

This resolution refers to the tragic fact of life that armed conflicts and other forms of violence continuously imperil peace and the values of humanity; it underlines the necessity and urgency of reaffirming and developing humanitarian rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts of all kinds, in order to strengthen the effective protection of the fundamental rights of human beings in keeping with the Geneva Red Cross Conventions of 1949. It goes on to request the International Committee of the Red Cross to pursue actively efforts towards four objectives, namely:

(a) Proposing as soon as possible concrete rules which would supplement the existing humanitarian law;

(b) inviting governmental, Red Cross and other experts representing the principal legal and social systems in the world to meet for consultations with the International Committee of the Red Cross on these proposals;

(c) submitting these proposals to governments for their comments;

(d) if it is deemed desirable, recommending to the appropriate authorities to consider the convening of diplomatic conferences of states parties to the Geneva Convention, as well as other interested states, in order to elaborate international legal instruments incorporating these proposals.

Canada had already, prior to the Istanbul Conference, developed, in consultation with the Canadian Red Cross Society, certain proposals aimed precisely at placing upon states the legal obligation to apply humanitarian standards to all disaster situations, whether natural in origin or arising out of conflicts, whether international or internal. In the Canadian view, it is not enough to ask states to facilitate the provision of disaster relief. The time has come to make such action mandatory, in order, in the language of the resolution, to strengthen the effective protection of the fundamental rights of human beings.

#### NON-INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT

The third resolution, intended primarily to follow up the last-mentioned resolution, also co-sponsored by Canada, relates specifically to non-international armed conflicts. This resolution recalls the unfortunate fact that, since the conclusion of the Geneva Conventions in 1949, non-international armed conflicts have been on the increase and have caused much suffering. The resolution makes specific reference to one of the key provisions contained in each of the four Geneva Red Cross Conventions, namely Article 3, which lays down minimal standards applicable to all conflict situations, but goes on to point out that experience has shown that the provision in question is not adequate, and that the article in question requires to be made more specific and to be supplemented. In the operative part of the resolution, the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the co-operation of governmental experts, is requested to devote special attention to this

problem within the framework of the general studies, already referred to, towards the development of humanitarian law. The resolution was passed with an overwhelming majority of 95 to four, with 12 abstentions.

All Canadians are aware of the reasons why the UN is not necessarily the only forum for all types of activity aimed at contributing to peaceful relations and relief of human suffering. The Canadian Government has long recognized the tremendous service of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the national Red Cross societies in these vital areas of human concern. For this reason, the Canadian Government has lent its full support to efforts by the Red Cross to go further than has heretofore been possible in building a system of legal, as well as moral, standards of humanitarian behavior. The Government is extremely gratified at the success achieved at the Istanbul Red Cross Conference, and pledges to do its utmost in following up the decisions reached last week with continued support and concrete action.

#### CANADA UPS UN DEVELOPMENT AID

On October 9, at the 1970 Pledging Conference of the United Nations Development Program, the Canadian Representative, Mr. B. Rankin, announced "subject to approval of the Canadian Parliament, a 20 percent increase in Canada's pledge to the United Nations Development Program for 1970". This amount, Mr. Rankin said, would be "the equivalent of \$16.2 million (Canadian)", and would bring "to over \$100 million the total amount pledged to the United Nations Development Program and its predecessor programs by Canada".

#### NEW MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Two Parliamentary Secretaries – Herb Gray and Robert D.G. Stanbury – have been appointed Ministers without Portfolio, effective October 20. The former will be associated in his work with Finance Minister E.J. Benson, and the latter will work with Secretary of State Gérard Pelletier.

Mr. Gray will assume responsibility for policies concerning financial institutions and for related legislation, which is expected to be quite extensive in the coming session. The Minister of Finance has also asked him to take over day-to-day responsibility for tariff policy and low-cost import policy and student loans, and other guaranteed loan programs.

Mr. Stanbury will assume particular responsibility for the work of the Secretary of State Department in the area of citizenship. This involves questions of naturalization and the Citizenship Courts, and also the Department's developing program to encourage and assist various groups of residents, including ethnic groups, to play a more active part in the life of Canada.