



UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/31/163/Add.1
24 September 1976
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Thirty-first session
Agenda item 111

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARMED CONFLICTS

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. In paragraph 6 of resolution 3500 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-first session on relevant developments concerning human rights in armed conflicts, in particular on the proceedings and results of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts. The report of the Secretary-General on the proceedings and results of the 1976 session of the Diplomatic Conference, which was held in Geneva from 21 April to 11 June 1976, was issued as document A/31/163. This addendum contains a summary of the information received by the Secretary-General subsequent to the adoption of resolution 3500 (XXX) concerning activities of non-governmental organizations which have shown a special interest in various problems relating to respect for human rights in armed conflicts.

2. The International Institute of Humanitarian Law, whose purpose is to contribute to the development, dissemination and teaching of international humanitarian law and human rights, devoted most of its attention, between the autumn of 1975 and the spring of 1976, to the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, the third session of which was held during that period. The Institute followed the work of the Diplomatic Conference very closely and took an active part in studies and meetings on specific questions.

3. In addition, as in previous years, the Institute organized at San Remo a round-table, the third of its kind, on current problems of international humanitarian law, attended by 90 participants, from 31 August to 4 September 1976. The main purpose of these meetings, which are held between sessions of the Diplomatic Conference, is to facilitate informal dialogue among representatives who have expressed a desire for it, with a view to expediting the work of the Diplomatic Conference. At the third round-table, this process of study and clarification was applied to the principal issues left pending at the third

session of the Diplomatic Conference, including reprisals, mercenaries, relief, non-international armed conflicts and reservations to the protocols. One day was set aside for a Red Cross Symposium, at which the problems discussed related, inter alia, to the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, the fundamental principles of humanitarian law, protection of refugees and publicity for the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the two protocols now being formulated. 1/

4. The Institute also decided, in 1975, to organize under its own auspices courses on the humanitarian law of war for military officers. Accordingly, it drew up a programme comprising 30 hours of courses spread over five days and broken down into different topics. After a general introduction, each topic is studied in depth by small groups. Practical exercises, in which everyone attending the courses has an exact function to perform, are also held. The first course, in French, was held from 16 to 23 June 1976 in San Remo, at the headquarters of the Institute. It was attended by about 20 officers from three continents.

5. In collaboration with the Italian Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, the Institute has arranged a seminar for heads of natural disaster relief units, which will be held at the Villa Nobel, the headquarters of the Institute, from 18 to 22 October 1976 and at which six States have already indicated their intention of being represented.

6. Lastly, the Institute has extended its hospitality to certain other organizations, such as the International Society for Military Law and Law of War, which will make the headquarters of the Institute the site for its seventh Congress, from 23 to 28 September 1976, when it will consider the subject of human rights in armed conflicts.

1/ It should also be noted that a group of experts discussed problems relating to the protection of refugees and took into account the draft Convention on Territorial Asylum which will be considered in 1977 by the diplomatic conference convened under General Assembly resolution 3456 (XXX) of 9 December 1975.