

# XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross (Teheran, 8-15 November 1973)

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross**

Band (Jahr): - **(1973)**

PDF erstellt am: **20.09.2024**

## **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

## **Haftungsausschluss**

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

weapons liable to cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects, and to analyse the injuries they cause to the human body.

The report, published by the ICRC in English, French and Spanish (a German translation was made by experts in the Federal Republic of Germany), was intended for anyone interested in the subject, even if not an expert on such problems. It was sent to all States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. It was also supplied to the General Assembly of the United Nations and the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross.

The report is a compilation of legal, military and medical data designed to facilitate any subsequent study of the question of weapons, for international regulations prohibiting or limiting the use of some of those weapons.

### **XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross (Teheran, 8-15 November 1973)**

The agenda of the Commission on International Humanitarian Law of the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross included the question of the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts. Discussions mainly concerned the two draft Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. In accordance with a decision adopted by the Commission, instead of being put to the vote the various amendments proposed to the draft Protocols were shown in a report drawn up by the ICRC for the Diplomatic Conference.

#### *COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW*

This Commission, which was chaired by Mr. Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC, met from 8 to 12 November. At the close of the discussions on the two draft Protocols, the Commission adopted three resolutions. The first, entitled *Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts*, appealed for the widest and swiftest adoption of the two Protocols. The second, entitled *Prohibition or Restriction of Use of Certain Weapons*, urged the Diplomatic Conference—without prejudice to its work on the two draft Protocols submitted by the ICRC—to

begin consideration of the question of prohibition or restriction of the use of conventional weapons which may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects, and invited the ICRC to call in 1974 a conference of government experts to study in depth the question of prohibition or restriction of the use of such weapons. The third, entitled *Reinforcement in the Additional Protocols of the role of National Societies*, requested the Diplomatic Conference to introduce appropriate provisions to strengthen the role and facilitate the humanitarian activities of National Societies and of their federation. Those resolutions were adopted unchanged at the final plenary meeting of the Conference.

*REPORT ON THE STUDY OF THE DRAFT PROTOCOLS BY THE  
XXIIInd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS*

This report, which was prepared for the Diplomatic Conference, is a summary record of the discussions of the Commission on International Humanitarian Law regarding the draft Protocols. It refers to the views expressed and to the written or oral amendments submitted to the Commission. Appended to the report are the written amendments, the Commission's report and the resolutions adopted.

### **Relations with the United Nations**

Co-operation with the United Nations in the sphere of international humanitarian law, instituted several years ago, was continued.

The proceedings of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, held in New York from 18 September to 18 December 1973, were followed by Mr. A. Dominique Micheli, ICRC delegate to international organizations, assisted by Mr. Zuger and Mr. Jaquinet. In addition, Mrs. Bindschedler-Robert, a member of the ICRC, went to New York and attended the Sixth Committee's debates on "Respect for human rights in armed conflicts".

On the recommendation of the First Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3076 (XXVIII) (*Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use*). This resolution welcomed the proposals elaborated by the International Committee of the Red Cross as a basis for discussion at the Diplomatic Conference; took note of the invitation issued by the XXIIInd Inter-

national Conference of the Red Cross to the International Committee of the Red Cross to call, in 1974, a conference of government experts to study in depth the question of the prohibition or restriction of the use of weapons which may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects; invited the Diplomatic Conference to consider—without prejudice to its examination of the draft Protocols—the question of the use of napalm, other incendiary weapons, and other weapons, and to seek agreement on rules prohibiting or restricting the use of such weapons; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the work of the Conference relevant to the resolution.

In resolution 3058 (XXVIII) (*Protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict*), adopted on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to transmit to the Diplomatic Conference the draft articles and amendments proposed, and to invite the Diplomatic Conference to submit its comments and advice on the texts.

In resolution 3102 (XXVIII) (*Respect for human rights in armed conflicts*), adopted on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the General Assembly welcomed the convocation by the Swiss Federal Council of the first session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law; welcomed “as an excellent basis for discussion at this Conference the draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross”; noted resolutions adopted by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul in 1969, and the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross at Teheran in 1973; recalled its resolution on napalm and other incendiary weapons; “urged” that the national liberation movements recognized by the various regional intergovernmental organizations concerned be invited to participate in the Diplomatic Conference as observers in accordance with the practice of the United Nations; requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the proceedings and results of the Diplomatic Conference; and decided to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-ninth session the item “Respect for human rights in armed conflicts”.

Lastly, resolution 3103 (XXVIII) (*Basic principles of the legal status of the combatants struggling against colonial and alien domination and racist régimes*) restated the substance of previous resolutions regarding the application of the Geneva Conventions to situations resulting from anti-colonial and anti-racist struggles, particularly the treatment of such combatants in case of capture.

### **Relations with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations**

In connection with its work for the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law, the ICRC was in contact with organizations such as:

- *Council of Europe*: Statements on the draft Protocols were submitted, one of them by Mr. Pilloud, Director of the Department of Principles and Law, to the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the Council of Europe's Legal Committee, at San Remo on 8 July, and the other by Mr. Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC, to the Population and Refugees Committee of the Council of Europe, in Geneva on 4 September. In addition, Mr. A. Dominique Micheli, delegate to international organizations, maintained contact with the Council of Europe.
- *Group of Non-Governmental Organizations*: ICRC representatives were on various occasions in touch with this working group, which was set up for the specific purpose of studying and commenting on the draft Protocols.

The ICRC was also represented at the following meetings:

- *Seminar on International Humanitarian Law*, at Oslo, organized by the Norwegian Red Cross for nine African liberation movements (ANC, FLNA, FRELIMO, MPLA, PAC, PAIGC, SWAPO, ZANU and ZAPU).
- *Vlth International Congress of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War*: Several items on the agenda of the Congress held in The Hague from 21 to 25 May were closely connected with ICRC work on the two draft Protocols.
- *World Veterans' Federation*: The Federation invited the ICRC to state its views at a meeting held by the working group in

Belgrade, on 4 and 5 September, and to attend its general assembly in Paris, from 20 to 28 November. At those meetings the Federation studied various aspects of the draft Protocols and made some recommendations regarding their content.

- *Amnesty International*: With observer status, the ICRC attended Amnesty International's sixth Council Meeting<sup>1</sup> in Vienna, from 13 to 16 September, and the International Conference on the Abolition of Torture, held in Paris on 10 and 11 December.
- *Colloquium on Spiritual and Intellectual Assistance in Time of Armed Conflicts and Civil Disturbances*:<sup>1</sup> The colloquium, which was convened jointly by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, and the International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg, was held in Milan from 21 to 23 September.

## XXII<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

The XXII<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross, organized in exemplary fashion by the Red Lion and Sun Society, took place in the Majlis (Parliament Building) at Teheran from 8 to 15 November 1973. It was attended by some 700 delegates from 78 governments, the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and 98 National Societies, and by observers from a score of international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

At the opening ceremony in Roudaki Hall (opera), Their Imperial Majesties the Shahanshah Aryamehr and the Shahbanou Farah, and Her Imperial Highness Princess Chams Pahlavi, President of the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, were greeted by Angela, Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission, Dr. Eric Martin, President of the ICRC, Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the League, H.E. Amir Abbas Hoveyda, Prime Minister, and other high officials. The addresses delivered during the ceremony were published in the December 1973 issue of *International Review of the Red Cross*.

---

<sup>1</sup> The *International Review of the Red Cross* reported on the meetings in its July, October and November issues.



As customary, the Red Cross international institutions had prepared the documentary material which was the basis for the Conference proceedings. The ICRC had drawn up eleven reports, six of them jointly with the League.

In plenary, under the chairmanship of H. E. Mr. Jaffar Sharif Emami, President of the Senate, the Conference split into three commissions:<sup>1</sup> the Commission on International Humanitarian Law, the General Commission, and the Commission on Community Services.

The work of the *Commission on International Humanitarian Law*, in preparation for the 1974 Diplomatic Conference, is summarized on page 70 of this report.

After considering the ICRC's report on its activities since 1969, the *General Commission* approved a resolution in support of the ICRC's attitude and affirming the need to apply the Geneva Conventions without posing conditions and demands which are alien to the spirit of those Conventions.

With respect in particular to the work of the ICRC in the Middle East, two resolutions were adopted: one calls upon the parties concerned to acknowledge their obligations in the occupied territories under the Fourth Geneva Convention; the second urges all parties to the conflict in the Middle East to apply fully the Geneva Conventions, including the provisions on the treatment of prisoners of war, the wounded and the sick, and the civilian victims of the conflict.

Another resolution appeals to all concerned to co-operate in accounting for the dead and the missing in armed conflicts.

After submitting the report of the Standing Commission, Lady Limerick proposed a resolution relating to the revision of National Society statutes, to enable the ICRC and the League to intervene if changes incompatible with Red Cross principles were introduced by the Societies: the resolution was accepted.

The General Commission adopted several other resolutions, concerning Relief, Promotion of the Red Cross Image, and The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace.

---

<sup>1</sup> A summary of the work of the Commissions, and the nineteen resolutions adopted by the XXII<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross, were published in the January 1974 issue of *International Review of the Red Cross*.

Of concern to the *Commission on Community Services* were: the Red Cross contribution to national development plans; Service to the Community: health (including blood transfusion), welfare work, youth; the Red Cross and the environment. Three resolutions on these questions were adopted.

The plenary meeting of the Conference had also to elect five members of the Standing Commission to work with the four *ex-officio* members from the ICRC and the League for the period 1973-77. Mr. G. Aitken (Canada), Mrs. A. F. Issa-el-Khoury (Lebanon), Sir G. Newman-Morris (Australia), Sir E. Shuckburgh (United Kingdom) and Dr. Nadejda V. Troyan (USSR) were elected. During its first meeting, the Commission elected Sir G. Newman-Morris as its Chairman, and Mrs. A. F. Issa-el-Khoury as its Vice-Chairman.

At the closing ceremony of the Conference, Dr. Eric Martin and Mr. José Barroso expressed their warm thanks to the Government and Red Lion and Sun of Iran for the hospitality extended to the Conference, while the Iranian Prime Minister, H. E. Amir Abbas Hoveyda, stressed the constructive results achieved in Teheran.

## DISSEMINATION AND DOCUMENTATION

### **Dissemination of Red Cross principles and the Geneva Conventions**

#### *MEMORANDUM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS*

In its endeavour to ensure the implementation and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC sent the governments of the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions, on 15 August 1972, a memorandum requesting them to inform it of any measures taken since 1969 with a view to disseminating the Conventions among the armed forces and the civilian population. National Societies, which were informed of this, also were asked to provide the ICRC with a report on their own activities in that field.

In 1973, thirty-six governments and sixty-one National Societies answered the ICRC's memorandum. These replies were embodied in a *Report on the implementation and dissemination of the Geneva*