HOLY SEE

✓ Signature:

✓ Ratification, Acceptance, Approval, Accession, Succession:

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✓ Reservation:

✓ Declarations:

- Declaration: 2
  
  "...declares the acceptance on the part of the Holy See of said amendment to Article I of the Convention, considering that in accordance with paragraph 4 of amended Article 1 the right of the Parties, "by all legitimate means, to maintain or re-establish law and order in the State or to defend the national unity and territorial integrity of the State" should be interpreted in conformity with international humanitarian law, the United Nations' Charter and other international rules."

- Declaration: 3
  
  "In acceding to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW), adopted on November 28, 2003, at the meeting of the States Parties to the CCW, the Holy See, as it did on June 16, 1997 when it acceded to the Convention and its first four Protocols, "in keeping with its proper nature and with the particular condition of Vatican City State, intends to renew its encouragement to the International Community to continue on the path it has taken for the reduction of human suffering caused by armed conflict".

With the approval of the fifth Protocol, the CCW is confirmed as a "forward-looking living instrument" of international humanitarian law, intended to address the problems

1 In accordance with Article 3, the Convention was “...open for signature by all States at the United Nations Headquarters in New York for a period of twelve months from 10 April 1981.”

2 Made upon acceptance of the amendment to Article 1.

3 Made upon consent to be bound by Protocol V.
arising from modern armed conflicts and to improve its effectiveness for the
protection of civilians and combatants in such situations. Although one could have
wished for a greater incisiveness in the Protocol in responding to the problems
originating from the ERW, the adoption of this instrument represents an important
multilateral tool for the control of arms for humanitarian reasons, capable of calling
States to responsibility for er ERW and for damages caused by them.

In keeping with its own commitment to encouraging the development and
implementation of humanitarian law on the part of all States and in all circumstances,
the Holy See is convinced that the Fifth Protocol signifies a concretely promoting the
culture of life and of peace, based upon the dignity of the human person and the
primacy of the rule of law, through a responsible, honest and consistent cooperation of
all the members of the community of nations.”