

and landscape built into them and upon them. This is a kind of architecture that takes us back to the grandeur and scale of medieval building, of castles and cathedrals and great stone walls rising like cliffs from the earth, mellowing with the passage of time, with the rhythm of the seasons and the evolving shapes of trees and garden plants. Perhaps this is a direction in which urban architecture may develop, now that the last possible dramatic effect has been squeezed out of the steel and glass towers of Mies van der Rohe, with all their austere and puritanical elegance. The firm of Webb, Zerafa, Menkes and Housden is to be congratulated for this essay in a new and more human kind of city-scape.

There has been criticism of the site chosen for the External Affairs headquarters, standing at the Ontario end of the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge and caught in the network of approach ramps. It has also been said that the traffic generated by a work force of 3,200 people will spoil the rather quiet and dignified character of Sussex Drive and put an unmanageable load on the neighbourhood streets of New Edinburgh and on the arterial roads linked to the bridge. There are obvious difficulties ahead and the External Affairs staff will have to accept the limitations of parking and traffic space; there are parking spaces for 575 cars and some bicycles. The staff will learn to act more like those who work in other Capital cities that do not have the same generous acres of car-parking space that Ottawa civil servants have

customarily enjoyed but have been such a blight on the city. In the future, more Ottawa people will have to ride on public vehicles.

The capital city of a democratic country is a place where people go to rediscover the essential character of their nation, its history, its aspirations and its place in the world. It is one of the functions of Ottawa (and of Hull, too) to help Canadians understand their own country better, how its government works domestically and how its relations with the rest of the world are managed. The new External Affairs building has a special qualification for this process of internal communication because it is one of the very few public-service buildings in the Capital that has been sensitively designed to fit a particular complex of departmental functions. Most government buildings are faceless boxes filled with interchangeable bureaucrats, who, so far as the expressiveness of the building goes, could just as well be concerned with agriculture, defence, finance or welfare. In its new headquarters it will be possible for External Affairs to consider not only the department's working convenience and the favourable impression to be made on visiting diplomats; it should also be possible to consider the needs of the ultimate employer, the people of Canada, who come to their Capital wanting to find out what goes on here and how Canada looks out upon the rest of the world through the medium of this department.

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Next stage in humanitarian law

By D. M. Miller

Law is never wise but when merciful, but mercy has conditions; and that which is mercy to the myriads, may seem hard to the one; and that which seems hard to the one, may be mercy when viewed by the eye that looks on through eternity.

Bulwer Lytton

The four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, for the Protection of War Victims are widely known, if not as extensively understood or appreciated. Drafted in the rejuvenated "never-again" atmosphere of the post-Second World War period, they definitively codified and progressively developed important aspects of the international law of armed conflict.

Since 1949, however, the nature of war has changed dramatically, with the consequence that civilians have become more exposed to danger.

New forms of humanitarian action are urgently required to protect more effectively civilian populations against the dangers and destruction of modern means of warfare — against, of course, "the Bomb" but also against the all-too-frequent employment of "lesser conventional weaponry", more often than not in situations of "armed conflict not of an international character" in which terrorists, so-called guerrillas and irregular or regular armed forces act to the direct detriment of the civilian population.