

COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

As it has done every year since 1969, the International Institute of Human Rights, in July, organized a study session, its sixth, and in July and August conducted other courses at the International Training Center for University Human Rights Teaching, in Strasbourg.

Every year, more and more participants have attended these courses on international humanitarian law and the comparative law of human rights. Special courses were given this year on the rights of women.

Since 1972, the International Institute of Human Rights has co-operated with the Henry Dunant Institute in organizing the section of the session dealing with international humanitarian law. Some of these courses have been published in the "Teneat Lex Gladium" series put out by the Henry Dunant Institute. The latter organization has regularly convened seminars on the application of humanitarian law.

The first part of the course on international humanitarian law was given this year by Dr. Y. Dinstein, professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Tel Aviv. His five-lesson general course was given under the title, "The Law of Armed Conflicts and Human Rights: Convergence or Integration". Dr. Dinstein analysed human rights and international humanitarian law. He insisted that the two must never be confused.

To begin with, he said, there cannot be complete integration of the law of armed conflicts with human rights; secondly, some human rights are affirmed in the law of armed conflicts; thirdly, there are human rights which have no relation to the law of armed conflicts and, on the other hand, there are some provisions of the law of war which accord rights to States rather than to individuals.

Dr. Dinstein also said that international humanitarian law is moved by two magnetic poles: military necessity and humanitarianism. This he said is a realistic evolution which assures humanitarian law of effective application.

Professor J. Patrnoġic, Vice-President of the International Institute of Human Rights, of San Remo, gave a course on the protection of people in natural disasters. This was believed to be the first time that a legal analysis was presented of this problem and of the existing regulations concerning it. Recalling the principles and basic rules of international protection, the work of the Red Cross and the role of the United Nations in protection and assistance, Professor Patrnoġic said that "relief actions deserve the particular attention of the international community, not only for humanitarian motives and objectives but also because they involve concrete and effective applications of the fundamental rights of man."

In order to draft an international code of principles for the protection of people during natural disasters, he said, it was necessary to make a comparative analysis of national legal provisions concerning relief, to "codify" the procedures and experiences of relief organizations and bring together the principles and international rules, existing in various documents, concerning international protection in the event of natural disasters and assistance to the victims of such disasters.

The third course dealt with respect for human rights under special circumstances, due to under-development, international or non-international armed conflicts, internal disorders, etc.

Mr. S. P. Marks, of the Unesco Department of Social Science, sought to demonstrate and illustrate the relationship between international human rights and international humanitarian law, with regard to each type of conflict and, particularly, the standards applicable under exceptional circumstances.

Mr. F. Kalshoven, Reader in International Law at the University of Leyden, Netherlands, and Mr. J. Toman, Research Director of the Henry Dunant Institute, presided over seminars on the application of humanitarian law.

The International Institute of Human Rights is now preparing the seventh study session, which is to take place in Strasbourg from 5 to 30 July 1976,¹ part of which will be devoted to the protection of detainees and human rights. The section concerning international

¹ The programme of courses and registration forms for the Seventh Study Session may be obtained from the International Institute of Human Rights, 6 Place de Bordeaux, 67000 Strasbourg.

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humanitarian law will deal with the problems of international application of the Geneva Conventions and with national liberation movements, resistance organizations and the law of armed conflicts. This will be introduced by a lecture on recent developments in international humanitarian law by Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC and Director of the Henry Dunant Institute.

J. T.
