

Election of the members of the International Fact-Finding Commission

A meeting to elect the fifteen members of the International Fact-Finding Commission was convened in Bern on 25 June 1991 by the Swiss Federal Council, the depositary for the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. The Commission, provided for in Article 90 of Protocol I, is competent to enquire into any facts alleged to be a grave breach or other serious violation as defined in the Conventions and the Protocol and to facilitate, through its good offices, the restoration of an attitude of respect for the Conventions and the Protocol.

Only the first 20 States which made formal declarations accepting the Commission's competence were entitled to elect members.¹

The following members were elected:

Dr. André Andries (*Belgium*)

Professor Luigi Condorelli (*Italy*)

Professor Ghalib Djilari (*Algeria*)

Dr. Marcel Dubouloz (*Switzerland*)

Professor Frits Kalshoven (*Netherlands*)

Professor Kenneth J. Keith (*New Zealand*)

Dr. Valeri S. Kniasev (*USSR*)

Dr. Erich Kussbach (*Austria*)

Professor Daniel H. Martins (*Uruguay*)

Professor Torkel Opsahl (*Norway*)

Professor Allan Rosas (*Finland*)

Dr. James M. Simpson (*Canada*)

Dr. Carl-Ivar Skarstedt (*Sweden*)

Dr. Santiago Torres Bernárdez (*Spain*)

Professor Francis Zachariae (*Denmark*)

¹ As at 30 June 1991 a total of 22 States had accepted the Commission's competence. Germany and Chile took part in the Conference as observers since their declarations of acceptance were to take effect only in August 1991 and October 1991 respectively.

Pursuant to Article 90, para. 1(f), of Protocol I, the Swiss Federal Council will make available to the Commission the necessary administrative facilities for the performance of its functions.

The Commission will undoubtedly provide an additional means of ensuring the implementation of and respect for international humanitarian law. Its duties will be complementary to but distinct from those of the ICRC, which will continue to carry out its traditional tasks while upholding its principles of impartiality and neutrality. Joint consultations on their respective working methods will be held by the Commission and the ICRC to further define their complementary roles.
