

effect that he will conduct himself in a manner consistent with the highest standards of journalistic integrity and abstain from any political or military activities in the area for which the safe-conduct card is valid, or any activities involving direct or indirect participation in the hostilities.

Special stress should be laid on the fact that all experts have considered it highly desirable — as stated in paragraph 22 of the Note by the Secretary-General — that “representatives of the Secretary-General and of the International Committee of the Red Cross should participate to the largest extent practicable in the work of the Committee. Their presence and advice, it was felt, would be indispensable to give the necessary authority to the Committee’s decisions and confidence as to its methods of work”. The draft protocol therefore lays down, on the one hand, that the ICRC shall be represented at meetings of the Professional Committee and, on the other, that the latter “shall maintain close relationship with the International Committee of the Red Cross in a manner best suited to the effective performance of its functions under the Convention and this Protocol” (Article 7).

Lastly, it should be mentioned that the work of the group of experts followed the publication of the Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (document A/8371 of 15 September 1971), which described the historical background of the question and contained comments on the draft protocol from seventeen governments. The draft convention and protocol will be studied by the General Assembly before the end of the year, and discussions will then show how far governments consider it possible to provide effective legal protection to journalists engaged in dangerous missions.

---

### **CONFERENCE ON THE OUTLAWING OF BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

At the request of the Swedish Red Cross, the ICRC attended, with observer status, this conference organized by the International Peace Bureau and held at Runö near Stockholm on 26 and 27

## MISCELLANEOUS

August 1971. The purpose of the meeting was essentially to review the work undertaken by States for the prohibition of atomic, bacteriological and chemical weapons. It was, as it were, a prelude to the World Disarmament Conference which non-governmental organizations affiliated to ECOSOC will convene for next year.

During the meeting, which was attended by representatives of more than forty non-governmental international organizations, some highly interesting papers were presented, particularly by the representatives of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) which has concentrated its efforts on problems of biological and chemical weapons. Information was also given on the present state of the SALT negotiations among the great Powers for the limitation of certain strategic weapons. One of the main items of the Conference was the paper read by its Chairman, Mr. Sean MacBride, entitled "The Environment of Death". Mr. MacBride, who is also Chairman of the International Peace Bureau, underlined the need to prohibit not only the manufacture but also the use of weapons of mass destruction. He referred to the resolution adopted by the non-governmental organizations on the founding of a commission of enquiry into breaches of humanitarian law.

The representative of the ICRC, Mr. J. R. Wilhelm, Assistant Director, briefly explained the results of the Conference of Government Experts which had been convened by the ICRC for the reaffirmation and development of humanitarian law last May, and he described how the Conference had broached the question of the use of arms during conflict and the various proposals put forth on that subject by delegations. Mr. Olof Stroh, representing the Swedish Red Cross, of which he is the Secretary-General, put to the Conference a number of considerations on the practical contribution of non-governmental organizations to the field under consideration and to peace.

---