



FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

p.o.411.619.Rwanda

**Notification
to the Governments of the States parties
to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949
for the Protection of War Victims**

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL I

Declaration by Rwanda

On 8 July 1993, the Rwandese Republic deposited with the Swiss Federal Council the following declaration (original version):

"En référence aux Conventions de Genève du 12 août 1949 et à l'article 90 du Protocole additionnel I du 8 juin 1977 relatif à la protection des victimes des conflits armés internationaux, la République Rwandaise déclare reconnaître de plein droit à l'égard de tout autre Etat qui accepte la même obligation, la compétence de la Commission internationale d'établissement des faits telle qu'elle est décrite au paragraphe 2 c) et d) de l'article susmentionné."

Rwanda acceded to the Protocol on 19 November 1984.

The following circumstances have lead to the delay of this notification:

In June 1993 the competent authorities of Rwanda transmitted to the Swiss embassy in Kigali two diplomatic notes, one containing the declaration provided for in Article 90 of the Protocol, whereby Rwanda recognized the competence of the

International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission ("Commission"), and another one listing the composition of Rwanda's delegation to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims held in Geneva later that year.

Together, those notes were sent to the federal administration in Berne, where, by mistake, the note containing Rwanda's declaration under Article 90 was attached to the one concerning the Rwandan delegation and filed with the latter, without having been brought to the attention of the Swiss authorities in charge of providing the Commission's administrative services, i.e. its secretariat.

The note with the Rwandan declaration was recently discovered in the course of a research project involving the file of the aforesaid conference.

The Swiss authorities regret the mistake referred to above and offer their sincere apologies.

As the contributions of the other 41 States concerned to the Commission's administrative expenses for 1995 had already been determined when the Rwandan note was discovered, and the requests to remit those contributions on or before January 1995 had been sent out, the depositary will request Rwanda to pay its annual contribution for the first time with regard to the budget of 1996.

The present notification is made by the Swiss Federal Council in its capacity of depositary of the Protocol.

Berne, 17 January 1995
