

However, Canada also realizes that it is in the common interest to facilitate the spread of information concerning armed conflicts in order to enhance the possibilities for settling disputes peacefully as well as to contribute to the more effective implementation of humanitarian law in armed conflicts. Moreover, journalists on dangerous missions differ from the general civilian population in that journalists must run risks voluntarily whereas civilians are usually involuntary victims of circumstances beyond their control.

The Second ICRC Conference of Government Experts was not able to spend much time on the protection of journalists. Since it appears that a majority of states believes that there should be a separate convention granting special protection to journalists, the Canadian Delegation to the 1973 session of the General Assembly's Third Committee will be cooperating with other delegations in proposing improvements to the Draft Convention to ensure that the details of the special protection afforded to journalists will be realistic and effective.

(c) Conventional Weapons and the Civilian Population

At the First ICRC Conference of Government Experts a number of countries led by Sweden proposed that the use of types of conventional weapons which are particularly dangerous to civilians should be outlawed in one of the protocols now being worked out to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. During consideration of "Human Rights in Armed Conflicts" in the Third Committee at the 1971 session of the United Nations General Assembly, Sweden tabled a resolution which, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on napalm and other incendiary weapons, and invited the Second ICRC Conference "to devote special attention to...