

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Commentary on the Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949

The International Committee of the Red Cross
Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Geneva, 1986,
xxxv + 1647 pages

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Following the adoption of the Additional Protocols in 1977, the ICRC decided to start working on the interpretation of these new treaties of international humanitarian law, just as it had published a Commentary on the Geneva Conventions after their adoption in 1949.

The ICRC asked Mr. Jean Pictet, who is today its honorary Vice-President, as well as a number of legal experts on its staff, to devote themselves to this work. On the eve of the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross, their efforts have resulted in the publication, on 6 October 1986, of the "Commentaire des Protocoles additionnels". This work groups in a single volume the commentary on Protocol I, on Annex I thereto (Regulations concerning Identification) and on Protocol II, as well as a number of accessory texts, including a bibliography and an index.

Aware of its role as guardian of humanitarian law, the ICRC is convinced of the usefulness of this Commentary for those who are in charge of implementing the Protocols or making them better known. Since law remains a dead letter unless it is known and implemented, the ICRC sees the publication of the Commentary above all as a step towards guaranteeing better protection to the victims of armed conflict.

The English version of the Commentary on the Additional Protocols will be published by the ICRC during the first half of 1987.

Both versions may be ordered at special prices until 30 June 1987 from *Martinus Nijhoff Publishers* (see enclosed brochure).

An account of the Commentary will appear shortly in the *Review*.

Recognition of the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross

Geneva, 8 September 1986

CIRCULAR NO. 538

*To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition of the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross by the International Committee of the Red Cross. This recognition, which took effect on 27 August 1986, brings to 138 the number of National Societies members of the International Red Cross.

Founded on 2 December 1977, the Society officially applied for recognition by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 12 November 1984. In support of its application it forwarded various documents, including the text of its Statutes and a copy of Government Decree No. 26/83 of 3 October 1983 attesting that the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross is recognized by the government as a voluntary aid society auxiliary to the public authorities in accordance with the provisions of the First Geneva Convention of 1949. A