

Translation

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

p.o.411.619.0.

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

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Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions  
of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection  
of Victims of International Armed Conflicts  
(Protocol I)

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions  
of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection  
of Victims of Non-international Armed Conflicts  
(Protocol II)

adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977

I

Ratification by the Lao People's Democratic Republic

On 18 November 1980, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has deposited with the Swiss Government the instruments of ratification of the above mentioned Protocols I and II.

According to Article 95, Paragraph 2, of Protocol I, and to Article 23, Paragraph 2, of Protocol II, the said Protocols shall enter into force for the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 18 May 1981, i.e. six months after the deposit of the instruments of ratification.

The present notification is made in application of Article 100 of Protocol I and of Article 26 of Protocol II.

II

Corrections to be made in the authentic texts of Protocol I

Referring to its notification of 12 October 1977 concerning the transmission of certified true copies of the aforementioned Protocols, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has the honour to bring to the attention of interested States that an error has been discovered in the authentic French and Spanish texts of Protocol I.

As a matter of fact, the first sentence of Paragraph 2 of Article 59 of the Protocol I must be read as follows :

(French text)

"Les autorités compétentes d'une Partie au conflit pourront déclarer localité non défendue tout lieu habité se trouvant à proximité ou à l'intérieur d'une zone où les forces armées sont en contact et qui est ouvert à l'occupation par une partie adverse....."

(Spanish text)

"Las autoridades competentes de una Parte en conflicto pueden declarar localidad no defendida cualquier lugar habitado que se encuentre en la proximidad o en el interior de una zona donde las fuerzas armadas estén en contacto y que esté abierto a la ocupación por una Parte adversa...."

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, acting in its capacity of depositary of the Protocols, suggests to make the necessary corrections in the aforementioned authentic texts, unless objection thereto is raised by the States concerned within 90 days after the date of this communication.

In case the suggested corrections are expressly or tacitly accepted by the interested States, the depositary shall establish a proces-verbal of rectification and transmit it to the Parties.

Berne, the 20 January 1981

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