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UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Letter dated 23 November 1993 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Hungary, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden and Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the invitation of the Government of Switzerland, an International Conference for the Protection of War Victims took place at Geneva from 30 August to 1 September 1993, at which 160 States, the United Nations and other participants took part. The Conference emphasized the confirmation and the maintenance of, as well as respect for, obligations derived from international humanitarian law. It succeeded in raising the consciousness with respect to those problems and in enhancing the sense of responsibility.

At the end of the Conference, the States adopted a solemn Final Declaration on their obligations under international humanitarian law. The undersigned representatives have the honour to transmit, attached, a copy of this Declaration in each of the six languages of the United Nations (see annex).

In order to disseminate the Geneva Declaration on an universal level, Switzerland, host and president of the Conference, has taken the initiative to circulate it as an official document of the United Nations. The representatives of the Member States mentioned below support this proposal and should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 142.

(Signed) Dr. Emilio J. CARDENAS
Permanent Representative
of Argentina

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Permanent Representative
of Belgium

(Signed) Louise FRECHETTE
Permanent Representative
of Canada

(Signed) LI Zhaoxing
Permanent Representative
of China

(Signed) Cristian TATTENBACH
Permanent Representative
of Costa Rica

(Signed) Dr. Nabil A. ELARABY
Permanent Representative
of Egypt

(Signed) André ERDOS
Permanent Representative
of Hungary

(Signed) Yuliy M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation

(Signed) Kéba Birane Cisse
Permanent Representative
of Senegal

(Signed) Peter OSVALD
Permanent Representative
of Sweden

(Signed) Nitya PIBULSONGGRAM
Permanent Representative
of Thailand