

RED CROSS REVIEWS RULES ON WARFARE

GENEVA, Feb. 28 — Representatives of Red Cross societies from 40 countries will meet in The Hague tomorrow in the first stage — an attempt to revise the Geneva Conventions of warfare.

The conventions, signed here in 1949, reflected the views of the victors of World War II and were drafted in the expectation that wars would continue to be fought between organized governments following formal declarations of war. In more recent wars in Asia and Africa, never declared and often represented by one side as civil wars, the International Committee of the Red Cross has had no legal right under the conventions to intervene on behalf of prisoners.

The delegates meeting tomorrow will try to decide what improvements in the conventions are needed and politically acceptable to governments. In May, experts from 39 countries will meet here in an attempt to get a clear indication of how far the conventions can be revised. The actual changes will have to be drafted at another conference.

The 1949 conventions were drafted after two years of negotiations.