

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

COURSES ON THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICTS

Since 1969, the International Institute of Human Rights (René Cassin Foundation) has held courses on human rights at the University of Strasbourg during the first three weeks of July. This year, however, with the co-operation of the Henry Dunant Institute and the ICRC, the syllabus was extended to include special courses on the law of armed conflicts. These courses, which were followed with keen interest by 140 students from sixty different countries, were endorsed by examinations.

The aim pursued was to outline the law of armed conflicts as fully as possible. Thus, under the general heading of "International Protection of Human Rights", Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC, gave a course on *Le droit humanitaire et la protection des victimes de la guerre*. Four courses were held under the heading "Human Rights and the Law of Armed Conflicts". Mr. Pierre Boissier, Director of the Henry Dunant Institute, dealt with *Fondements philosophiques et historiques du droit des conflits armés*, Mr. Frits Kalshoven with *The Law of War and Human Rights*, Mr. Jaroslav Zourek with *Droits de l'homme et interdiction de l'usage de la force en droit international*, and Mr. Karel Vasak with *The Law of Armed Conflicts and Human Rights*.

Several National Red Cross Societies were interested in the courses as a means of training instructors, and sent a member of their staff to Strasbourg. Partly in response to their wishes, the Henry Dunant Institute will now have these courses on the law of armed conflicts published in one of its collections.

An experience so auspiciously started must be continued. It has therefore been decided that five courses of five hours, followed by seminars, will be held on the law of armed conflicts next year. They

will relate, *inter alia*, to the protection of civilians, non-international conflicts, the national and international repression of breaches of humanitarian law, and the ICRC and its delegations.

NEW INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER

The new headquarters of the International Agency for Research on Cancer was inaugurated at Lyon (France) last June. It comprises a 15-storey tower block with laboratories, conference rooms, offices, and a separate circular auditorium. The administration and research work are directed and supervised by highly qualified scientists from the ten founder countries, and a few others, under the general authority of the World Health Organization. The ten countries which finance the Agency's activities are Australia, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the USSR.

At the inauguration, the President of the French Republic delivered an address in which he said that, although major discoveries could be made in national science laboratories, some research, particularly epidemiological, could be undertaken only on a world scale. "The Agency is therefore a model of international co-operation", he continued, "not only because of its origin—it was established by the World Health Assembly on 20 May 1965—, not only because of its administrative and scientific set-up, but also because of the universality of its vocation, which it has affirmed by setting up regional centres in Nairobi and Singapore and by specializing in epidemiological research covering an enormous geographical area.

International co-operation on such a scale is completely justified by the sheer dimensions of the scourge of cancer. Cancer is now one of the main causes of death."
