

and equipment. It also contains new provisions on civil defence and relief to the civilian population. One of the more interesting articles in this area is a provision which limits and regulates the conditions under which medical experimentation, organ and tissue transplants and surgical operations can be carried out.

As can be seen, Protocol I covers a broad area. In its discussions, the Conference touched on a wide range of issues and had the task of amalgamating in one instrument, military, legal, technical and political considerations. It attempted to balance the factor of humanitarian assistance and protection with that of military necessity, to say nothing of the effort to reflect many of the prevailing preoccupations of contemporary international politics. It is not surprising, therefore, that this balance was not always struck to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Protocol II

The second Protocol, on internal armed conflict, represents an historic development in international humanitarian law as it regulates the conduct of an activity hitherto immune to international regulation.

Since Protocol II concerns internal armed conflict, it is not surprising that many states, particularly from the Third World, regarded it with hesitation, if not hostility. On the other hand, another group of states, mainly Western European, were of the view that the second Protocol should, as far as possible, mirror the first. As the draft of this Protocol grew more extensive, opposition to it increased, to the point where, near the end of the fourth session of the Conference, there were doubts as to whether such a Protocol would succeed at all. As a result, an effort was made, thanks to the head of the Pakistani delegation, to present a revised, simplified and shortened draft of this Protocol. This draft was to a great extent modeled on an earlier Canadian proposal on Protocol II which had been submitted at a previous session of the Conference. The rationale behind the Canadian initiative was that since the Protocol was to deal with situations of internal conflict, it should be kept as simple and basic as possible, since, particularly from the point of view of the dissident side in the conflict, the technical facilities and personnel and