

## MISCELLANEOUS

The world is irresistibly impelled towards unity today but two conditions must be satisfied before a world order can emerge. The first is the guarantee of full cultural autonomy and freedom to even the smallest constituent unit of mankind. One of the most fascinating developments in the last fifty years has been the emergence of giant powers accompanied by an insistent demand for greater autonomy by smaller and smaller constituent units. The second condition is the creation of a body of enlightened opinion throughout the world. Civil authority gained in power as its impartiality was increasingly recognized. The world authority will also acquire greater acceptance by ensuring justice and equitable consideration for all.

Gandhi was a revolutionary who sought to transform human nature itself. He was also a realist and knew that people would judge his recipes by their results. He therefore began with the individual and sought to change him first. He believed that the smallest beginning may lead to the most far-reaching consequences....”

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## CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WARFARE

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom held a conference in London from 21-23 November on biological and chemical warfare. The ICRC was represented with observer status by Mr. Jean Mirimanoff, lawyer, member of the Legal Department. This question was one which the ICRC was requested to give particular attention by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross in its Resolution XIV on weapons of mass destruction.

The authors of the papers submitted at the London conference, some of them eminent scientists from various countries, aimed especially at analyzing the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on biological and chemical weapons and their effects,<sup>1</sup> and also considered the position of governments in relation to warfare of this kind.

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<sup>1</sup> A/7575, 1.7.1969. The question of general and full disarmament: Secretary-General's report on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and their effects.

Several resolutions were adopted, one of which invited governments to subscribe to the three propositions contained in the foreword to U Thant's report, urging the U.N. Member States:

1. To renew the appeal to all States to accede to the Geneva Protocol of 1925;
2. To make a clear affirmation that the prohibition contained in the Geneva Protocol applies to the use in war of all chemical, bacteriological and biological agents (including tear gas and other harassing agents), which now exist or which may be developed in the future;
3. To call upon all countries to reach agreement to halt the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical and bacteriological (biological) agents for purposes of war and to achieve their effective elimination from the arsenal of weapons.

It was also decided to set up a committee for the promotion of the movement against biological and chemical weapons.

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### **TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF PROSTITUTION**

*International Review*, in November 1968, included an article on the humanitarian personality of Josephine Butler who campaigned so courageously in the defence of the human being and human dignity. In the same issue we called attention to the vote by the U.N. General Assembly on 2 December 1949 in favour of an important convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of Prostitution of Others.

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of that convention, two international institutions launched an appeal,<sup>1</sup> concluding:

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<sup>1</sup> See *Abolitionist Review*, Geneva, October-December 1969.