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II. GENERAL AFFAIRS

Further accessions to the Geneva Conventions

In 1973, two States became Parties to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949: the Republic of Singapore (by accession on 27 April 1973) and the Kingdom of Swaziland (by accession of 20 June 1973).

These are the dates on which the official notifications were received by the Swiss Federal Council.

Further, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam notified the President of the Swiss Confederation of its accession, in a letter dated 3 December 1973. In accordance with the request formulated by that Government on 28 December 1973, the accession was to have immediate effect by virtue of an article common to the four Conventions (Articles 62/61/141/157).

REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS

As in the preceding years, the Legal Division's activities in 1973 were centered on work connected with the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts.

The positive result of the work undertaken in this sphere since 1968, and particularly during the two sessions of the Conference of Government Experts convened by the ICRC in 1971 and 1972, gave the undertaking a decisive impulse. At the close of the second session of that Conference, the Swiss representative announced his Government's intention of convening a Diplomatic Conference early in 1974.

Establishment of two draft Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949

Bearing in mind the preparatory work so far carried out, the ICRC applied itself to drawing up two draft Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions as basic proposals for discussion