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objective the formulation of principles to promote better relations among participating states and to foster conditions in which their people could live in peace, free from threats against their security. Canada, as a member of NATO and closely sharing European concerns, has played an interested and active role in all aspects of the conference.

The Legal Bureau's involvement, in consultation with the Department's East European Division, has been primarily in the legal aspects of the political and military concerns of the conference, more specifically the elaboration of a number of principles relating to European security and co-operation. These principles at the end of 1974 were nearing the final stages of elaboration by the conference under the following headings:

- sovereign equality, respect for 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 freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief;
- equal rights and self-determination of peoples;
- co-operation among states;
- fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law.

In addition there were three proposals: a "floating" text on peaceful change of frontiers, a proposal providing for a distinctly European mechanism of peacefully settling disputes, and a proposed paragraph prohibiting the use of force.

The principles are not new in terms of international law and indeed 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, it has been the aim of the conference to

elaborate these principles in a European context so that they might serve as a guide to relations among that group of states. At the end of the 1974 session the conference had reached tentative agreement on the texts of most of the principles, although differences on particular aspects of some of them had yet to be resolved.

## International humanitarian law in armed conflicts

The Department, in close co-operation with the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Department of National Defence, participated actively in 1974 in international efforts to develop and reaffirm international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts. Canadian legal experts continued with colleagues from other nations and with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to further refine two draft additional protocols designed to reaffirm and update the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Early in 1974 the first session of the Diplomatic Conference on Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts was held in Geneva. Although much of this session was devoted to procedural arrangements and the establishment of drafting committees, some progress was made toward achieving a generally-acceptable first protocol dealing with victims of international armed conflicts. Canada was also to place on record in the Ad Hoc Committee on Weapons the positive attitude of the Canadian Government toward the search for rules prohibiting or restricting the use of conventional weapons that cause unnecessary suffering or that have indiscriminate effect.

With the results of the first session behind them, experts pursued their efforts both within Canada and in various meetings abroad in preparation for a second session of the Diplomatic Conference, to be held in