

IN GENEVA

New participants in the Geneva Conventions

The International Committee of the Red Cross has received from the Federal Political Department at Berne a communication informing it that the Government of Jamaica gave notification on July 17, 1964, to the Swiss Federal Council of that State's accession to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, accession which took effect on August 6, 1962, the date on which that country became independent.

Furthermore, the Republic of Gabon confirmed, by date of February 26, 1965, its participation in the Geneva Conventions, by a declaration of continuity. Gabon has considered itself bound to these Conventions since the date of its independence, that is to say since August 17, 1960.

Jamaica and Gabon are thus the 103rd and 104th States parties to the humanitarian Conventions of August 12, 1949.

ICRC Training Courses

From March 22 to April 2, the International Committee of the Red Cross organized its first training course for certain of its staff and a limited number of Swiss students prepared to make themselves available for service to the ICRC, in particular for missions abroad.

The courses were given in French by various senior members of the ICRC personnel. The general procedure was for each aspect of the ICRC's mission to be dealt with theoretically in a lecture followed by a discussion group and practical exercises. A number of delegates temporarily in Geneva also gave talks to the students on the rôle which they are called upon to fulfil.

This course, held at ICRC headquarters, was attended by some 40 people.