

cide", put forward in an individual capacity by the American legal expert Richard A. Falk.

Conventional weapons and trade in them are the subject of Chapter Five. The sixth deals with the dynamics of the arms race (pressures arising from opportunities created by technological advances; reactions and counter-reactions caused by the arsenals of potential enemies) and with military research and development. The seventh outlines the economic and social consequences of arms deals.

The eighth and last chapter of this well-documented study looks at the fundamental question of arms control and disarmament. Efforts being made in this field are carefully weighed and analysed. The final part of the chapter examines the laws of war prohibiting or limiting the use of "dubious" weapons—"dubious" being the word used to describe those weapons which might belong in the categories prohibited by the laws of humanity. Any improvement in the law of war will consist mainly in the reaffirmation and clearer definition of laws derived from existing principles, and this the authors attempt to do. It must also take into account principles whose importance has become manifest only recently, for example, the principle that the survival of the human race must take priority over national interests, and the principle that the environment must be protected.

The many tables add to the value of this work, which will certainly become an indispensable aid to all those studying the problems of disarmament and its associated subjects.

Y. S.

International Instrument for Nurses, *International Nursing Review*, Geneva, No 5.

Official preparation of an international instrument on the conditions of work and life of nursing personnel began at the ILO's International Labour Conference held in Geneva, June 2-23.

48 nurses from 34 countries attended the conference as delegates or advisers to government, worker or employer groups, or as observers.

"The nurses made outstanding contributions to the discussions of the Committee on Nursing Personnel and had a tremendous impact on the meeting", says ICN Executive Director Adele Herwitz.

"Nurses expressed their opinions very clearly and were able to bring other delegates to a clearer understanding of the special problems facing the nursing profession. This conference was a perfect illustration of the need for nurses to attend such meetings in order to speak authoritatively for their profession and to defend their rights."

The proposed conclusions adopted in June will be sent by ILO to governments for their comments. A report will then go to the 1977 International Labour Conference, which will hold a second and final discussion on the whole subject.

The preliminary conclusions drawn by this year's conference include the statement that nurses should be able to refuse to perform specific duties where performance would conflict with their religious, moral or ethical convictions, provided they inform their supervisor in good time and are satisfied that nursing care is ensured. If this clause is adopted by next year's conference, says ILO, it will be the first time that such a conscience clause has featured in an ILO standard.

Other significant recommendations include two relating to career development and remuneration. It was agreed that measures should be taken to give nursing personnel reasonable career prospects by providing for a sufficiently varied and open range of possibilities of professional advancement, leadership positions in administration, education and research, and that remuneration should be commensurate with nurses' "needs, qualifications, responsibilities, duties and experience". Remuneration should take account of the constraints and hazards inherent in the profession and should be fixed at levels likely to attract persons to and retain them in the profession.

The proposed conclusions adopted this year cover the following specific subjects: policy concerning nursing services and nursing personnel; education and training; practice of the nursing profession; participation; career development; remuneration; working time and rest periods; occupational health protection; social security; special employment arrangements; nursing students and international cooperation.

ICN is asking its member associations to contact government authorities in their respective countries to voice the nursing profession's support of the proposed conclusions, with a view to ensuring adoption of an international instrument next year by ILO Member States. National associations will also seek to have nurses included in government, worker and employer delegations again next year.
