

the general principle that we would ask participating states to accept.

We should also reach some understanding concerning the right of individuals to dispose of their property and to make ready for their travel. Wherever possible they should be allowed to take with them their possessions or the proceeds of the sale of their possessions. We realize that many countries have, for valid reason, controls on exports of goods and currency, but it seems to us that for humanitarian cases such as we are discussing, special provision should be made.

Perhaps the sub-committee could also consider whether it might be appropriate to deal in some way with the problems which can arise as a result of a rejection or delay for good cause of a family reunification application. In such cases we believe that the individuals concerned or their relatives should not suffer further, either by loss of their employment or deprivation of any of their rights; and I am confident that all those represented here share this belief. Participating countries might be invited to consider making special provisions for appeals, and reconsideration on a periodic basis, of all unsuccessful family reunification cases. There is a close relationship between the question of family reunification and family visits. We recognize that in certain cases some members of a family may regret their decision to move across a frontier and decide to return to their country of origin. We consider that there should be no impediments to this reverse flow; but we also think that many such difficulties can be avoided from the start if participating states take an accommodating view of family visits which may precede decisions for or against a permanent family reunification.

In considering the general question of family reunification, participating states will wish to recall the great contributions to the problem of divided families which have been made by the International Red Cross and by Local Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations. It seems to us that it would be appropriate for this Conference to call upon participating states to continue to assist to the greatest extent possible these humanitarian efforts which have resulted in so many happy reunions.

Of course this Conference will not wish to attempt to demand that any particular measures be put into effect by an individual participating state: it will be for each state to adopt the measures necessary in the spirit of any general declaration on which we will all agree. Nevertheless, family reunification is surely a field where all participating states would recognize that progress will be in their own long-term interests, and in the interests of the durable and just international order that we are trying to build. It is therefore