

- d) If it is deemed desirable, recommending to the appropriate authorities to consider the convening of diplomatic conferences of states parties to the Geneva Conventions as well as other interested states in order to elaborate international legal instruments incorporating these proposals.

Canada had already, prior to the Istanbul Conference, developed in consultation with the Canadian Red Cross Society certain proposals aimed precisely at placing upon states the legal obligation to apply humanitarian standards to all disaster situations, whether natural in origin or arising out of conflicts, whether international or internal. In the Canadian view it is not enough to ask states to facilitate the provision of disaster relief. The time has come to make such action mandatory, in order, in the language of the resolution, to strengthen the effective protection of the fundamental rights of human beings.

The third resolution, intended primarily to follow up the last mentioned resolution, also co-sponsored by Canada, relates specifically to non-international armed conflicts. This resolution recalls the unfortunate fact that since the conclusion of the Geneva Conventions in 1949 non-international armed conflicts have been on the increase and have caused much suffering. The resolution makes specific reference to one of the key provisions contained in each of the four Geneva Red Cross Conventions, namely Article 3, which lays down minimal standards applicable to all conflict situations, but goes on to point out that experience has shown that the provision in question is not adequate, and that the Article in question requires to be made more specific and to be supplemented. In the operative part of the resolution, the International Committee of the Red Cross with the cooperation of governmental experts is requested to devote special attention to this problem within the framework of the general studies, already referred to, towards the development of humanitarian law. The resolution was passed with an overwhelming majority of 95 to 4 with 12 abstentions.

All Canadians are aware of the reasons why the U.N. is not necessarily the only forum for all types of activity aimed at contributing to peaceful relations and relief of human suffering. The Canadian Government has long recognized the tremendous service of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the national Red Cross societies