

Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949; the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949; "the Conventions" means the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims;

- (b) "rules of international law applicable in armed conflict" means the rules applicable in armed conflict set forth in international agreements to which the Parties to the conflict are Parties and the generally recognized principles and rules of international law which are applicable to armed conflict;
- (c) "Protecting Power" means a neutral or other State not a Party to the conflict which has been designated by a Party to the conflict and accepted by the adverse Party and has agreed to carry out the functions assigned to a Protecting Power under the Conventions and this Protocol;
- (d) "substitute" means an organization acting in place of a Protecting Power in accordance with Article 5.

#### *Article 3 — Beginning and end of application*

Without prejudice to the provisions which are applicable at all times:

- (a) the Conventions and this Protocol shall apply from the beginning of any situation referred to in Article 1 of this Protocol;
- (b) the application of the Conventions and of this Protocol shall cease, in the territory of Parties to the conflict, on the general close of military operations and, in the case of occupied territories, on the termination of the occupation, except, in either circumstance, for those persons whose final release, repatriation or re-establishment takes place thereafter. These persons shall continue to benefit from the relevant provisions of the Conventions and of this Protocol until their final release, repatriation or re-establishment.

#### *Article 4 — Legal status of the Parties to the conflict*

The application of the Conventions and of this Protocol, as well as the conclusion of the agreements provided for therein, shall not