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Preface

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PREFACE

This volume of the *Journal* is devoted to an ever serious theme — the law of war. As society becomes increasingly technological and complex, so do the weapons and methods of warfare. In order to maintain our present world order and avoid the devastation that a confrontation between major States could cause, methods of control and, even more important, ways of enforcing that control must be devised.

Many problems are inherent in the concept of control. Because State sovereignty and national security are inexorably tied to such a concept, agreements are difficult to reach and tend to limit very little. There is still a question as to whether coercion short of war should be included in these agreements. Overlaid on these problems is the effort now being made to interweave humanitarian considerations into the law of war. The overall picture is one of conflicting interests and overwhelming complexity.

The Fourth Session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of Humanitarian Law Applicable to Armed Conflict convenes in Geneva in April of 1977. This issue is respectfully dedicated to the delegates to that Conference, in the hope that the mammoth task which they have undertaken will be successfully completed.

We have attempted to make this issue a forum for differing points of view and discussion of basic issues in the law of war. We would like to thank all the authors who made that goal possible by taking time from their busy schedules to write for the *Journal*.

We extend a special thanks to Lt. Col. James R. Miles, U.S.A.F., who gave us valuable suggestions when this issue was in the embryo stage. We would also like to express our gratitude to Dean Lindsey Cowen, whose continuing interest in the *Journal* has made it possible for us to grow.

Finally, to the editors and staff of the *Journal*, a personal thanks for all the work that went into this issue. I think it was worth it.

B. AMANDA GARVER

