



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MAR 31 2006

APR 06 REC'D

Dear Mr. Waxman:

Thank you for your letter dated March 13 regarding the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions and its ratification. As you know, this issue has been an important priority of the Department. Thank you as well for recognizing the important role of the United States Government in the adoption of the Third Additional Protocol in Geneva in December 2005.

The United States will continue to lead the international community in resolving this issue at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on June 20-21. A key goal of the Conference is to amend the statutes of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to reflect the adoption of the Third Additional Protocol, thus permitting Magen David Adom to become a member of the Movement.

We have been working with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Government of Israel to help secure the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between Magen David Adom and the Palestinian Red Crescent, signed in November 2005. We have also demarched the 98 states that voted in favor of the Third Additional Protocol in December and have encouraged them to sign it. (Forty-nine have signed to date; many others have indicated their intention to sign.)

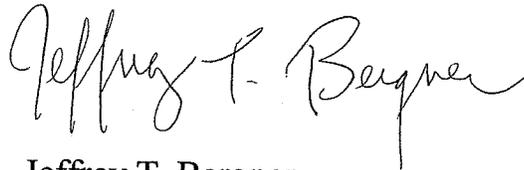
In the months leading up to the Conference, we will continue to provide vigorous leadership on this issue. Moreover, we will work closely with other USG agencies to facilitate the timely submission to the White House of a treaty transmittal package for the Senate, as well as draft implementing legislation.

The Honorable
Henry A. Waxman,
House of Representatives.

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I hope this information is helpful. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey T. Bergner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs