

Convention on hijacking; and the draft Unlawful Interference Convention (to be subject of a diplomatic conference this September) will contribute substantially to maintaining and promoting safety in the air. As a major aviation country and as a member of the ICAO Council, Canada has been especially active in the field of international air law, one in which we did a lot of the pioneering work in the forties and fifties and to which we continue to attach a very high degree of importance.

There has recently been significant activity in the development of International Humanitarian Law which is generally based on the four Geneva Red Cross Conventions of 1949. Since that immediate post-war era, events have shown that the Conventions should be strengthened and extended, to make them more effective in the kinds of conflict that are all too prevalent today. In particular, Canada and a number of other countries would like to see the adoption of more comprehensive, internationally agreed standards of conduct with respect to civilian populations in non-international conflict situations, such as the recent war in Nigeria. At the 1969 International Red Cross Conference in Istanbul, the Canadian Delegation presented a number of proposals on the subject which received widespread support. The International Committee of the Red Cross has now convened a meeting of governmental experts on humanitarian law to take place in Geneva at the end of May. Canada will be taking an active part with a view to securing agreement on provisions which could be incorporated in one or more international accords, supplementing and augmenting the 1949 Conventions. The United Nations has also given this matter serious attention and its Secretariat has been working in close collaboration with the Red Cross and interested governments.

One other field of international endeavour which has become of special interest to Canada concerns international action to prevent and deter the kidnapping of diplomats and other related acts of terrorism. These types of unlawful acts place responsible governments in extremely difficult situations. In order to develop an international legal framework to deal with this threat to normal diplomatic activity, the Organization of American States and the Council of Europe have, independently, been examining the possibility of drafting international conventions. We are, of course, following these developments very closely and we have been in contact with the OAS and other governments so that Canadian views and interests will be taken into account.

All these activities I have been reviewing are directed towards fostering international co-operation and better regulating man's peaceful use of the substance and attributes of the world and universe in which we live. However, dissension, disagreement, and disputes are an inevitable part of international affairs as conducted by sovereign states. The years since the last world conflict have indeed witnessed some progress in providing for their pacific resolution. Nevertheless, it is a fact -- and current crises in several regions of the globe bear this illuminating testimony -- that we have not yet created nor established effective