REVISION OF THE TENTH HAGUE
CONVENTION OF OCTOBER 18, 1907 FOR
THE ADAPTATION TO MARITIME WARFARE
OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GENEVA
CONVENTION OF 1906

TITLE

CONVENTION FOR THE RELIEF OF WOUNDED,
SICK AND SHIPWRECKED MEMBERS
OF ARMED FORCES ON SEA

CHAPTER I

General Provisions

ARTICLE I

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

1 In view of the peculiarly technical nature of the Revised
Draft Maritime Convention, the Legal Commission of the XVIIth
International Red Cross Conference left its study to a Sub-com-
mmission of naval experts. The said Sub-commission stressed the
desirability of revising the Xth Hague Convention and adapting
it to the Geneva Convention. Such revision was, however, a
task requiring the most careful scrutiny, owing to the circum-
stances which are particular to maritime warfare. Seeing the
number and importance of the amendments tabled by members
of the Sub-commission, and as several maritime Powers were
not represented by naval experts, the Sub-commission passed a
recommendation that a further meeting of Government Experts
be held before the coming Diplomatic Conference.

2 The words ‘‘in the name of their peoples’’ have been deleted.
ARTICLE 2

Application of the Convention

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.

The Convention shall also apply to all cases of partial or total occupation of the territory of a High Contracting Party, even if the said occupation meets with no armed resistance.

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

In all cases of armed conflict not of an international character which may occur in the territory of one or more of the High Contracting Parties, each of the adversaries shall be bound to implement the provisions of the present Convention. The Convention shall be applicable in these circumstances, whatever the legal status of the Parties to the conflict and without prejudice thereto.

ARTICLE 3

In case of hostilities between land and naval forces of belligerents, the provisions of the present Convention shall apply only to forces on board ship.

Forces put ashore shall immediately become subject to the provisions of the Geneva Convention (date ..................) for the Relief of Sick and Wounded in Armed Forces in the Field.

ARTICLE 4

Neutral Powers shall apply by analogy the provisions of the present Convention to the wounded and sick, and to members of the medical personnel and to chaplains of belligerent armed forces interned in their territory.

ARTICLE 5

Besides the agreements expressly provided for in Articles 23, 26, 33 and 35, the Parties to the conflict may conclude special agreements for all matters concerning which they may deem it

1 The words "especially cases of civil war, colonial conflicts, or wars of religion" have been deleted.
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 restrict the rights which it confers upon them.

Wounded, sick, and shipwrecked as also members of medical personnel and chaplains shall benefit by such 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 6

Wounded and sick, as also members of the medical personnel and chaplains, may in no circumstances abandon partially or wholly the rights conferred upon them by the present Convention, and, should the case arise, by the particular agreements provided for in the foregoing Article.

ARTICLE 7

The present Convention shall be applied with the co-operation and under the supervision of the Protecting Powers whose duty it is to safeguard the interests of the Parties to the conflict. To this effect, the Protecting Powers may appoint, apart from their diplomatic staff, delegates from amongst their own nationals, or from amongst the nationals of other neutral Powers. Such delegates shall be subject to approval by the Power near which they will carry out their duties. The said Power may only refuse its approval if serious grounds are adduced.

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

ARTICLE 8

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

1 The words "be induced by constraint or by any other means of coercion" have been deleted.
ARTICLE 9

Substitutes for Protecting Powers

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, sick and shipwrecked, members of the medical personnel and chaplains do not benefit, or cease to benefit, by the activity 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 the said Power it in the sense of the present Article.

ARTICLE 10

Procedure of conciliation

Whenever the Protecting Powers consider it desirable in the interest of wounded, sick and shipwrecked, 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.

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, sick and shipwrecked, 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.
CHAPTER II

Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked

ARTICLE II

Members of the land, sea and air forces and the other persons designated in Article 3 of the Convention of . . . . . . relative to the treatment of Prisoners of War who may be on sea and who are wounded, sick or shipwrecked, 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 distinction 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.\(^1\)

ARTICLE 12

Subject to the provisions of the foregoing Article, the wounded, sick and shipwrecked 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.

The captor may decide, according to circumstances, whether it is expedient to hold them, or to convey them to a port in the captor's own country, to a neutral port or even to a port in enemy territory. In the last case, prisoners thus returned to their home country may not serve for the duration of the war.

Uninjured shipwrecked persons found at sea who do not freely surrender shall not be captured or detained against their will on board a hospital ship.

ARTICLE 13

All warships of a belligerent Party shall have the right to demand that the wounded, sick or shipwrecked on board military hospital ships, hospital ships belonging to relief societies

\(^1\) In connexion with this Article and in all similar cases, i.e. whenever reference is made to an Article or a paragraph of another Convention, the Sub-commission of naval experts recommended that the final draft of the Maritime Convention should quote as foot-notes the full text of the Article or paragraph to which reference is made.
or to private individuals, merchant vessels, yachts and other
craft shall be surrendered, whatever their nationality, provided
that the wounded and sick are in a fit state to be moved.

**ARTICLE 14**

If wounded, sick or shipwrecked persons are taken on board
a neutral warship *on the high seas*, it shall be ensured that they
can take no further part in operations of war.

**ARTICLE 15**

Wounded, sick or shipwrecked persons who are landed by
the warships, *hospital ships or merchant vessels* of belligerents
in neutral ports, with the consent of the local authorities, shall,
ailing arrangements to the contrary between the neutral and
the belligerent Powers, be so guarded by the neutral Power that
the said persons cannot again take part in operations of war.

The costs of hospital accommodation and internment shall
be borne by the Power on whom the wounded, sick or ship­
wrecked persons depend.

If wounded, sick or shipwrecked persons are landed in a
neutral port by neutral or private merchant shipping, vessels,
or aircraft, which have assumed no obligation towards one of
the belligerent Powers, the said wounded, sick or shipwrecked
persons shall be free.

Any warship arriving in a neutral port shall have the option,
with the consent of the neutral Power, of landing wounded,
sick or shipwrecked persons who may be on board.

**ARTICLE 16**

After each engagement, belligerents shall without delay
take all possible measures to search for and collect the ship­
wrecked, wounded and sick, to protect them against pillage and
ill-treatment, and ensure their adequate care, and to search for
the dead and prevent their being despoiled.

**ARTICLE 17**

Belligerents shall communicate to each other as soon as
possible, according to the procedure described in Article 112
of the Convention of . . . . . . . . . . . relative to the
Treatment of Prisoners of War, the names of the wounded, sick, shipwrecked and dead discovered and collected, together with any indications which may assist in their identification.

They shall establish and forward to each other, by the same channel, certificates of death or, in lieu thereof, duly authenticated lists of the dead, together with one half of the identity discs of the dead, which should be of a standard pattern, 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 in captured vessels or on the dead.

Bodies shall not be cremated, except for imperative reasons of hygiene or for motives based on the religious tenets of the deceased. 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 on land or at sea, or cremation of the dead, carried out individually as far as 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, 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 effect, they shall organize at the commencement of hostilities an official graves registration service, to allow subsequent exhumations and to ensure the identification of bodies, whatever the ulterior site of the graves, and the possible transportation to the home country. These stipulations likewise apply, so 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, these services shall exchange the lists of the graves and of the dead interred in their cemeteries and elsewhere.

Should wounded, sick, shipwrecked or dead be collected by neutrals, the latter shall assume towards the belligerents the obligations indicated in the preceding paragraphs.

**ARTICLE 18**

The belligerents may appeal to the charity of commanders of neutral merchant vessels, yachts or other craft, to take on board and care for wounded, sick or shipwrecked persons, and to collect the dead.
Vessels responding to this appeal, and those having of their own accord collected wounded, sick or shipwrecked persons shall be granted, as far as possible, special protection and facilities to carry out such assistance.

They may in no case be captured on account of any such transport; in the absence of any promise to the contrary they shall, however, remain liable to capture, should facts occur which justify such capture by virtue of the rules of maritime warfare.

CHAPTER III

Hospital Ships

ARTICLE 19

Military hospital ships, that is to say, ships built or equipped by the Powers specially and solely with a view to assisting the wounded, sick and shipwrecked, may in no circumstances be attacked or captured, but shall at all times be respected and protected by the belligerents, on condition that their gross tonnage is not less than one thousand tons, that their names and descriptions have been notified to the belligerent Powers and that the handing out of this notification has been confirmed by the Protecting Power thirty days before the said ships are employed.

ARTICLE 20

Hospital ships utilized by National Red Cross Societies, by officially recognized relief societies or by private persons shall likewise be respected and exempt from capture, if the belligerent Power on which they depend has given them an official commission, in so far as the provisions of Article 19 concerning tonnage and notification have been complied with.

These ships must be provided with certificates of the responsible authorities, stating that the vessels have been under their control while fitting out and on departure.

In the same conditions, coastal life-boats of low speed, not exceeding twelve knots, of small tonnage and attached to a fixed base, which are employed by private persons or officially recognized relief associations, shall benefit by the same protection as the vessels described in paragraph 1.
ARTICLE 21

Hospital ships utilized by National Red Cross Societies, officially recognized relief societies, or private persons of neutral countries shall be respected and exempt from capture, on condition that they have placed themselves under the control of one of the belligerents, with the previous consent of their own Governments and with the authorization of the belligerent concerned, in so far as the provisions of Article 19 concerning tonnage and notification have been complied with.

ARTICLE 22

Notification of a hospital ship, as provided for in Articles 19, 20 and 21, shall not be effective if, at the time of the communication made by the Protecting Power to the belligerent Powers, the ship is in a port which is besieged by land or sea and in imminent danger of being occupied.

ARTICLE 23

When circumstances permit, local arrangements may be entered into between the belligerents for the removal of the wounded and sick by sea from a besieged or encircled area and for the passage of medical personnel and equipment intended for the said area.

ARTICLE 24

Any hospital ship in a port which falls into the hands of the enemy shall be authorized to leave the said port.

ARTICLE 25

The ships described in Articles 19, 20 and 21 shall afford relief and assistance to the wounded, sick and shipwrecked of the belligerents, without distinction of nationality.

Governments undertake not to use these ships for any military purpose.

Such vessels shall in no wise hamper the movements of the combatants.

During and after an engagement, they will act at their own risk.
ARTICLE 26

Rights of belligerents

The belligerents shall have the right to control and search the vessels mentioned in Articles 19, 20 and 21. They can refuse their help, order them off, make them take a certain course, and put a commissioner temporarily on board; they can even detain them for a maximum period of seven days from the time of interception, if the gravity of the circumstances requires.¹

As far as possible, the belligerents shall enter in the log of the hospital ship, in a language he can understand, the orders they give the captain of the vessel.

Belligerents may, either unilaterally or by particular agreements, put on board their ships neutral observers who shall verify the strict observation of the provisions contained in the present Convention.

ARTICLE 27

Stay in a neutral port

Vessels described in Articles 19, 20 and 21 are not assimilated to warships as regards their stay in a neutral port.

ARTICLE 28

Transformation of merchant vessels

Merchant vessels which have been transformed into hospital ships cannot be put to any other use throughout the duration of hostilities.

ARTICLE 29

Lapse of protection

The protection to which hospital ships and sick-bays are entitled cannot lapse unless they are used to commit acts harmful to the enemy, and after due warning, naming a reasonable time limit, which warning is unheeded.

In particular, hospital ships provided with wireless or any other means of communication shall not be in possession of a secret code. All their communications shall be made in clear.

The following conditions shall not be considered as justifying the withdrawal of protection:

(1) The fact that the crew of these ships is armed for the maintenance of order and for the defence of the sick and wounded.

¹The Sub-commission of naval experts considered it desirable that the status and powers of the commissioner named in this Article should be subsequently defined.
(2) The presence on board of apparatus exclusively intended to facilitate navigation or communication.

(3) The discovery on board hospital ships or in sick-bays of portable arms and ammunition taken from the wounded, sick and shipwrecked, and which have not yet been handed to the proper service.

(4) The fact that the humanitarian activities of hospital ships and sick-bays or of the crews extend to the care of wounded, sick or shipwrecked civilians.

CHAPTER IV

Personnel

ARTICLE 30

The religious, medical and hospital personnel of hospital ships and their crews shall be respected and protected; they may not be captured during the time they are pursuing their duties, whether or not there are wounded and sick on board.

ARTICLE 31

The religious, medical and hospital personnel of any captured ship shall be respected and protected; they may continue to carry out their duties as long as this is necessary for the care of the wounded and sick.

The members of such personnel 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 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 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.

**Article 32**

Members of personnel designated in Article 31, whose detention in captivity is not made indispensable by the exigencies mentioned in the said Article, shall be returned to the belligerent on whom they depend 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.

**Selection of repatriates**

The selection of repatriates by virtue of the foregoing Article 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 their distribution in the camps.

**CHAPTER V**

**Material**

**Article 34**

Should fighting occur on board a warship, the sick-bays shall be respected and spared as far as possible. Sick-bays and their equipment shall remain subject to the laws of warfare, but may not be diverted from their purpose so long as they are required for the wounded and sick. Nevertheless, the commander into whose power they have fallen may, after ensuring the proper care of the wounded and sick who are accommodated therein, apply them to other purposes in case of urgent military necessity.
CHAPTER VI

Medical Transports

ARTICLE 35

Ships chartered for that purpose shall be authorized to transport medical equipment, provided their routes and duties have been notified to the adverse Power and approved by the latter. The adverse Power, duly advised, shall preserve the right to board, but not to capture them.

By agreement amongst the belligerents, neutral observers may be placed on board such ships to verify the medical equipment carried.

Hospital ships may be used to transport medical personnel and equipment in addition to those which they usually require.

ARTICLE 36

Hospital aircraft described in the present Article and used as a means of medical transport, in particular seaplanes, may not be the object of attack, but shall be respected by belligerents, in so far as they are exclusively employed for the removal of wounded, sick and shipwrecked, or the transport of medical personnel and material.

They shall be painted white and bear, clearly marked on their lower, upper and lateral surfaces, the distinctive emblem prescribed in Article 38, together with their national colours. They shall be provided with any other markings or means of identification which may be agreed upon between the belligerents upon the outbreak or during the course of hostilities.

To facilitate their identification, they shall endeavour to inform the enemy of their route, altitude and time of flight.

Unless agreed otherwise, flights over enemy or enemy-occupied territory, territorial waters, likewise any enemy military objectives or formations on land or sea, are prohibited.

Hospital aircraft shall obey every summons to land.

In the event of involuntary landings in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, the wounded and sick, as well as the crew of the aircraft shall be prisoners of war. The medical personnel shall be treated in conformity with Articles 31 and following.

Any aircraft which is compelled to alight on land or water may continue its flight with its occupants, after examination if required.
Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2, medical aircraft of belligerents may fly over the territory of neutral Powers, land thereon in case of necessity, or use it as a port of call. They shall give neutral Powers prior notice of their passage over the said territory, and obey all summons to alight, on land or water.

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

Unless otherwise agreed 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 medical aircraft shall be detained by the neutral Power, so 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.

CHAPTER VII

The Distinctive Emblem

ARTICLE 38

The emblem of the Red Cross shall be displayed on the flags, armlets and all equipment employed in the Medical Service, with the permission of the competent military authority.

ARTICLE 39

The personnel designated in Articles 30 and 31 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, and which can be put in the pocket. This card, worded in the national language, likewise in French and in English, shall be water-resistant, bear the photograph and finger-prints of the owner, 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 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 40

The ships designated in Articles 19, 20 and 21 shall be distinguished by being painted white on all the exterior vertical surfaces and furthermore on such exterior horizontal and sloping surfaces as may be required to make plainly visible the red crosses hereunder prescribed.

Vermilion red crosses shall be painted and displayed as follows:

(a) Three (3) crosses three metres high at least on each side of the hull, so placed as to permit identification to the greatest extent from ahead, astern and abeam.

(b) Two (2) crosses of maximum practicable size on the horizontal surfaces, so placed as to afford the greatest visibility from the air.

(c) One (1) cross of maximum practicable size placed vertically above the level of the main deck, in such a position as to be clearly visible from astern.

(d) One (1) cross of maximum practicable size placed vertically above the level of the main deck, in such a position as to be clearly visible from ahead.

In order to allow their character to be recognized during darkness and in times of reduced visibility, hospital ships shall be illuminated as follows:

(a) The centre and aftermost crosses on each side of the hull shall be floodlit, so as to ensure adequate and uninterrupted luminosity, unless this hampers navigation. Ships may also floodlight the crosses placed on the forepart of the hull.

(b) A luminous red cross of maximum practicable size to be placed as high as possible above the superstructure, in such a manner as to ensure maximum visibility from all points of the horizon, both on the surface and from the air. This cross shall consist of three luminous members, of which one is vertical and two horizontal. Of the horizontal members, one shall be placed lengthwise to the ship and the other at right angles. The cross may have an automatic switching mechanism to provide flashing and alternating illumination of the two horizontal members.
Lifeboats of hospital ships and all small craft used by the medical service shall be painted white with vermilion red crosses prominently displayed and shall, in general, comply with the identification system above prescribed for hospital ships.

All hospital ships shall make themselves known by hoisting, besides their national flag, the white flag with a red cross and further, if they belong to a neutral State, by flying at the main-mast the national flag of the belligerent whose direction they have accepted.

Hospital ships which, in accordance with Article 26, are provisionally detained by the enemy, must haul down the national flag of the belligerent on whom they depend.

As soon as technically possible, all hospital ships shall be provided with radar and underwater sound apparatus, to permit their identification by the detecting apparatus of belligerents and neutrals.

CHAPTER VIII

Execution of the Convention

ARTICLE 41

Belligerents shall ensure, through their naval 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.

In no case shall reprisals be taken against the wounded, sick and shipwrecked persons, the vessels, personnel or equipment protected by the Convention.

ARTICLE 42

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 43

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 any act contrary to the provisions of the present Convention. The misuse of the distinctive markings named in Article 40, by vessels not protected by the present Convention shall be punished as an illegal use of military markings.

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

ARTICLE 44

The Contracting Parties shall be under the obligation to apprehend persons charged with acts contrary to the present Convention, regardless of their nationality. They shall furthermore, in obedience to their national legislation or to the conventions for the repression of acts which may be defined as war crimes, refer such persons for trial by their own courts, or if they so prefer, hand them over for trial to another Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 45

In addition to the procedure indicated in Article 10, any High Contracting Party alleging a violation of the present Convention may demand the institution of an inquiry.

Such inquiry shall be undertaken as soon as possible by a Commission appointed for each particular case, comprising three neutral members chosen 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, in case they cannot agree, by the President of the Court of International Justice, or if the latter is a national of a belligerent State, or incapacitated, by his substitute, or failing the latter, 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.

**Final Provisions**

**ARTICLE 46**

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 47**

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 the ...................., 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 Xth Hague Convention of October 18, 1907, for the adaptation to Maritime Warfare of the principles of the Geneva Convention, or to the Geneva Conventions of 1864, 1906 or 1929 for the Relief of the Wounded and Sick of Armies in the Field.

**ARTICLE 48**

The present Convention shall be ratified as soon as possible. The ratification shall be deposited at Berne.
A procès-verbal of the deposit of each instrument of ratification shall be drawn up, copy of which, certified to be correct, shall be transmitted by the Swiss Federal Council to the Governments of all the Powers in whose name the Convention has been signed, or whose accession has been notified.

**ARTICLE 49**

The present Convention shall come into force ............... after not less than two instruments of ratification have been deposited.
Thereafter, it shall come into force for each High Contracting Party after the deposit of the instrument of ratification.

ARTICLE 50

The present Convention shall replace the Xth Hague Convention of October 18, 1907, for the adaptation to Maritime Warfare of the principles of the Geneva Convention of 1906, in relations between the High Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 51

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.

ARTICLE 52

Accessions shall be notified in writing to the Swiss Federal Council, and shall take effect 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.

ARTICLE 53

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 means any ratifications or adhesions received from Parties to the conflict.

1 The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference decided, to leave to the Diplomatic Conference the care of fixing the periods named in the present Article, adding a recommendation that these periods should be as short as possible. The same applies to Article 52.
ARTICLE 54

Notice of termination

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 in writing has been made to the Swiss Federal Council. The Council 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. 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 the other obligations, even if similar, by which the denouncing Party is bound by virtue of any other rules of international law.

ARTICLE 55

Transmission to the United Nations

The present Convention shall be transmitted by the Swiss Federal Council to the United Nations Organization, for the purpose of registration. Similarly, ratifications, accessions and notices of termination which are notified to the Swiss Federal Council shall be communicated by them to the United Nations Organization.

\[1\] The words "A certified copy of the present Convention shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations" have been deleted.