

# SAFE LANE

WINTER 1998

Number 8

CANADA'S LANDMINE BAN REPORT



## The Ban: One year later

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Department of Foreign Affairs  
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
et du Commerce international

Canada



## RESOURCES

All materials can be ordered through DFAIT / ILX:  
Tel: (613) 944-1643  
Fax: (613) 944-2501

### Print Publications

*Ban Landmines* (pamphlet)  
How you can be a part of the global movement to ban landmines. Provides Youth Mine Action Ambassador contact information: DFAIT.

*Monthly Progress Report*  
(2- to 3- pages): DFAIT

*A Global Ban on Landmines*  
Short background (2 pages) and long background (5 pages): DFAIT.

*Banning Anti-Personnel Mines – The Ottawa Treaty Explained*  
(11 pages; available in English, French & Spanish): International Committee of the Red Cross

*Ratification Packet for the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction*  
(5 pages; available in English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian and Chinese): International Committee of the Red Cross

*Preamble on Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction: "The Ottawa Treaty"*  
(23 pages; available in English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian and Chinese)

*To Walk Without Fear: The Global Movement to Ban Landmines* (491 pages)  
Cameron, M., Lawson, R., and Tomlin, B., ed.; Oxford University Press; Toronto: 1998. (Available through bookstores or from the publisher.)

*A Working Chronology of the International Movement to Ban Anti-personnel (AP) Mines*  
(57 pages):

Centre for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution, The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs  
Carleton University, Ottawa

*Anti-personnel Land Mines: An Annotated Bibliography Update* (54 pages): DFAIT

### Electronic Media

#### Videos:

*In Years, Not Decades* – 7 minutes (ideal format for speaking engagements)

*One Step at a Time* - 24 minutes (perfect format for broadcasters; international broadcasting rights have been obtained for stock footage; licensing fee for airing can be donated to NGOs; also available in Russian and Spanish)

#### CD-ROM

*Ban Landmines! The Ottawa Process and the International Movement to Ban Landmines*

#### Websites:

SAFELANE: [www.mines.gc.ca](http://www.mines.gc.ca)

Mines Action Canada:  
[www.minesactioncanada.com](http://www.minesactioncanada.com)

International Campaign to Ban Landmines: [www.icbl.org](http://www.icbl.org)

International Committee of the Red Cross: [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

## About our new look

You may not recognise this latest edition of our landmines quarterly (previously *AP Mine Ban Progress Report*) although the new title may seem familiar: *SafeLane* is also the name of our Web site ([www.mines.gc.ca](http://www.mines.gc.ca)). In case you don't know the term, a "safe lane" is the first path that de-miners cut through a minefield – a secure corridor from which they are able to complete their task of making land useable once again. It also restores community access to land, water and other essentials. We couldn't think of a better metaphor for this newsletter, which we hope is a voice for those involved in the struggle to carve out safe ground.

In redesigning our newsletter, we've adopted a look more in keeping with a news magazine. With our expanded outreach efforts, we realize that information on landmines must be accessible to a broad spectrum. We hope the new *SafeLane* appeals to both new and faithful readers. Let us know what you think. ●

## SAFELANE

### CANADA'S LANDMINE BAN REPORT

Winter 1998, Number 8

*SafeLane* is published quarterly by the Mine Action Team, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Submissions are invited from governmental agencies and NGOs active in the campaign against landmines. Please send articles of 400 words or less; *SafeLane* editors reserve the right to condense and adapt text. Captioned, print-quality photos much appreciated.

Send submissions, along with clear contact information, to:

Outreach and Communications, Mine Action Team (ILX), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1A 0G2

Fax: (613) 944-2501

Deadline for next issue: Feb. 1, 1999.

Cover photo: Cambodian youth demonstrate against landmines. Courtesy: John Rodsted



# ONE YEAR LATER

## Celebrating the treaty – and moving ahead

*Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy reviews a year of progress on landmines – and underscores the challenges that remain.*

Just one year ago – December 3-4, 1997 – 122 governments gathered in Ottawa to sign a historic new convention banning the production, stockpiling, use and export of anti-personnel landmines (AP mines).

This event defied the expectations of most international observers: The treaty signing drew 2,400 people – foreign ministers, diplomats and representatives from hundreds of international and non-governmental organizations.

It was a heady time for those who had long struggled to ban a category of weapons which has indiscriminately

killed or maimed hundreds of thousands over the past two decades. The Ottawa Conference and the process which lead to the rapid negotiation of the new convention was unprecedented, a unique collaboration between governments and civil society-based organizations such as the Red Cross and the Nobel Prize-winning International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

A year later the momentum behind the landmines campaign continues to grow. The Ottawa Convention achieved the

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*Jody Williams and other ICBL members kick off the signing of the People's Treaty. Signatories pledge to hold governments accountable to their landmine commitments.*

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## ONE YEAR LATER...

*Top:* UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy at the signing of the Convention.

*Below:* Removing a fragmentation mine in Bosnia.



John Rodsted

required forty country ratifications in early September, making it the most rapidly ratified multilateral treaty in history. A

total of 133 countries have now signed or acceded to the convention which will become international law March 1, 1999.

The question remains: Is the Convention working? Let's look at the facts.

The destruction of vast stockpiles of anti-personnel mines held by governments has begun. Over 11 million stockpiled mines in 12 countries will have been destroyed by the end of this year. Even non-signatories are swayed by the moral pressure of the Ottawa Convention and its humanitarian objectives: The United States has announced that it will sign the convention by 2006 and has already begun destroying significant portions of its national stockpiles. Russia has begun destroying its

stockpiles and plans to stop production of anti-personnel blast mines, which represent 90 percent of its stocks.

Moreover, the once flourishing international trade in anti-personnel mines appears to have all but ceased. Fewer than fifteen countries have yet to renounce production of AP mines. Of the traditional exporters, almost all have ceased export.

**Over 11 million landmines will have been destroyed by the end of this year.**

But there have also been disappointments. The recent use of landmines in Angola and Kosovo has justifiably attracted international condemnation. The flooding and landslides caused by Hurricane Mitch have scattered tens of thousands of previously contained landmines, adding further to the dangers and misery being endured by the people of Nicaragua and Honduras.

### Ottawa Convention time line

Dec. 3-4 1997	Sept. 16 1998	March 1 1999	May 3-7 1999	Aug. 27 1999	circa 2000	circa 2001	circa 2002	circa 2003	March 1 2003	March 1 2009
122 countries sign the Ottawa Convention	40th Country Ratifies	Convention Entry into Force (EIF) <sup>1</sup>	First Meeting of States Parties Maputo, Mozambique	Report to UN Secretary General (Article 7)	Second Meeting of States Parties. Annual data exchange	Third Meeting of States Parties. Annual data exchange	Fourth Meeting of States Parties. Annual data exchange	First Review Conference. Annual data exchange	Destruction of Stockpiled AP Mines Complete (Article 4)	Destruction of AP Mines in Mined Areas Complete (Article 5)

<sup>1</sup> General Obligations for those countries which have ratified before March 1, 1999 include a ban on the development, use, stockpiling and transfer of AP mines. (Article 2)

## ONE YEAR LATER...

Moreover, the optimism of Ottawa Convention supporters has been tempered by the reality that landmines continue to take thousands of lives and limbs in parts of the world that are struggling to return to the path of sustainable peace and development – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia, Chechnya and Mozambique.

And so the costly and dangerous task of clearing mine-infested land continues. Over the past year, Canada and our partners have mobilized significant new resources to support mine action programs in dozens of countries. Integrated victim assistance and mine clearance programs have been launched by Canada in Bosnia and Mozambique. We continue to support multilateral efforts in Afghanistan and Cambodia. Additional programs are being developed in Asia, Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe.

### **The once flourishing trade in AP mines appears to have all but ceased.**

A year after the Ottawa Conference, much has been done to turn our vision of a mine free world into a concrete reality for millions of people who live with the threat of mines every day. While the Ottawa Convention provides

deadlines for action to clear mines and destroy stockpiles, the Convention will only be as successful as the political will

and resources mobilized and committed to its implementation. ●

## Landmine Monitor research kicks off

Landmine Monitor, the initiative by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) to monitor compliance with the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, held its first major meeting in Dublin, Ireland from September 15 to 18. 150 NGO participants from 60 countries came together to exchange information, assess the current state of research and data gathering, attend training workshops and regional sessions and discuss the development of common research methods and reporting mechanisms.

After the meeting, a mass mailing of research application packets was sent out soliciting research proposals.

On October 25-26, 1998, the Landmine Monitor Core Group – a five-member body – met in Brussels to examine research grant applications. The Core Group assessed the applications against a rigorous set of

criteria. Over \$200,000 in fiscal grants is allocated for research.

Researchers will participate in a second meeting in Ottawa on December 1-2 to present detailed outlines of their projects and report any initial findings. The meeting will help Landmine

Monitor to standardize methodology, reporting and quality.

Landmine Monitor aims to release its first annual report at the First Meeting of States Parties in Maputo in May, 1999.

To participate in Landmine Monitor, or for more information, contact: Human Rights Watch, 1522 K St. NW, # 910, Washington, DC, 20005, USA, Tel: (202) 371-6592; Fax: (202) 371-0124. Or, Mines Action Canada, 1 Nicholas St., suite 1210, Ottawa, ON, K1N 7B7, Canada. Tel: (613) 241-3777 ●

*By Mary Wareham,  
Human Rights Watch*

**M LANDMINE  
MONITOR**



Related to the challenge of developing an effective response to the global landmines crisis is the important task of developing ways to measure progress in these efforts. In short, if we don't know where we are going, we won't know how to get there.

Canadian officials have now developed a straightforward series of benchmarks which will be used to guide Canadian mine action programs and measure progress in wider global mine action efforts.

## MEASURING PROGRESS IN MINE ACTION

### To what extent...

- have states banned the production, stockpiling, trade and use of AP mines?
- does the necessary information exist to guide effective mine action?
- have individuals and communities in mine affected areas been reached by effective mine awareness programs?
- have mine casualties been reduced?
- has high priority mined land been cleared?
- have mine victims and mine-affected communities received assistance? •

Shoe piles such as this one in Paris are a rough measure of the landmines problem. But how do we measure solutions?

## MAPUTO IN MAY: Landmines Resolution passes UN First Committee vote

The way forward for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has been cleared with the passage of the UN General Assembly First Committee Resolution L.33, "Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines". The resolution passed with 124 positive votes, 0 negative votes and 19 abstentions.

Under the terms of the Convention, signatories are obliged to meet within one year of the entry-into-force date (March 1, 1999) to review progress and facilitate the full implementation of the Convention's obligations.

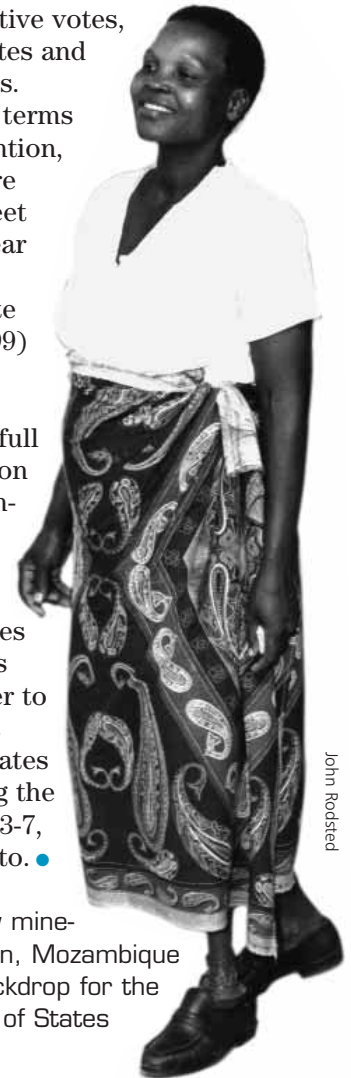
The resolution endorses Mozambique's generous offer to host the First Meeting of States Parties during the week of May 3-7, 1999 in Maputo. •

As a seriously mine-affected region, Mozambique is a fitting backdrop for the First Meeting of States parties.

John Rodsted



John Rodsted



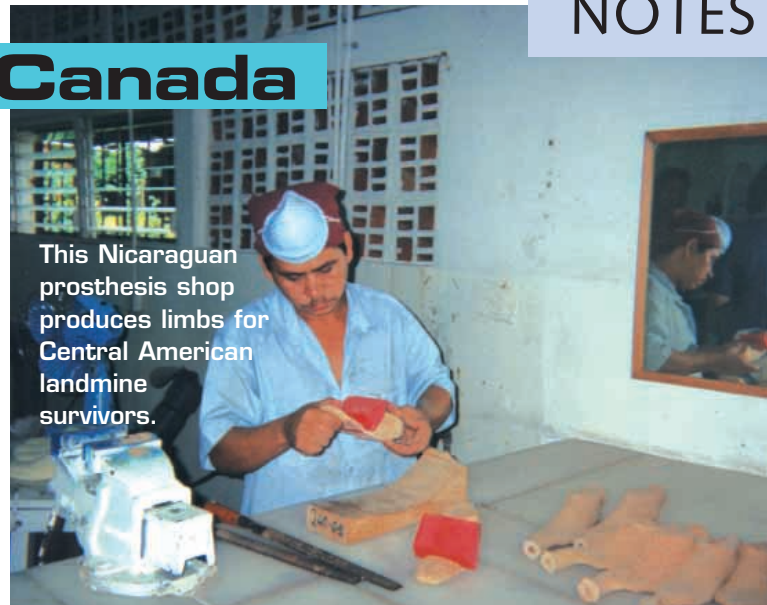
## Mexico and Canada to co-host Landmines seminar

Mexico and Canada will co-host a Regional Seminar on Anti-Personnel Mines, January 11-12, 1999, in Mexico City.

“The theme of the seminar – “Reaffirming Our Commitment” – captures perfectly the spirit of the anti-personnel mine ban effort in this region,” said Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy. “Early on in the Ottawa Process, Central American and Caribbean leaders pledged to make their region mine-free by the year 2000. Meetings such as this will help to reinvigorate that commitment.”

The goal of the seminar is to advance the mine-action agenda in the Western Hemisphere, with a focus on early ratification of the Ottawa Convention, humanitarian mine clearance and effective assistance to victims.

Approximately 200 representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations in the Americas are expected to attend. The organization of American States and the Pan American Health Organization will be key participants in the meeting, building on their important contribution to mine clearance and victim assistance programs in the regions. ●



This Nicaraguan prosthesis shop produces limbs for Central American landmine survivors.

DPAIT/MAECI



### Minister Awarded for Work on Landmines Ban

On October 23, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy was awarded the Council of Europe's North-South Prize in recognition of his role in securing a global ban on landmines. Also receiving the award this year was South African children's rights activist, Mrs. Graça Machel.

The Honourable Sheila Finestone, Parliamentary Advisor on Landmines, accompanied the Minister at the award ceremony in Lisbon. ●



# CAMBODIA CONFERENCE: *Ownership and Partnership*

*Wendy Winch of DFAIT's Mine Action Team recently returned from a tour of Cambodia. Here she reports on the International Forum on Demining and Victim Assistance.*

Cambodian landmine survivor attends mine awareness training session.

From October 26-28, Phnom Penh played host to a Forum, entitled "Towards Zero Victims based on Ownership and Partnership". The objective was to facilitate cooperation among mine affected countries, and to assist these countries in building their capacity to manage mine action.

The 250 participants shared their practical experiences in mine action management, such as training, record keeping, mechanical assistance, and quality assurance. The challenges of victim assistance – emergency care, the availability of prosthetics and psychosocial rehabilitation – were also discussed. Representatives from some of the world's most mine-affected states, such as Angola, Bosnia, Nicaragua, Mozambique and Croatia, made this a very grounded discussion.

One of the most original aspects of this conference was a field trip to CMAC's training





# CAMBODIA CONFERENCE: *Ownership and Partnership*

centre. Delegates were given a glimpse of the rigorous training process deminers must complete before joining a mine clearance platoon. We were shown a range of tools used to mark minefields and dispose of mines; how CMAC makes use of dogs in marking mine fields; and the new technologies testing facility.

The learning at CMAC is very concrete: During a mine awareness presentation to a group of children, specialized unexploded ordnance units detonated a bomb – a reminder to all of the extreme danger of this line of work. ●

John Rodsted

## Casualty rates drop in Cambodia

In 1991 over 400 people were injured or killed by landmines each month in Cambodia. The Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC) has focused on identifying and mapping minefields to lessen the threat to civilian populations. Mine awareness programs are also a priority, especially those targeting children. With intensive mine awareness activities, casualty figures have dropped to 200 per month in 1998.

CMAC was established in 1993 with a

mission “to achieve a state within Cambodia where people can go about their lives free from the threat of mines and unexploded

**Casualty figures have been cut by half since 1991**

ordnance so that reconstruction and development activities can take place in a safe environment.” ●



## STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION: Canada and Ukraine reach interim accord

*Lieutenant-Colonel Normand Levert recently took part in a Canadian Mine Action delegation which had been invited by the Ukrainian Army to visit ammunition sites and witness storage conditions. Here he reports on the practical challenges of stockpile destruction in the Ukraine, and invites other donors to contribute to a destruction program in Ukraine and elsewhere.*

The best place to attack anti-personnel mines is before they find their way into the ground – that is, to destroy stockpiles. Stockpile reduction is safer, faster and cheaper than hunting hidden live mines. In minefields, success is measured one mine at a time: in stockpiles, success can be measured by the boxcar.

**In stockpile destruction, success can be measured by the boxcar.**

Many people living near stockpiles worry justifiably that they are a threat. Poorly stored explosives can deteriorate to the point where they are unstable.

We were pleased therefore, when the Ukrainian Army

invited a Canadian delegation to tour their stockpiles. Our team embarked on the trip as part of the effort to help Ukraine sign the Ottawa Convention and destroy their stockpiles. The invitation was the second of an ongoing series of visits.

Our Ukrainian hosts were forthcoming, open and cooperative. We found both sites well guarded with substantial fencing and round-the-clock patrols. As in Canadian practice, every bunker was locked and the staff kept close records of all access. We were escorted to the bunkers and allowed to inspect row upon row of carefully stacked wooden boxes of landmines.

In order to assess best destruction methods, we asked to see the packaging which can provide clues as to the condition of the mines. On one site we brought out the notorious “butterfly mines”, designed to be dispersed in great numbers from helicopters. They were sealed within a thick polyethylene bag. Another box held PMN mines. We found the mines in excellent condition – good news, as stable mines are more



*Above: Colonel Fitch and Colonel Mikhaelenko display mines from Ukrainian stockpile.*

*Left: Officers closely examine mine packaging for clues to the stability of the weapons.*

Commander Rick Williams

easily destroyed.

As a result of the visit, Canadian and Ukrainian officials initialed an interim accord, still to be negotiated and approved at the political level, on the destruction of millions of AP mines. For me, this is evidence that trust between nations is built upon trust between people.

Canada invites other interested donors to develop consortia to finance this and other destruction programs.

For more information, contact: Lieutenant-Colonel N. Levert, DND Liaison Officer to DFAIT, Tel: (613) 945-7989, Fax: (613) 996-2244, E-mail: ad075@issc.debbs.ndhq.dnd.ca ●



## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA:

Early this year, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia established a Trust Fund aimed at supporting mine clearance and victim assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

To help support this initiative, in May 1998 the United States Congress allowed a U.S. contribution to be made of up to \$38 million (U.S.) into the Trust Fund. This was conditional upon other donors contributing matching funds.

On November 6, 1998 Canada announced a \$1 million contribution to the Fund. Following a First Donors Conference on November 8-9 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the Fund's

## Fund to ease landmines crisis

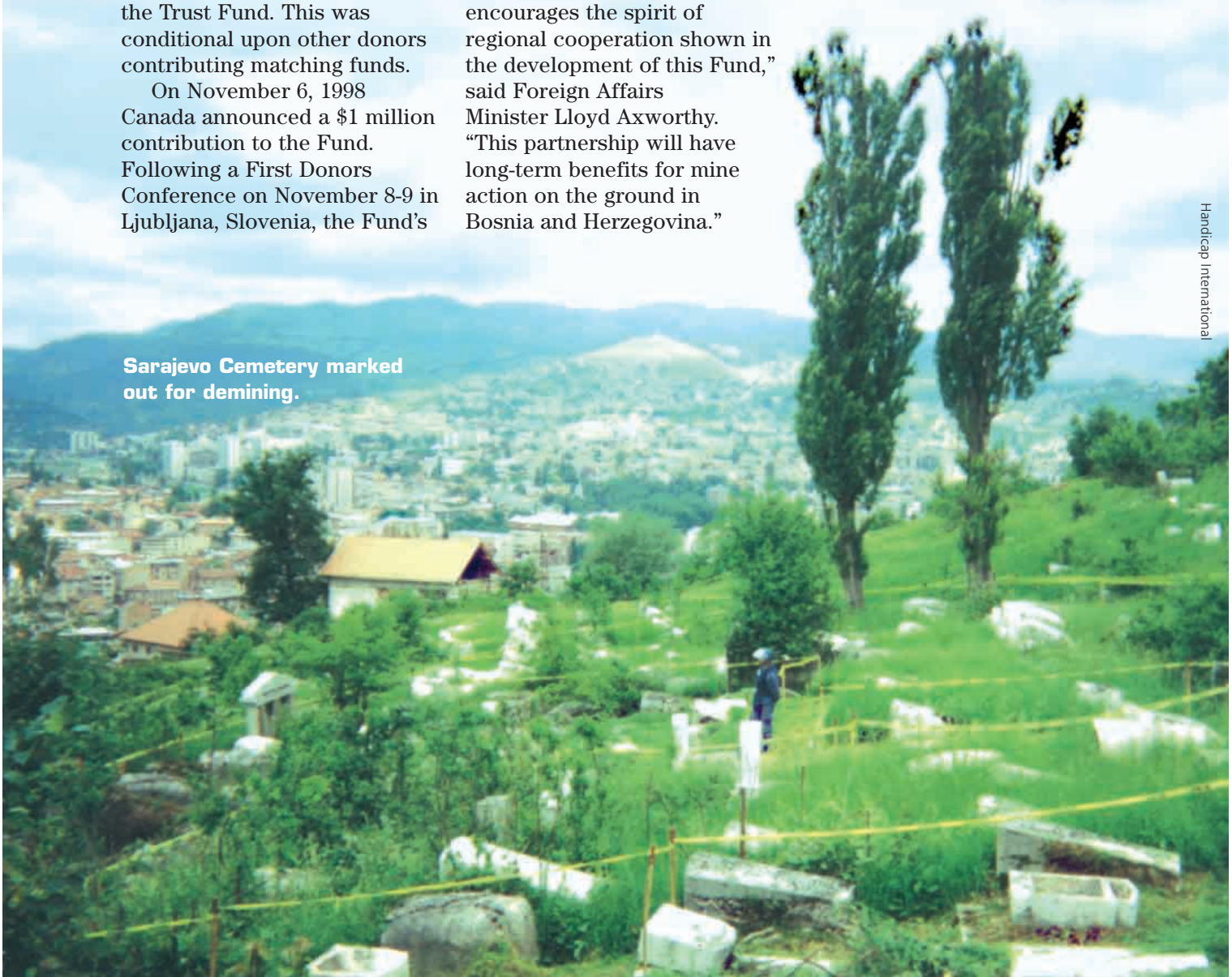
account grew to approximately \$3.5 million U.S. With the matching contribution from the United States this meant that a total of \$7 million (U.S.) was available for demining and victim assistance, with the prospect of much more to come from donors.

"Canada applauds and encourages the spirit of regional cooperation shown in the development of this Fund," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "This partnership will have long-term benefits for mine action on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Canada has committed \$10 million over five years to support mine action initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and welcomes the opportunity to encourage other donors through this initiative. ●

*by Gerry Robinson,  
Foreign Affairs Special  
Representative.*

**Sarajevo Cemetery marked out for demining.**







## MAC Update

*Mary Foster of Mines Action Canada (MAC) reports activity on both new and established projects.*

In all of its work, MAC is striving to bring the focus of mine action back to the needs and priorities of the people suffering the effects of mines.

### Landmine Monitor

In preparation for the March 1, 1999 Entry into Force of the Ottawa Convention, MAC has taken on the task of developing and housing what might be the world's first centralized database to track government compliance with a treaty. The International Committee to Ban Landmines' (ICBL's) Landmine Monitor will provide us with the tool we need to put people power behind the treaty.

### Outreach and Advocacy

MAC is continuing its outreach and advocacy with the help of Youth Mine Action Ambassador Sophie Sauvé, now working out of the MAC office. We are developing new resources, including a floor game. We are also participating in the organization of Ottawa's third annual Africa Refugee Day, June 20, 1999. Our aim with this event is to



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educate people about the

impact of mines on refugees and to mobilize support for the campaign among Ottawa communities who have themselves been affected by mines.

### Looking for Appropriate Technologies

Our Landmine Detection and Removal Technology Research Competition ([www.unac.ncrb.org/landmines/competition](http://www.unac.ncrb.org/landmines/competition)), open to Canadian university and college students, is being used to solicit fresh ideas and to educate this community about the problem and the kind of technology required to solve it.

We have begun a similar outreach to companies interested in accessing the Canadian Landmine Fund. MAC is sending a clear message to industry and government that we believe that the ultimate stakeholders in the fund are the mine-affected communities. This means that money should be disbursed according to the needs and priorities of mine-affected people, that none of this money should go to the development of alternatives to landmines, or to companies which contribute to the proliferation of landmines.

### Celebrating the People's Treaty

Right now, we are gearing up for a flurry of activities to mark the first anniversary of the signing of the People's Treaty against landmines, including the Canadian launch of Cambodian anti-mine advocate and landmine survivor Song Kosal's "Kids against War and Landmines" campaign. ●

Cambodian landmine survivor Song Kosal, spokesperson for the "Kids Against War and Landmines" campaign.





# a YOUTHFUL TAKE on landmines

Denis Dreaver



## Meet the Youth Ambassadors

Classrooms across Canada will be hearing about landmines this year.

As part of a public outreach campaign, the Youth Mine Action Ambassador (YMAA) program was launched in September by Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, Lloyd Axworthy.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy, Pierre Duplessis of the Red Cross, and Debbie Grisdale of Physicians for Global Survival with Canada's Youth Ambassadors.

The program is the creation of three sponsoring organizations who have long been involved in the international campaign: Mines Action Canada, the Canadian Red Cross and the Mine Action Team of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Five Youth Ambassadors are working across Canada to educate youth about landmines and the progress made in resolving the problem. They are emphasizing the obligations of the global ban treaty, Canada's continued international efforts on the issue and opportunities for

young Canadians to get involved. Presentations, mine action events and fund-raising activities are being organized in various communities.

*"A lot of work must be done to ensure that this issue remains in the forefront of Canadians' minds for years to come. There is a lot of optimism about the YMAA program in the region. Unlike past projects, our program is able to span government, NGOs and non profit agencies as they are all partners with a stake in increased awareness of the landmines issue."*

— Alison Clement, Winnipeg





# a YOUTHFUL TAKE on landmines

*"Several awareness and education activities have taken place in the Montréal region since the launch of the YMAA program. Students at Armand Racicot Primary School took the initiative to write an article in their student newspaper and to do displays to others in their school, following a presentation on landmines. Maude, a grade 4 student, said she was especially shocked by the fact that mines kill or injure someone every 24 minutes."*  
— Mélanie Gagnon, Montréal

Based in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montréal and St John (NB), the Youth Ambassadors have already made contacts in their communities and organized presentations in universities, church halls, and schools. The ambassadors are hosted by local NGOs active on the landmines issue: Mines Advisory Group, Mines Action Canada, Red Cross and Unicef Québec.

The two biggest events on the Youth Ambassador calendar are the Treaty anniversary on December 3, 1998 and its Entry into Force on March 1, 1999. Upcoming events include a speakers' forum of experts, a poster contest, letter and e-mail campaigns, radio interviews, cross-border and school twinning initiatives, and video festivals.

To find out how you can get involved, or for more information, please contact Marc Lemieux, National Co-ordinator, Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program.  
E-mail: [mlemieux@redcross.ca](mailto:mlemieux@redcross.ca)  
Tel: (613) 740-1941. ●

*"My experience so far as a YMAA hosted by Mines Action Canada has been a rush in every sense of the word. I will have been to Kingston, Sudbury, Kitchener and Peel for a number of events before 1999 is over. It has been an excellent opportunity to see what is being done around the landmines issue. Youth really can and want to play a role in enforcing the Ottawa Treaty. We realize that we will inherit this problem if we do not help eradicate it."*  
— Sophie Sauvé, Ottawa

*"The response from the youth, schools, and communities on the landmine issue indicates excitement and interest. After completing a presentation at Hampton High School in New Brunswick, the teacher, Kevin Foster, and students felt that the landmine issue would be an integral part of their Human Rights Week. Many teachers and organizations have expressed a desire to take some training on landmines so they can promote sustainability on the issue."*  
— Kate Coldwell, St. John

*"Through a partnership between the Lower Mainland Red Cross and myself with the Mines Advisory Group, we successfully launched a landmines public outreach and awareness program in conjunction with the United Nations Disarmament Week (October 26-30). Over fifty media were invited to attend a press conference where myself, George Chandler of the*

*Red Cross, Valerie Warrington of Mines Advisory Group and photo journalist and activist Robert Semeniuk spoke about landmines and our roles in motivating community action to support mine affected communities worldwide."*  
— Anne Kayal, Vancouver