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

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL III

***I. Ratification by Canada***

On 26 November 2007, Canada deposited with the Swiss Federal Council its instrument of ratification of the Protocol III.

The instrument contains the following text (original English and French versions):

*«Article 6(2) provides inter alia that the High Contracting Parties may permit prior users of the third Protocol emblem, or of any sign constituting an imitation thereof, to continue such use, provided that «the rights to such use were acquired before the adoption of this Protocol». Given that Canadian legislation enacted to implement Protocol III does not have retroactive application and will enter into force on the date of Canada's ratification of Protocol III, Canada will permit prior users of the third Protocol emblem, or of any sign constituting an imitation thereof, to continue such use, provided that the rights to such use were acquired before the date of Canada's ratification of Protocol III».*

Pursuant to its Article 11, paragraph 2, the Protocol will enter into force for Canada six months after the deposit of the instrument, i.e. on 26 May 2008.

***II. Ratification by the Republic of Cyprus***

On 27 November 2007, the Republic of Cyprus deposited with the Swiss Federal Council its instrument of ratification of the Protocol III.

Pursuant to its Article 11, paragraph 2, the Protocol will enter into force for the Republic of Cyprus six months after the deposit of the instrument, i.e. on 27 May 2008.

***III. Ratification by the Republic of Lithuania***

On 28 November 2007, the Republic of Lithuania deposited with the Swiss Federal Council its instrument of ratification of the Protocol III.

Pursuant to its Article 11, paragraph 2, the Protocol will enter into force for the Republic of Lithuania six months after the deposit of the instrument, i.e. on 28 May 2008.

#### **IV. Corrections of the Russian, Chinese and Arabic texts**

As announced in its notification dated 8 March 2006 (GEN 3/06), the Depositary had received additional proposals for correction of the authentic texts of the Russian, Chinese and Arabic versions of Protocol III, as signed in Geneva on 8 December 2005 and rectified on 8 March 2006.

The depositary has the honour to submit herewith a copy of each of these linguistic versions, highlighting the corrections suggested, compared to the authentic texts as sent out to the States parties on 8 March 2006. These authentic texts are also available on the website of the depositary: <http://www.eda.admin.ch/depositary>.

The Depositary proposes to effect these corrections in the originals of the relevant texts for every suggestion against which no objection is raised by a Party or a Signatory of the Protocol III. Any objection should be communicated to the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs no later than 29 February 2008. The Depositary will then deliver certified true copies of the Arabic, Chinese and Russian consolidated texts with the relative procès-verbal of rectification.

The Swiss Federal Council makes the present notification in its capacity as Depositary of the Geneva Conventions and according to articles 15 and 17 of Protocol III.

Berne, 3 December 2007

