



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

GENEVA CONVENTIONS

I. Communication from the depositary

Some twenty High Contracting Parties have requested Switzerland, as depositary of the Geneva Conventions, to convene an urgent meeting of the High Contracting Parties "to discuss the serious breach of International Humanitarian Law in Lebanon by Israel". These requests have been made by diplomatic notes as from 7 August 2006.

The Geneva Conventions do not contain any provision on the convening or the organisation of meetings of the High Contracting Parties with a view to considering alleged violations committed in a given conflict and do not provide for a particular role of the depositary in this regard.

For these reasons, and without a mandate of the High Contracting Parties, the depositary replied on 11 September 2006 that it was not in a position to convene such meeting as requested.

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL III

II. Ratification by the Republic of the Philippines

On 22 August 2006, the Republic of the Philippines deposited with the Swiss Federal Council its instrument of ratification of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), done at Geneva on 8 December 2005.

Pursuant to its Article 11, paragraph 2, the Protocol will enter into force for the Republic of the Philippines six months after the deposit of the instrument, i.e. on 22 February 2007.

III. Ratification by the Principality of Liechtenstein

On 24 August 2006, the Principality of Liechtenstein deposited with the Swiss Federal Council its instrument of ratification of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), done at Geneva on 8 December 2005.

Pursuant to its Article 11, paragraph 2, the Protocol will enter into force for the Principality of Liechtenstein six months after the deposit of the instrument, i.e. on 24 February 2007.

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, 12 September 2006

