

generally through consensus. The Canadian delegation found particularly encouraging the progress achieved in the study of Protocol II, since the adoption of a different protocol to cover situations of non-international armed conflict constitutes a major Canadian objective in this conference. This is, in fact, the only means of ensuring the application of international standards of humanitarian law to the greatest number of victims of armed conflicts in the present day.

The participation of 121 states and nine national-liberation movements in the conference demonstrates the importance the international community attaches to its successful outcome. In 1976, the development of international humanitarian law will be pursued in Lugano and Geneva. Government experts will meet a second time in Lugano in February to discuss conventional weapons, in preparation for the third session of the Diplomatic Conference, opening in Geneva on April 21 with the task of completing the formulation of draft additional protocols.

Privileges and immunities

On March 13 a UN plenary conference in Vienna, in which Canada took part, adopted the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations. This convention, which is the last of a series of international conventions in the field of diplomatic privileges and immunities, seeks to establish the privileges and immunities to be accorded to permanent missions accredited to international organizations and the privileges and immunities of delegates to international conferences. (The related conventions are the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the 1969 New York Convention on Special Missions.)

At the conference, divisions emerged between the traditional host states which, generally speaking, wished the convention to provide satisfactory safeguards against the abuse of privileges and immunities, and other states, which sought a maximum of privileges and immunities for their delegations to conferences. The latter group used its voting strength to eliminate or weaken those provisions that afforded to host states safeguards similar to those enjoyed by receiving states in bilateral diplomacy. The result is a convention that is

largely unsatisfactory from the host-state point of view, which Canada was not able to support in Vienna.

CSCE

The Bureau of Legal Affairs continued in 1975 to take an active interest in the legal aspects of the Conference on European Security and Co-operation, particularly in the continuing efforts of the conference to elaborate a set of principles to serve as a guide upon which relations among European states could be based. These principles are: sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty; refraining from the threat or use of force; inviolability of frontiers; territorial integrity of states; peaceful settlement of disputes; non-intervention in internal affairs; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedoms of thought, conscience, religion and belief; equal rights and self-determination of peoples; co-operation among states; and fulfilment of obligations under international law.

In terms of international law these principles are not new, for they can be found in earlier international instruments such as the UN Charter and the UN Declaration of Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations Among States. However, the aim of the conference was to elaborate these principles in a European context, so that they might serve as guidelines for relations among the participating countries. (see page 16)