

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

AN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION RESOLUTION

The Inter-Parliamentary Union had included on the agenda of the meetings it convened in Vienna for the 7-13 April 1969, the item: " Protection of the Essential Rights of the Human Being in Armed Conflicts ".

The International Committee of the Red Cross had been invited to give an introductory address; this was delivered by Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director, to the Parliamentary and Juridical Committee. After a cogent debate, the drawing up of a resolution was confided to one of the participants. This was adopted on 11 April by the Inter-Parliamentary Council, viz:

The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

Noting the deliberations of the Parliamentary and Juridical Committee on the " Protection of the Essential Rights of the Human Being in Armed Conflicts ",

Aware of the increasing gravity of the problems which have arisen in this connection and of the growing concern they are causing,

Noting further Resolution XXIII on respect for human rights during an armed conflict, adopted in Teheran on May 12, 1968, by the International Conference on Human Rights, and Resolution 2444, adopted on the subject by the United Nations General Assembly,

Calls upon all Parliaments :

- 1. To exercise their influence to ensure full application of and strict respect for all international conventions and rules of a humanitarian nature ;*

MISCELLANEOUS

- 2. To encourage and support the action undertaken by the ICRC and the United Nations to secure the reinforcement of humanitarian principles and the development of their juridical and practical consequences.*

As can be seen, this resolution is important for the ICRC. It is an encouragement in the Committee's present work and supports its efforts to bring about a more widespread and stricter application of the Geneva Conventions and a reform of the law of war.

IN MEMORY OF ALLIED AIR CREWS WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY

A moving ceremony took place in London on 22 March 1969 in memory of allied air crews who died in captivity during the Second World War. Dr. Maurice Rossel, ICRC delegate who visited more than a hundred prisoner of war camps during his missions in Germany represented the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The date chosen for this ceremony in London, at the Church of St. Clement Danes, which was seriously damaged by bombs and has been reconstructed and is now the "temple" of the Royal Air Force, almost coincided with the 25th anniversary of the large-scale escape of allied air crews from "Stalag Luft III", at Sagan, on 25 April 1944. Fifty of them, on recapture, were executed.

At a meeting after the religious service, Mr. Y. du Guerny, of the ICRC Information Service, handed relatives copies of capture cards concerning these victims and which are included in the records of the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.
