

speech at the above meeting the Hungarian Delegation observed that they were not in agreement with all the provisions of the Conventions. After a thorough study of the text of the Conventions, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic decided to sign the Conventions in spite of their obvious defects, as it considered that the Conventions constituted an advance in comparison with the existing situation from the point of view of the practical application of humanitarian principles and the protection of war victims.

“ The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic is obliged to state that the concrete results achieved by the Diplomatic Conference which ended on August the 12th do not come up to expectations, since the majority of the members of the Conference did not adopt the proposals of the Soviet Delegation concerning the atomic weapon and other means of mass extermination of the population.

“ The Delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic noted with regret the point of view of the majority of the Conference, which was contrary to the wishes of the nations engaged in the struggle for peace and liberty. The Delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic is convinced that the adoption of the Soviet proposals would have been the most effective means of protecting war victims. The Delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic wishes, in particular, to point out the essential defects of the Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War ; they drew the attention of the States taking part in the Conference to those defects during the meetings. A particular case in point is that of Article 4 of the Convention ; by virtue of that Article the provisions of the Civilians Convention do not apply to certain persons, because the States whose nationals they are, have not adhered to the Convention. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic considers that the above provision is contrary to the humanitarian principles which the Convention is intended to uphold.

“ The Hungarian People's Government has also serious objections to Article 5 of the said Convention ; according to the terms of that Article, if protected persons are definitely suspected of activities hostile to the security of the State, that is enough to deprive them of protection under the Convention. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic considers that that provision has already made any hope of realizing the fundamental principles of the Convention illusory.

“ The express reservations made by the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic on signing the Conventions, are as follows :

(1) “ In the opinion of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, the provisions of Article 10 of the Wounded and Sick, Maritime Warfare and Prisoners of War Conventions and of Article 11 of the Civilians Convention, concerning the replacement of the Protecting Power, can only be applied if the Government of the State of which the protected persons are nationals, no longer exists.