

introduced at the 17th International Red Cross Conference in Stockholm August, 1948, if this course seems preferable in view of the attitude of other delegations.

4. I doubt, in the circumstances, whether the Soviet resolution will reach a vote, but, if there is any prospect that it will, we must have made clear that we are going to abstain not because we do not wish as much as anyone to see weapons of mass destruction outlawed, but because it is not within the terms of reference of the Conference and would be anticipating what is already the concern of a special organ of the UN.

5. I should be grateful for your comments on these instructions. As you see, we regard the problem essentially as a familiar propagandist move on the part of the Soviet Union, and not as a serious proposal requiring technical advice, for which the Atomic Energy Commission would be the proper forum. However, we shall be glad to furnish whatever other technical information you feel you may require, and are sending you by bag certain UN documents on atomic energy which may help you to see the Soviet proposal in the perspective of the UN discussions.

262.

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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, December 1, 1949

RE: THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF WAR.

You will recall that, at the invitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Canada participated in an International Conference of Government Experts in Geneva in April, 1947, for the purpose of preparing:

(a) A revision of "The Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick of Armies in the Field" concluded at Geneva, July 27, 1929;

(b) A revision of "The Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" concluded at Geneva, July 27, 1929;

(c) A revision of "The Convention (Xth Hague) for the Adaptation of Maritime Warfare to the Principles of the Geneva Convention" signed at The Hague, October 18, 1907;

(d) A draft text of a new Convention entitled "A Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War".

Canada is a signatory to the three Conventions referred to in (a), (b) and (c). The Civilian's Convention (d) is a new one.

2. The resolutions and amendments proposed by the Government Experts were consolidated in the revised texts which were submitted to the XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross at Stockholm in August, 1948. The Cabinet approved that Canada should also participate in that Conference, which further revised the texts of these Conventions. This Conference also recommended that a Diplomatic