

*This issue of the International Review of the Red Cross is the first prepared by the new editor but it clearly continues the course set by the previous editors, in accordance with the Review's terms of reference:*

- to be a forum for reflection and comment and serve as a reference work on the mission and guiding principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;*
- to be a specialized journal in the field of humanitarian law and of humanitarian action in general; and*
- to serve as the official publication of the International Committee of the Red Cross.*

*In her article "ICRC neutrality and neutrality in humanitarian assistance", Denise Plattner helps to clarify what the term "neutrality" means for humanitarian action. François Bugnion, in his article "The arrival of Bourbaki's army at Les Verrières", recounts an event which initially was of importance for the history of Switzerland in the nineteenth century, but he goes on to demonstrate how this event influenced the development of protection under international law for soldiers interned in neutral States.*

*The section headed "In the Red Cross and Red Crescent world" continues and concludes the publication, begun in the previous issue, of texts and commentaries on the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Geneva 1995).*

*The texts published under the title "Reports and documents" are all closely connected with questions concerning the implementation of international humanitarian law. In the future, this section will be expanded. The book reviews, too, will give our readers an insight into how international humanitarian law works in practice.*

*Finally, proof that we are moving with the times: the Review is on Internet!*

*One section, "Letters to the Editor", is still missing in the Review. We do not simply want to impart information, but also to provide, as mentioned above, a forum for discussion, criticism and other contributions. In future issues, adequate space will be left for readers to air their views.*

*The Review*

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