

Background information for inclusion in the relevant section of the Secretary-General's report to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the agenda item

"Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949

and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts"

(2008-2010)

1. Application of the provisions of Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949

In accordance with the international legal obligations of the Russian Federation, the deployment of Russian forces during the operation to impose peace on Georgia in the territory of South Ossetia took place within the legal framework defined by Additional Protocol I, relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts.

According to assessments by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other international organizations, the actions of the Russian forces were fully consistent with the requirements of the aforementioned Protocol; the norms of international humanitarian law were taken into account in the planning of military operations and were observed in practice by the troops, while the leadership extended cooperation to ICRC in its performance of the functions defined by its international mandate.

2. Legal implementation of the provisions of Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949

In accordance with a decision of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry established a working group to prepare for the introduction of a new version of the manual on

international humanitarian law for the Armed Forces (the new title is: Manual for the application of norms of international humanitarian law by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation).

The preparatory work for the document, in 2008 and 2009, took into account new developments in the field of international humanitarian law as well as the practical experience accumulated by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in conducting operations for crisis management, including the application of Additional Protocols I and II.

The following events were held in the context of the work on the draft document: three meetings of the working group, a scientific conference (September 2009) and a research-to-practice conference (November 2009).

The new version of the manual has been field tested and will be ready for approval in the second half of 2010.

3. Study of the provisions of Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions (1949) in military education and training

3.1 Education

The theory of international humanitarian law is part of the study programme at military higher education establishments. International humanitarian law issues are included in general and specialized military courses at the higher education establishments of the Ministry of Defence.

Since 2000, courses for officers to improve their knowledge of the law of armed conflict have been held at the base housing the Russian Federation Joint Armed Forces Academy (the Army's military training and education centre). In 2009, about 150 instructors

were trained in international humanitarian law in accordance with the qualifying requirements. In the first half of 2010, there were two groups of trainees and 57 instructors were trained in international humanitarian law.

3.2 Troop training

Members of the Armed Forces study practical issues during regular combat training.

Members of all categories of the military study international humanitarian law as part of their social and constitutional studies (from 2 to 6 hours, depending on the category of trainees).

Practical issues are studied in the context of professional training for officers of military administrative bodies, and in leadership training for commissioned and non-commissioned officers.