

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.

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## **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.

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## **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

from the ICRC and one representative from the Federation, in order:

- to make an in-depth study of all issues related to the International Conference (form, agenda, name, preparation, funding, frequency, preparatory bodies, duration, and so on),
  - to conduct the necessary consultations within the Movement and among States party to the Geneva Conventions, and
  - to report to the Standing Commission at its next meeting.
4. The Standing Commission itself *will submit* a report on this matter to the Council of Delegates in 1993.
  5. The Standing Commission furthermore *encourages* the ICRC to consult with governments and to examine with them what measures might be quickly taken to increase the States' awareness of their responsibilities in order to ensure their respect for international humanitarian law.
  6. The Standing Commission *also encourages* the Federation to consult with National Societies and governments in order to address humanitarian problems within its mandate.
  7. The Standing Commission *requests* the ICRC and the Federation to inform it regularly about the results of their consultations.
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