

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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A. SCHLÖGEL: "VOLKERRECHTLICHE PROBLEME AUF DER XX. INTERNATIONALEN ROTKREUZKONFERENZ IN WIEN"

Dr. Anton Schlögel, Secretary-General of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, has written for the "Jahrbuch für Internationales Recht"<sup>1</sup> an interesting study, of which an off-print has been made. After describing briefly the earlier work and machinery of International Conferences of the Red Cross, the author deals with the major problems discussed at Vienna in 1965 by the XX Conference: Protection of Civil Medical and Nursing Personnel; Protection of Victims of Non-International Conflicts; United Nations Emergency Forces; the Reuniting of Dispersed Families; Respect of the Geneva Conventions—Control, Dissemination and Repression of Violations.

The development of weapons being what it is, the protection of civilian populations is the essential problem and there was, states the author, a marked tendency in favour of the convening of a Diplomatic Conference to draw up and adopt a "Fifth Geneva Convention". It was finally considered preferable, in view of the dissident opinions of a number of delegations, merely to recommend the ICRC to continue its work. Referring to certain difficulties, the author raises the question whether such protection could in fact be effective in the actual theatre of operations or whether, at least for the time being, effort should be concentrated on the important, albeit restricted, field covered by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The eventuality of the use of atomic weapons sets the problem of protection for civilian populations against the dangers of indiscriminate warfare; that the Conference found grounds for agreement on fundamental principles is remarkable.

The question of making the Red Cross sign available to civilian medical personnel was not settled. There can be no solution to this so long as protection of the sign against proliferation and devaluation is not assured. Studies must therefore be continued.

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<sup>1</sup> Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen, 1967.

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The ICRC's efforts to widen as much as possible the scope of article 3, common to the four Geneva Conventions and relative to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Conflicts, were approved without reservation.

Willy-nilly, the author considers, the application of the Geneva Conventions by the United Nations Forces calls into question that institution's legal position in the international order. The solution which has been adopted, based on bilateral undertakings between the organization and the States providing contingents was, of necessity, approved by the Conference as no other solution was offered, but it hardly appears to satisfy Dr. Schlögel.

The reuniting of families was given special attention at the Conference by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany. The broader scope of the resolutions in this connection takes reality into account. Finally, wider dissemination of the Geneva Conventions was urged.

*J. de P.*

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### DAISY CAROLINE BRIDGES: "A HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES" <sup>1</sup>

The author of this book is well acquainted with the work of the International Council of Nurses, having been one of its principal officers as Secretary-General from 1948 to 1961. In this book she gives a detailed history, describing how the Council, when founded at the beginning of the century, integrated into the general context of a world which was seen to be made up of increasingly interdependent parts. In addition, the nursing profession then assumed a dignity unknown in Florence Nightingale's time.

After the adoption of its first by-laws in 1900, the ICN developed continuously, as can be seen from the following few figures. In 1901, the first International Congress of Nurses at Buffalo was attended by 400 nurses. In 1965, at the 13th Quadrennial Congress

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<sup>1</sup> Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd., London, 1967, 254 p.