

The Embassy of Switzerland presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honour to enclose herewith a note of information of the Swiss Federal Department (Ministry) of Foreign Affairs concerning a communication which the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva has referred to the Department on 21 June 1989 in relation to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their two additional Protocols of 8 June 1977.

The Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry the assurance of its highest consideration.

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Note of information

On 21 June 1989, the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva has transmitted to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, through the intermediary of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the international organizations in Geneva, a communication concerning the participation of Palestine to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their two additional Protocols of 8 June 1977.

Due to the uncertainty within the international community as to the existence or the non-existence of a State of Palestine and as long as the issue has not been settled in an appropriate framework, the Swiss Government, in its capacity as depositary of the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols, is not in a position to decide whether this communication can be considered as an instrument of accession in the sense of the relevant provisions of the Conventions and their additional Protocols.

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, following the practice relating to the functions of the depositary State as codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 23 May 1969, transmits to the Governments of the States parties to the Geneva Conventions, for their information, a copy of this communication, in the original Arab language and in an English translation.

The unilateral declaration of application of the four Geneva Conventions and of the additional Protocol I made on 7 June 1982 by the Palestine Liberation Organization remains valid.

Berne, 13 September 1989

Enclosure

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