



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/698
22 November 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Forty-sixth session
Agenda items 64, 82 (b), 83, 84 (a),
97, 127, 140 and 143

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PREVENT SUCH EXPLOITATION

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 22 November 1991 from the Permanent
Representative of Hungary to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an information note on the
26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to be held in
Budapest from 29 November to 6 December 1991 (see annex).

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as documents of the General Assembly under agenda items 64, 82 (b), 83, 84 (a), 97, 127, 140 and 143.

(Signed) André ERDÓS
Ambassador

ANNEX

Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and
Red Crescent, Budapest, 29 November-6 December 1991

(Explanatory note on the Conference)

1. INTRODUCTION

Budapest, the capital of Hungary, is hosting the twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in late November 1991.

The Conference offers an exceptional opportunity for dialogue between Governments and the members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on issues of shared concern, such as the application of international humanitarian law in armed conflicts and disaster relief. It is convened every four or five years.

2. PARTICIPANTS

The following are invited to take part in the Conference as of right:

The 167 States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949;

The 149 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (League);

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Moreover, the Standing Commission invites the following to attend as observers: individuals or organizations interested in the issues discussed by the Conference, including emerging National Societies and governmental, non-governmental, international, regional or national organizations.

3. PROCEEDINGS

Following a formal opening ceremony and an initial plenary meeting, delegates will work for four and a half days in two separate commissions.

Commission I will deal with the observance and implementation of international humanitarian law on such subjects as:

Famine and war;

The right to assistance;

Protection of the environment in wartime;

Children in armed conflicts, particularly child-soldiers;

The implementation of humanitarian rules governing the conduct of hostilities in non-international armed conflicts (use of chemical weapons and mines);

Prisoners of war;

Strengthening the rules on the use of certain existing weapons (mines) and new weapons technologies (weapons causing blindness);

Review of mechanisms to enhance respect for international humanitarian law.

Commission II will focus chiefly on the development of the National Societies and will discuss such issues as:

The activities of the National Societies and their federation, the League;

The Movement's role in the prevention of natural and technological disasters;

Coordination of the emergency relief operations in peacetime;

The Movement and refugees (and other displaced persons).

4. RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS

The opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the plenary meetings, are open to the press.

Daily briefings on Commission proceedings held in camera will be given by the Conference spokesperson.
