

latter provision, the Canadian delegation was one of those which argued for a mandatory inquiry system but this proposal was strongly opposed by the socialist states and many developing countries and was subsequently rejected by the Conference.

In connection with those provisions relating to methods and means of combat, the Protocols extended the scope of protection to be enjoyed by both civilians and prisoners of war. For example, the Protocol contains extensive provisions on family reunion and on the protection of women and children. There are also special provisions for refugees and journalists. In addition, there are articles dealing with the protection of cultural objects, places of worship, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, the natural environment, installations containing dangerous forces, non-defended localities and demilitarized zones. These provisions (and others) considerably extend the scope of protection offered by the conventions and will have the effect of limiting the freedom of military action.

In addition, the protection of those hors de combat, both civilian and military, has been broadened, particularly in terms of their treatment by an adverse party into whose hands they fall. Of special interest in this regard is an article entitled "fundamental guarantees" which represents a kind of mini-bill of rights for persons detained, interned or arrested for actions related to the armed conflict.

Technical Considerations

On a more technical level, the Protocol extends the scope of the law as it relates to medical and other assistance to the victims of armed conflict. It is in this area that technological advances have been reflected in humanitarian law. For example, the Protocol calls for the allocation of specific call signs and frequencies for medical aircraft. A technical annex to the Convention contains, among other things, provisions on the use of distinctive signals (light, radio and electronic) for medical units and transports.

The Protocol breaks new ground on protection of civilian medical units, i.e., medical personnel, transport