

would then be issued by the competent authorities of States Parties to the Convention. When a journalist possessing a card is in the territory of a State Party where there is an armed conflict, States Parties, and as far as possible all parties to the conflict, would then be required to, inter alia, "do all that is necessary to protect him from the danger of death or injury or from any other danger inherent in the conflict...".

Canada was one of a number of countries which expressed the fear that the granting of special protection to an increasing number of categories might weaken the general protection due to the civilian population (including journalists) by reason of the 1949 Geneva Conventions (especially the Fourth Convention on Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War) and the Protocols which are now being worked out. However, Canada also realizes that it is in the common interest to facilitate the spread of information concerning armed conflicts in order to enhance the possibilities for settling disputes peacefully as well as to contribute to the more effective implementation of humanitarian law in armed conflicts. Moreover, journalists on dangerous missions differ from the general civilian population in that journalists must run risks voluntarily whereas civilians are usually involuntary victims of circumstances beyond their control.

The Second ICRC Conference of Government Experts was not able to spend much time on the protection of journalists. Since it appears that a majority of states believes that there should be a separate convention granting special protection to journalists, the Canadian Delegation to the 1972 session of the U.N. General Assembly's Third Committee will be cooperating with other delegations in proposing improvements to the Draft Convention to ensure that the details of the special protection afforded to journalists will be realistic and effective.

(c) Conventional Weapons and the Civilian Population

At the First ICRC Conference of Government Experts a number of countries led by Sweden proposed that the use of types of conventional weapons which are particularly dangerous to civilians should be outlawed in one of the protocols now being worked out to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. During consideration of "Human Rights in Armed Conflicts" in the Third Committee at the 1971 session of the U.N. General Assembly, Sweden tabled a resolution which, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on napalm and other incendiary weapons, and invited the Second ICRC Conference "to devote special attention to... legal restraints and restrictions on certain methods of warfare and weapons that have proved particularly perilous to civilians...". The Secretary-General's report on napalm and other incendiary weapons, which has just been published, will be considered at the 1972 session of the U.N. General Assembly in the First (Disarmament) Committee.

At the Second ICRC Conference of Government Experts Sweden and 18 other countries proposed that "the ICRC should arrange a special meeting to consult with legal, military and medical experts on the question of express prohibitions or limitations of use of such conventional weapons as may cause unnecessary suffering or be indiscriminate in their effect". The Canadian intervention on this question was influential in persuading the ICRC that its report should confine itself to creating a solid factual basis for subsequent discussion of this subject in the most appropriate forum. This was consistent with the position taken in the Canadian comments on "Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts" submitted to the U.N. Secretary-General in June, 1971