

## MISCELLANEOUS

*The Convention's main object is to normalize the juridical status of refugees much more fully than had been done by earlier instruments, and it defines their rights in various fields of a vital nature ranging from employment to education and social security. In recent years, there has been a drop in the number of countries who have acceded to the Convention and its Protocol, despite repeated appeals by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In a further appeal by the High Commissioner on the occasion of this twenty-fifth anniversary, he said: "The 1951 Convention has become the accepted basis for the treatment of refugees in many parts of the world, but there is every reason that it should receive even wider support throughout the international community."*

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## A NEW STATE ACCEDES TO GENEVA PROTOCOL

In a letter dated 22 June 1976, received on 16 July 1976 by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of Barbados stated that it considered itself to be bound by the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare, and that on its own behalf it withdraws the reservation made by the British Empire on 9 April 1930.

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