

**Ottawa Convention Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention 16 May 2003**

**United Kingdom intervention on Article 1**

The United Kingdom has a broad interpretation of assistance under the terms of Article 1 of the Convention. Unacceptable activities include: planning with others for the use of anti-personnel mines (APM); training others for the use APM; agreeing Rules of Engagement permitting the use of APM; agreeing operational plans permitting the use of APM in combined operations; requests to non-States Parties to use APM; and providing security or transport for APM. Furthermore, it is not acceptable for UK forces to accept orders that amount to assistance in the use of APM.

UK forces should not seek to derive direct military benefits from the deployment of APM in combined operations. It is not, however, always possible to say in advance that military benefit will not arise where this results from an act that is not deliberate or pre-planned.

In the view of the UK, permitting transit across UK territory would amount to assistance under the terms of Article 1. Certain assessments of the UK's position on this matter have, however, been inaccurate. If APM are on foreign naval ships in the territorial waters of a UK Dependent Territory, these naval ships remain the sovereign territory of the state in question. In the UK's legal interpretation such APM are not on UK territory provided they remain on the ships.