



FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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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. Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference on the Adoption of Protocol III

The Diplomatic Conference on the Adoption of the Third Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), held in Geneva from 5 to 8 December 2005, mandated the depositary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols to establish the Final Act of the Conference.

The depositary has the honour to transmit herewith to the States parties this Final Act with enclosures, not subject to signature, established on 31 January 2006 in French, English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic.

II. Corrections of the Russian, Chinese and Arabic texts

With notification of 23 January 2006, the depositary suggested corrections to the Russian, Chinese and Arabic texts of the Protocol III. No objection was raised against these proposals within the assigned deadline so that the depositary performed these corrections in the original.

The enclosed procès-verbal of rectification of the authentic texts of the Protocol III in these three languages was established on 8 March 2006.

III. Certified true copies

The certified true copies of the French, English and Spanish texts of the Protocol III have been transmitted to the States parties with notification of 4 January 2006.

According to Article 17 of Protocol III, the depositary has the honour to submit with the present notification to the States parties a certified true copy of the Russian, Chinese and Arabic texts of the Protocol III.

IV. Communication from the Depositary

The Depositary received comments and new proposals for the Russian, Chinese and Arabic texts of the Protocol III. It will scrutinize them and, if it reveals that the texts corrected today still contain mistakes or lacks of concordance, the Depositary will initiate once again for these three linguistic versions, as it did on 23 January 2006, the procedure of rectification of Article 79 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

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

Enclosures



Berne, 8 March 2006