



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 PROTOCOLS

Ratification by Egypt

On 9 October 1992, the Arab Republic of Egypt deposited with the Swiss Federal Council its instrument of ratification of the Additional Protocols I and II.

The instrument contains the following communication (unofficial translation from arabic) :

"The Arab Republic of Egypt while welcoming the adoption of the diplomatic conference on June 1977 of the Protocols Additional I and II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 in six languages including the arabic language, all original texts are certified and equally authentic with no prevalence of one single language over the other.

While on comparison of the original arabic text of the Protocols Additional I and II with the other original texts, it became evident that in some respects the arabic text does not fully correspond with the other original texts to the extent that it is at variance in terms of expression and substance with some of the provisions of Additional Protocols I and II adopted by countries in the field of international law and humanitarian relations.

Hence the Arab Republic of Egypt on the occasion of the deposit of the instrument of ratification of Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 with depositary, the Swiss Federal Council, wishes to declare that in that respect it shall adopt the meaning which best reconciles the original texts of Protocols Additional I and II."

The instrument contains further the following declaration (unofficial translation from arabic) :

"The Arab Republic of Egypt while ratifying the Protocols Additional I and II of 1977 to Geneva Conventions 1949 wishes to express its conviction that the provisions of Protocols Additional I and II represent the minimum level of legal and actual protection bound to be afforded to persons and civil and cultural objects in armed conflict.

Based on its strong conviction of the principles of the great islamic Sharia the Arab Republic of Egypt wishes, at the same time, to emphasize that it is the duty of all nations alike to refrain from involvement of innocent civilians in armed conflict, furthermore they should make all efforts, to the maximum extent possible, towards that end as an indispensable action for the survival of humanity, cultural heritage and civilization of all countries and nations.

The Arab Republic of Egypt while declaring its commitment to respect all the provisions of Protocols Additional I and II, wishes to emphasize, on the basis of reciprocity, its uphold of the right to react against any violation by any party of the obligations imposed by Protocols Additional I and II with all means admissible under international law in order to prevent any further violation. In this context it is worthy to assert that the military commanders planning or executing attacks take their decisions on the basis of their assessment of all kinds of information available to them at the time of military operations."

According to their final provisions, the Protocols shall take effect for the Arab Republic of Egypt six months after the deposit of the instrument, i.e. on 9 April 1993.

The present notification is made by the Swiss Federal Council in its capacity of depositary of the Protocols.

Berne, 17 February 1993
