

THE I.C.R.C. HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE SIGNATORIES OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

By its very mission, the ICRC has acted as a pioneer in the humanitarian field. Often of its own accord, it has proposed practical solutions to the problems of assistance and protection which have been raised by wars, and these solutions have often shown immediate effects. Its action has opened the way of humanitarian law for the States and has given them the means to protect the victims of war.

The Geneva Conventions embody the experience acquired by the ICRC during past conflicts. They form the basis in international law for action by the ICRC. In addition, the Conventions recognize the right of the ICRC to undertake any humanitarian initiative consistent with its traditions and with the Red Cross principles. It is therefore its duty to defend, in all circumstances, the spirit which inspires the Geneva Conventions.