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TEXT OF A U. N. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HUMANE TREATMENT
OF WAR VICTIMS APPROVED BY THE U. N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1970

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Preamble of the United Nations Charter affirms faith in the dignity and worth of the human person,

Recalling that the United Nations has as one of its purposes achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of humanitarian character and promotion of respect for human rights,

Noting the obligation of states members under the Charter of the United Nations to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights,

Recalling Resolutions 2444 (XXIII) and 2597 (XXIV) requesting the Secretary General, in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, to continue to study, inter alia, (I) steps which could be taken to secure the better application of existing humanitarian international conventions and rules in all armed conflicts; and (II) the need for additional humanitarian international conventions or for other appropriate legal instruments to ensure the better protection of civilians, prisoners and combatants in all armed conflicts,

Believing therefore that the treatment accorded to persons involved in war or armed conflict is a concern of the United Nations,

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AMERICAN EMBASSY - TOKYO

Noting Resolution XI adopted by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul calling upon all parties to the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war to ensure that all persons entitled to prisoner of war status are treated humanely and given the fullest measure of protection prescribed by the Conventions, and that all parties involved in an armed conflict, no matter how characterized, provide free access to prisoners of war and to all places of their detention by a protecting power or by the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Considering that direct repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war and repatriation or internment in a neutral country of prisoners of war who have undergone a long period of captivity constitute important aspects of human rights as advanced and preserved under the Geneva Convention and the United Nations Charter,

1. Calls upon all parties to any armed conflict to comply with the terms and provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war so as to ensure humane treatment of all persons entitled to the protection of the Convention and, inter alia, to permit regular inspection in accordance with the Convention of all places of detention of prisoners of war by a protecting power or humanitarian organization, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross;

2. Endorses the continuing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to secure effective application of the Convention;

3. Urges compliance with Article 109 of the Convention, which requires repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war and which provides for agreements with a view to direct repatriation or internment in a neutral country of able-bodied prisoners of war who have undergone a long period of captivity;

4. Urges that combatants in all armed conflicts not covered by Article 4 of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, be accorded the same humane treatment defined by the principles of international law applied to prisoners of war.
