

The following chapters contain a most interesting review of the policies of military engagement adopted by the major maritime powers and an analysis of the potential role of various means of warfare, such as nuclear weapons, conventional armaments and submarines.

In each case, the author examines the (very few) arms control treaties pertaining to these different methods of warfare and possible developments in this regard, never hesitating to express an opinion on their appropriateness or feasibility.

The author here puts forward some fairly unconventional views, going so far as to affirm that certain arms control procedures in force or currently being negotiated might in fact turn out to have globally *destabilizing* effects.

Generally speaking, the author appears extremely sceptical about arms control measures at sea. (He himself remarks rather wryly that some might feel his book should have been called "*No Arms Control at Sea*")!

The last chapter is the least convincing part of the book, perhaps because the ideas it propounds are less fully developed. Rear Admiral Hill puts forward a few suggestions for improving mutual security, which is indeed the ultimate objective of arms control. He rejects abrupt changes and drastic measures and instead favours the adoption of uni- or multilateral confidence-building measures.

Arms Control at Sea provides a wealth of clear and accurate information, especially regarding the historical background, and an extensive critical examination of the issues at stake. It will doubtless prove most useful to all experts on the subject.

Antoine Bouvier

HUMANITÄRES VÖLKERRECHT INFORMATIONSSCHRIFTEN

*A new German-language periodical
on humanitarian law*

The *Review* is happy to introduce its readers to *Humanitäres Völkerrecht, Informationsschriften*, a new periodical entirely devoted to international law and to the Red Cross that will be of particular interest to German-speaking readers. It is published jointly by the German Red Cross and by the Institut für Friedenssicherungsrecht und Humanitäres Völkerrecht (IFHV), University

of the Ruhr, Bochum, Germany, and is edited by Horst Fischer, Doctor of laws.*

It is the duty of all States party to the Geneva Conventions to make the provisions of international law widely known. To promote such knowledge, the German Red Cross and the IFHV have pooled their experience and efforts to bring out a "product" that manifestly meets that requirement. This co-operation between a National Red Cross Society and a university Institute has made an original contribution to promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law.

The policy of the new magazine is to provide a wide variety of information in each issue. This is not confined to legal matters, for its columns are open to discussion of problems besetting the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In particular, it is proposed to publish scholarly articles on the fundamentals of humanitarian law, thus making it better known and perhaps even contributing to its development. Other texts give concrete examples of its application taken from actual practice of humanitarian law or "Red Cross law". Reports of conferences and seminars on subjects connected with humanitarian law and the Red Cross will keep readers well informed, and a glossary explaining terms and legal concepts will add to their knowledge or refresh their memories. Each number contains book reviews and information on future conferences, seminars and other similar events. This programme is intended not only for experts in international humanitarian law, but also and above all for anyone who is in any way interested in humanitarian activities.

A quick look at the issues that have so far appeared shows that the publishers have kept their word. The first number (October 1988) exactly reflects their intentions. It contains highly interesting leading articles and a wealth of information on international humanitarian law and International Red Cross activities. The four issues published in 1989 and the two published in 1990 (which are with us as we write this article) successfully continue this policy.

There is no space in this short article for an exhaustive description of the issues that have so far appeared. We shall perforce have to confine ourselves to a few selected features.

- The first article of the inaugural issue is by one of the editors of the magazine, Professor *Knut Ipsen*, Director of the IFHV who also has special responsibilities for dissemination in the German Red Cross. He describes with admirable clarity the legal problems posed by the protection of civilian hospitals in time of war and their marking with the protective emblem. His able exposition reveals the full significance of the hard-won relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and so enables governmental authorities to act in accordance with those regulations.

* *Humanitäres Völkerrecht, Informationsschriften*, published by the General Secretariat of the German Red Cross, Bonn, and the Institut für Friedenssicherungsrecht und Humanitäres Völkerrecht, University of the Ruhr, Bochum.

Daniel Meynen's article on dissemination points out that the resolution on this subject adopted in 1977 at the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross in Bucharest was the first to allude to the principles of the Red Cross as well as mentioning the *Geneva Conventions*; a subsequent resolution adopted at the Twenty-fifth Conference in Geneva included the dissemination of *international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Movement in the service of peace*. He says that these changes were certainly important, but that nothing was really added to the previous resolutions on dissemination, which he examines, by introducing a mention of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross and a reference to their aim of promoting peace; the 1977 resolution merely spelled out what was already plain. National Societies should therefore regard dissemination of humanitarian law and dissemination of Red Cross principles as equally important.

This issue of the magazine also contains a legal appreciation of the Iranian Airbus incident in the Gulf war and the destruction of a Libyan civilian aircraft by the Israeli air force in 1973, an analysis of Article 90 of Protocol I (on the International Fact-Finding Commission), and many other articles that cannot fail to interest legal experts and Red Cross "disseminators" alike.

- No. 1/1989 of this publication opens with an article by *Christian Koenig* based on his doctoral thesis (see the notice in the *Review* of March-April 1989, No. 269, p. 165). He points out that international humanitarian law deals inadequately with the various possible forms of occupation of territory by foreign forces. He is particularly interested in the new possibilities opened up by Article 1, para. 4, of Protocol I (on wars of national liberation). *Stephan Witteler* gives an excellent description of the United Nations Convention on the Prohibition of Certain Conventional Weapons, adopted in 1980 but since then largely forgotten. His article will doubtless revive interest in that treaty, which was certainly of humanitarian value. Many other articles make this issue of the magazine a first-class source of information.
- No. 2/1989 opens with a well researched article by *Ove Bring*, which points out the appalling effects (in many cases, certain blindness) of lasers if used as weapons, and appeals for their international regulation. Two articles deal with the law applicable to prisoners of war. *Hartmut Schneider* writes on the subject of the prisoners of war held by Iran and Iraq, and concludes that the obligation to repatriate prisoners of war at the end of hostilities should take precedence over anything else; and *Rainald Maass* considers the legal status of those forgotten participants in the Gulf conflict, the Egyptian prisoners of war in Iranian hands. There are also interesting articles on The Hague Conference of 1899, the Luanda trials of mercenaries and the 1977 Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques.
- No. 3/1989 contains an excellent article by Professor *Karl Josef Partsch* on the means available for scrutiny of the application of international humanitarian law. He points out the strengths and weaknesses of the institutions set

up for this purpose – the Protecting Power and the International Fact-Finding Commission (see Protocol I, Article 90). His estimate of their efficacy is depressing, but he shows very clearly how difficult it is to ascertain whether the parties to an international conflict are respecting their humanitarian obligations.

In an article on chemical weapons in relation to international law, Professor *Alfred Rubin* examines the political forces justifying their prohibition. *Knut Ipsen* writes on how the Red Cross ethic can help to prevent war – not only by its humanitarian activities which themselves make for peace, but also, he urges, by greater effort on the part of the Movement to ensure respect for *Friedenssicherungsrecht*, the provisions of international law that help to maintain peace. Other articles in this issue include one by *Dieter Walz* and *Burkhard Willerding* on turning the provisions of Protocol I into instructions easily understandable by all members of armed forces.

- No. 4/1989 contains an article by *Frits Kalshoven* on the state of the question of reprisals, in which his expert appraisal answers some controversial questions. *Michael Both* points out the importance of national measures providing for the application of international humanitarian law, and articles by *Dieter Riesenberger* and *Daniel Meynen* shed light on the role of the Red Cross in efforts to seek peace.

- No. 1/1990 contains an article by *Volker Kröning* which will be of interest to all persons concerned by the changes that have taken place in Europe since the autumn of 1989. It concludes by examining Germany's future role and ends with an appeal for an effective policy for security without recourse to weapons. *Wolff H. von Heinegg's* excellent article on the obligation of removing the civilian population and civilian objects from the vicinity of military objectives (Protocol I, Article 58) uses a practical case to show the strong and weak points of this new provision.

There are also articles by *Burkhard Willerding* on the law of neutrality, *Horst Fischer* and *Georg Bock* on the duty of belligerents to repatriate prisoners of war, and *Christiane Sticher* on the Convention on genocide.

- No. 2/1990 does not entirely confine itself to international humanitarian law, for Professor *Igor Blishchenko* gives an interesting account of some of the difficulties attending international protection of human rights; coming from a Soviet author this article is of particular value. *Hans-Joachim Heintze* too deals with a subject connected with human rights, that is, the protection of groups by international law. *Christiane Sticher*, in a penetrating analysis of a highly topical question, the status of General Noriega who is being held by the American authorities, concludes that he has prisoner-of-war status and may be prosecuted for acts committed before the conflict. *Horst Fischer's* summary of the controversial Lieutenant Astiz affair is useful and factual. *Daniel Meynen* turns his long experience of disseminating humanitarian law to good account in describing the problems and special difficulties involved.

Other contributions deal with The Hague regulations of 1907 and the rules applicable to reservations concerning treaties.

For lack of space this short summary cannot acknowledge the merits of many other contributions, but it does show the value of the new publication. *Informationsschriften* is an extremely useful working document for every German-speaking reader at all interested in international humanitarian law.

Hans-Peter Gasser
