

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Accessions to Protocols

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania on 6 February, the Gabonese Republic on 20 February, and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas on 6 March 1980 sent the Swiss Government their instruments of accession to the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

These instruments were recorded on 14 March, 8 April and 10 April 1980. The Protocols, according to their provisions, will come into force six months after those dates, i.e.

for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on 14 September 1980;
for the Gabonese Republic on 8 October 1980; and
for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas on 10 October 1980.

These new accessions bring the number of States parties to Protocol I to fourteen, and those parties to Protocol II to thirteen.

Queen Elizabeth II at the ICRC

During their State visit to Switzerland, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and H. R. H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva on 30 April. The royal couple were accompanied by Federal Councillor Mr. Pierre Aubert and Mrs. Aubert.

The Queen and Prince Philip and their suite were welcomed by the President of the State Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, Mr. Guy Fontanet, by the Mayor of Geneva, Mr. Roger Dafflon, and