

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## **PROTOCOLS COME INTO FORCE IN DECEMBER 1978**

After the Republic of Ghana, the first State to ratify, in February 1978, the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 7 June 1978, deposited with the Swiss Government its instrument of accession to Protocols I and II.

Pursuant to their provisions, therefore, the Protocols will come into force on 7 December 1978, six months after the deposit of the instrument of accession by Libya.

The entry into force of the Protocols is an event of great consequence which we believe should be given prominence. There is no doubt that in the near future many States will add their names to the list of parties to the Protocols, a veritable roll of honour of humanity, and commit themselves to apply these fundamental provisions.

## **Declaration of Succession to the Geneva Conventions by the Kingdom of Tonga**

In a letter which reached the President of the Swiss Confederation on 13 April 1978, the Kingdom of Tonga declared that it considered itself bound by the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims, by virtue of the prior ratification of the Conventions by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

By this declaration, the Kingdom of Tonga became a Party to the said Conventions as from the date of its independence, 4 June 1970.

## **NOMINATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

At its meeting on 6 July, the ICRC Assembly appointed to the Executive Board, for a term of office expiring at the end of 1980, Mr. Jakob Burckhardt, who has been a member of the Assembly since 1975. By closely associating him in its activity, the ICRC will benefit more regularly from his wide experience.