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“...The impulse towards the Convention given by the I.A.F. Congresses of 1877 and 1889, to which the International Bureau for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons had given decisive importance by its Congresses from 1899 to 1937, were crowned in the framework of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in the previous year.

Twenty years have passed. Only 39 States have bound themselves by this Convention, of which two are permanent members of the Security Council. The legislation of numerous others is abolitionist, even prohibitionist; the classic Traffic in Persons has diminished, but it has not disappeared, and the exploitation of Prostitution continues to flourish in numerous countries, for want of an effective campaign against it.

The adhesion to the Convention and the adoption of adequate international laws constitute the conditions of an effective struggle against a curse which, in effect, deprives numerous human beings of their basic Human Rights. That is why, following directly on the International Human Rights Year, the International Bureau for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and the International Abolitionist Federation address an urgent appeal to all Governments which have not yet adhered to the Convention, inviting them at once to carry out the procedures appropriate to their constitutions to make such an adhesion. The two organisations appeal to Parliaments to authorise such adhesions and to vote effective laws to implement them. They remind all concerned that the United Nations has classed this Convention in the list of international instruments in the field of the Rights of Man and also among the Conventions which tend to abolish Slavery...”

PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In 1968, for the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, *International Review* published several studies which educed the relationship existing between efforts to protect essential human rights and the Geneva Conventions. It therefore appears appropriate to men-

tion that the review “ *Pensée juridique* ”, the organ of the Institute of Legal Science of the Bulgarian Academy of Science in Sofia, has devoted two articles to this question. One is entitled “ International Law Regulation of Human Rights ” by Doctor Sava Penkov, legal adviser to the Bulgarian Red Cross.

This is a monograph which is both historical and critical. In it, Dr. Penkov, after a paragraph on the first treaties granting rights to religious minorities in the XVIIth century, analyses and comments on progress accomplished in the defence of human rights since the foundation of the International Labour Office, the League of Nations and the United Nations Organization. He makes chronological reference to two series of texts on human rights: the treaties adopted by Member States, under the auspices of the Organizations mentioned above, and the Declarations and statutes adopted by those Organizations themselves. He concludes his article as follows:

“ If from a purely formal, legal and theoretical viewpoint we consider everything that has been achieved so far in regulations on human rights and freedoms, we observe that considerable progress has been made. The multiplicity of international agreements on human rights and freedoms is sufficient to demonstrate that the progressive development of international law has benefited from a contribution to theory, particularly so far as international humanitarian law and its codification is concerned. It is however evident that additional provisions are essential for further progress. It is for that reason that the United Nations invited Member States to commemorate the International Human Rights Year (1968) by revising various national legislations and bringing them into line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with international agreements so far adopted. The Organization also requested its Member States to ratify all Conventions relating to human rights and to lose no time in signing and ratifying all the international agreements. In his speech at the opening of the Human Rights Conference in Paris from 16 to 20 December 1968, the United Nations Secretary-General rightly pointed out that the Member States had all adopted or signed a considerable number of texts aimed at giving concrete form to the provisions of the

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Universal Declaration, but that the number of ratifications was still too few.

“It is by developing, strengthening and effectively applying the international regulations on human rights that a genuine contribution will be made to guaranteeing those rights, to the development of bonds of friendship among the nations and to the consolidation of the collective security organization, whilst at the same time preserving world peace.”