

**Intervention by Stephen Goose, Head of Delegation,
International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)**

**To the Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention
On Article 7**

16 May 2003

Article 7

The ICBL congratulates States Parties for the great effort that has been put into meeting Article 7 reporting deadlines, which has resulted in a much improved compliance rate of 90% for initial reports - 25 % better than last year. We especially commend the work of the Article 7 Contact Group chaired by Belgium.

We also very much welcome the voluntary Article 7 reports prepared by signatories **Latvia and Poland, and Lithuania** before them. We view these reports as a strong indicator of commitment on their part to the Mine Ban Treaty, and to the complete eradication of antipersonnel mines.

We support Ambassador Lint's creative initiative to call on other states to prepare voluntary reports, particularly those who have supported the treaty in the annual UN General Assembly resolutions.

The fact that the number of late initial Article 7 reports has been reduced to only 14 is very good news. Perhaps we can set the goal of having most of these submitted by the Fifth Meeting of States Parties, and all of them submitted by the Review Conference. Some of the 14 are very late (due as long ago as 1999); some are States where the stockpile destruction deadline has passed, so we have no official information about meeting the deadline; and some are mine-affected States, that would benefit from sharing detailed Article 7 information with other States Parties.

The ICBL would like to take this opportunity to remind States Parties of the important types of voluntary reporting under Article 7 we have promoted: utilize voluntary Form J for reporting on victim assistance matters; report on intended purposes and actual uses of mines retained under Article 3 (about a dozen nations have done so to date); report on Claymore mines and steps taken to ensure they are used in command detonated mode only (**South Africa and Sweden** are good examples of this); and report on foreign stockpiles of antipersonnel mines (**Tajikistan's** initial Article 7 report has set an excellent example).