

I would like to end by raising a final area where the role of the military might be also appropriately considered – that of information sharing and intelligence. The availability of solid intelligence is crucial to the task of preserving the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and operations. I know that during the March 2000 workshop information sharing was acknowledged as vital. I have already adverted to such activities during this presentation with respect to making an assessment to carry out particular types of separation operations.

The military may also be helpful in assessing whether or not application of the exclusion clauses needs to be raised during refugee status determination procedures. This may be particularly vital where the presence of excludable elements has the potential to create serious refugee security problems (not always the case) – as was the case in Goma. In this regard, what might the implications be for how information is then shared between military, UNHCR and NGO actors? Does the evolution of international criminal law, especially the International Criminal Court process harbor any additional implications for how such information must be dealt with in the future?

I look forward to a provocative and interesting discussion.