

A new ICRC publication in Arabic

The ICRC has just produced an Arabic version of "The Doctor in the Geneva Conventions of 1949"¹. This had previously been published in English, French, German and Spanish, and is now one more of the long list of ICRC publications in Arabic.

The purpose of this study is to explain in as simple a manner as possible the various rules of the Geneva Conventions which concern medical personnel in general and doctors in particular. Civilian, as well as military doctors will readily find succinct replies to questions which might daily confront them in the exercise of their profession in time of conflict.

After a number of essential definitions, the author examines some general principles of overriding importance in the four Conventions. He then considers the duties incumbent specifically on medical personnel in time of peace and leads up to the rules which apply during hostilities. Next some special problems are discussed, such as "hospital and safety zones and localities", "Mixed Medical Commissions", and the repression of abuses and infringements.

Signing of Protocols

The Protocols adopted by the Diplomatic Conference on 8 June 1977 were opened for signature at Berne, on 12 December 1977 for a period of twelve months, in accordance with their provisions.

On that date, at a ceremony presided by the Swiss Federal Councillor, Mr. Pierre Graber, who was also the Chairman of the Diplomatic Conference, the two Protocols were signed by the plenipotentiaries of forty-four States, including the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In addition, two countries (the Philippines and Viet Nam) signed Protocol I.

¹ Ed. ICRC, Geneva, 1977, 82 pp. (Sw.fr. 8.—)