

Identification

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AMENDED VERSION OF ANNEX I TO PROTOCOL I, CONCERNING TECHNICAL MEANS OF IDENTIFYING MEDICAL UNITS AND TRANSPORTS

On the basis of Article 98 of 1977 Protocol I additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and after consulting the States party to the said Protocol, in 1989 the ICRC called a meeting of technical experts to review Annex I (Regulations concerning identification) to this Protocol.

At the end of the meeting, which was held in Geneva in August 1990, the experts proposed a number of amendments. In accordance with the provisions of Article 98 of Protocol I, the ICRC requested the Swiss Confederation, depositary State of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, to initiate the procedure laid down for inviting States party to adopt the proposed amendments. The main purpose of the latter was to incorporate into Annex I of Protocol I certain technical provisions already adopted by the competent international organizations.

To simplify matters, and bearing in mind that these amendments reflect the points of view of a large number of experts from many countries, the depositary suggested that instead of holding a diplomatic conference the amendments be adopted by correspondence. After consultation, the States party to Protocol I agreed to the suggested procedure. These same States were then asked to declare whether they accepted or rejected the amendments to Annex I to Additional Protocol I proposed by the technical experts in 1990.

On 21 October 1992, the Swiss Confederation informed the ICRC that, of the twenty-two States party to Protocol I which had replied, nineteen were in favour of the proposed amendments. Only Hungary, Jordan and Sweden had expressed reservations.

When more than two thirds of the High Contracting Parties *which replied* (Article 98, para. 3) had decided in favour of the amendments,

the latter would be considered to have been adopted at the end of a period of one year after the date on which they had been officially communicated by the Swiss Confederation to the States party, i.e. 30 November 1992, unless within that period a declaration of non-acceptance of the amendments had been communicated to the authorities by not less than one third of all the parties to Protocol I (Article 98, para. 4).

This one-year period ended on 30 November 1993 and, since no further declarations of non-acceptance of the amendments were communicated to the depositary during the period, *the amendments in the form proposed by the experts* are accepted and will enter into force on 1 March 1994 for *all parties* to Protocol I.*

* With the exception of those parties which made reservations or declarations of non-acceptance during the one-year period, i.e. Sweden, which rejected the wording of *Articles 7 and 8* (former Articles 6 and 7), and Jordan, which wishes to retain the original wording of paragraph 1 (c) of Article 2 (formerly Article 1). Hungary has since withdrawn its reservation.