IN GENEVA

New Accessions to the Geneva Conventions

In its June number, the International Review mentioned that the International Committee of the Red Cross had been informed by the Swiss Federal Political Department of the accession of the Republic of Honduras to the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. It pointed out that by this accession there were now 109 States parties to these Conventions, the 108th State, Iceland, having acceded thereto on January 10, 1966.

Since then, two further States have adhered to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, namely the Central African Republic—by a "declaration of continuity" on July 23, 1966—and the Republic of Korea—by a statement of adherance on August 16, 1966. The number of States explicitly parties to the Geneva Conventions has thus risen to 111.

By a "declaration of continuity" a State having acquired independence confirms that it is bound by the treaty signed on its behalf by the Power previously exercising sovereignty in its territory. In the case of the Central African Republic, that sovereignty was exercised by France.

The Republic of Korea was the last of the States having signed the 1864 Geneva Convention which had not adhered to the later humanitarian treaties drawn up on ICRC initiative.

A publication of the ICRC

The ICRC has just issued a new edition of the essential provisions of the Geneva Conventions. This publication, on strong paper, in pocket size, is available in French, English and German.