

It was generally agreed, however, that if two Additional Protocols were to be adopted, the form and language of both should be similar, but the provisions of the second Protocol should probably be less complex than those of the first.

The first session of the Conference was disappointing in that an inordinate amount of time was devoted to political and procedural questions, with the result that only sixteen articles of the draft Protocols were discussed at all and seven adopted at Committee level. One area of concern to the Canadian and other Western Delegations at that session was the successful effort by the majority of non-aligned states to obtain approval of a revised key article in Protocol I, which had the effect of defining all wars of self-determination against colonial domination, alien occupation and racist regimes, regardless of their level of intensity, as international armed conflicts for the purposes of the Geneva Conventions, thus excluding them from the scope of the second draft Protocol and placing them under the first draft Protocol reserved to international armed conflicts. However, following several meetings held during the inter-sessional period, Western representatives concluded that this internationalization of self-determination had to be accommodated and agreed that the remainder of Protocol I should therefore be drafted taking into account this new development.

In marked contrast with the first session, the second session which concluded on April 18, 1975 was conducted throughout in a business-like atmosphere and achieved remarkable results on substantive matters. Over 70 articles of both draft Protocols I and II were considered and adopted, usually by consensus. The second session was particularly successful from the point of view of Canada's fundamental objective of a progressive extension of the standards of International Humanitarian Law into situations of non-international armed conflicts covered by draft Protocol II. This is evidenced by the adoption of 4 out of 6 essential parts of draft Protocol II.