

the armed forces. There are, for example, prohibitions on collective punishment, attacks on civilians or starvation or displacement of the civilian population. As in the first Protocol, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population and installations containing dangerous forces are protected.

One of the most significant aspects of the Protocol is its attempt to deal with the bitterness and revenge which seem the inevitable consequence of civil war. It calls upon the authorities in power, at the end of hostilities to "grant the broadest possible amnesty to persons who have participated in the armed conflict".

The second Protocol, like the first, requires that only two instruments of ratification be deposited before its entry into force. It was believed that as few procedural obstacles as possible should be placed in the way of the application of this development of international law which has as its object the alleviation of the plight of the victims of armed conflict.

Prohibition of Certain Conventional Weapons

A number of delegations were strongly of the view that the new Protocols should incorporate prohibitions on the use of certain weapons. Other delegations, including that of Canada, argued that the issue of the prohibition of weapons lay outside the scope of what has been called the Geneva law and was basically a disarmament question and thus within the competence of other international fora.

A separate committee (the Ad Hoc Committee on Conventional Weapons) was established to study this question. It did not, however, engage in the drafting of any provisions for consideration by the Plenary for inclusion in the Protocols. Instead, it discussed a number of proposals and working papers on the use of certain weapons which were considered appropriate for prohibition. These included incendiary weapons, weapons which produce fragments not detectable by X-ray and mines and booby traps. In addition, fuel air explosives and small calibre projectiles were considered. The Committee compiled a comparative table of these proposals which should prove useful in any future discussions of this question.