Working Document drawn up for the

Diplomatic Conference
for the Establishment
of International Conventions
for the Protection
of War Victims

Convened at Geneva on April 21st, 1949,
by the SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL

Draft Convention
for the Relief of the Wounded
and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field
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Draft Convention for the Relief of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field
Notice

In order to facilitate the work of Delegates, the texts printed in this document are set out in three separate columns and the provisions relating to the same matter are placed at the same level. The Geneva Convention of the 27th of July 1929, which is at present in force, appears in the column to the left; the text submitted to the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference is in the middle column and the same text, as amended by this Conference, will be found in the column to the right. The amendments are printed in italics or mentioned in explanatory foot-notes.

The titles of the articles do not form part of the text of the Convention; they have been included merely for the convenience of Delegates.

The blank page on the right is intended for annotations.
Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929, for the Relief of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field

Geneva Convention for the Relief of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (1)

Draft submitted to the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference.

Draft as amended and approved by the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference.

CHAPTER I.
General Provisions

Article 25, Part. 1

The provisions of the present Convention shall be respected by the High Contracting Parties in all circumstances.

Article 25, Part. 2

The High Contracting Parties undertake, in the name of their peoples, to respect, and to ensure respect for the present Convention in all circumstances.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect, and to ensure respect for the present Convention in all circumstances (2).

Article 2

Application of the Convention

If, in time of war, a belligerent is not a party to the Convention, its provisions shall, nevertheless, be binding as between all the belligerents who are parties thereto.

Beyond the stipulations to be implemented in peace time, the present Convention shall apply to all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the High Contracting Parties, even should the state of war not be recognized by one of them.

In addition to the stipulations which shall be implemented in peace time, the present Convention shall apply to all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the High Contracting Parties, even if the state of war is not recognized by one of them.

(1) Title amended in view of present-day conditions.
(2) The words "in the name of their peoples" have been deleted.
The Convention shall also apply to all cases of partial or total occupation of the territory of a High Contracting Party, even should the said occupation meet with no armed resistance.

Should one of the Powers in conflict not be party to the present Convention, the Powers who are party thereto shall, nevertheless, be bound by it in their mutual relations.

In all cases of armed conflict which are not of an international character, especially cases of civil war, colonial conflicts, or wars of religion, which may occur in the territory of one or more of the High Contracting Parties, the implementing of the principles of the present Convention shall be obligatory on each of the adversaries. The application of the Convention in these circumstances shall in no wise depend on the legal status of the parties to the conflict and shall have no effect on that status.

Article 3

Application by neutral Powers

Neutral Powers shall apply the stipulations of the present Convention by analogy to the wounded and sick, as also to members of the medical personnel and to chaplains, who are members of belligerent armies and who may be interned in their territories.

Besides the agreements expressly provided for in Articles 12, 18 and 24, the Parties to the conflict may conclude special agreements on all matters concerning which they may deem it suitable to make separate provision. Such agreements shall in no case adversely affect the situation of the wounded and sick, or of the members of medical personnel and of chaplains, as defined by the present Convention, nor impair the rights which it grants them.

Article 2, Part. 2

Belligerents shall, however, be free to prescribe, for the benefit of wounded or sick prisoners, such arrangements as they may think fit beyond the limits of the existing obligations.

Besides the agreements expressly foreseen by Articles 12, 18 and 24, the Parties to the conflict may conclude special agreements on all matters for which they may consider it desirable to make particular provision. These agreements shall in no case adversely affect the situation of the wounded and sick, or of the members of medical personnel and of chaplains, as defined by the present Convention, nor impair the rights which it grants them.

(1) The words "especially cases of civil war, colonial conflicts or wars of religion" have been deleted.
Wounded and sick, as also members of medical personnel and chaplains shall benefit by these agreements as long as the Convention is applicable to them, subject to express stipulations to the contrary in the said or subsequent agreements, or again subject to more favourable measures taken in their behalf by one or other of the Parties to the conflict.

Article 5

Acquired rights

Wounded and sick, as also members of the medical personnel and chaplains may in no circumstances be induced by constraint or by any other means of coercion, to abandon partially or wholly the rights conferred on them by the present Convention, and, should the case arise, by the special agreements foreseen in the preceding Article.

Article 6

Protecting Powers

The present Convention shall be applied with the co-operation and under the control of the Protecting Powers, whose duty it is to safeguard the interests of the Parties to the conflict. To this end, the Protecting Powers may appoint, besides their diplomatic staff, delegates among their own nationals, or among nationals of other neutral Powers. These delegates shall be subject to the approval of the Power in whose territory they are to carry out their duties.

The Parties to the conflict shall facilitate to the greatest extent possible the task of the representatives or delegates of the Protecting Powers.

(1) The words "be induced by constraint or by any other means of coercion, to" have been deleted.
Article 7

Activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross

The provisions of the present Convention do not constitute an obstacle to the humanitarian activities which the International Committee of the Red Cross may undertake for the protection of wounded and sick, of members of the medical personnel and of chaplains, and for their relief, subject to the consent of the Parties to the conflict who may be concerned.

The provisions of the present Convention constitute no obstacle to the humanitarian activities which the International Committee of the Red Cross may undertake for the protection of wounded and sick, medical personnel and chaplains, and for their relief, subject to the consent of the Parties to the conflict concerned.

Article 8

Substitutes for Protecting Powers

The Contracting Parties may, at all times, agree to entrust to a body which offers all guarantees of impartiality and efficacy the duties incumbent on the Protecting Powers by virtue of the present Convention.

Moreover, if wounded and sick, or members of the medical personnel and chaplains do not benefit, or cease to benefit by the activities of a Protecting Power or of the said body, the Party to the conflict in whose hands they may be, shall be under the obligation to make up for this lack of protection by inviting either a neutral State or an impartial humanitarian agency, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, to assume in their behalf the duties devolving by virtue of the present Convention on the Protecting Powers.

Whenever the Protecting Power is named in the present Convention, such reference also designates the bodies replacing it under the terms of the present Article.

The Contracting Parties may at any time agree to entrust to a body which offers all guarantees of impartiality and efficacy the duties incumbent on the Protecting Powers by virtue of the present Convention.

Furthermore, if wounded and sick, or members of the medical personnel and chaplains do not benefit, or cease to benefit, by the activities of a Protecting Power or of the said body, the Party to the conflict in whose hands they may be, shall be under the obligation to make up for this lack of protection by inviting either a neutral State or an impartial humanitarian body such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, to assume in their behalf the duties devolving by virtue of the present Convention on the Protecting Powers.

Whenever the Protecting Power is named in the present Convention, such reference also designates the bodies replacing it in the sense of the present Article.

Article 9

Procedure of Conciliation

Whenever they consider it desirable in the interest of wounded and sick, and of members of medical personnel and chaplains, especially if the Parties to the conflict do not agree regarding the application of the provisions of the present Convention, the Protecting Powers shall lend their good offices with the object of facilitating such application.

Whenever the Protecting Powers consider it desirable in the interest of wounded and sick, and of members of medical personnel and chaplains, particularly in the event of disagreement between the Parties to the conflict regarding the application of the provisions of the present Convention, the said Powers shall lend their good offices in order to facilitate such application.
Article 1

Officers and soldiers (members of the armed forces) and other persons officially attached to the armed forces who are wounded or sick shall be respected and protected in all circumstances; they shall be treated with humanity and cared for medically, without distinction of nationality, by the belligerent in whose power they may be.

Nevertheless, the belligerent who is compelled to abandon wounded or sick to the enemy shall, as far as military exigencies permit, leave with them a portion of his medical personnel and material to help with their treatment.

To this end, each of the Protecting Powers may, either at the invitation of one Party, or of its own motion, propose to the Parties to the conflict a meeting of their representatives, in particular of the authorities responsible for wounded and sick, and for members of medical personnel and chaplains, eventually on suitably chosen neutral territory. The Parties to the conflict shall be required to give effect to the proposals made to them in this sense. The Protecting Powers may, if necessary, submit to the approval of the Parties to the conflict the name of a person belonging to a neutral Power, or delegated by the International Committee of the Red Cross, who shall be invited to participate in this meeting.

CHAPTER II.

Wounded and Sick

Article 10

Protection and care

Members of the armed forces and persons designated in Article 3 of the Convention relative to the treatment of Prisoners of War who are wounded or sick, shall be respected and protected in all circumstances.

They shall be treated with humanity and cared for by the belligerent in whose power they may be, without any discrimination of race, nationality, religion or political opinions, or any other distinction founded on similar criteria. Discriminatory treatment is permissible only for medical reasons.

Women shall be treated with all consideration due to their sex.

Nevertheless, the belligerent who is compelled to abandon wounded or sick to the enemy shall, as far as military considerations permit, leave with them a portion of his medical personnel and material to assist in their care.

To this effect, each of the Protecting Powers may, either at the invitation of one Party, or of its own motion, propose to the Parties to the conflict a meeting of their representatives, in particular of the authorities responsible for the wounded and sick, members of medical personnel and chaplains, eventually in suitably chosen neutral territory. The Parties to the conflict shall be required to give effect to the proposals made to them for this purpose. The Protecting Powers may, if necessary, submit to the approval of the Parties to the conflict the name of a person belonging to a neutral Power, or delegated by the International Committee of the Red Cross, who shall be invited to take part in this meeting.

Members of the armed forces and the other persons designated in Article 3 of the Convention relative to the treatment of Prisoners of War who are wounded or sick, shall be respected and protected in all circumstances.

They shall be treated humanely and cared for by the belligerent in whose power they may be, without any discrimination of race, nationality, religion or political opinions, or any other distinction founded on similar criteria. Priority treatment is permissible only for urgent medical reasons.

Women shall be treated with all consideration due to their sex.

Nevertheless, the belligerent who is compelled to abandon wounded or sick to the enemy shall, as far as military considerations permit, leave with them a portion of his medical personnel and material to assist in their care.
Article 11

Subject to the provisions of the preceding Article, the wounded and sick of a belligerent who fall into enemy hands, shall be prisoners of war, and the provisions of international law concerning prisoners of war shall be applicable to them.

Status

Subject to the provisions of the foregoing Article, the wounded and sick of a belligerent who fall into enemy hands shall be prisoners of war, and the provisions of international law concerning prisoners of war shall apply to them.

Article 12

Search for the wounded and dead. Evacuation

At all times, and particularly after an engagement, belligerents shall without delay take all possible steps to search for and collect the sick and wounded, protect them against pillage and ill-treatment and ensure their adequate care, and to search for the dead and prevent their being despoiled.

Whenever circumstances permit, a local armistice or a suspension of fire shall be arranged to permit the removal of the wounded remaining between the lines.

Likewise, local arrangements may be concluded between belligerents for the removal of wounded and sick from a besieged or encircled area, and for the passage of medical personnel and equipment bound for the said area.

Article 13

Communication of information

Prescriptions regarding the dead

Belligerents shall communicate to each other, as soon as possible, the names of the wounded, sick and dead, collected or discovered, together with any indication which may assist in their identification.

Belligerents shall communicate to each other, according to the procedure described in Art. 77 of the 1929 Convention relative to the treatment of Prisoners of War, the names of the wounded, sick and dead discovered and collected, together with any indications which may assist in their identification.
They shall establish and transmit to each other the certificates of death.

They shall establish and transmit to each other, by the same channel, certificates of death or, in lieu thereof, duly authenticated lists of the dead.

They shall likewise collect and transmit to each other all articles of a personal nature found on the field of battle or on the dead, especially one half of their identity discs, the other half to remain attached to the body.

They shall likewise collect and exchange, by the same channel, all articles of a personal nature having an intrinsic or sentimental value which are found on the dead, especially one half of their identity discs, which should be of a standard pattern, the other half to remain attached to the body.

They shall ensure that the burial or the cremation of the dead is preceded by a careful and, if possible, medical examination of the bodies, with a view to confirming death, establishing identity and enabling a report to be made.

Bodies shall not be cremated except for imperative reasons of hygiene, or for religious motives. In case of cremation, the circumstances and motives shall be stated in detail in the death certificate of the cremated person.

Belligerents shall ensure that burial or cremation of the dead is preceded by a careful, and if possible medical examination of the bodies, with a view to confirming death, establishing identity and enabling a report to be made.

Belligerents shall ensure that burial or cremation of the dead, carried out individually as far circumstances permit, is preceded by a careful, and if possible medical examination of the bodies, with a view to confirming death, establishing identity and enabling a report to be made.

They shall further ensure that the dead are honourably interred, that their graves are respected and marked, so that they may always be found.

They shall further ensure that the dead are honourably interred, if possible according to the rites of the religion to which they belonged, that their graves are respected, assembled if possible and marked so that they may always be found. To this end, at the commencement of hostilities, they shall organise an official graves registration service, in order to allow ultimate exhumations and to ensure the identification of bodies whatever may be the subsequent site of the grave.

Belligerents shall ensure that burial or cremation of the dead, carried out individually as far circumstances permit, is preceded by a careful, and if possible medical examination of the bodies, with a view to confirming death, establishing identity and enabling a report to be made.

They shall assure that the burial or cremation of the dead is preceded by a careful and, if possible, medical examination of the bodies, with a view to confirming death, establishing identity and enabling a report to be made.

To this end, at the commencement of hostilities, they shall organise officially a graves registration service, to render eventual exhumations possible and to ensure the identification of bodies whatever may be the subsequent site of the grave.

They shall organize an official graves registration service, in order to allow subsequent exhumations and to ensure the identification of bodies, whatever the subsequent site of the graves, and the possible transportation to the home country. These stipulations also apply, as far as may be, to the ashes, which shall be kept by the graves registration service until the close of hostilities.

As soon as circumstances permit, and at latest at the end of hostilities, they shall exchange a list of graves and of dead interred in their cemeteries and elsewhere.

These provisions likewise apply, so far as may be, to the ashes, which shall be kept by the graves registration service until the close of hostilities.

After the cessation of hostilities they shall exchange the list of graves and of dead interred in their cemeteries and elsewhere.
Article 5

The military authorities may appeal to the charitable zeal of the inhabitants to collect and afford medical assistance, under their direction, to the wounded or sick of armies, and may accord to persons who have responded to this appeal special protection and certain facilities.

Article 6

Mobile medical formations, that is to say those which are intended to accompany armies in the field, and the fixed establishments of the medical services shall be respected and protected by the belligerents.

Article 14

Role of the population

The military authorities may appeal to the charity of the inhabitants to collect, under their direction, the wounded or sick of armed forces, and may grant persons who have responded to this appeal special protection and certain facilities. In case of occupation, the adverse belligerent shall grant these persons the same protection and the same facilities.

In no circumstances may inhabitants and relief societies, even in occupied regions, be prohibited from collecting and caring, of their own accord, for wounded or sick members of the armed forces, of whatever nationality, on condition that the latter shall not be withheld from the possible control of national or occupying authorities. It is the duty of the civilian population to protect these wounded and sick, and to abstain from offering them violence.

CHAPTER III.

Medical Units and Establishments

Article 15

Protection

Fixed establishments and mobile hospital units of the Medical Service may in no circumstances be attacked, but shall at all times be respected and protected by the belligerents. Should they fall into the hands of the adverse party, they shall be free to pursue their duties, as long as the capturing Power has not itself ensured the necessary care of the wounded and sick who may be in such establishments and units.
Article 7

The protection to which medical formations an establishment are entitled shall cease if they are made use of to commit acts harmful to the enemy.

Article 8

The following conditions are not considered to be of such a nature as to deprive a medical formation or establishment of the protection guaranteed by Article 6:

(1) that the personnel of the formation or establishment is armed, and that they use the arms in their own defence or in that of the sick and wounded in charge;

(2) that in the absence of armed orderlies the formation or establishment is protected by a piquet or by sentries;

(3) that small arms and ammunition taken from the wounded and sick, which have not yet been transferred to the proper service, are found in the formation or establishment;

(4) that personnel and material of the veterinary service are found in the formation or establishment, without forming an integral part of the same.

Article 16

End of protection

The protection to which medical units and establishments are entitled shall cease only if they are used to commit acts harmful to the enemy, and after due warning, naming a reasonable time limit and remaining without effect.

The protection to which medical units and establishments are entitled shall not cease unless they are used to commit acts not compatible with their humanitarian duties. Protection may, however, cease only after due warning, naming a reasonable time limit, which warning remains unheeded.

Article 17

Facts not cancelling protection

The following conditions shall not be considered as depriving a medical unit or establishment of the protection guaranteed by Article 15:

(1) The fact that the personnel of the unit or establishment is armed, and that they use the arms in their own defence, or in that of the sick and wounded in charge.

(2) That in the absence of armed medical orderlies, the unit or establishment is protected by a piquet or by sentries.

(3) That small arms and ammunition taken from the wounded and sick, and which have not yet been transferred to the proper service, are discovered in the unit or establishment.

(4) That personnel and material of the veterinary service are found in the unit or establishment, without forming an integral part of it.

(5) That the humanitarian activities of medical units and establishments or of their personnel extend to the care of civilian wounded or sick.

The following conditions shall not be considered as depriving a medical unit or establishment of the protection guaranteed by Article 15:

(1) That the personnel of the unit or establishment are armed, and that they use the arms in their own defence, or in that of the sick and wounded in their charge.

(2) That in the absence of armed orderlies, the unit or establishment is protected by a piquet or by sentries.

(3) That small arms and ammunition taken from the wounded and sick, and which have not yet been handed to the proper service, are found in the unit or establishment.

(4) That personnel and material of the veterinary service are found in the unit or establishment, without forming an integral part thereof.

(5) That the humanitarian activities of medical units and establishments or of their personnel extend to the care of civilian wounded or sick.
Article 18

Hospital Zones and Localities

Already in peace-time, the Contracting Powers and, in case of hostilities, the Parties to the conflict shall make every endeavour to set up, in their own territory and in occupied territories, hospital zones and localities so organized as to shield from the effects of war both the wounded and sick, and the personnel entrusted with the organization and administration of these zones and localities, and with the care of the persons therein assembled.

From the outset of a conflict and throughout its duration, the parties concerned shall agree on mutual recognition of the zones and localities they have set up, and may, for this purpose, implement the provisions of the Draft Agreement annexed to the present Convention, with such amendments as they may consider necessary.

The Protecting Powers and the International Committee of the Red Cross shall lend their good offices to facilitate the setting up and recognition of these hospital zones and localities.

In time of peace already, the Contracting Parties and, in case of conflict, the Parties thereto may create, in their own territory and, if the need arises, in occupied areas, hospital zones and localities so organized as to protect from the effects of war the wounded and sick (1).

Upon the outbreak and during the course of hostilities, the parties concerned shall agree on mutual recognition of the zones and localities they have created, and may, for this purpose, implement the provisions of the Draft Agreement annexed to the present Convention, with such amendments as they may consider necessary (2).

The Protecting Powers and the International Committee of the Red Cross are invited to lend their good offices in order to facilitate the institution and recognition of these hospital zones and localities.

CHAPTER IV.

Personnel

Article 9

Medical personnel exclusively engaged in the search, collection, transport and treatment of the wounded and sick, and in the prevention of disease, further, the personnel exclusively engaged in the administration of medical units and establishments, and the chaplains attached to armies, shall be respected and protected under all

Protection

(1) The close of this paragraph has been deleted.

(2) The said Draft Agreement applies also to the institution of security zones and localities for civilians. It therefore forms an annexe to the Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in time of war. See page 32.
circumstances. If they fall into the hands of the enemy they shall not be treated as prisoners of war.

Soldiers specially trained to be employed, in case of necessity, as auxiliary nurses or stretcher-bearers for the collection, transport and treatment of the wounded and sick, and furnished with a proof of identity, shall enjoy the same treatment as the permanent medical personnel if they are taken prisoner while carrying out these functions.

Article 10

The personnel of Voluntary Aid Societies, duly recognised and authorised by their Governments, who may be employed on the same duties as the personnel mentioned in the first paragraph of Article 9, are placed on the same footing as the personnel contemplated in that paragraph, provided that the personnel of such societies are subject to military laws and regulations.

Each High Contracting Party shall notify to the other, either in time of peace or at the commencement of, or during the course of hostilities, but in every case before actually employing them, the names of the Societies which it has authorised, under its responsibility, to render assistance to the regular medical services of its armed forces.

Article 11

A recognised society of a neutral country can only afford the assistance of its medical personnel and formations to a belligerent with the previous consent of its own Government and the authorisation of the belligerent concerned.

The belligerent who accepts such assistance is bound to notify the enemy thereof before making any use of it.

Article 20

Red Cross Societies

The personnel of National Red Cross Societies and that of other Voluntary Aid Societies, duly recognized and authorized by their Governments, who may be employed on the same duties as the personnel named in Article 19, are placed on the same footing as the said personnel, provided that the personnel of such societies are subject to military laws and regulations.

Each High Contracting Party shall notify to the other, either in time of peace, or at the commencement of, or during hostilities, but in any case before actually employing them, the names of the societies which it has authorized, under its responsibility, to lend assistance to the regular medical service of its armed forces.

Neutral Societies

A recognized Society of a neutral country can only lend the assistance of its medical personnel and units to a belligerent with the previous consent of its own Government and the authorization of the belligerent concerned. The neutral Government shall notify this consent to the adversary of the State which accepts such assistance.

The belligerent accepting such assistance is bound to notify the adverse party thereof before making any use of it.
Article 12

The persons designated in Articles 9, 10 and 11 may not be retained after they have fallen into the hands of the enemy.

In the absence of an agreement to the contrary, they shall be sent back to the belligerent to whom they belong as soon as a route for their return shall be open and military considerations permit.

Pending their return, they shall continue to carry out their duties under the direction of the enemy; they shall preferably be engaged in the care of the wounded and sick of the belligerents to whom they belong.

On their departure, they shall take with them the effects, instruments, arms and means of transport belonging to them.

Article 13

Belligerents shall secure to the personnel mentioned in Articles 9, 10 and 11, while in their hands, the same food, the same lodging, the same allowance and the same pay as are granted to the corresponding personnel of their own armed forces.

At the outbreak of hostilities, the belligerents shall notify one another of the grades of their respective medical personnel.

Under no circumstances shall this assistance be considered as interference in the conflict.

The members of the personnel named in Article 19 and 20, and taken prisoner by the adverse party, shall be held in captivity only in so far as the state of health, the spiritual needs and the number of prisoners of war demand. Under the authority of the Detaining Power, and particularly of its medical service, they shall continue to carry out their medical or spiritual duties, in accordance with their professional ethics, for the benefit of prisoners of war, preferably those of their own nationality.

The above stipulation does not relieve the Detaining Power of its obligations to provide medical and spiritual care to prisoners of war.

Members of personnel mentioned in Section 1 of the present Article shall enjoy all the rights of prisoners of war. To allow them to carry out their humanitarian duties under the best possible conditions, the detaining authorities shall grant them, as far as is necessary, certain privileges, especially as regards accommodation, food, correspondence relating to their particular duties, the election of a spokesman among themselves, and such travel facilities, with or without escort, as may be necessary for their work.

At the outbreak of hostilities, belligerents shall come to an agreement as to corresponding ranks of medical personnel, including those of the societies mentioned in Article 20.

In no circumstances shall this assistance be considered as interference in the conflict.

The members of the personnel named in Section 1 shall be duly furnished, before leaving the neutral country to which they belong, with the identity cards provided for in Article 33.

Article 22

Retained personnel

The members of personnel designated in Articles 19 and 20 who fall into the hands of the adverse party, shall be held in captivity only in so far as the state of health, the spiritual needs and the number of prisoners of war demand. Under the authority of the Detaining Power, and particularly of its medical service, the personnel thus detained shall continue to carry out their medical or spiritual duties, in accordance with their professional ethics, for the benefit of prisoners of war, preferably those of their own nationality.

The foregoing provision does not relieve the Detaining Power of its obligations to provide medical and spiritual care to prisoners of war.

Members of personnel designated in paragraph 1 of the present Article shall not be deemed to be prisoners of war, but shall enjoy all the rights of the latter. To allow them to carry out their humanitarian duties under the best possible conditions, the detaining authorities shall grant them, as far as is necessary, certain privileges, particularly as to accommodation, food, correspondence relating to their special duties, the election of a spokesman from amongst themselves, and such travel facilities, with or without escort, as may be necessary for their work.

Belligerents shall grant such personnel the same allowances and the same pay as to the corresponding personnel in their own forces.

Upon the outbreak of hostilities, belligerents shall make agreements as to the corresponding ranks of medical personnel, including those of the societies designated in Article 20.
Article 23

Return to the belligerent

Members of personnel named in Articles 19 and 20, whose retention in captivity is not made indispensable by the exigencies mentioned in Article 22, shall be returned to the belligerent to whom they belong, as soon as a route is open for their return and military considerations permit.

Pending their return, they shall enjoy at least all the rights of prisoners of war.

On their departure, they shall take with them the effects, instruments, arms and means of transport belonging to them.

Members of this personnel shall not be repatriated against their will.

Members of personnel designated in Articles 19 and 20, whose detention in captivity is not made indispensable by the exigencies mentioned in Article 22, shall be returned to the belligerent to whom they belong, as soon as a route is open for their return and military considerations permit. Pending their return, they shall not be regarded as prisoners of war, but shall enjoy all the rights of the latter.

On their departure, they shall take with them the effects, instruments, arms and means of transport belonging to them.

(Paragraph 4 has been deleted.)

Article 24

Selection of repatriates

The selection of repatriates shall be made irrespective of any consideration of race, religion or political opinion, but preferably according to the chronological order of their capture, and their state of health.

As from the outbreak of hostilities, belligerents may determine by special arrangement the percentage of personnel to be retained in captivity, in proportion to the number of prisoners.

The selection of repatriates shall be made irrespective of any consideration of race, religion or political opinion, but preferably according to the chronological order of their capture and their state of health.

As from the outbreak of hostilities, belligerents may determine by special arrangement the percentage of personnel to be retained captive, in proportion to the number of prisoners and the distribution of the said personnel in the camps.

Article 25

Return of neutrals

The persons designated in Articles 9, 10 and 11 may not be retained after they have fallen into the hands of the enemy.

In the absence of an agreement to the contrary, they shall be sent back to the belligerent to whom they belong as soon as a route for their return shall be open and military considerations permit.

The persons designated in Article 21 may not be retained after they have fallen into the hands of the adverse party.

Unless otherwise agreed, they shall be authorized to return to their country, or if this is not possible, to the territory of the belligerent in whose service they were, as soon as a route for their return is open and military considerations permit.

The persons designated in Article 21 may not be detained after they have fallen into the hands of the adverse party.

Unless agreed otherwise, they shall have permission to return to their country, or if this is not possible, to the territory of the belligerent in whose service they were, as soon as a route for their return is open and military considerations permit.
Pending their return, they shall continue to carry out their duties under the direction of the enemy; they shall preferably be engaged in the care of the wounded and sick of the belligerents to whom they belong.

On their departure, they shall take with them the effects, instruments, arms and means of transport belonging to them.

Pending their return, they shall continue to carry on their work under the direction of the adverse party; they shall preferably be engaged in the care of the wounded and sick of the belligerent in whose service they were.

On their departure, they shall take with them their effects, personal articles and valuables, instruments, arms and the means of transport belonging to them.

Belligerents shall secure to this personnel, while in their power, the same food, lodging, allowances and pay as are granted to the corresponding personnel of their armed forces.

Article 14
Mobile medical formations of whatsoever kind shall retain, if they fall into the hands of the enemy, their equipment and stores, their means of transport and the drivers employed.

Nevertheless the competent military authorities shall be free to use the equipment and stores for the care of the wounded and sick; they shall be restored under the conditions laid down for the medical personnel and as far as possible at the same time.

Article 15
The buildings and material of the fixed medical establishments of the army shall be subject to the laws of war, but may not be diverted from their purpose as long as they are necessary for the wounded and sick.

Nevertheless the commanders of troops in the field may make use of them, in case of urgent military necessity, provided that they make previous arrangements for the welfare of the wounded and sick who are being treated therein.

The buildings, material and stores of fixed medical establishments and of mobile medical units of the armed forces shall remain subject to the laws of war, but may not be diverted from their purpose, as long as they are required for the care of wounded and sick.

Nevertheless, the commanders of forces in the field may make use of them, in case of urgent military necessity, provided that they make previous arrangements for the welfare of the wounded and sick who are nursed in them.

The material of mobile medical units which are in the hands of the adverse party, shall continue to serve for the care of wounded and sick, by priority those of the same nationality as the said units.

The buildings, material and stores of fixed medical establishments of the armed forces shall remain subject to the laws of war, but may not be diverted from their purpose, as long as they are required for the care of the wounded and sick accommodated therein.

The real and personal property of aid societies which are admitted to the privileges of the Convention shall be regarded as private property.

The buildings of aid societies which are admitted to the privileges of the Convention shall be regarded as private property.
The material of these societies, wherever it may be, shall similarly be considered as private property.

The right of requisition granted to belligerents by the laws and customs of war shall be exercised only in case of urgent necessity, and only after the welfare of the wounded and sick has been ensured.

The right of requisition granted to belligerents by the laws and customs of war shall be exercised only in case of urgent necessity, and only after the welfare of the wounded and sick has been ensured.

The material of these societies, wherever it may be, shall similarly be considered as private property.

The right of requisition granted to belligerents by the laws and customs of war shall be exercised only in case of urgent necessity, and only after the welfare of the wounded and sick has been ensured.

CHAPTER VI

Medical Transports

Article 28

Protection

Transports of wounded and sick or of medical equipment shall be respected and protected in the same way as mobile medical units. The same shall apply to vehicles temporarily employed for the above purposes, as long as they are so used.

Should such transports or vehicles fall into the hands of the adverse party, they shall be subject to the laws of war, on condition that the belligerent who captures them shall in all cases ensure the care of the wounded and sick they contain.

The civilian personnel and all means of transport obtained by requisition shall be subject to the general rules of international law.

The civilian personnel and all means of transport obtained by requisition shall be subject to the general rules of international law.
Article 18

Aircraft used as means of medical transport shall enjoy the protection of the Convention during the period in which they are reserved exclusively for the evacuation of wounded and sick, and the transport of medical personnel and material.

They shall be painted white and shall bear, clearly marked, the distinctive emblem prescribed in Article 31, side by side with their national colours, on their lower and upper surfaces.

In the absence of special and express permission, flying over the firing line, and over the zone situated in front of clearing or dressing stations, and generally over all enemy territory occupied by the enemy, is prohibited.

Medical aircraft shall obey every summons to land.

In the event of a landing thus imposed, or of an involuntary landing in enemy territory or territory occupied by the enemy, the wounded and sick, as well as the medical personnel and material, including the aircraft, shall enjoy the privileges of the present Convention.

The pilot, mechanics and wireless telegraph operators captured shall be sent back, on condition that they are employed until the close of hostilities in the medical service only.

Article 29

Medical aircraft

Aircraft defined in the present Article and used as a means of medical transport may not be the object of attack, but shall be respected by belligerents, on condition that they are exclusively employed for the removal of wounded and sick, or the transport of medical personnel and material.

They shall be painted white and bear, clearly marked, the distinctive emblem prescribed in Article 31, together with their national colours, on their lower, upper and lateral surfaces.

Unless otherwise agreed, flights over land or maritime war zones, military objectives or units, whether on land or sea, and over territories belonging to the enemy or occupied by him, shall be prohibited.

Medical aircraft shall obey every summons to land.

In the event of a landing thus imposed, or of an involuntary landing in enemy territory or territory occupied by the enemy, the wounded and sick, as well as the crew of the aircraft shall be prisoners of war. The medical personnel shall be treated according to Articles 22 and following.

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2, hospital aircraft of belligerents may fly over the territory of neutral Powers, land on it in case of necessity, or use it as a port of call. They shall give the neutral Powers previous notice of their passage over the said territory and obey all summons to alight, on land or water.

(1) This paragraph has been simplified.

Article 30

Flight over neutral countries

Medical aircraft shall have free passage over the territories or territorial waters of neutral countries, on condition that such passage be previously notified to the latter.

The aircraft shall obey every summons to land.
In the event of a thus imposed or involuntary landing, the wounded and sick shall be detained by the neutral State, so that they may not be able to take part again in military operations. The medical personnel and material, as well as the aircraft and crew, shall be subject to the general rules of international law.

The costs of accommodation and treatment shall be borne by the State to which the wounded and sick belong.

CHAPTER VII.

The Distinctive Emblem

Article 19

As a compliment to Switzerland, the heraldic emblem of the red cross on a white ground, formed by reversing the Federal colours, is retained as the emblem and distinctive sign of the medical service of armed forces.

Nevertheless, in the case of countries which already use as a distinctive sign, the Red Crescent or the Red Lion and Sun, in place of the Red Cross, on a white ground, these emblems are also recognized by the terms of the present Convention.

Article 20

The emblem shall be displayed on the flags, armlets and on all equipment belonging to the Medical Service, with the consent of the responsible military authority.

The neutral Powers may, however, place conditions or restrictions on the passage or landing of hospital aircraft on their territory. Such possible conditions or restrictions shall be applied equally to all belligerents.

Unless agreed otherwise between the neutral Power and the belligerent Powers, the wounded or sick who are landed, with the consent of the local authorities, on neutral territory by hospital aircraft, shall be detained by the neutral Power in such a manner that they cannot again take part in operations of war. The cost of their accommodation and internment shall be borne by the Power on which they depend.

Article 31

Emblem of the Convention

As a compliment to Switzerland, the heraldic emblem of the red cross on a white ground, formed by reversing the Federal colours, is retained as the emblem and distinctive sign of the Medical Service of armed forces.

Nevertheless, in the case of countries which already use, in place of the red cross, the red crescent or the red lion and sun on a white ground, those emblems are also recognized by the terms of the present Convention (1).

Article 32

Use of the Emblem

The emblem shall be displayed on the flags, armlets and on all equipment employed in the Medical Service, with the consent of the responsible military authority.

(1) The Conference decided not to delete this paragraph for the time being; it expressed, however, the wish that the Governments and National Societies concerned should endeavour to return as soon as possible to the unity of the Red Cross emblem.
Article 33
Identification of medical personnel

The personnel protected in pursuance of Articles 9 (paragraph 1), 10 and 11 shall wear, affixed to the left arm, an armlet bearing the distinctive sign, issued and stamped by the military authority.

The personnel mentioned in Article 9, paragraphs 1 and 2, shall be provided with a certificate of identity, consisting either of an entry in their small book (paybook) or a special document.

The persons mentioned in Articles 10 and 11 who have no military uniform shall be furnished by the competent military authority with a certificate of identity, with photograph, certifying their status as medical personnel.

The certificates of identity shall be uniform and of the same pattern in each army.

In no case may the medical personnel be deprived of their armlets or of the certificates of identity belonging to them.

In case of loss they have the right to obtain duplicates.

Article 21

The personnel named in Articles 19, 20 and 21 shall wear, affixed to the left arm, a water-resistant armlet, bearing the distinctive emblem, issued and stamped by the military authority.

Such personnel shall also carry an identity card attesting their status, which can be put in the pocket. It shall be water-resistant, bear the photograph and finger-prints of the holder, and be embossed with the stamp of the military authority.

The identity card shall be uniform throughout the same armed forces and, as far as possible, of similar type in the armed forces of the Contracting Parties. At the outbreak of hostilities, belligerents shall inform each other of the model in use in their armed forces.

All identity cards shall be established at least in duplicate, one copy being issued to the owner and the other kept by the Power of origin.

In no circumstances may the said personnel be deprived of their armlets or identity cards. In case of loss, they are entitled to duplicates.

Article 22

The distinctive flag of the Convention shall be hoisted only over such medical units and establishments as are entitled to be respected under the Convention, and with the consent of the military authorities. In fixed establishments it shall be and in mobile formations it may be accompanied by the national flag of the belligerent to whom the formation or establishment belongs.

The identity card shall be uniform throughout the same armed forces and, as far as possible, of a similar type in the armed forces of the Contracting Parties. At the outbreak of hostilities, belligerents shall inform each other of the model in use in their armed forces.

Identity cards shall be established at least in duplicate, one copy being given to the owner and the other kept by the home country.

In no circumstances may the said personnel be deprived of their armlets or identity cards. In case of loss, they are entitled to duplicates.

Article 34
Medical units

The distinctive flag of the Convention shall be hoisted only over such medical units and establishments as are entitled to be respected under the Convention, and with the consent of the military authorities.

In mobile units, as in fixed establishments, it may be accompanied by the national flag of the belligerent to whom the unit or establishment belongs.
Nevertheless, medical formations which have fallen into the hands of the enemy, so long as they are in that situation, shall not fly any other flag than that of the Convention.

Belligerents shall take the necessary steps, so far as military exigencies permit, to make clearly visible to the enemy forces, whether land, air or sea, the distinctive emblems indicating medical formations and establishments, in order to avoid the possibility of any offensive action.

Article 23

The medical units belonging to neutral countries which shall have been authorized to lend their services under the conditions laid down in Article 11, shall fly, along with the flag of the Convention, the national flag of the belligerent to whose army they are attached.

They shall also have the right, so long as they shall lend their services to a belligerent, to fly their national flag.

The provisions of the second paragraph of the preceding article are applicable to them.

Article 24

The emblem of the red cross on a white ground and the words "Red Cross", or "Geneva Cross" shall not be used, either in time of peace or in time of war, except to protect or to indicate the medical formation and establishments and the personnel and material protected by the Convention.

The same shall apply, as regards the emblems mentioned in Article 19, paragraph 2, in respect of the countries which use them.

The societies named in Article 20 shall have the right to use the distinctive emblems of the medical units which have fallen into the hands of the enemy and which shall fly no other flag than that of the Convention.

Belligerents shall take the necessary steps, so far as military exigencies permit, to make clearly visible to the enemy land, air or sea forces the distinctive emblems indicating medical units and establishments, in order to avoid the possibility of any offensive action.

Article 25

Neutral units

The medical units belonging to neutral countries, which may have been authorized to lend their services under the conditions laid down in Article 21, shall fly along with the flag of the Convention, the national flag of the belligerent to whom they are attached, wherever the latter makes use of the faculty conferred on him by Article 34.

Subject to contrary orders by the responsible military authorities, they may, on all occasions, fly their national flag, even if they fall into the hands of the adverse party.

Article 26

Restrictions and exceptions

With the exception of the cases mentioned in the last three Sections of the present Article, the emblem of the red cross on a white ground and the words "Red Cross", or "Geneva Cross" may not be employed, either in time of peace or in time of war, except to protect or to indicate the medical units and establishments, the personnel and material protected by the Convention.

The same condition shall apply to the emblems mentioned in Article 31, Section 2, in respect of the countries which use them.

The National Red Cross Societies and the other Societies designated in Ar-
The voluntary Aid Societies mentioned in Article 10 may, in accordance with their national legislation, use the distinctive emblem in connection with their humanitarian activities in time of peace.

National Red Cross Societies may at all times, in accordance with their national legislation, make use of the emblem for their other activities. In the latter case, the conditions for the use of the emblem, and in particular its size, shall be such that it cannot be considered as conferring the protection of the Convention.

Under the conditions fixed by the preceding paragraph, the International Red Cross organizations and their duly authorized personnel shall be similarly allowed to make use, at all times, of the emblem of the Red Cross on a white ground.

As an exceptional measure, in conformity with national legislation and with the express authority of one of the National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies, use may be made of the emblem of the Red Cross in time of peace to mark the position of aid stations exclusively reserved for the purpose of giving free treatment to the wounded and sick.

As an exceptional measure, and with the express authority of one of the National Societies of the Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun), use may be made of the emblem of the Convention in time of peace to mark the position of aid stations exclusively reserved for the purpose of giving free treatment to the wounded and sick.

CHAPTER VIII

Execution of the Convention

Article 37

Implementing. Prohibition of reprisals

The belligerents, acting through their commanders-in-chief, shall ensure the detailed execution of the preceding Articles, and provide for unforeseen cases, in accordance with the instructions of their respective Governments and in conformity with the general principles of the present Convention.

Belligerents shall ensure, through their commanders-in-chief, the proper implementing of the foregoing Articles and shall arrange for unforeseen cases, in accordance with the instructions of their Governments and in conformity with the general principles of the present Convention.
Article 27

The High Contracting Parties shall take the necessary steps to instruct their troops, and in particular the personnel protected, in the provisions of the present Convention, and to bring them to the notice of the civil population.

In no case shall reprisals be taken against the wounded and the sick, the buildings, personnel or equipment protected by the Conventions.

Article 29

The Governments of the High Contracting Parties shall also propose to their legislatures, should their penal laws be inadequate, the necessary measures for the repression in time of war, of any act contrary to the provisions of the present Conventions.

They shall communicate to one another, through the Swiss Federal Council, the provisions relative to such repression, not later than five years from the ratification of the present Convention.

In no case shall reprisals be taken against the wounded, sick, buildings, personnel or equipment protected by the Conventions.

Article 38

Dissemination of the Convention

The High Contracting Parties undertake to give the widest publicity in their respective countries, both in time of peace and in time of war, to the text of the present Convention, and especially to include the study of the latter among the subjects of the military and civilian syllabus, in order that its principles may be familiar to the entire population, and in particular to the armed fighting forces, the medical personnel and the chaplains.

The High Contracting Parties undertake, in time of peace as in time of war, to disseminate the text of the present Convention as widely as possible in their respective countries, and, in particular, to incorporate the study thereof in their programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, so that the principles thereof may become known to the entire population, in particular to the armed fighting forces, the medical personnel and the chaplains.

CHAPTER IX

Repression of Abuses and Infractions

Article 39

Legislation

The legislation of the Contracting Parties shall repress all acts contrary to the stipulations of the present Conventions.

Within a maximum period of two years, the governments of the High Contracting Parties shall, if their penal laws are inadequate, enact or propose to their legislative assemblies the measures required to make unlawful, in time of war, all acts contrary to the provisions of the present Convention.

The Contracting Parties shall communicate to one another, through the Swiss Federal Council, any such legislative provisions.

The Contracting Parties shall communicate to one another, through the Swiss Federal Council, the provisions relating to such repression, not later than one year from the ratification of the present Convention.

Article 40

Penal sanctions

The Contracting Parties shall be under the obligation to apprehend persons charged with acts contrary to the present Convention, regardless of
Article 30

On the request of a belligerent, an enquiry shall be instituted in a manner to be decided between the interested parties, concerning any alleged violation of the Convention; when such violation has been established the belligerents shall put an end to and repress it as promptly as possible.

Article 41

Procedure of enquiry

Independently of the procedure foreseen in Article 9, any High Contracting Party alleging a violation of the present Convention may demand the opening of an official enquiry.

Such inquiry shall be undertaken as soon as possible by a Commission instituted for each particular case, and comprising three neutral members selected from a list of qualified persons drawn up by the High Contracting Parties in time of peace, each Party nominating four such persons.

The plaintiff and defendant States shall each appoint one member of the Commission. The third member shall be designated by the other two and should they disagree, by the President of the Court of International Justice or, should the latter be a national of a belligerent State, by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

As soon as the inquiry is closed, the Commission shall report to the Parties concerned on the reality and nature of the alleged facts, and may make appropriate recommendations.

All facilities shall be extended by the High Contracting Parties to the Commission of enquiry in the fulfilment of its duties. Its members shall enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities.
The Governments of the High Contracting Parties whose legislation is not at present adequate for the purpose, shall adopt or propose to their legislature the measures necessary to prevent at all times:

(a) The use of the emblem or designation "Red Cross" or "Geneva Cross" by private individuals or associations, firms or companies, other than those entitled thereto under the present Convention, as well as the use of any sign or designation constituting an imitation, for commercial or any other purposes;

(b) By reason of the compliment paid to Switzerland by the adoption of the reversed Federal colours, the use by private individuals or associations, firms or companies of the arms of the Swiss Confederation, or marks constituting an imitation, whether as trade-marks or as parts of such marks, or for a purpose contrary to commercial honesty, or in circumstances capable of wounding Swiss national sentiment.

The States not party to the Convention of July 27, 1929 for the Relief of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field, which may subsequently ratify the present Convention or adhere thereto, shall take the measures necessary to prevent at all times the acts mentioned under (a) and (b), in such a manner that the prohibition may become operative five years at latest after the said ratification or adhesion.

The prohibition to adopt a trade or commercial mark which is contrary to the above interdictions, already enacted by the Convention of July 27, 1929, is maintained.

In States not party to the present Convention, and which may subsequently ratify it or adhere thereto, it shall no longer be lawful as from the filing of the act of adhesion, to adopt a trade or commercial mark contrary to these prohibitions. Within five years, at most, from the coming into effect of the Convention, the trade-marks, commercial titles and names of the use of marks or designations constituting an imitation of the arms of the Swiss Confederation or marks constituting an imitation, whether as trade-marks or commercial marks, or as parts of such marks, or for a purpose contrary to commercial honesty, or in circumstances capable of wounding Swiss national sentiment.

The prohibition indicated in (a) of the use of marks or designations constituting an imitation of the emblem or designation of "Red Cross" or "Geneva Cross", as well as the prohibition in (b) of the use of the arms of the Swiss Confederation or marks constituting an imitation, shall take effect from the date fixed by each legislature, and not later than five years after the coming into force of the present Convention. From the date of such coming into force, it shall no longer be lawful to adopt a trade-mark in contravention of these rules.

(a) The use of the emblem or of the designation "Red Cross" or "Geneva Cross" by private individuals, societies, firms or companies other than those entitled thereto under the present Convention, as well as the use of any sign or designation constituting an imitation, whatever the object of such use.

(b) By reason of the compliment paid to Switzerland by the adoption of the reversed Federal colours, the use by private individuals, societies, firms or companies of the arms of the Swiss Confederation or marks constituting an imitation, whether as trade-marks or commercial marks, or as parts of such marks, or for a purpose contrary to commercial honesty, or in circumstances capable of wounding Swiss national sentiment.

The prohibition to adopt a trade or commercial mark which is contrary to the above interdictions, already enacted by the Convention of July 27, 1929, is maintained.

In States not party to the present Convention, and which may subsequently ratify it or adhere thereto, it shall no longer be lawful, as from the filing of the act of adhesion, to adopt a trade or commercial mark contrary to these prohibitions. Within five years, at most, from the coming into effect of the Convention, the trade-marks, commercial titles and names of
associations, or firms which are contrary to these prohibitions shall be amended, whatever the previous date of their adoption.

Final Provisions

Article 43

Languages

The present Convention is established in French and in English. Both texts are equally authentic. In case of doubt as to the interpretation of any particular stipulation the French text shall be considered as authoritative.

Article 44

Signatures

The present Convention, which bears the date of this day, is open to signature for a period of six months, i.e. until ................., in the name of all the Powers represented at the Conference which opened at Geneva on ..........., as well as by countries not represented at that Conference but which were parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1864 and 1906.

The present Convention, which bears the date of this day, the ...... is open to signature for a period of six months, i.e. until ........ on behalf of all the Powers represented at the Conference which opened at Geneva on ........; furthermore, by Powers not represented at that Conference but which are parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1864, 1906 or 1929 for the Relief of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field.

The present Convention, which bears the date of this day, is open to signature for a period of six months, that is to say, until ................., in the name of all the Powers represented at the Conference which opened at Geneva on ..............; furthermore, by Powers not represented at that Conference but which are party to the Geneva Conventions of 1864, 1906 or 1929 for the Relief of the Wounded and Sick of Armies in the Field.

Article 45

Ratifications

The present Convention shall be ratified as soon as possible.

The ratifications shall be deposited at Berne.

A procès-verbal of the deposit of each instrument of ratification shall be drawn up, one copy of which, certified to be correct, shall be transmitted by the Swiss Federal Council to the Governments of all countries on whose behalf the Convention has been signed, or whose accession has been notified.

The ratifications shall be deposited at Berne.

A procès-verbal of the deposit of each instrument of ratification shall be drawn up, one copy of which, certified to be correct, shall be transmitted by the Swiss Federal Council to the Governments of all Powers on whose behalf the Convention has been signed, or whose accession has been notified.
Article 33

The present Convention shall come into force six months after not less than two instruments of ratification have been deposited.

Thereafter, it shall enter into force for each High Contracting Party six months after the deposit of its instrument of ratification.

Article 34

The present Convention shall replace the Conventions of the 22nd August, 1864, and the 6th July, 1906, in relations between the High Contracting Parties.

Article 35

From the date of its coming into force, the present Convention shall be open to accession duly notified on behalf of any country on whose behalf this Convention has not been signed.

From the date of its coming into force, the present Convention shall be open to accession duly notified on behalf of any Power in whose name this Convention has not been signed.

Article 36

Accessions shall be notified in writing to the Swiss Federal Council, and shall take effect six months after the date on which they are received.

The Swiss Federal Council shall communicate the accessions to the Governments of all the countries on whose behalf the Convention has been signed or whose accession has been notified.

Accessions shall be notified in writing to the Swiss Federal Council, and shall take effect six months after the date on which they are received.

The Swiss Federal Council shall communicate the accessions to the Governments of all the Powers on whose behalf the Convention has been signed or whose accession has been notified.

Article 46

Effect

The present Convention shall come into force six months after two instruments of ratification at least have been deposited.

Thereafter, it shall come into force for each High Contracting Party six months after the deposit of its instrument of ratification.

Article 47

Effect on previous Conventions

The present Convention shall replace the Conventions of August 22, 1864, July 6, 1906, and July 27, 1929, in relations between the High Contracting Parties.

The present Convention shall replace the Convention of August 22, 1864, July 6, 1906, and July 27, 1929, in relations between the High Contracting Parties.

Article 48

Accessions

From the date of its coming into force, the present Convention shall be open to accession duly notified, by any Power in whose name this Convention has not been signed.

From the date of its coming into force, the present Convention shall be open to accession duly notified on behalf of any country on whose behalf this Convention has not been signed.

Accessions shall be notified in writing to the Swiss Federal Council, and shall take effect six months after the date on which they are received.

Accessions shall be notified in writing to the Swiss Federal Council, and shall take effect six months after the date on which they are received.

The Swiss Federal Council shall communicate the accessions to the Governments of all the Powers in whose name the Convention has been signed or whose accession has been notified.

The Swiss Federal Council shall communicate the accessions to the Governments of all the countries on whose behalf the Convention has been signed or whose accession has been notified.

(1) The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference decided to leave to the Diplomatic Conference the care of fixing the time-limits named in the present Article, adding a recommendation that these limits should be as short as possible. The same applies to Article 49.
Article 37

A state of war shall give immediate effect to ratifications deposited and accessions notified by the belligerent Powers before or after the outbreak of hostilities. The communication of ratifications or accessions received from Powers in a state of war shall be made by the Swiss Federal Council by the quickest method.

Article 38

Each of the High Contracting Parties shall be at liberty to denounce the present Convention. The denunciation shall not take effect until one year after the notification thereof in writing has been made to the Swiss Federal Council. The latter shall communicate such notification to the Governments of all the High Contracting Parties.

The denunciation shall only have effect in respect of the High Contracting Party which has made notification thereof.

Moreover, this denunciation shall not take effect during a conflict in which the denouncing Power is involved. In such a case, the present Convention shall continue binding beyond the period of one year, until the conclusion of peace.

Article 39

A certified copy of the present Convention shall be deposited in the archives of the League of Nations by

Article 50

Immediate effect

The situations defined in Article 2 shall give immediate effect to ratifications deposited and accessions notified by the Parties to the conflict before or after the outbreak of hostilities. The Swiss Federal Council shall communicate by the quickest method any ratifications or adhesions received from Parties to the conflict.

Article 51

Denunciation

Each of the High Contracting Parties shall be at liberty to denounce the present Convention. The notice of termination shall not take effect until one year after the notification thereof has been made in writing to the Swiss Federal Council. The latter shall communicate such notification to the Governments of all the High Contracting Parties.

The denunciation shall have effect only in respect of the High Contracting Party which has made notification thereof.

Such denunciation shall not take effect during a conflict in which the denouncing Power is involved. In such a case, the present Convention shall continue binding beyond the period of one year, until the conclusion of peace, and in any case until the operations connected with the release, repatriation or establishment of the persons protected by the present Convention are terminated.

Furthermore, this denunciation shall not take effect during a conflict in which the denouncing Power is involved. In such a case, the present Convention shall continue binding beyond the period of one year, until the conclusion of peace, and in any case until the operations connected with the release and repatriation of the persons protected by the present Convention are terminated. Lastly, the denunciation shall in no way affect any other obligations, even if similar, by which the denouncing Party is bound by virtue of any other rules of international law.

Article 52

Communication to the United Nations

A certified copy of the present Convention shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations by
the Swiss Federal Council. Similarly, ratifications, accessions and denunciations which shall be notified to the Swiss Federal Council shall be communicated by them to the League of Nations.

Similarly, ratifications, accessions and denunciations which are notified to the Swiss Federal Council shall be communicated by them to the United Nations.

Reservations

On the occasion of the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference, reservations were recorded in respect of the following Articles:

Government of the United States: Articles 2, 14, 19, 22, 41 and 42;

Government of Turkey: Article 42.
The XVIth International Red Cross Conference was of the opinion that the two following recommendations, which were approved by the Government Experts (1947), could be included in the Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference called upon to give the Geneva Convention its definite form:

(1) Whereas Article 33, concerning the identity documents to be carried by medical personnel, was only partially observed during the course of the recent war, thus creating serious difficulties for many members of this personnel, the Conference recommends that States and National Red Cross Societies take all necessary steps in time of peace to have medical personnel duly provided with the badges and identity cards prescribed by Article 33 of the new Convention.

(2) Whereas misuse has frequently been made of the Red Cross emblem, the Conference recommends that States take strict measures to ensure that the said emblem is used only within the limits prescribed by the Geneva Conventions, in order to safeguard its authority and protect its high significance.
ANNEX

DRAFT AGREEMENT RELATING TO HOSPITAL AND SAFETY ZONES AND LOCALITIES

ARTICLE 1
Persons benefited

Hospital and safety zones shall be strictly reserved for the persons named in Article 18 of the Geneva Convention relating to the sick and wounded, and in Article 12 of the Convention relating to the protection of civilians.

Nevertheless, persons whose permanent residence is within the zone thus constituted shall have the right to stay there.

ARTICLE 2
Prohibited work

All persons residing, in whatever capacity, in a hospital or safety zone shall perform no work, either within or without the zone, directly connected with military operations or the production of war material.

ARTICLE 3
Prohibition of access

The Power establishing a hospital or safety zone shall take all necessary measures to prohibit access to all persons who have no right of entry or of residence therein, according to Article 1 and 2 of the present agreement.

ARTICLE 4
Conditions

Hospital and safety zones shall fulfil the following conditions:

(a) They shall constitute only a small area of the territory governed by the Power on which they depend.
(b) They shall be thinly populated in relation to the possibilities of accommodation.
(c) They shall be far removed and free from all military objectives, or large industrial or administrative establishments.
(d) They shall not be situated in areas which, according to every probability, may become important for the conduct of the war.

ARTICLE 5
Obligations

They shall be subject to the following obligations:

(a) The lines of communication and means of transport which they possess shall not be used for the transport of military personnel or material.
(b) They shall in no case be defended by military means.

ARTICLE 6
Markings

They shall be marked by means of oblique red bands on a white ground, placed on the outer precincts and on the buildings.

They may be similarly marked at night by means of appropriate illumination.

Zones reserved exclusively for the wounded and sick may be marked by means of the Red Cross emblem.
ARTICLE 7

Notification and opposition

The Powers shall communicate to all the Contracting Powers, not later than on the outbreak of hostilities, a list of the hospital and safety zones in the territories governed by them. They shall also give notice of any new zones set up during hostilities.

As soon as the adverse party has received the above-mentioned notification, the zone shall be regularly constituted.

If, however, the adverse party considers that the conditions of the present agreement have not been fulfilled, it may refuse to recognize the zone, by giving immediate notice thereof to the party responsible for the said zone.

ARTICLE 8

Control

Any Power having recognized one or several hospital or safety zones instituted by the adversary shall be entitled to demand control by the Power protecting its interests, to ascertain if the zones fulfil the conditions and obligations stipulated in the present agreement.

To this effect, the representatives of the Protecting Power shall at all times have free access to the various zones and all facilities to exercise their control duties.

ARTICLE 9

Sanctions

Should the Protecting Powers note any facts which they consider contrary to the stipulations of the present agreement, they shall at once draw the attention of the Power governing the said zone to these facts, and shall fix a time limit of five days to settle the matter. They shall duly notify the Power whose interests they protect.

If, when the time limit has expired, the Power governing the zone has not complied with the warning, the adverse party may declare that it is no longer bound by the present agreement in respect of the said zone.

ARTICLE 10

Respect of zones

In no circumstances may hospital or safety zones be the object of attack. They shall be protected and respected at all times by the Parties to the conflict.

Nevertheless, should fighting forces reach their outskirts, they may cross the zones without halting therein.

ARTICLE 11

In case of occupation

In the case of occupation of a territory, the hospital and safety zones therein shall continue to be respected and utilized as such.

Their purpose may, however, be modified by the occupying Power, on condition that all measures are taken to ensure the security of the persons accommodated.

ARTICLE 12

Localities

The present agreement shall also apply to localities which the Powers may utilize for the same purposes as hospital and safety zones.
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**Notice**

*Revision of the Geneva Convention of the 27th of July, 1929 for the Relief of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field.*

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