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Center Hosts Conferences

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Europeans Disagree,
continued from previous page

The European Council, as the main decision-maker in the Union, has made it clear that it does not intend to make rights one of its major policy issues within the Union. For example, the European Union has not yet adopted the European Convention of Human Rights,

"It is not acceptable to report about the human rights situation in the Union the same way as on the situation of human rights in totalitarian developing countries. We are not in Bangladesh."

although the EP has demanded that it do so many times. The European Union has also accepted the European Social Charter, but only as a politically, rather than a legally, binding document, and therefore no rights can be drawn from this document. And most recently, the Union set aside questions of human rights for economic and other political reasons to reach an agreement with Turkey for a customs union.

Conservative parties in the EP share and even go beyond the Council's position. Some EP-members, like German Christian Democrat, Hartmut Nassauer, take the view that the Parliament's human rights reports and declarations are a "door-opening of ideologising human rights. It must be clear that human rights first of all mean civil liberties and that there is still a difference between murder, racism and torture on the one hand, and the question of providing payable housing or adequate jobs on the other hand. It is not acceptable to report about the human rights situation in the Union the same way as on the situation of human rights in totalitarian developing countries. We are not in Bangladesh."

Center Hosts Conferences

On April 10-11, 1995, the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the American Red Cross, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, hosted the Conference on International Humanitarian Law. Experts and scholars addressed key issues relating to the contemporary rele-



Representative of the UN Secretary General on Internally Displaced, Francis Deng, addresses International Humanitarian Law Conference

vance of international humanitarian law, with respect to UN peacekeeping activities; the gathering of evidence of humanitarian law violations; international displaced persons in armed conflicts; belligerents' duty to avoid civilian casualties; and the enforcement of humanitarian law by states and the international community.

On April 13, 1995, the Center, the International Legal Studies Program, and the Washington College of Law sponsored the second annual Conference on the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights. The Conference convened jurist, diplomats, and human rights activist to analyze human rights violations in this hemisphere and the institutional response to these violations.

A complete review of the conferences was not possible in this issue of *The Human Rights Brief* due to publication deadlines.



(left to right) Marco Sassoli, Deputy Head, Legal Division, ICRC; A.B. Clapman, Amnesty International, New York; Roy S. Lee, Principal Legal Officer, United Nations, New York; Lt. Steven Lepper, Deputy Counsel to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pentagon, discussing humanitarian law and UN peacekeeping operations at the Humanitarian Law Conference



Keynote speaker, Sonia Picado, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United States, discusses human rights issues with conference participants at the Conference on the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights



(left to right) G.J.H. van Hoof, Chairman, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights; Judge Antonio Cançado Trindade, Inter-American Court of Human Rights; Alvaro Tirado Mejía, President, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights; and WCL Dean Claudio Grossman, at the Conference on the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights

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