



FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

o.253.0
p.o.411.61.0

Communication

**to the States party to the
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949
for the protection of the war victims**

**concerning the commemoration of the
125th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions**

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has the honour to inform the Governments of the States party to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 of the following:

The Swiss Federal Council, the depositary of the Geneva Conventions, has decided, in agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions in 1989 with two public events. The first will take place in Berne on the anniversary date, 22 August, and will consist of a solemn ceremony at the Casino during which distinguished persons will call for respect for humanitarian law. The originals of the ten successive Conventions and a few chosen instruments of ratification or accession will be exhibited to the participants. The second event will take place in New York, on 13 October, on the premises of the United Nations, during the 44th session of the General Assembly. Presided over jointly by the United Nations Secretary General and the Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the ceremony

will be followed by the opening of an exhibition on the Geneva Conventions which will remain on display in the UN building for several weeks. More extensive than that previously organized in Berne, the New York exhibition is intended for the many people who visit the United Nations every day and will illustrate how and when humanitarian law is applicable. A number of papers from the archives of the International Committee of the Red Cross will be on display, as will copies of the ten successive Geneva Conventions on humanitarian law and of the instruments of ratification, accession or succession of all the States party to the 1949 Conventions. This exhibition, designed mainly by the International Committee of the Red Cross, will probably go on display at the end of the year in Berne and then in Geneva; it could later become an itinerant display. The New York exhibition is highly commended to the attention of the Governments of the States party to the Geneva Conventions.

The present communication is made by the Swiss Federal Council in its capacity as depositary of the Geneva Conventions.

Berne, 5 June 1989
