

Communication from South Africa

concerning the accession by the United Nations Council for Namibia to the four Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols

On 12 March 1984 the Republic of South Africa, a State party to the Geneva Conventions, deposited with the Swiss Government the following communication dated 24 February 1984:

Accession to the aforementioned Geneva Conventions and Protocols is governed by an identically worded article which stipulates that "From the date of its coming into force, it shall be open to any Power in whose name the present Convention has not been signed, to accede to this Convention".

Since South West Africa/Namibia cannot, in terms of international law, be regarded as such a Power and since neither it nor the UN Council for Namibia is able to assume the obligations imposed upon such Power by the four Geneva Conventions, the South African Government rejects the so-called instruments of accession of the UN Council for Namibia to the four Geneva Conventions and its two Additional Protocols as having no legal effect.

The accession by the United Nations Council for Namibia to the four Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols took place on 18 October 1983 with effect from 18 April 1984; the Swiss Government gave notification of this accession on 30 November 1983 and it was published in the November-December 1983 issue of the *International Review of the Red Cross*.