

ence. This the experts provided, often in bewildering abundance. The task of deciding how best to redraft some of the crucial points over which views differed widely will not be easy. However, the President of the ICRC announced in the final session of the conference that the results obtained were ample for the ICRC to recommend that the diplomatic conference be held in the near future after revised protocols have been presented to the twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross in Tehran in autumn 1973.

Provided the governments of states that are parties to the Geneva Conventions

prove willing, the diplomatic conference could crown one of the most significant advances in the progressive development and codification of international humanitarian law in the past 25 years. Certainly, the second Conference of Government Experts both expanded and strengthened the foundations laid at the first conference. It is worth remembering that the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law is a political as much as a juridical problem. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that most states approach the subject with considerable caution.

## New trends in international law

The Canadian Council on International Law, established in June of this year, met in Ottawa in mid-October to review a series of international legal issues in which Canada has major interests.

The Council is designed to provide a forum for Canadian academics active in public international law and organization and to facilitate closer contact between the academic community and government officials in the field. The Council also wants to broaden relations between Canadian international lawyers and interested individuals and organizations outside Canada.

In the Ottawa meeting, keyed to the theme "New Approaches to International Law", there was discussion of such questions as Canada's Arctic pollution-zone legislation, exclusive offshore fishing-zones, extended concepts of the territorial sea and internal waters and jurisdiction over the continental margin and deep-sea bed. Other issues under review included the right of self-defence in response to environmental threats, telecommunications and new techniques of surveillance and mass propaganda and acts of international terrorism by private groups and individuals.

The meeting attempted to take account of new forces and altered roles in the international community, with special attention to the impact of summit conferences, direct negotiation and agreement by the super-powers on global issues, the prospective role of the United Nations, the present relevance of the

International Law Commission and the future of the International Court of Justice.

The Council hopes to recommend measures for more effective operation of international organizations and to promote the imaginative use of peaceful methods of dispute settlement, including resort to the International Court of Justice.

Among those participating in the Ottawa sessions were Ambassador Arvid Pardo of Malta, perhaps the best known advocate of reform of the law of the sea; Professor Myres McDougal of Yale University, consultant to the U.S. State Department; Allan Gotlieb, Deputy Minister, federal Department of Communications; J. Alan Beesley, Legal Adviser to the Department of External Affairs; and Maxwell Cohen, Professor of International Law at McGill University. The President of the Canadian Council is Dean R. St. J. Macdonald of the faculty of Law, Dalhousie University.

The Council awarded medals in recognition of distinguished contributions to international law to Judge John E. Read, formerly of the International Court of Justice, and to Professor Percy E. Corbett, now of Princeton, New Jersey, and formerly of McGill University, a Canadian pioneer in international law.

The Council is planning to inaugurate a summer program in Canada on public international law modelled on the lines of the Hague Summer Academy.