

acts covered by the Geneva Convention and Protocols. The Western countries prefer to deal with this issue under the scope of the application article so that the proposed hostage-taking convention would be seen as supplementing relevant existing international law. The significance of the non-aligned position derives from the fact that as a result of the adoption of Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions, wars of national liberation have now been included within the definition of "armed conflicts". The effect of the non-aligned draft would thus be to exempt from the application the proposed hostage-taking convention (through exclusion from the definition) acts carried out in furtherance of the objective of national liberation.

The second area of progress relates to the drafting of a consolidated text for most of the other articles in the Convention. These include provisions on establishing jurisdiction over the offence, the enactment of adequate penalties in domestic law and the obligation to extradite or prosecute offenders.

The main outstanding issue to be resolved relates to a proposal on "state" hostage-taking which is another illustration of the divergence of views discussed above with respect to "state" terrorism. Despite these difficulties, it is hoped that at its next session in 1979, the Ad Hoc Committee can complete its work on the Draft Convention.