

Notification
to the Governments of the States parties
to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949
for the Protection of War Victims

DECLARATIONS RELATING TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION OF 5 DECEMBER 2001

I. Declaration of the Republic of Turkey

On 3 December 2001, the Republic of Turkey deposited with the Swiss Federal Council the following declaration regarding the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, being held in Geneva on 5 December 2001 (original version) :

"The Government of Turkey deems it essential to declare that Turkey's presence in this Conference should in no way be construed as the recognition of the so-called Republic of Cyprus by Turkey. Nor should it imply any change in Turkey's well-known position that the Greek Cypriot side has no right or authority to represent Cyprus as a whole."

II. Declaration of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay

On 5 December 2001, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay deposited with the Swiss Federal Council the following declaration regarding the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, being held in Geneva on 5 December 2001 (unofficial English translation of the Spanish original version):

"The State of Uruguay confirms its commitment to the standards of International Humanitarian Law as the minimum regulatory framework to guarantee the safeguarding of human dignity in the case of armed conflict. In this respect, Uruguay deems the protection of civilian persons who neither take part in hostilities nor perform any work of a military character a legal

obligation arising from the Conventions and other relevant international instruments, whatever the conflict.

Nevertheless, progress in this area can only be effectively made if supported by all States Parties.

While the procedural need to reduce topics subject for debate at the Conference is recognised, the Final Declaration should have been formulated in more comprehensive terms to be a true expression of contracting Parties. In particular, the State of Uruguay deems that the obligations arising from the IV Geneva Convention should concern parties in the conflict, and it would therefore have been desirable for references in the Declaration text to be in keeping with this spirit."

A copy of the Spanish text of this declaration is enclosed.

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL II

III. Accession by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

On 28 November 2001, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia deposited with the Swiss Federal Council its instrument of accession to the Additional Protocol II.

According to its final provisions, the Protocol shall enter into force for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia six months after the deposit of the instrument of accession, i.e. on 28 May 2002.

The Swiss Federal Council makes the present notification in its capacity as depositary of the Conventions and Protocols.

Enclosure

Bern, 3 april 2002