

At the XXIIInd International Red Cross Conference held in Tehran in November 1973 a resolution was passed urging the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts to begin considering the question of the prohibition or restriction of use of conventional weapons which may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects (CUSHIE) weapons), without prejudice to its work on the two draft Additional Protocols. In addition, the resolution invited the ICRC to call, in 1974, a conference of government experts to study this whole question in depth. This resolution represents a compromise between the view that provisions banning specific weapons should be included in the draft Additional Protocols and the view that this question should not be discussed at all. The Canadian Delegation at this Conference was pleased with the resolution since it avoided the very real problem that to discuss prohibitions or restrictions of specific weapons in the Protocols would have jeopardized the success of any Diplomatic Conference called to consider the Protocols, and might prejudice the universality of acceptance of any Protocols adopted by such Diplomatic Conference.

At the opening session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts held in Geneva during February and March of 1974, a mandate and work programme, based largely upon a Canadian draft, for an ICRC meeting of government experts was approved. This meeting is to take place in Lucerne, Switzerland from September 24 to October 18, 1974, and will discuss the possible limitation or prohibition of the use of CUSHIE weapons. The mandate and work programme were established in the Ad Hoc Committee on Weapons where the Canadian representatives actively participated in the debate and "behind-the-scenes" negotiations. In debate, discussion of certain specific weapons which allegedly cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects took place and, not unnaturally, differing points of view were registered. Napalm, incendiary weapons and fleschettes