

Revised Nordic position 29.3.1967

I. Definition of protected organizations

A. General definition

1. The organizations shall be civilian
2. The duties of the organizations shall be humanitarian and primarily designed to ensure the conditions of life of the population. Other activities may be performed only within the frame-work of what is mentioned under C.
3. The organizations shall be recognised by their government. If there are more than one organization, there shall be a responsible authority.

B. Further definition of the civilian character of the organizations

1. The organizations cannot
  - a) be organized as part of the armed forces
  - b) have fighting functions
2. The organizations can
  - a) be subordinated to any governmental department
  - b) be recruited under obligation
  - c) be built up after military pattern
  - d) include personnel, appropriately armed for the maintenance of order and self-defence in connection with the duties of the organizations
  - e) co-operate with other bodies of the national defence within the frame-work of what is mentioned under C

C. Further definition of the duties of the organizations

1. The duties of the organizations to ensure the conditions of the civilian population imply i.e.
  - a) alarm service, shelter construction, operation of shelters and evacuation

- b) social activities such as catering and care of bombed out persons or other homeless persons
- c) other division of relief to civilians
- d) protection of property used for civilian purposes
- e) measures to provide the civilian population with gas, water, electricity, fuel etc
- f) maintenance of order and other similar missions in connection with the activities of the organizations
- g) information and training in above-mentioned functions

2. As humanitarian work is considered - even if the activities are performed for the benefit of other than civilians-- every form of

- a) relief activities and first aid
- b) fire-fighting
- c) care of wounded and sick
- d) decontamination
- e) information and training in above-mentioned functions

3. The organizations as such do not lose the protection entitled to them, even if the personnel, as an exception perform activities not included in point 1 and 2 above, provided that these activities do not involve fighting activities or otherwise affect their civilian status. Such activities, however, do not have the benefit of special protection.

D. Personnel, material and establishments, having the benefit of special protection according to this convention, shall be provided with an emblem. The emblem may not be used when personnel, material or establishments do not enjoy this protection.

## II. Import and extent of the protection

### A. Protection of the organizations

- 1. The protection applies to the organizations as such and the activities performed by the organizations according to I C point 1 and 2.
- 2. Foreign armed forces or occupying power may not dissolve the organizations or prevent them from performing their tasks according to I C point 1 and 2 but shall to the largest extent give them the help needed in their activities.

3. Foreign armed forces or occupying power may not claim that the organizations perform activities for their benefit. Furthermore, foreign armed forces or occupying power may not interfere in the judging and measures of the management of the organizations in regard to their activities.

B. Protection of the personnel

1. The personnel of the organizations may not be attacked by foreign armed forces or occupying power or in other respect be hindered in performing their tasks according to I C point 1 and 2.
2. The personnel of the organizations may not be forced to work by foreign armed forces or occupying power.
3. The personnel of the organizations shall in all circumstances - even when the protection pointed out in the foregoing provisions not is valid - at least benefit by the provisions of the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war.

C. Protection of the material

The material belonging to the organizations may not be attacked, destroyed or requisitioned by foreign armed forces or occupying power except when they not are being used for purposes mentioned under I C point 1 and 2.

D. Protection of real property

Fixed establishments from where the activities of the organizations are managed and which solely are used for such purposes may not be attacked, destroyed or requisitioned. Other fixed establishments for the activities of the organizations may not either be attacked, destroyed or requisitioned if it is not justified by military necessities. Does this occur, measures shall first have been taken to ensure the security of civilian persons and civilian material therein assembled.