

Conference be convened later to review the texts of the Conventions, which had been previously revised by the two previous Red Cross Conferences, and to prepare them in final form for signature by governments. At the request of the Swiss Government, Canada sent a delegation to this Diplomatic Conference, which was convened in Geneva from April 21 to August 12 of this year.

3. From the time of the first Geneva Conference, an Interdepartmental Committee has existed on which has been represented the Departments of External Affairs, Finance, Justice, National Defence, National Health and Welfare, Secretary of State, Transport, the Civil Defence Co-Ordinator and the R.C.M.P. This Committee has met regularly to study the texts of the various revisions of these Conventions and has also prepared instructions which were approved by Cabinet for the guidance of Canadian delegations to the three Conferences. The Committee has reviewed the report of the Canadian delegation to the Diplomatic Conference and has given careful study to the texts of the Conventions, as adopted by that Conference, in order to determine whether these Conventions are acceptable to Canada and what reservations, if any, should be made at the time of signature.

4. The Committee has now completed its work (minutes of its last meeting attached)† and has concluded:

(a) That the first three military Conventions are substantially the same as those presently binding upon the signatory powers, including Canada and that the text of the Civilian's Convention, although not the most desirable and acceptable from a Canadian point of view, is, nevertheless, the only text that can be adopted in view of the conflicting interests of such a great number of countries (59 governments were represented at the Conference). Moreover, the text is subject to a sufficiently broad interpretation to warrant Canada's acceptance;

(b) That appropriate legislation will have to be passed in order to restrict the further use of two emblems recognized in the Conventions, i.e. the Red Crescent and the Red Lion and the Sun. The Secretary of State Department intends to introduce new trade mark legislation and is of the opinion that there will be no difficulty in incorporating such protection in the new legislation. This is the only new legislation which will be required to implement the Conventions. The emergency powers normally granted to the government in time of war should enable it to meet its other obligations under the Conventions;

(c) That Canada should sign the four Conventions at the formal Signing Ceremony to be held in Geneva on December 8, 1949, and that a reservation should be made with regard to the second paragraph of Article 68 of the Civilian's Convention.

5. We are informed that the United Kingdom and the United States will sign the four Conventions (the United States has already signed the first three Conventions), and that each government intends to make a reservation with respect to the second paragraph of Article 68 of the Civilian's Convention. At the present time this Article would prohibit an occupying power from imposing the death penalty on a civilian within its jurisdiction if the law of the territory occupied did not provide for such a penalty. The Committee and especially the representative from the Department of National Defence was of the opinion that Canada should reserve the right