

Death of Professor Stanislaw E. Nahlik

The ICRC learned with great sadness of the death on 5 November 1991 of Professor Stanislaw E. Nahlik at the age of 80.

The members of the International Committee and all his close colleagues deeply regret the passing of Professor Nahlik, a renowned humanist who devoted his life to defending and promoting international law.

Professor Nahlik was born on 8 May 1911 in Lwów (Poland), where in 1933 he obtained a master's degree in law and political science at Johann-Casimir University. He entered his country's diplomatic corps in 1936, successively serving at the Polish Consulate General in London and the Polish Embassy in Berne from 1939 to 1946.

After receiving a doctorate in law at Jagellonian University in Cracow in 1948, Professor Nahlik devoted most of his time to teaching in institutions of higher learning, particularly in Cracow and at Nicholas Copernicus University in Toruń.

From 1962 to 1981 he held the Chair of Public International Law at Jagellonian University, where in 1981 he was named Professor Emeritus.

Professor Nahlik's written works, consisting of some 400 books and articles — including about 80 in English, French and German — constitute an impressive collection of studies on various aspects of public international law. Through them he gained considerable renown not only in Poland, where his treatises and manuals on public international law and the law of diplomatic relations, in particular, are still considered authoritative, but also abroad. Professor Nahlik was invited to lecture at universities in some twenty countries and was named doctor *honoris causa* by the University of Bordeaux (in 1973) and the University of Bochum (in 1985).

He was a member of several European law associations and participated in numerous international conferences and meetings of experts, in particular on the protection of cultural property — a subject

that was a speciality of his — and on international humanitarian law.* From 1975 on he also chaired Commission II of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts (Geneva, 1974-1977).

A man of great shrewdness of mind and utmost courtesy, Professor Nahlik was an exceptionally talented educationist who captivated his students and other audiences with his vast knowledge, his gift of expression and sparkling wit. He was profoundly humane and showed his dedication to Red Cross ideals by providing advice on countless occasions over the years to the Polish Red Cross and actively helping, in close cooperation with the ICRC, to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law in Poland and throughout the world. The ICRC will remember Professor Nahlik with admiration and gratitude as an outstanding champion of the humanitarian cause.

* Among Professor Nahlik's most renowned works are two courses given at the Hague Academy of International Law: "La protection internationale des biens culturels en cas de conflit armé" (*Collected Courses of the Hague Academy of International Law*, vol. 120, 1967, pp. 61-136) and "L'extension du statut de combattant à la lumière du Protocol I de Genève de 1977" (*ibid.*, vol. 164, 1979, pp. 171-249), and "A Brief Outline of International Humanitarian Law" (*IRRC*, No. 241, July-August 1984, pp. 187-226).