Intervention of the International Committee of the Red Cross
Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the
Convention
16 May 2003

Article 1

With reference to the issue of joint military operations with non-States Parties that
may use anti-personnel mines, the ICRC shares many of the concerns raised by the
ICBL about the implications of such operations for the Article 1 prohibition to assist
anyone in engaging in activities banned by the Convention. Contacts we have had on
this issue with some States Parties have given rise to concerns that Article 1 may not
be strictly implemented.

The ICRC also shares the ICBL's concerns in relation to the issue of transit of anti-
personnel mines by a non-State Party across the territory of a State Party. We
consider that permitting transit of anti-personnel mines amounts to "assistance" in the
use of anti-personnel mines, which is prohibited under Article 1.

The ICRC encourages States Parties to engage in concerted efforts to clarify their
positions and reach a common understanding on these issues before or at the 2004
Review Conference.
Despite the significant progress made in implementation most aspects of the Convention it is unfortunate that after 4 years of