

for combatants who had respected the essential provisions of the laws of armed conflict. Others considered that the execution of combatants should simply be suspended until the termination of hostilities in the expectation that a general amnesty would then be granted.

Although many outstanding points remained to be resolved, considerable progress was registered at the Second ICRC Conference in further identifying and clarifying the main issues. On the basis of the work of the Second Conference and consideration of this subject in the Sixth (Legal) Committee at the 1972 session of the U.N. General Assembly, the ICRC has recently revised its two draft protocols and distributed them to States Parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. The Swiss Government, in collaboration with the ICRC, has convened a diplomatic conference in Geneva from February 22 to March 28, 1974 which, it is hoped, will adopt final versions of the two protocols. The revised protocols will be one of the subjects which will be examined at the 22nd International Conference of the Red Cross in Tehran in November, 1973.

(b) Draft Convention on Protection of Journalists

For the past three years, spearheaded by France, the United Nations General Assembly's Commission on Human Rights and Third Committee have been elaborating a Draft Convention on the Protection of Journalists Engaged in Dangerous Professional Missions in Areas of Armed 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.