

Russian Federation signs headquarters agreement with ICRC

On 24 June 1992 the government of the Russian Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross signed a headquarters agreement in Moscow.

Following this agreement the ICRC will open a delegation in the Russian capital to carry out its traditional activities in the country, notably work to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law.

There are already several ICRC delegations in the Caucasus region of the former Soviet Union, in the towns of Baku (Azerbaijan), Yerevan (Armenia) and Tbilisi (Georgia). Following recent events, the ICRC is also present in Vladikavkav (Ossetia) and Chisinau (Moldova). In addition, a team of delegates has just completed a series of missions to the Central Asian republics.

A headquarters agreement establishes the general framework of the ICRC's relations with the authorities of a country, so that it can work there in accordance with its mandate. The Russian Federation is the 43rd country to sign a headquarters agreement with the ICRC.

Declaration by the Republic of Seychelles

On 22 May 1992 the Republic of Seychelles made the following declaration regarding its recognition of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission:

“In accordance with Article 90, paragraph 2(a), of Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, the Republic of Seychelles declares that it recognizes *ipso facto* and without special agreement, in relation to any other High Contracting Party accepting

the same obligation, the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission to enquire into allegations by such other Party”.

The Republic of Seychelles is the **twenty-ninth State** to make the declaration regarding the Fact-Finding Commission.

The Portuguese Republic ratifies the Protocols

On 27 May 1992, the Portuguese Republic ratified the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international (Protocol I) and non-international (Protocol II) armed conflicts, adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

In accordance with their provisions, the Protocols will come into force for the Portuguese Republic on 27 November 1992.

The Portuguese Republic is the **113th State** to become party to Protocol I and the **103rd** to Protocol II.

Declaration of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The Standing Commission, meeting in ordinary session on 25 June 1992,

1. *reaffirms* its commitment to preparing for the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,
2. *considers* that, in view of the necessary preparations, the next International Conference could not be convened before 1995,
3. *decides* to create a Working Group chaired by Botho Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein and including one representative