the subject of children in war from 1900 to the present time.

A special contribution by the ICRC has made it possible to prepare a book, also entitled "*Children in War*", to accompany the exhibition.

The first part of the book will comprise the photographs selected for the exhibition. The second part will consist of the major international agreements on children that have been reached in this century. A third section will contain a number of legal commentaries and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's statements with regard to children in war during the 1980s. These texts deal largely with the question of what should be the minimum age for combatants, the participation of children in hostilities and the need to give them legal protection in connection with modern war. A fourth section will contain a number of observations prompted by key events in the development of protection for children over the past ninety years.

The publication of this book, some 140 pages in length, is scheduled to coincide with the World Summit for Children, to be held at United Nations headquarters on 29 and 30 September.

An account of both the exhibition and the book "*Children in War*" will be given in a subsequent issue of the *Review*.
