



City of Cambridge

40.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 9, 1997

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: Anti-personnel landmines are currently deployed in 64 countries, causing horrible suffering; and

WHEREAS: Each month over 800 people are killed by anti-personnel landmines; and

WHEREAS: Each month over 1200 people are maimed or mutilated by anti-personnel landmines; and

WHEREAS: Eighty-seven percent of the individuals killed or disabled by anti-personnel landmines are non-combatant men, women and children; and

WHEREAS: Anti-personnel landmines have resulted in one out of every 236 Cambodians being an amputee and one out of every fifty-four Cambodians being a person with a disability; and

WHEREAS: The International Committee of the Red Cross has condemned anti-personnel landmines and has called for a world-wide ban on the manufacture, sale or deployment of anti-personnel landmines; and

WHEREAS: The American Red Cross, in concert with the other Societies in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement are urging all governments to ban the manufacture, sale or deployment of anti-personnel landmines; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record as condemning the manufacture, sale or deployment of anti-personnel landmines; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this City Council urge all officers of the United States Government to take all possible steps to ban the manufacture, sale or deployment of anti-personnel landmines; and be it further

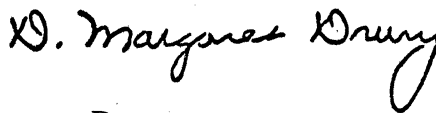
RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, all members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and to the Chairman of the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay.

In City Council June 9, 1997

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;



ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

40

Whereas: Anti-personnel landmines are currently deployed in 64 countries, causing horrible suffering, and

Whereas, each month over 800 people are killed by anti-personnel landmines, and

Whereas, each month over 1200 people are maimed or mutilated by anti-personnel landmines, and

Whereas, eighty-seven percent of the individuals killed or disabled by anti-personnel landmines are non-combatant men, women and children, and

Whereas, antipersonnel landmines have resulted in one out of every 236 Cambodians being an amputee and one out of every fifty-four Cambodians being a person with a disability, and

Whereas, the International Committee of the Red Cross has condemned anti-personnel landmines and has called for a world-wide ban on the manufacture, sale or deployment of antipersonnel landmines, and

Whereas the American Red Cross, in concert with the other Societies in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement are urging all governments to ban the manufacture, sale or deployment of antipersonnel landmines, therefore be it

Resolved, that this City Council go on record as condemning the manufacture, sale or deployment of antipersonnel landmines, and be it further

Resolved, that this City Council urge all officers of the United States Government to take all possible steps to ban the manufacture, sale or deployment of antipersonnel landmines, and be it

Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, all members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and to the chairman of the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay



American Red Cross

Remarks prepared for delivery by **Elizabeth Dole**
President, American Red Cross
World Red Cross Day
Boston, Massachusetts
May 8, 1997

Thank you, Patricia for your very kind introduction. What an honor to join all of you today to speak in Faneuil Hall. This is hallowed space in American history, one of our nation's premier halls for the discussion and debate of important ideas for 255 years.

Patricia, let me thank you for what you and the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay have accomplished in serving 270,000 residents of Eastern Massachusetts each year. The chapter's outreach efforts are identifying priority needs, then delivering services that meet those needs. Your Community Response program, for example, is bringing basic first aid and life-saving CPR training to people who could not otherwise afford it, making this community a safer place in which to live.

I welcome this opportunity, this setting, and this day to speak out on an issue very close to our hearts.

Today, the international Red Cross community celebrates the birthday of a Swiss businessman named Henri Dunant, whose concern over the terrible cost of war borne by noncombatants led to the creation of the international Red Cross movement.

Today is also the day that 66 people will be killed or maimed by antipersonnel landmines. That's one victim every 20 minutes. 53 of them neither wear a uniform nor carry a gun. Perhaps they are farmers tilling the soil or grazing livestock. 13 victims will be children, attracted by the glint of a small object as they gather firewood or walk to school. Those who survive the blast will join a quarter million other men, women, and children who have been disabled by landmines.

Unbelievably, today is also the day that 5,500 new mines will be laid!

Governments and people of conscience must call a halt to this deadly toll in human suffering. That is the goal of the International Red Cross movement. That is the goal of the American Red Cross. And that is my message today.

The suffering caused by combat is certainly nothing new. It was 138 years ago when Henri Dunant walked a blood-soaked battlefield near Solferino, Italy. Hours before, French and Austrian armies had clashed in a desperate contest. As far as he could see on that vast plain, tens of thousands of wounded and dying soldiers lay in excruciating agony, abandoned by the retreating troops.

Dunant's humanitarian spirit was so deeply touched that he convinced the townspeople to render what care and comfort they could to those who had fought on both sides of the conflict. Over and over he repeated the words, "All men are brothers."

Although not previously an activist, Dunant had found his life's mission. He was profoundly moved and changed by Solferino. When he returned to Switzerland, he wrote a book about his experience -- A Memory of Solferino. As Dunant called on the nations of Europe to address the plight of battlefield casualties, he touched a

Help Can Wait

responsive cord and in 1863, a committee was formed in Geneva that would be the forerunner of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions. Thus our movement -- dedicated to humanity, impartiality, and neutrality for the victims of war -- was born.

Suffering has not changed since then, but the style of warfare has. Combat is no longer a contest between uniformed armies clashing on remote battlefields. More than 225 armed conflicts have occurred since the end of World War II. Combatants in many of these clashes have worn street clothes and waged guerrilla and terrorist warfare in the midst of populated areas. As a result, many of today's casualties of war are civilians.

And perhaps most tragic of all are those killed or mutilated by weapons long after hostilities have ended. This is the deadly legacy of landmines.

A survey conducted in Pakistan showed that only 13% of landmine injuries are directly linked to combat. Clearly, once military goals have been achieved, it is civilians who are subjected to the lingering terror of landmines.

An estimated 119 million landmines are strewn in trees and pastures, in fields and villages in 71 countries, according to ICRC figures. That is one landmine for every 16 children in the world. These are the hidden killers that murder or maim more than 24,000 people every year. As one Cambodian surgeon put it -- with bitter irony -- these casualties are detonating the world's supply of landmines one limb at a time. Another 100 million antipersonnel mines are stockpiled in 100 nations for future use.

For poorly equipped combatants, anti-personnel landmines are a weapon of choice, both cheap and devastating. They are indiscriminate killers. They cannot distinguish between a soldier's boot and the bare foot of a child.

The most common of these indiscriminate killers is the blast mine, which is buried and then activated when stepped upon. On contact, fragments of the mine, along with dirt, gravel, footwear and surrounding vegetation, shoot up the victim's legs and body. When they do not kill their victim, blast mines almost always destroy limbs. Secondary injuries to the face and other parts of the body are common.

Another type of mine, the fragmentation mine, is usually laid on the surface and triggered by trip wires. Its explosion throws hundreds of fragments over a wide area, with the power to kill up to 150 yards. Yet another variation is the bounding mine, which jumps into the air before exploding.

Because landmines are often placed in rural areas, far from medical care, their victims -- if not killed instantly -- may bleed to death.

Landmines are cheap and easy to make, but expensive and complicated to remove. Cheap ones last for generations. They don't self-destruct.

Since many are non-metallic, they are difficult to detect. In Kuwait, where I saw first hand the devastating effects of war, as many as 5 million mines were laid by the invading army. On average, for every 5,000 mines removed, one deminer is killed and two others are injured. The United Nations estimates that it costs as much as \$1,000 to remove each mine, which typically costs less than \$25 to make. With present day technology, the expense to clear all the world's mines would exceed \$33 billion and take more than 1,100 years!

And worse still, for every mine cleared, 20 new ones are laid, according to the ICRC.

The Department of Defense has undertaken a substantial program to develop improved land mine detection and clearing technology and will share new technology with the international community. We applaud this initiative. Let us hope the effort will have a significant impact on this dangerous task. But mine detection and mine clearing address only one aspect of this issue. Red Cross's focus is simple and clear: the world must agree on a total ban on the use of landmines as soon as feasible using all venues possible.

Beyond the humanitarian concern for the needless death and suffering caused by antipersonnel landmines, let's consider some of the societal costs:

- Landmines render vast areas useless for farm land. Agricultural production could be increased by as much as 200% in parts of Afghanistan and by 135% in Cambodia if it were not for the threat posed by mines.
- Construction of railroads, highways, and waterways is fraught with peril. The expense of clearing mines drains resources from marginal economies.
- Where landmines proliferate, medical costs soar to meet the ongoing medical needs of victims.
- Refugees can't return safely to their homes, aid workers can't reach those in need, and the recovery from war and conflict slows dramatically.

You may ask, "Why is the Red Cross involved in the landmine issue? Since wars are fought by governments, shouldn't governments decide what weapons are used?"

Let me assure you, landmines are very much a valid Red Cross concern. The Red Cross is the custodian of the Geneva Conventions and a key player in the development of International Humanitarian Law, the body of laws and principles that seek to save lives and alleviate suffering during armed conflicts. Red Cross and International Humanitarian Law share common roots in the principles of humanity, impartiality, and neutrality.

The American Red Cross, like its sister societies in 170 countries, works to educate the public about International Humanitarian Law. We do this through a course offered by Red Cross chapters. International Humanitarian Law engages and encourages the humanitarian spirit and informs people that all is not fair in love and war. In fact, governments are obliged to reduce needless suffering by respecting very specific rights and responsibilities in the conduct of war.

Yet the proliferation of landmines has raced ahead of international legal agreements regarding their use. Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, took leadership within the international humanitarian community by calling in February 1994, for a complete ban on anti-personnel mines. Shortly thereafter, I shared with the Senate Foreign Operations Appropriation Subcommittee the Red Cross call for an end to the distribution and proliferation of landmines. Sen. Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member of the Committee, has been outstanding in his leadership on this issue.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has urged all components to work for a total ban on anti-personnel landmines. And the American Red Cross has accepted that challenge.

Recently, I met with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and with Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen. In those meetings, I reiterated our call for a complete ban on the manufacture, stockpiling, transfer, and use of anti-personnel

landmines, to be achieved as soon as feasible, using all venues possible.

The Red Cross is grateful that the US has joined the growing list of nations supporting a complete ban on landmines as soon as feasible. Since 1992, the US has observed a temporary moratorium on the export and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. In January, the Administration announced that the U.S. will observe a permanent ban on export and transfer of anti-personnel landmines and that destruction is underway of existing weapons. By the end of 1999, about 3 million stockpiled landmines will be destroyed.

Clearly, momentum is building on this issue. A host of countries that includes Germany, Austria, Canada, Norway, South Africa, Belgium, and many developing nations have renounced landmine use completely. 74 countries participated in an international strategy conference held last October in Ottawa, and more will participate at a meeting there later this year. Non-governmental organizations are mobilizing world-wide interest and support that can help speed the pace of diplomatic negotiations. We share their goal.

But even if landmine production were to cease tomorrow in every corner of the globe, we still face a monumental humanitarian task to meet the medical and rehabilitation needs of thousands of victims disabled by landmines.

According to the ICRC, a growing child should be fitted with a new prosthesis every 6 months, and an adult every three to five years.

For that reason, we support a special unit of the ICRC that has provided 67,400 amputees with prosthesis in 10 countries. The American Red Cross is assisting with orthopedic programs in Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. Our principal program is the prosthetics and rehabilitation project in Cambodia which has provided prosthesis for more than 2,400 landmine victims since 1991. Importantly, the program also trains Cambodian prosthetic technicians, nurses, and health care workers, ensuring that a sustainable system of local health care and rehabilitation will continue services long after our role is concluded.

In Cambodia alone, where a 12-year civil war has left a legacy of some 10 million mines, as many as 9,000 Cambodians will be killed or maimed by landmines this year, despite the fact that more than 61,000 mines have been removed since 1992, at a cost of \$60 million.

The picture is bleak elsewhere as well. In Bosnia and Croatia, up to 6 million land mines have been laid. There are more than 50 million uncleared mines in Africa. After 20 years of civil war, Angola now bears the sad distinction of having the highest rate of amputeeism in the world, with three amputees per 1,000 people. An estimated 9 million undetected landmines stud the countryside, roughly one for every Angolan.

It was in Mozambique, which has over 2 million landmines, that I visited a rehabilitation center operated by the Mozambique Red Cross. There I saw children maimed by mines that had been scattered like deadly toys where they lived and played, an experience that will haunt me the rest of my life. Consider the future that awaits these children. Around the world, many amputees have no access to prosthetics, and thus their economic prospects are dim. Many will not receive the long-term care they need.

We in the Red Cross movement are the spiritual heirs of Henri Dunant. This time, our mission is to awaken the

conscience of governments and citizens to the terrible injustice of landmines. Lives depend on our commitment. We cannot turn away. As we move toward the exit of the 20th century, we must do all that we can for the citizens of the next century to reduce suffering and to protect the innocent. Toward that end, the American Red Cross will use every opportunity available to publicize the humanitarian plight of landmine victims.

Through our International Humanitarian Law training, we will continue to educate people about the Geneva Conventions and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. An educated public will influence government action on the use of weapons that do not discriminate between civilian and combatant. And we will raise funds to expand our programs to assist the victims of landmines to live productive lives.

An example of the value of an educated public can be seen in an action recently taken by the State of Maine this last April. Julie Groome-Thompson is our chapter manager in Brunswick, Maine. She is also one of our IHL instructors, and intimately familiar with our antipersonnel landmine campaign. Inspired by what Julie had shared with him at the Red Cross, a local member of her Board of Directors, who is a state legislator, influenced the State of Maine to pass a resolution urging the Administration to fulfill the commitment to negotiate an international ban on the manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and use of antipersonnel land mines." That is the value of training. I think Julie is with us here today. Please help me thank Julie for her leadership. Julie, I hope others in the Red Cross follow your lead.

Because of our deep commitment to the plight of landmine victims, I am very pleased to announce today that Diana, Princess of Wales will be the honored guest of the American Red Cross on June 17 for a day of activities focused on the landmine crisis. Princess Diana has already brought her considerable influence as a humanitarian to bear on this issue. In January, on behalf of the British Red Cross the Princess visited a minefield and toured health posts and orthopedic centers in Angola, one of the most heavily mined countries in the world.

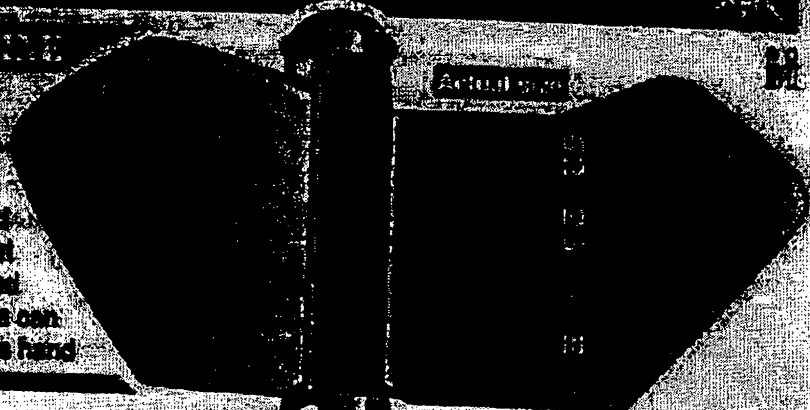
Diana has added her voice to many, many others speaking out on behalf of millions of people imperiled by landmines. Like Henri Dunant, we cannot remain silent when our fellow man is suffering.

We Americans have been blessed in so many ways. And, too often we take these blessings for granted. Ladies and gentlemen, we've been blessed to be a blessing. We've received that we might give. Thank you -- and may God bless you all in this vitally important mission.

Danger under foot

BULLETPROOF MINE

This hand-dropped mine gets its nickname from its winged shape, which allows it to float to the ground from an aircraft without exploding. When picked up, the liquid explosive can easily blow off a child's hand.



Actual size



Landmines cannot distinguish between the footfall of a soldier or a child playing.

POWDER

Fragmentation mine, which looks like a hand grenade on a wooden spike. It detonates in clusters by a tripwire.



BOUNDING MINE

A 'bounding' mine. When triggered, it leaps 45 cm into the air before shattering into more than 1,000 metal splinters. Anyone standing within 25m is likely to be killed, and anyone within 100m will be injured.

Source: UK Working Group on Landmines

GEMINI NEWS SERVICE





American Red Cross

Helping Victims of Landmines Fact Sheet

Background

Landmines are among the deadliest and most insidious weapons in the world today **killing or maiming over 2,000 people each month**. Most victims are civilians killed or injured after hostilities have come to an end. As you read this fact sheet, someone, somewhere in this world will be maimed or killed by a landmine.

A landmine is an explosive device which can vary in shape, size and strength and can be detonated by the footfall or movement of combatants and civilians alike. Many types of landmines contain just enough explosives to maim or mutilate horrendously, leading to excessive suffering and indiscriminate results.

The mission of the American Red Cross as a humanitarian organization is to provide relief to victims of disasters, natural and man-made, and to help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. **Through prosthetics and public education programs, the American Red Cross reaches out to help end suffering of landmine victims.**

The American Red Cross Response

The American Red Cross joins in the effort for concrete action to put an end to the suffering and the horror caused by antipersonnel landmines. **The American Red Cross response calls for action on three fronts:**

- ▶ The American Red Cross joins with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and others in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in calling for a ban on landmines.
- ▶ The expansion of current American Red Cross activities on behalf of landmine victims. These include projects such as a prosthetic program in Cambodia, and the provision of orthopedic assistance in Angola, Annenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

In Cambodia, **one out of every 236 persons is an amputee and one out of fifty-four is disabled**. Since 1991, the American Red Cross has provided prosthetic devices to over 2100 Cambodian amputees, building artificial legs at a rate of 55 per month. In addition, mine clearance is an extremely long, costly and dangerous task. In a period of three years (1992-1995), more than 61,000 mines have been removed from Cambodia at a cost of \$60 million.

- ▶ An American Red Cross International Humanitarian Law education program, raising public awareness of the humanitarian rules protecting people in wartime, will

reach out to more people nationwide. The indiscriminate use of weapons, the inflicting of unnecessary suffering, and the targeting and terrorizing of civilians in the process of waging war is forbidden.

Landmines Don't only Kill or Maim Military Personnel

More than 110 million active mines are scattered in 64 countries. Today, more than 25 countries are in a state of crisis because of landmines infesting their territory, including:

▶ Angola	(9-15 million)
▶ Cambodia	(8-10 million)
▶ Afghanistan	(10 million)
▶ Iraq (Kurdistan)	(10 million)
▶ Bosnia	(3 million)
▶ Mozambique	(2 million)
▶ Somalia	(1 million)
▶ Sudan	(1 million)
▶ Eritrea	(1 million)

An antipersonnel mine is an explosive device designed to maim or kill the person who triggers it. **Mines are indiscriminate** in terms of target and time. They go on killing and maiming - soldiers and civilians, men and women, adults and children alike - decades after the fighting has ended. It is an equation which causes severe economic and human suffering: **Mines = death+suffering+mutilation: 800 people killed and 1200 maimed every single month. This is one victim every 20 minutes.**

Costs and Consequences to People Who are Maimed by Landmines

An injury like those experienced by landmine victims can actually create a severe and long lasting economic, social, and psychological affect on humanity. As an example, a growing child's artificial leg should be replaced every six months and that of an adult every five years. A child loses a leg at aged 10 and has a life expectancy of another 40-50 years will need 25 prostheses during his or her lifetime. The average cost of an artificial leg in US currency is \$15 a month; crutches, therefore, become what most people can afford. In developing countries, surgical care and the fitting of an artificial limb cost at least \$3000 per amputee. **This means a total expenditure of \$750 million (US) for the 250,000 amputees who have been registered by the United Nations worldwide.**

For additional information about the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay, call (617) 375-0700.

Helping Victims of Landmines



WORLDWIDE DISASTER AID AND INFORMATION VIA THE INTERNET

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Landmines: Most Affected Countries

Country	Estimated number of mines
Egypt	23 million
Iran	16 million
Angola	9-15 million
Iraq	10 million
Afghanistan	10 million
Cambodia	8-10 million
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2-3 million
Croatia	2 million
Mozambique	2 million

Sources: *Landmine Data base*, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations and *Hidden Killers: The Global Landmine Crisis*, United States Department of State

- [Mine Web](#): U.S. State Department-Sponsored Website on Landmines
- [Seven Days in a Minefield](#): A Photo Essay from the International Committee of the Red Cross
- [The Human Cost](#): A Photo Essay from the American Red Cross



Landmines: Amputee Rates

Cambodia	1 amputee per 236 people
Angola	1 amputee per 470 people
Somalia	1 amputee per 650 people
Uganda	1 amputee per 1,100 people
Vietnam	1 amputee per 1,250 people
Mozambique	1 amputee per 1,862 people

Source: International Committee of the Red Cross

- [Mine Web](#): U.S. State Department-Sponsored Website on Landmines
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The Boston Globe

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1997

Taking aim at the most gruesome weapons

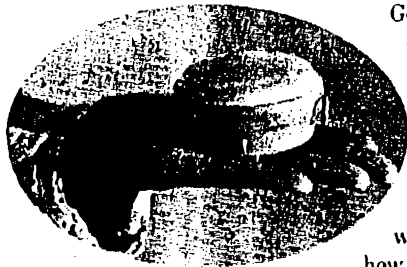
By Philip Winslow
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

O'TTAWA - When Robin Coupland first started amputating the shattered legs of land mine victims in Afghanistan in 1987, doctors tended to regard such wounds, ghastly as they were, as part of the everyday carnage of war. But the next year, when he moved on to a hospital on the Thai-Cambodia border, he began to see land mines in a different light.

The British war surgeon, who works for the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross, stood in a Cambodian surgical ward one day looking at two patients in adjoining beds. One had suffered multiple wounds from an exploding mortar shell; the other had stepped on an anti-personnel mine. Both were seriously wounded, but their injuries were somehow different.

"I saw that if you put a hundred people who had stepped on mines next to a hundred people who had been hit by mortar shells, all the mine victims would have lost a leg," Coupland said.

WEAPONS, Page C4



Chisola Jorgeta Pezo lost her right leg when she stepped on a mine near her village in Angola six years ago. The tiny Chinese mine at left could shear off a leg.

PHOTOS COURTESY/P. WINSLOW

Taking aim at gruesome weapons

WEAPONS
Continued from Page C1

in a recent interview. "One represented something more horrific for me - because the wound was done by design."

Land mines, and their intended effects, are not new. They were first widely used in the US Civil War, invented by a Confederate officer who rigged common artillery shells with special pressure fuses and buried them on roads travelled by Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman and his Union forces on their march across the South. The weapons outraged soldiers. Sherman called their use "not war, but murder."

More powerful versions were used in World War I, and land mines were sown by the millions in World War II and later in Korea and across Southeast Asia. Today's anti-personnel mines work on the same basic principle, but many are made with nearly all plastic components or equipped with sophisticated fuses that blow them up if someone tries to remove them.

An estimated 119 million mines are scattered through 71 countries, says the International Committee of the Red Cross. They kill or maim about 2,000 people a month.

Coupland, now 39, saw that land mine wounds often required far more extensive surgery, used more blood and always needed more extensive care and rehabilitation than many other injuries. But what distressed him even more than the endless line of non-combatant casualties was that the wounds targeted a particular part of the body and nearly always produced, if not death, permanent disability.

All war wounds were bad, but these seemed worse. He wondered: Were land mines legal?

Coupland dug into international law and was puzzled. A body of regulations going back more than a century did prohibit certain weapons. Exploding bullets were banned under the St. Petersburg Declaration of 1868; expanding bullets, or dum-dum bullets, were outlawed by the Hague Convention of 1899, and together with the Hague Convention of 1907, nations prohibited weapons that cause "superfluous injury" and "unnecessary suffering." After the horrors of the First World War, poison gas was banned in 1925.

Perhaps surprisingly, these bans have been largely respected, except for Iran's use of gas in recent years.

In addition, a 1977 protocol added to the 1949 Geneva Conventions declared that the right "to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited" and prohibited "indiscriminate" weapons.

There are, in fact, international



Dr. Robin Coupland, a British surgeon, attends a victim of a land mine blast in a tent hospital in Pakistan. Looking on are other medical personnel.

agreements to regulate the use of land mines, but they are ineffective, arms-control advocates say, and the weapon remains legal despite growing support for having it outlawed. More than 40 countries and 650 humanitarian organizations and charities now support a permanent ban, and delegates from four dozen nations met in Ottawa this fall to seek additional support for the ban.

As he researched the law, Coupland made a discovery that astounded him. Even when individual weapons like dum-dum bullets were prohibited, fast-developing technology could easily circumvent the bans by tinkering with features such as velocity and explosive content.

Nowhere was there a scientific definition of superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering that might close such loopholes. And no law spelled what specific effects would cause a weapon to be banned, or sought to limit the health effects of weapons of the future.

So Coupland devised a new medical specialty, and this year he began to promote it with medical associations in Europe and North America. Tentatively calling the field "pleigmatology," after the Greek words for the study of wounds, Coupland proposed that wounds be measured and classified according to severity. Then, he suggested, the effects of weapons could be evaluated by factors such as these: deaths in the field; the proportion of victims who die in hospital; length of hospital stay; number of operations required; number of units of blood needed; and lasting disability.

Once specific weapons were shown to cause superfluous injury and unnecessary suffering, Coupland thought, the rest would be up to what a 19th century lawyer called "the dictate of the public conscience."

"In this way, a weapon universally regarded as abhorrent might not even get to the development stage, through lack of funds, if designers and politicians knew that the effect was already prohibited," he wrote in *Lancet*, the British medical journal.

Once documented, those who

are responsible for the decisions about design and the use of weapons cannot say they are unaware of the human implications of their decisions," he added in a lecture to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh last April.

Under their canons of ethics, doctors cannot help design weapons, nor can they decide which ones should be legal. "No doctor or medical group will deem any weapon acceptable," Coupland notes. "What I am saying is, let's put all weapons on a kind of moral spectrum, from hitting with sticks to nuclear. It is the duty of the medical profession to make the spectrum understandable."

Coupland and other proponents understand that skeptics may find it hard to see the point of distinguish-

concept could be useful. "I hope it will help smoke out more data from the militaries, including the US, about weapons design," he said. "It could give us insight into new things."

But Arkin adds that it is "a bit naive" to believe that prohibiting the effects of a weapon will lead to bans. "To think you can reduce it to one type of weapon and say it's bad... that's not the way the world works," Arkin said. "If Coupland can create the constituency... more power to him, but the tool he's suggesting is one of many."

But Coupland's challenge to the medical profession has begun to attract interest.

"We will be very supportive," said Dr. Vivienne Nathanson, the head of Health Policy and International Affairs for the British Medical Association. "The problem with international law is getting it applied, and that it relies on an understanding of 'superfluous' and 'unnecessary' - and that doesn't exist at the moment."

Nathanson said doctors around the world must start thinking about future possibilities such as energy-directed or genetic weapons, whose effects are still unknown:

"The problem is that as doctors we've not done anything to stop the development of weapons, when we have to treat the effects of weapons. Many of us would like to say all weapons are unacceptable, because anything that inflicts harm on humans is appalling. But if we can't persuade people not to use weapons, then we might as well persuade them to limit them."

Boston-based Physicians for Human Rights agrees that doctors must go beyond treating and rehabilitating war victims. "Health professionals need to take a lead in addressing the root cause of what is essentially an epidemic," said Susannah Surkin, the group's deputy director.

Philip Winslow is the author of a forthcoming book on anti-personnel mines.

An estimated 119 million mines are scattered through 71 countries. They kill or maim about 2,000 people a month.

ing between types of war wounds. How, for example, could a leg ripped off by a land mine be considered "superfluous" or "unnecessary" while a massive abdominal wound caused by an artillery shell be considered reasonable? The effects of all weapons on the human body are all terrible, skeptics might argue.

"This is only the beginning of a debate within the medical community, as far as we are concerned," said Peter Herby, a lawyer at the Red Cross. "It is not the intention of our medical specialists to suggest that some wounds are acceptable," he added at the Ottawa conference. "It is creating a base line and saying some things are far in excess."

William Arkin, a Vermont-based human rights consultant, said the



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

June 9, 1997

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

WHEREAS: Anti-personnel landmines are currently deployed in 64 countries, causing horrible suffering; and

WHEREAS: Each month over 800 people are killed by anti-personnel landmines; and

WHEREAS: Each month over 1200 people are maimed or mutilated by anti-personnel landmines; and

WHEREAS: Eighty-seven percent of the individuals killed or disabled by anti-personnel landmines are non-combatant men, women and children; and

WHEREAS: Anti-personnel landmines have resulted in one out of every 236 Cambodians being an amputee and one out of every fifty-four Cambodians being a person with a disability; and

WHEREAS: The International Committee of the Red Cross has condemned anti-personnel landmines and has called for a world-wide ban on the manufacture, sale or deployment of anti-personnel landmines; and

WHEREAS: The American Red Cross, in concert with the other Societies in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement are urging all governments to ban the manufacture, sale or deployment of anti-personnel landmines; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record as condemning the manufacture, sale or deployment of anti-personnel landmines; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this City Council urge all officers of the United States Government to take all possible steps to ban the manufacture, sale or deployment of anti-personnel landmines; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, all members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and to the Chairman of the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay.

Born, Davis, Galluccio, Russell, Torrey
Cons. Order #40

Triantafyllou

5-364

Councillor Sullivan re: Deployment of
anti-personnel landmines.

In City Council June 9, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED