

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

ICRC CO-OPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

As part of the co-operation between the Secretariat of the United Nations and the ICRC in the development of humanitarian law, Mr. Jean Wilhelm, Assistant-Director, attended a meeting of experts at the U.N. Headquarters from 13 to 18 April, convened by Mr. Marc Schreiber, director of the Human Rights Division. The purpose of the meeting was to examine ways and means of following up the Secretary-General's report of 20 November 1969 on the respect of human rights during conflict. That report had been examined by the previous General Assembly and by the recent session of the Human Rights Commission.

During the meeting, which was attended by some ten experts of various nationalities, for consultations at a personal level, Mr. Wilhelm provided some useful information of a general character on the main law of war problems encountered by the ICRC in its practical work over the last two decades, and also on the work now being carried out to develop humanitarian law consistent with resolutions adopted at the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross.

THE ICRC AT A CONGRESS ON THE LAW OF WAR

The ICRC was invited to participate, as an observer, in the Congress of the International Society for Military Law and Law of War, which took place in Dublin from 25 to 30 May 1970.

The themes of the discussions attended by Mr. C. Pilloud, Director at the ICRC, were "Military Obedience in International Penal Law and in the Law of War" and "Concept of War and Combatant in Modern Conflicts". The last two days were devoted

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to meetings of working groups on the protection of human life in modern warfare.

Throughout the Congress participants demonstrated their support for the work undertaken by the ICRC for the development of humanitarian law. The International Society also decided to contribute to that work and to study some special points, namely treachery and stratagems of war, aircrews in distress, capture and the beginning of captivity, and open cities.

THE PALESTINE REFUGEES

During the third regional Conference of Ministers of Education and Ministers in charge of economic planning in the Arab States, which took place in January 1970 in Marrakesh, Mr. Maheu gave a few details of co-operation between UNESCO, of which he is Director-general, and the Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)¹. This co-operation is of considerable extent and humanitarian effect.

In 1968-1969, nearly 205,000 young refugees received primary or junior secondary education in the 466 UNRWA/UNESCO schools, which employ 5,790 teachers. The UNRWA/UNESCO Department of Education runs five teacher training colleges and an institute for the further training of underqualified teachers. In addition, six vocational and technical training centres, which in 1968-1969 had 2,340 pupils, will in the current year provide instruction for more than 3,000. Lastly, over 1,250 scholarships for higher education were awarded in 1968-1969.

¹ *Unesco Chronicle*, Paris 1970, No. 3.