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Notes

Palestine

On 21 June 1989, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received a letter from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva informing the Swiss Federal Council "that the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, entrusted with the functions of the Government of the State of Palestine by decision of the Palestine National Council, decided, on 4 May 1989, to adhere to the Four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Protocols additional thereto".

On 13 September 1989, the Swiss Federal Council informed the States that it was not in a position to decide whether the letter constituted an instrument of accession, "due to the uncertainty within the international community as to the existence or non-existence of a State of Palestine".

1. Djibouti's declaration of succession in respect of the First Convention was dated 26 January 1978.
2. On accession to Protocol II, France made a communication concerning Protocol I.
3. Entry into force on 7 December 1978.
4. Entry into force on 7 December 1978.
5. Entered into force on 23 September 1966, the Republic of Korea having invoked Art. 62/61/141/157 common respectively to the First, Second, Third and Fourth Conventions (immediate effect).
6. An instrument of accession to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols was deposited by the United Nations Council for Namibia on 18 October 1983. In an instrument deposited on 22 August 1991, Namibia declared its succession to the Geneva Conventions, which were previously applicable pursuant to South Africa's accession on 31 March 1952.
7. The First Geneva Convention was ratified on 7 March 1951.
8. Accession to the Fourth Geneva Convention on 23 February 1959 (Ceylon had signed only the First, Second and Third Conventions).
9. Entry into force on 21 October 1950.
10. Accession to the First Geneva Convention on 17 May 1963.

MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance.

It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict.

It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

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