

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Notification

to the Governments of the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions
of August 12, 1949, for the Protection of War Victims

PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF AUGUST 12, 1949,
AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF INTERNATIONAL ARMED
CONFLICTS (PROTOCOL I) AND NON-INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS (PRO-
TOCOL II), ADOPTED AT GENEVA ON JUNE 8, 1977.

I

Accession of Bolivia

On 8 December 1983, the Republic of Bolivia has deposited with the
Swiss Government an instrument of accession to the Protocols I and
II, mentioned above.

According to Article 95, Paragraph 2, of Protocol I and Article 23,
Paragraph 2, of Protocol II, the said Protocols shall enter into
force for the Republic of Bolivia on 8 June 1984, i.e. six months
after the deposit of the instrument of accession.

II

Accession of Costa Rica

On 15 December 1983, the Republic of Costa Rica has deposited with
the Swiss Government an instrument of accession to the Protocols I
and II, mentioned above.

According to Article 95, Paragraph 2, of Protocol I, and to Article 23, Paragraph 2, of Protocol II, the said Protocols shall enter into force for the Republic of Costa Rica on 15 June 1984, i.e. six months after the deposit of the instrument of accession.

III

Accession of France

On 24 February 1984, the French Republic has deposited with the Swiss Government an instrument of accession to the Additional Protocol II only. The instrument has been accompanied by the following communication:

"A l'occasion du dépôt de l'instrument d'adhésion de la France au Protocole II du 8 juin 1977 aux Conventions de Genève du 12 août 1949, j'ai l'honneur de vous préciser qu'il n'est pas dans l'intention de la République française d'adhérer au Protocole I du même jour aux mêmes Conventions. Cette dernière décision s'explique par les motifs indiqués par le représentant de la France lors de la quatrième session de la Conférence diplomatique de Genève sur la réaffirmation et le développement du droit international humanitaire applicable dans les conflits armés et, plus particulièrement par l'absence de consensus entre les Etats signataires du Protocole I en ce qui concerne la portée exacte des obligations assumées par eux en matière de dissuasion."

According to its Article 23, Paragraph 2, the Protocol II shall enter into force for the French Republic on 24 August 1984, i.e. six months after the deposit of the instrument of accession.

IV

Communication of Israel relating to a declaration of Syria

By its notification of 30 November 1983, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has informed the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of the accession of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Protocol I, together with a declaration. Referring to the aforementioned notification, the State of Israel, Party to the Geneva Conventions, has transmitted to the Swiss Government, by note of 4 January 1984,

the following communication:

"The Government of Israel takes note that an instrument of adhesion to the Additional Protocol (1) to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, adopted on 8 June 1977, was received from the Government of the Arab Republic of Syria and placed with the Government of Switzerland on 14 November 1983.

The instrument deposited by the Government of the Arab Republic of Syria contains a hostile statement of a political character in respect of Israel. In the view of the Government of Israel the Geneva Conventions and the Protocols are not the proper place for making such hostile political pronouncements, which are, moreover, in flagrant contradiction to the principles, objects and purposes of the Conventions and the Protocols. This statement by the Government of the Arab Republic of Syria cannot in any way affect whatever obligations are binding upon the Arab Republic of Syria under general international law or under particular conventions. The Government of the State of Israel will, in so far as concerns the substance of the matter, adopt towards the Government of the Arab Republic of Syria an attitude of complete reciprocity."

The present notification is made by the Swiss Government in its capacity of Depositary of the Geneva Conventions and of the Protocols Additional.

Bern, 12 March 1984