

ARTICLE 9: REMOVAL OF MINEFIELDS

ISSUE: This article details the requirements for the disposition of minefields after conflict has ended.

BACKGROUND:

The article simply states that parties are responsible for removing minefields, mines, booby traps and other devices which it has laid or which it finds in areas which it controls after the cessation of hostilities. This is not controversial. Regarding mines laid by a party which are in an area that party no longer controls after the cessation of hostilities, the laying party is responsible to provide to the responsible party (the party occupying the area in question), technical and material assistance necessary to affect the removal of the mine(fields). In practical terms, this could mean little more than the exchange of minefield recording information.

CANADIAN POSITION:

There is nothing controversial in this article. Canada should support it.

POSITIONS OF OTHER MAJOR PLAYERS/GROUPS:

The US accepts this article as written, but observes that the meaning of "the end of conflict" could be open to negotiation. Other positions are not known.

LIKELY AREAS OF COMPROMISE:

Unknown.