

**PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

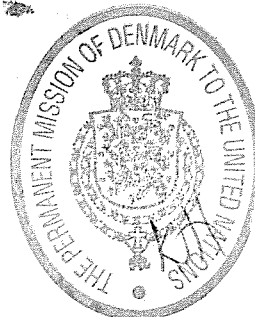
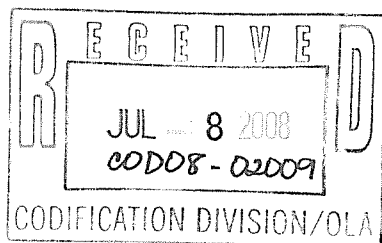
File. No. 6.B.2.

The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations presents its compliments to H.E the Secretary-General, and with reference to the latter's note of 29 February , 2008 (Ref. No. LA/COD/2) has the honour to forward the enclosed information from the Government of Denmark regarding paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 61/30 of December 2006 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict"

The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations apologizes for inconvenience of the delayed response while hoping that the enclosed information will be included in the considerations of the H.E the Secretary-General in preparing the report.

The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 1 July, 2008



H.E. the Secretary-General,  
United Nations

NEW YORK

1 July 1, 2008

## Denmark

### **Information for the Secretary-General's report on the status of the Additional Protocols relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts and on measures to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law**

#### **International Humanitarian Law Day**

To ensure the widest possible dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Danish Government in cooperation with the Danish Red Cross has decided measures to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Conventions in 2009 by organizing a special International Humanitarian Law Day on the 21st of October 2009.

The aim of the International Humanitarian Law Day is to increase public awareness in Denmark of the importance of international humanitarian law both in relation to the members of the armed forces and to civilians. It is the overall intention and objective of the Danish Government to promote international humanitarian law as a matter of relevance to the Danish public, to promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law in the Danish educational system, to promote support for the International Criminal Court, to encourage public support for assistance to and protection of all victims of armed conflicts, and to promote reflection of the lessons learned in relation to armed conflict.

The Danish Government and the Danish Red Cross will jointly and separately finance and carry out a number of activities covering research, public lectures, media activities, teaching and educational activities, cultural activities as well as public events

#### **Copenhagen Process on the Handling of Detainees in International Military Operations**

The Government of Denmark is actively pursuing the establishment of a common international platform concerning the handling of detainees in international military operations. The purpose is to ensure that detainees are always given the protection required regardless of the circumstances of detention and that military and other personnel have clear guidelines to follow on this issue.

The main challenge in this regard is for troop-contributing States to ensure that they act in accordance with their international obligations when handling detainees - including when transferring detainees to local authorities or to other troop-contributing countries. Denmark has decided to take an active role in attempting to identify a solution to these challenges. The *overall* objective is to ensure, that the challenges are dealt with horizontally and multilaterally and

not by individual troop-contributing countries on a bilateral or ad hoc basis as is often the case today.

In order to facilitate such a multilateral result, Denmark has initiated the “Copenhagen Process on the Handling of Detainees”. First step in this process was taken on 11 – 12 October 2007 when representatives from a number of states and international organisations including the UN and the ICRC met in Copenhagen to discuss the handling of detainees in international military operations.

The First Copenhagen Conference focused in particular on three topics:

- The interaction of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law in international military operations - which legal regimes applies under which conditions as well as the liability for states in detaining individuals in such operations.
- Standards for the handling of detainees in military operations, including the conditions for the transfer of prisoners to the host country or to other countries.
- Future solution on the handling of detainees - need for operational clarity in particular for those working in the field and the need for identifying relevant best practice guidelines for use in military operations.

In 2008 Denmark has continued the Copenhagen Process focusing on the challenges identified in this field. In May 2008 Denmark convened a seminar on Best Practices in a National, Regional and International Perspective which the aim to identify best practices elements on handling of detainees relevant to UN peace-keeping operations.

The identified best practice element will form part of the basis for the Second Copenhagen Conference on the handling of detainees in international military operations, which Denmark expects to convene to follow-up on the preliminary result reached in the Copenhagen Process.

### **Ratification of Protocol III on the Additional Distinctive Emblem – the Red Crystal**

On 25 May 2007 Denmark ratified the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III) of 8 December 2005 thus becoming the 17<sup>th</sup> state party to the protocol.