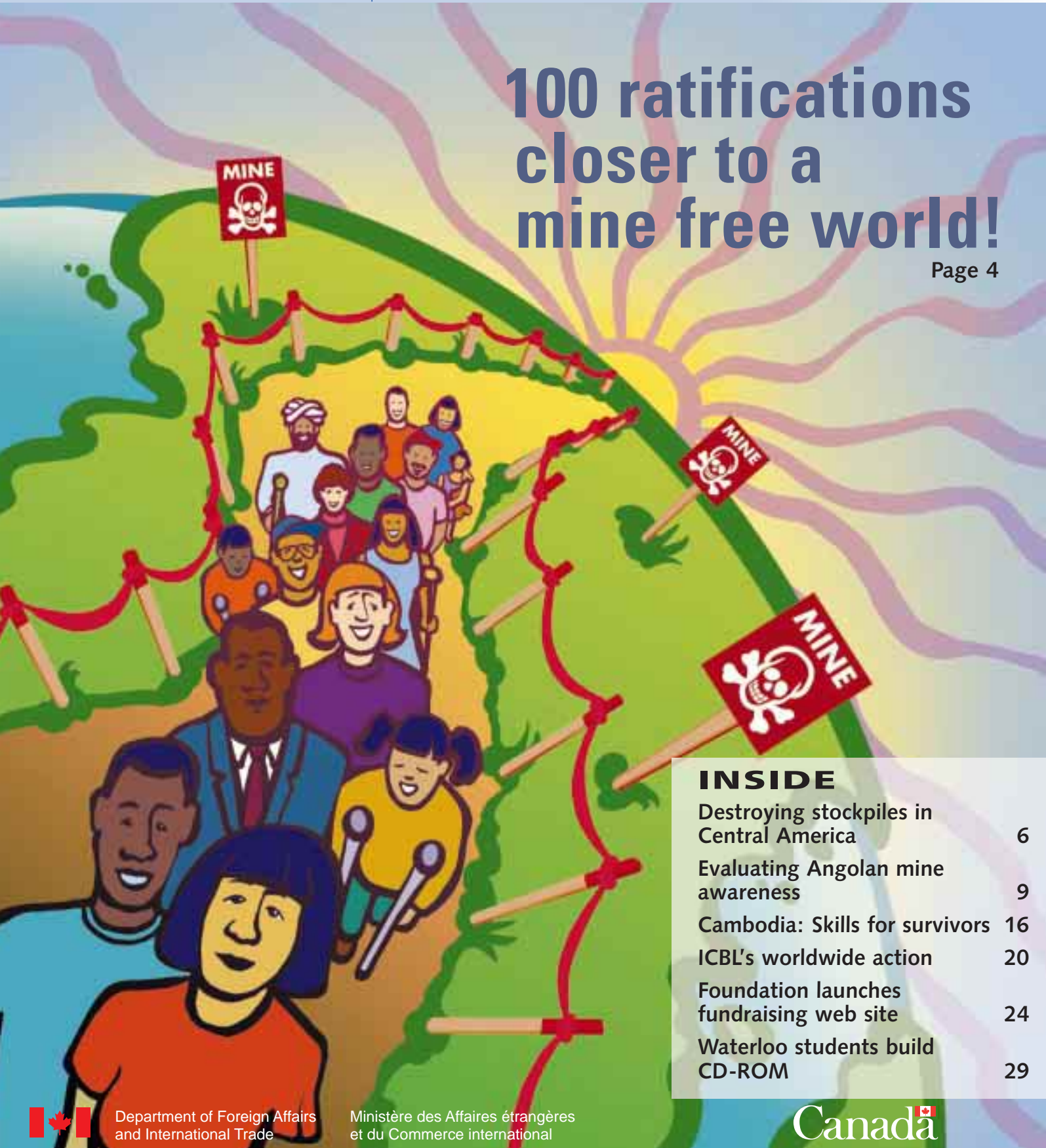




100 ratifications closer to a mine free world!

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RESOURCES

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Print

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Back issues of *SafeLane Canada's Landmine Ban Report:* **DFAIT**

Text of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction* Available in all six United Nations languages:
DFAIT

Banning Anti-Personnel Mines – The Ottawa Treaty Explained Available in English, French and Spanish: **International Committee of the Red Cross**
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Mines Action Canada:
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International Campaign to Ban Landmines: www.icbl.org

International Committee of the Red Cross: www.icrc.org

SAFE LANE

CANADA'S LANDMINE BAN REPORT

Fall/Winter 2000, Number 12

SafeLane is published twice a year 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

Cover illustration: Candace Lourdes



April 2000: Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy accepts a gift from former child soldiers now living at St. Michael's Lodge Interim Childcare Centre near Freetown, Sierra Leone.

AXWORTHY: Let us redouble our efforts to universalize the Convention

Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy

I would like to offer my congratulations and appreciation to all those states, non-governmental and international organizations, individuals and groups who have worked tirelessly to ensure the effective implementation of the Ottawa Convention over the past year.

It is the work of many people – in their roles as state representatives, community activists, front-line mine action workers, teachers, students and others – that will make the goal of a world free from the threat of anti-personnel (AP) landmines achievable.

This year, vital international co-ordination work has been carried out by the Ottawa Convention's Standing Committees of Experts. Through these committees, representatives of states and non-governmental and international organizations have worked together to focus and advance our interna-

tional mine action efforts and to measure progress made in achieving our objectives. Their efforts have served as a global focal point for deliberations on mine action and much has been accomplished since the committees first met in September 1999.

As the cover of this newsletter celebrates, the year 2000 yielded another historic milestone in the movement to ban AP mines. On July 21, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania became the 100th country to ratify the Ottawa Convention – after an unprecedented short period of only 32 months. This achievement signals that global support for the Convention continues to grow as we progress ever further toward our goal of its complete universalization.

And there are many other stories of progress to be shared. The Canadian government and Canadian non-governmental organi-

zations are implementing the Convention by clearing mines, destroying stockpiles, improving mine awareness, assisting mine survivors and developing more effective mine action technologies.

Canadian NGO coalition Mines Action Canada continues to mobilize grassroots Canadian concern about this issue, while individuals like Waterloo students Kyle Ruttan and Scott Cressman, through their creative school project, have helped to further our common goal of ending the human suffering caused by AP mines.

While we should be proud of these efforts and the advancements we have made over the past year, we should not forget that our task remains huge. Land that is vital to the socio-economic development of some of the world's poorest countries remains contaminated with mines. Men, women and children continue to fall victim to these weapons daily. Some states have used these indiscriminate killers in the past year. And while a majority of the world's states have ratified the Ottawa Convention, many still have not.

We must remind ourselves of the importance of this work. And as we head into the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in Geneva, September 11-15, 2000, and beyond, let us redouble our efforts to universalize and fully implement the Convention.

The work of the international mine action community and the achievements of the Ottawa Convention have been cause for great hope in recent years. Let us not rest until our work is complete. ●

Highlights of a year's work

The Ottawa Convention's Standing Committees of Experts

At the First Meeting of States Parties in Maputo, Mozambique in May 1999, the Ottawa Convention's intersessional program was created "to focus and advance our mine action efforts and to measure progress made in achieving our objectives."

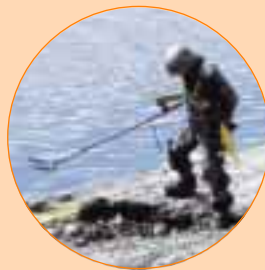
This intersessional program involved five thematic committees, each meeting twice between September 1999 and May 2000. The number of issues covered and actions taken by these committees has been impressive. What follows are some highlights of their work.



Implementing the Convention

The **General Status and Operation of the Convention Committee** has:

- ▼ evaluated the process of providing transparency reports under Article 7 of the Convention, proposed adjustments and encouraged compliance with this aspect of the Convention.
- ▼ increased clarification of matters related to mines retained for training and research under Article 3 of the Convention.
- ▼ initiated a process of examining issues related to the clarification of compliance under Article 8.
- ▼ made recommendations designed to streamline the post-Second Meeting of States Parties intersessional program.



Clearing mines

The **Mine Clearance Committee** has:

- ▼ reviewed work on revising international standards for mine clearance and efforts to develop guidelines for mine action, including guidelines on the use of the military in mine action.
- ▼ studied the implementation of recommendations made in the 1996-97 United Nations Report *Development of Indigenous Mine Action Capabilities*.
- ▼ recommended further exploring the impact of mine clearance on peace building and reconstruction.
- ▼ asked the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to draft a glossary of mine action terminology.



Developing technology

The **Technologies for Mine Action Committee** has:

- ▼ agreed on the importance of ongoing dialogue between developers of mine action technologies and end users.
- ▼ saw a consensus emerge on the need for a "tool-box approach", involving the use of different combinations of mine clearance technologies and techniques according to local circumstances.
- ▼ recognized that while mine detection dogs (MDD) can be invaluable to mine clearance, measures should be taken to develop MDD accreditation procedures.
- ▼ noted the need to develop user-friendly mine action information technologies as well as recognizing progress made to this end through the development of the United Nations Mine Action Service/GICHD Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).



Destroying stockpiles

The **Stockpile Destruction Committee** has:

- ▼ ensured that the mine action community is conscious of the importance of stockpile destruction in our integrated approach to addressing the global landmine problem.
- ▼ reviewed existing and potential sources of financial and technical assistance for stockpile destruction and discussed means to link donors and recipients.
- ▼ assessed overall progress in destroying global stockpiles.
- ▼ noted the merits and constraints of various methods of stockpile destruction.



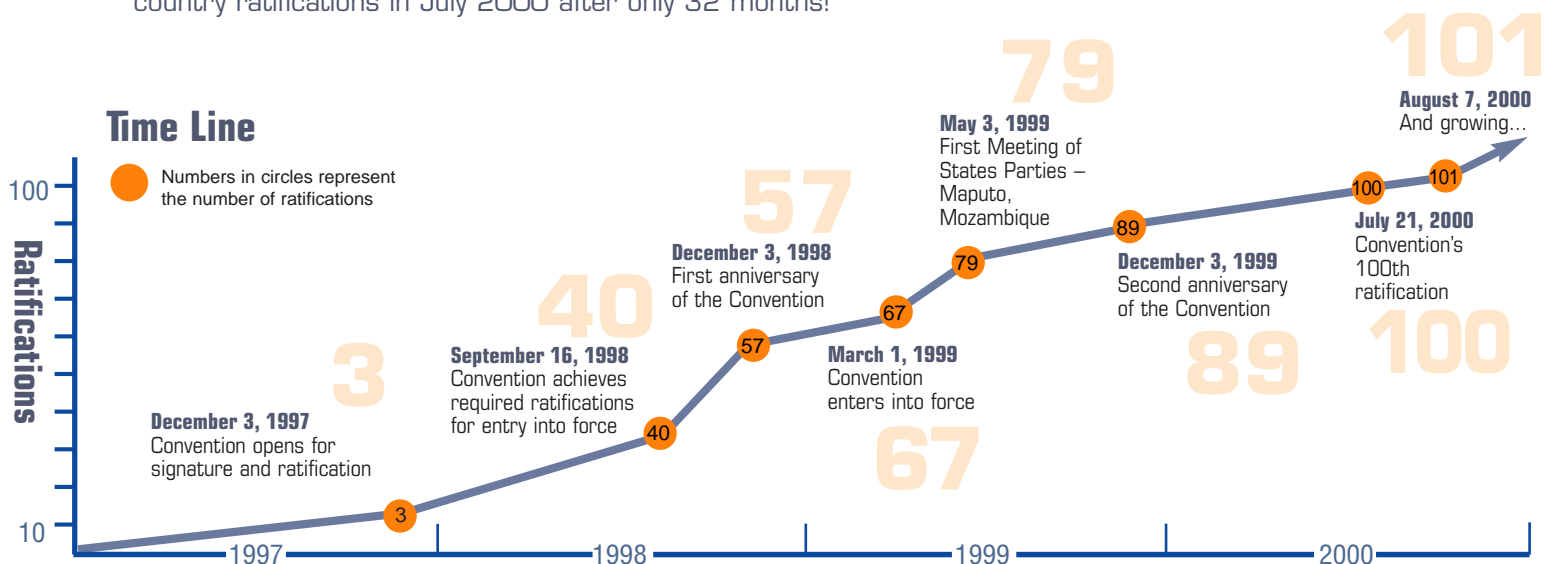
Assisting victims

The **Victim Assistance and Mine Awareness Committee** has:

- ▼ promoted a *Portfolio of Victim Assistance Guidelines* as a single information resource on the full spectrum of victim assistance activities.
- ▼ recognized the usefulness of UNICEF's Mine Awareness Guidelines and recommended that they be integrated into efforts to develop broader mine action guidelines.
- ▼ raised awareness of the need for more effective reporting on support for victim assistance programs, according to the obligations under Article 6 of the Convention.

100 ratifications closer to a mine free world!

Since opening for signature and ratification in December, 1997, the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines has moved toward universalization with unprecedented speed, achieving 100 country ratifications in July 2000 after only 32 months!



NICARAGUA • HONDURAS

Destroying landmine stockpiles

by Hank Morris

Six thunderous explosions rippled across the military range and reverberated through the hills of the northern Nicaraguan training base of Condega, signalling Nicaragua's fourth destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel (AP) mines in compliance with the Ottawa Convention. Plumes of black smoke drifted toward the nearby mountain, but the lower grey tendrils hung near the blackened holes that had held 10,000 mines. Ten thousand less and counting...

Moments before, President Arnoldo Aleman, surrounded by members of the diplomatic corps and the press overlooking the range area, had given the order over the radio for the controlled detonation. I was there representing Canada's Ambassador for Mine Action and heading a technical team from Canada's Department of National Defence accompanied by regional and local Organization of American States (OAS) demining representatives.

The visit by the Mine Action Team, coordinated with the Washington OAS office, had begun earlier in the week. We had met with the Nicaraguan Corps of Engineer Chief Lt. Colonel Bassi and his staff to exchange information on methods and procedures of preparation and destruction techniques and had reviewed future plans and foreseeable problems related to destruction of landmine stockpiles

Two days before the blast, representatives of the Canadian team and the OAS inspected the stockpile to be destroyed. Back in Managua, I met with donor countries and non-governmental organizations to obtain their opinions and views con-



One of six blasts destroying a total of 10,000 anti-personnel mines at Condega, Nicaragua.

cerning compliance with the Ottawa Convention.

When Nicaragua signed the convention in December 1997, they had more than 130,000 AP mines stockpiled. Since then, they have detailed plans to destroy all of them within a two-year time frame, a schedule two years faster than the Ottawa Convention stipulation.

Honduras

An eight-hour drive north of Managua, the team arrived in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. The haunting effects of Hurricane Mitch were still evident throughout the city. Once again the regional and local OAS demining representatives had organized the visit.

The Vice-Minister of Defence Rosales Abella and Chief of Staff Colonel Lopez Carballo and their staff met with us to exchange views on how and where to destroy Honduras' stock of approximately 7,000 AP mines. The team visited and inspected several storage areas and surveyed possible sites for the planned destruction. The exchange of information was beneficial and has allowed the Honduran authorities to proceed with their destruction plans in 2000.

At the end of the joint visit, a press conference was held explaining the Ottawa Convention and Honduras' plans to comply with Article 4 – the Convention's article concerning stockpile destruction.

There are very active humanitarian demining programs in both Nicaragua and Honduras. Both hosts showed an openness and transparency throughout the visit of the Canadian team.

At this rate, Central America could be one of the first regions to comply with the Convention. In a region where less than two decades ago the sounds of warfare were common, present explosions signal a peacetime implementation of the Ottawa Convention. ●

Hank Morris, a veteran of 10 years service in Central America with the United Nations, is Special Advisor on Stockpile Destruction to Canada's Mine Action Team.



L.Col.Normand Levert/DND

A POM-Z bounding mine before and after destruction.

Canada helps buy shelters for Honduran deminers

Canada has contributed \$60,000 to the Organization of American States (OAS) to purchase shelters and related equipment for OAS demining teams in Honduras. The shelters are intended to improve the deminers' living conditions – especially during rainy season – and thus make clearance safer and more effective.

With Canada's contribution, the OAS bought six tents for the Honduras Mine Action Program. The program – a collaborative effort between the OAS and the

Honduran Army – requested the shelters during the joint OAS/Canada stockpile mission in early spring 2000. Once mine clearance is finished in Honduras, the OAS will transfer the tents to other mine action programs in the region.

The Honduras Mine Action Program suffered equipment loss and damages when Hurricane Mitch devastated the country in 1999. Nonetheless, Honduras is set to complete its demining by the end of 2000. ●

WHERE CHILDREN DON'T FEAR TO TREAD: Evaluating mine awareness training in Angola

by Aparna Swaminathan – CIET Canada

In Angola, children who receive mine awareness training pass on vital information about mine risks to family members. But they may themselves be at higher risk as a result of the training.

Through research carried out in collaboration with UNICEF Angola and Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs Mine Action Team, CIET Canada, a community-based research organiza-

tion, found that children were more likely to enter a mined area after receiving mine awareness training at school. And, although they knew more about the physical threat of mines, they were no better prepared for what to do when encountering a mine or a minefield.

Children are often the target audience of mine awareness programs

because they are at particular risk of mine accidents. Yet they are seldom active participants in evaluations of mine action and have little or no input into the design of materials.

The CIET Canada evaluation of UNICEF's mine awareness programming in Angola focused on children's knowledge and risk-taking behaviour in relation to mines. Conducted in Huila province in the south and Uige province in the north, the research engaged more than 1100 primary school children, their parents and neighbours in 2000 households, as well as school teachers and community leaders in 21 communities. Mine awareness program managers were also interviewed.

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Americas stockpile destruction seminar

On November 6 and 7, 2000, representatives of the countries of North and South America will gather in Buenos Aires to discuss the Ottawa Convention and destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel (AP) mines.

Canada and Argentina will co-host the meeting in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Organization of American States (OAS) Mine Action Unit.

States will gather for two days to discuss their obligations to destroy stockpiled mines within Convention timelines. Experts from the region will exchange information concerning the type and quantity of stockpiled mines, as well as methodologies and experiences in planning for destruction. The group will also look at monitoring, verification, donor

assistance and coordination.

Destruction of stockpiled mines is key to preventing the spread of mines, but is technically a complex task. Canada offers technical support to help signatories work to meet their obligations to destroy stockpiled mines.

The objectives of this seminar are to facilitate the goal of a landmine free zone in the Western Hemisphere and compliance with the stockpile destruction sections of the Ottawa Convention. The seminar is also expected to provide a regional forum in Latin America for debate on best practices and lessons learned in AP mine stockpile destruction.

The Americas are poised to become the first mine free hemisphere. All but one of the 34 OAS Member States have signed the Ottawa Convention, and as of August 17, 2000, 26 had ratified it. ●



Charles Whitaker/CIET

Drawing a picture: How some Angolan children pass on knowledge of landmines to their families.

WHERE CHILDREN DON'T FEAR TO TREAD: Evaluating mine awareness training in Angola

– continued from page 8

The evaluation, completed in March 2000, found that mine awareness materials and messages transmitted information about the danger of mines and standard mine markings and signs, but they did not encourage 'mine smart' behaviour among children. The educational materials were also difficult to understand for anyone without formal education.

The evaluation recommended ways that awareness programs could be fine-tuned to decrease risk and suit the needs of

children. UNICEF Angola facilitated extensive discussion on the findings with mine awareness program managers and school teachers. Ways to improve program delivery and revise curriculum materials are currently being discussed.

Angola has been at war almost continually since 1975 and landmines have been used extensively by several parties that have fought over Angolan territory. According to Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the largest mine clearance agency in Angola, mines

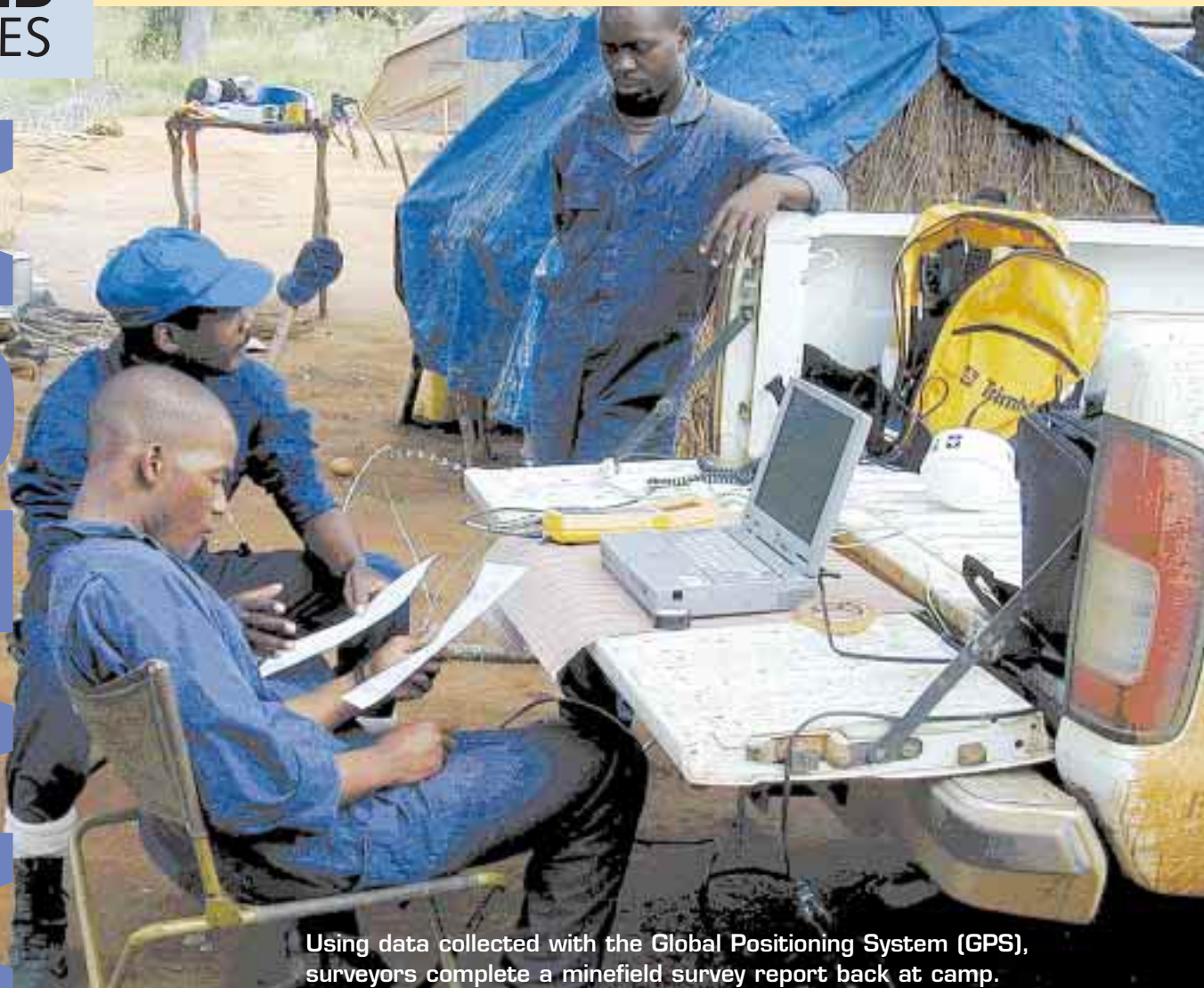
have been laid in all 18 Angolan provinces and over 70 mine types from over 20 countries have been found.

The true extent of mining in Angola is still unknown because of the resumption of war between government forces and UNITA at the end of 1998. According to NPA, "Angola probably rates as the worst mine affected country in the world and arguably the most difficult to clear."

Angola signed the Ottawa Convention on December 4, 1997, but has yet to ratify it. ●

Women's focus group helps evaluate mine awareness education.





Using data collected with the Global Positioning System (GPS), surveyors complete a minefield survey report back at camp.

Mark Yarmoshuk/DND

Canadian Forces technical advisors assist Mozambique demining program

A Canadian Landmine Fund initiative at the Accelerated Demining Program (ADP) in Maputo, Mozambique has provided \$120,000 in high-tech survey and mapping equipment and three Canadian Forces experts to develop a local capacity to use it.

Captain Mark Yarmoshuk, Master Warrant Officer Luc Lorrain and Warrant Officer Roger Landry of the Canadian Forces arrived in Maputo in April 1999 for a one-year

assignment. Their task was to develop the ADP's capability to manage minefield related information and use it to plan mine clearance.

Mozambique's deminers are among the most highly skilled in the world, but careful prioritization and planning is crucial to ensure the maximum benefit to the affected population.

The project has purchased satellite based positioning equipment capable of recording minefield locations to an accu-

racy of less than one metre as well as database and mapping hardware and software.

Lorrain and Landry spent much of their year in Mozambique working at minefield sites to improve the technical and leadership skills of the ADP's minefield survey teams. Yarmoshuk was responsible for implementing the minefield database and geographical information system (GIS), and ensuring that the *continued on page 11*



Canadian Forces technical advisors assist Mozambique demining program

– continued from page 10

project at ADP was well integrated with other Canadian sponsored mine action initiatives. These include a country wide Level One Socio-economic Impact Survey and assistance to the National Demining Institute.

With this new GIS equipment the ADP now has one of the most advanced integrated survey, database and mapping capabilities in Mozambique. This is good not only for mine action, but will also strengthen national capacity in survey and mapping for other development purposes.

During Mozambique's flood disaster in March and April 2000,

Master Warrant Officer Luc Lorrain demonstrates GPS equipment in the field.

the ADP was the only Mozambican organization able to collect information related to infrastructure damage, relief camp locations and flood levels. ADP merged the information with existing databases on minefield locations, health posts and schools to produce maps showing the current flood situation. In the early weeks of the international response to the floods, the ADP acted as one of the primary suppliers of mapping information for the flood-affected regions.

Following the flood Yarmoshuk and Lorrain's assignments were extended for three months. They returned to Canada at the end of July confident that they had helped build a solid capability to record minefield locations accurately and use the resulting data to plan clearance activities more effectively. ●

IMPROVING MINE ACTION IN MOZAMBIQUE: CIDA aids coordination efforts

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has been working with the Mozambique Government to improve the country's capacity to address its landmine problem.

In June 1999, Mozambique established a new and independent national mine action co-ordinating body, changing the status of the Comissão Nacional de Desminagem (CND) to the Instituto Nacional de Desminagem (IND), or National Institute for Demining. The move was aimed at developing an institution capable of coordinating and assisting mine action in Mozambique – one of the world's most mine affected countries – and to ensure that current and future efforts would meet the country's long-term requirements.

IND faced major challenges from its inception. Apart from the need for gathering financial and technical sup-

port, it had to cope with the harsh realities of setting up a coordinating body responsible for overseeing a series of crucial tasks ranging from highly technical mapping surveys to life-threatening demining operations.

In March 2000, Canada provided the services of consultant Georges Focsaneanu to reinforce the Institute's planning and strategic capacities. In April 2000, Focsaneanu organized a workshop of key Mozambique mine action players to ensure their participation in the development of a strategic plan. After his six-week mission, Focsaneanu left IND with a roadmap which will help it carry out its mandate and ensure proper levels of donor support.

CIDA will continue to work with Mozambique to ensure that mine action activities contribute to reconstruction and sustainable development in that country. ●

Canada supports mine clearance in Abkhazia, Georgia

In the early months of 2000, Canada supported mine clearance activities in the territory of Abkhazia in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, which was left littered with landmines by a secessionist conflict that ended in 1994.

Canada contributed \$215,000 to mine clearance and production of a Level One Socio-economic Impact Survey of mined land in the territory. The work was done by British demining organization HALO Trust which has staff working in several mine affected regions including Afghanistan, Angola and Somalia. In Abkhazia, Canadian funds were used for overhead costs and to purchase vehicles, communications and computer equipment.

The level one survey has provided the Georgian government and international donor countries the clearest picture yet of the mine problem in Abkhazia.

Survey results showed that almost half of mined land in Abkhazia (48 per cent) is of low priority for clearance, as it is not close to human habitation, no accidents have occurred and cleared land is unlikely to be used. About 45 per cent of mined land is of medium priority, as accidents have occurred and cleared land may be, or is likely to be, used. Only seven per cent of mined land is of the highest priority, meaning that accidents have occurred and pressure for the use of the land is very high. This information allows more effective planning for mine action projects in the territory.

HALO Trust has marked the majority of high and medium priority land and is working to clear the highest priority land as quickly as possible. Equipment purchased with Canada's funding will have a lasting impact on HALO Trust's ability to fulfil these tasks. ●



Demining a former football pitch near the Gumista river in Abkhazia. 400 anti-personnel mines were cleared from this field.



Carol Hart/CIDA

Slovenia's International Trust Fund thanks Canada for its contributions

In June 2000, representatives of Slovenia's International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance visited Canada to thank us for our support of the Fund to date.

The Fund's Director, Jernej Cimpersek, and Deputy Director, Goran Gacnik met with Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy to discuss the success of the Canada-Slovenia partnership. Cimpersek and Gacnik also met with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade representatives to review programs and discuss future plans.

Slovenia's International Trust Fund was established by the governments of Slovenia and the United States in March 1998 to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina to deal with the long term challenges

of landmine contamination. In 1999, the fund's operation expanded to include Kosovo, Croatia and Albania.

What makes the Fund unique is that each contribution is matched dollar-for-dollar by the United States

What makes the Fund unique is that each contribution is matched dollar-for-dollar by the United States, to a total possible ceiling of \$56 million over two years, including matching funds. Donations in the fund's first year, 1998-99, totalled US\$12.2 million. These donations were matched with US

Canada's contribution to Slovenia's Trust Fund has helped fund mine clearance in Bosnia by groups such as Handicap International/Ackija Protiv Mina.

funds for a total of US\$24.4 million.

Since the Fund's creation, Canada has contributed \$2.6 million to it for mine action projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. These funds have supported projects in Bosnia, with contributions to Handicap International/Ackija Protiv Mina, SFOR and Norwegian People's Aid for mine clearance, the Canadian International Demining Centre for mine detection dogs, and victim assistance.

In Kosovo, funds have been contributed to the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre. We are currently exploring options for further contributions.

Canada's representative on the Board of Advisors of Slovenia's International Trust Fund, W. G. Robinson, Q.C., will serve as Board chair for a one-year term starting in September 2000. ●

Canada to chair Stability Pact Regional Support Group for Mine Action



What is the Stability Pact for South East Europe?

It is a process to promote peace, prosperity, stability and regional cooperation through the full integration of all countries in southeastern Europe into the European and Euro-Atlantic political, economic and security structures.

Why is it important?

The Stability Pact unites, in a single forum, attempts to bring about political, economic, social and security reforms to the region and provides a mechanism through which the region's states can express their views.

What is the Stability Pact's relationship to mine action?

A special committee on mine action has been created under the auspices of the Pact's Working Table Three: Security Issues. Since many of the states of southeast Europe are mine affected, it is logical that mine action form part of a wider approach to improving security for participating states.

The Stability Pact has established a Regional Support Group for Mine Action and for the moment Canada is in the chair. The roles and responsibilities for this group are currently being developed.

What will the Regional Mine Action Support Group do?

Broadly speaking, the Regional Mine Action Support Group will act as a catalyst to promote regional mine action, to facilitate synergy within the region and to highlight where maximum value might be attained with on-the-ground projects.

The group will act as a focal point for exchanging information and standards and as a liaison between all members. Our overall functions are to facilitate, support, coordinate and encourage. The group does not have any mandate to evaluate, manage or direct existing programs, and above all, we do not wish to duplicate existing frameworks for coordination, such as the United Nations. ●



Canadian Lieutenant General (retired) Gordon Reay has recently been named chair of the Regional Support Group for Mine Action under the auspices of the Stability Pact for South East Europe. Here, in an interview with SafeLane, Gen. Reay explains the group's mine action efforts.

Canadian technical advisor to assist with Albanian stockpile destruction

In September 2000, Canada will send a technical advisor to Albania to assist with the destruction of stockpiled munitions, including landmines.

The advisor will be deployed for one year to the Albanian Ministry of Defence where he will assist with the destruction of stockpiled munitions and help develop a national plan for clearance of unexploded ordnance throughout the country.

Located in a region plagued by conflict in recent decades, Albania is home to numerous munitions depots stockpiled over time. Increasingly coming out of isolation, the former Communist state in southeastern Europe signed the

Ottawa Convention September 8, 1998 and it ratified February 29, 2000. It requires technical and financial assistance to meet its Convention obligations. An initial mission to Albania by Canada's Ambassador for Mine Action Daniel Livermore confirmed Canada's willingness to support mine action and stockpile destruction there.

Though landmines are not as large a problem in Albania as unexploded ordnance, the Canadian advisor will help the country confront the organizational challenge of

setting priorities and developing programs to dispose of munitions.

This project is being co-financed by Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and

Department of National Defence. It is hoped that the operation will assist Albania in the safe disposal of its munitions and in monitoring any future Canadian-assisted stockpile destruction projects in Albania. ●

Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council engages in mine action

In the traditional sense, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) does not have a mandate for humanitarian mine action, with the exception of clearing mines in support of military tasks.


However, in the context of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), which includes NATO allies as well as members of the Partnership for Peace, humanitarian mine action has become an area for cooperation, information sharing and confidence building between partners.

In December 1999, a Partnership Work

Plan report outlined the way forward for the EAPC. Tasks include the creation of a trust fund for stockpile destruction, information sharing on standards and technologies, increased training opportunities and sharing of technical expertise.

In May 1999 the EAPC held a workshop on Regionally Focused Mine Action in Thessalonika, Greece. This workshop explored possibilities for cooperation on mine action between partners in the region, on data collection, promotion of standards, training and stockpile destruction.

Canada will continue to work with this group and other groups in the region, to promote as much activity, by as diverse a range of actors as possible, on the landmine issue. ●



Located in a region plagued by conflict in recent decades, Albania is home to numerous munitions depots stockpiled over time

CAMBODIA

WORLD VISION SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE IN CAMBODIA: Small loans and repair skills help survivors earn a better living

by Mike Weickert – World Vision

The northwest provinces of Cambodia are the most heavily mined areas of the country resulting in the highest numbers of amputees and disabled people.

The social stigma associated with being disabled in Cambodia is very hard to overcome, making gainful employment difficult and training expensive compared to that for non-disabled people.

Amputees have difficulty farming because their artificial limbs do not work well in the mud or rice paddies, nor do they have the energy to push the ox-driven ploughs.

Alternative occupations such as small engine and radio/TV repair, welding, typing and animal husbandry are considered more suitable skills for landmine survivors to learn, as they are occupations where amputees and the physically disabled have been able to earn a good living.

Since 1993, World Vision has been funding a vocational rehabilitation program for landmine survivors in the Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Pailin and Pursat provinces of northwest Cambodia. Since 1998, these efforts have been supported by the Canadian International

Development Agency (CIDA).

The principal component of the program is the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, a residential centre in Anlongvil, near Battambang town, which provides vocational training to more than 100 disabled men each year. The rehabilitation centre currently operates with 18 national staff, 30 per cent

of whom are disabled.

The rehabilitation centre is supported by an extension unit, which provides graduates with business training, small loans, job placement support and advocacy with local authorities.

The third component of the project is the Agricultural Extension Unit which focuses on landmine survivors who cannot attend the rehabilitation centre, many of whom are women. It provides community-based training in animal husbandry, as well as a chicken and pig loan program and credit scheme, which help participants establish viable livestock activities.

The effectiveness of the program is borne out in the lives of people like Chhem Phorn and Sao Roemun. Chhem, who had a leg amputated in 1985, is a graduate of Vocational Rehabilitation Centre in motorbike repairs. Before attending the centre, he made a meagre living binding baskets. Now he operates a successful motorbike-repair business, which has made it possible for his children to attend school, something which they were unable to afford previously.

Sao also lost a leg to a landmine in 1988. In late 1996, she

continued on page 17



Philip Maher/World Vision

Landmine survivors learn agricultural techniques through World Vision's program.

CAMBODIA

– continued from page 16



Phillip Maher/World Vision

Landmine survivors learn TV repair skills through World Vision's program.

entered an Agricultural Extension Unit training program and started raising chickens, which were initially loaned to her by the program. She repaid this loan and took advantage of a similar program for pigs, which she also repaid. She is now growing pineapples with the help of a cash loan. The success of her activities has also made it possible to send her children to school for the first time.

World Vision's program is implemented in close cooperation with national and local governments and communities. This cooperation has meant many of the best practices of the program are being disseminated and replicated in similar programs throughout the country and will result in the hand-over of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre to the Cambodian government at the end of 2000. ●

AMID KHAMASEEN WINDS: Senator Finestone hands over demining equipment in Jordan

by Sara Kabariti and Donica Pottie – Canadian Embassy in Amman, Jordan

On May 4, 2000 against the backdrop of the annual hot *Khamaseen* winds, Senator Sheila Finestone formally presented a Caterpillar loader and demining boots and over-boots to Jordan's Royal Corps of Engineers. The ceremony took place in a tent beside a minefield in the Jordan Valley.

Senator Finestone and other Canadian parliamentarians were in Jordan for the 103rd Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference. Senator Jean-Claude Rivest and Members of Parliament Marlene Catterall and Lorne Nystrom accompanied Senator Finestone at the ceremony. Canada's Ambassador to

Jordan, Michael Molloy and Irving Schwartz, Chairman of the Canadian International Demining Centre also attended.

It was a rare opportunity to learn the extent of the landmine problem in Jordan and to witness first hand the work conditions of the deminers in the Royal Corps of Engineers. The weather vividly illustrated the level of difficulty in demining the Jordan Valley. Hot, dusty, extreme winds – the *Khamaseen* low pressure front – were hampering the work of the deminers.

The lowest point on earth, at several
continued on page 18

Canadian Embassy, Amman, Jordan



Responding to Jordan's request, Canada contributes a caterpillar loader. Left to right: Brig. Gen. Zakariya Ja'afra, Brig. Gen. Nassar Al-Majali, Brig. Gen. Youcoub Haddadjali, Senator Sheila Finestone, Canada's Ambassador to Jordan, Michael Molloy and Radio Canada reporter, Leila Deeb.

JORDAN

– continued from page 17

hundred feet below sea level, the Jordan Valley is hot for most of the year and the terrain is often difficult to navigate. The minefield where the ceremony took place, situated on the banks of the Jordan River, is densely covered with very thick scrub. To locate and remove the mines, deminers must first carefully cut back the scrub. Anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, some of which were laid more than 50



Tourism and agriculture have both benefited from demining in the Jordan Valley.

years ago, have been found over a metre in the ground. Tree roots have sometimes grown around mines, further complicating demining.

The handover ceremony began with an opening speech by Brig.-Gen. Yacoub Haddad, Assistant Chief of Staff for Administration, in which he expressed his appreciation for Canada's contribution to demining in Jordan. Lt. Colonel Atef Zawahra from the Royal Corps of Engineers gave a comprehensive brief about the landmine situation in Jordan.

There were 504 mine fields and more than 300,000 anti-personnel and anti-tank mines

in Jordan before demining began. Most were located along the northern borders with Syria, in the Jordan Valley and on the south-western border with Israel in the Wadi Araba desert. So far, 177 minefields and 84,400 mines have been cleared, returning some 5000 hectares of land to agriculture. All of this has been accomplished with modest resources: the Royal Corps of Engineers has only 16 demining teams of 17 deminers each.

Senator Finestone commended Jordan for its courage in ratifying the Ottawa Convention. She highlighted the late King Hussein's role in promoting peace in the region and Queen Noor's role as the international ambassador for demining and victim assistance. She also thanked Jordan's deminers for their dedication. Senator Finestone noted that Canada's contribution in the Jordan Valley has reached \$800,000 to date.

After the speeches, the delegation was shown the demining equipment that had been contributed by Canada in 1999, including protective suits and helmets manufactured by the Canadian company Med-Eng. The group was also briefed on landmine removal and viewed a number of cleared plots.

Tourism and agriculture have both benefited from demining in the Jordan Valley. The region's climate makes it possible to plant crops throughout the year, including high-value crops such as citrus fruits. The government is currently putting a great deal of effort into promoting Jordan as a tourism destination as part of the Holy Land. Clearing mined land that has significant archaeological value is part of this effort. ●

CCMAT: Canada's centre of expertise in metal detection

The Canadian Centre for Mine Action Technologies (CCMAT) has established itself as a centre of expertise for testing and evaluating metal detectors and their use in detection of anti-personnel landmines.

For the past year, Canada has participated with the United States, United Kingdom and the Netherlands in an international trial to evaluate the performance of 29 different metal detectors.

The CCMAT's part in this collaboration was a highly controlled laboratory evaluation using the "Foam Dome", a self-supporting hemispheric structure made of polyurethane foam coated with gypsum and rubberized plastic. Within this low metal environment, a non-metal test rig was constructed to control variables such as the speed and height at which the detector passes over the target.

UK members of the team also conducted a human factor evaluation, looking at issues such as ease of operation and maintenance. Surprisingly, this was the first time a large number of metal detectors had been evaluated under the same, strictly controlled conditions.

The laboratory tests at the CCMAT and in the Netherlands were supplemented by in-theatre trials at the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC). Additional trials, scheduled for Mozambique, were cancelled

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CCMAT

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because of severe flooding in the spring of 2000 and have been rescheduled for Croatia.

The results of the laboratory and field trials are scheduled to be published in October 2000 and will be the definitive study on metal detectors and a valuable source of information for those considering purchasing new equipment.

This project, a major undertaking by four nations, is a pilot project anticipating the formation of the International Test and Evaluation Program (ITEP). The mandate of ITEP is to develop universal standards for test and evaluation and use these to evaluate demining equipment. Canada is a founding member of ITEP and will be a significant contributor of expertise and capabilities for future projects.



The Foam Dome – a CCMAT low metal laboratory environment for evaluating metal detectors.

In-theatre trials are an effective means of translating research data into practical help for the demining community. This year, technical experts from the CCMAT went to Afghanistan to participate in a trial of metal detectors. The primary role of the CCMAT team was to advise the Mine Action Program in Afghanistan (MAPA) on test methodology and interpretation of data.

Six different metal detectors were evaluated over three weeks in seven simulated minefields. These were constructed in three geographical locations – one near Kabul and two near Jalalabad – with soil and rock conditions and levels of contamination from metal fragments representative of mine affected areas throughout Afghanistan.

Since mines are often found in irrigation ditches, the Afghan trial also tested the effec-

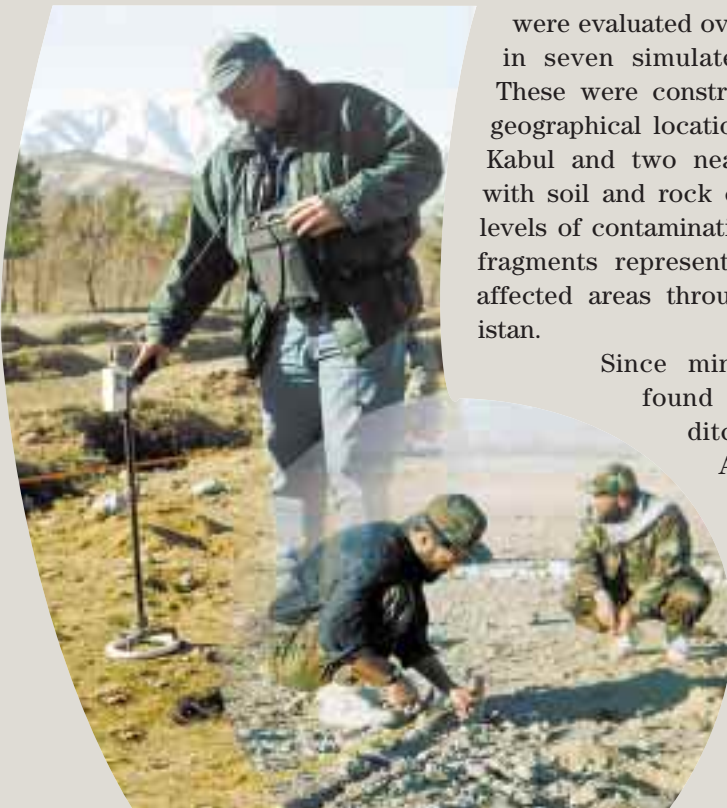
tiveness of the different detectors in water-laden soil. Not all metal detectors perform well in these circumstances. The results of this trial will allow a valid comparison between the different detectors and will help MAPA select the equipment best suited to their particular ground and operating conditions.

While in Afghanistan and other mine-affected countries, CCMAT staff also has an opportunity to collect technical data. For example, while in Cambodia, Bosnia and Afghanistan, CCMAT scientists made measurements of soil conditions, such as mineral content and conductivity, which have a major effect on the performance of metal detectors. This data is used in the research and development program particularly in designing simulated minefields that reproduce conditions in the field.

Contact with the demining community provides an essential reality check for the R&D program at the Centre.

On a more general level, frequent contact with the demining community provides an essential reality check for the R&D program at the Centre. When scientists and engineers can experience a problem first hand, the R&D program becomes much more relevant to the needs of the client. ●

Testing detectors in a simulated wet ground minefield in Afghanistan.



ICBL

Worldwide action to universalize and implement the Mine Ban Treaty

by Liz Bernstein –
International Campaign to
Ban Landmines (ICBL)

The first half of 2000 has been eventful for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) as we continue to work for the universalization and effective implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

The second anniversary of the entry-into-force of the Convention on March 1, 2000 galvanized mine ban campaigners into worldwide

action with events held in over 35 countries.

At the United Nations in New York, John Wack and Duane Robey, American landmine survivors from World War II, joined appeals signed by 1300 landmine survivors from more than a dozen heavily mine-affected countries, asking United States President Bill Clinton to join the treaty before he leaves office. Landmine survivors in countries including Bosnia and Cambodia also delivered petitions to US embassies.

In Thailand, a bicycle rally was organized by the Landmine Victims Network 1999, Sakaeo Province, in cooperation with the Thailand Campaign to Ban Landmines. The *Landmines Bicycle Rally 2000: Journey for Peace*, held April 25 to May 1, 2000, marked the first anniversary of the entry-into-force of the Mine Ban Treaty in Thailand. The event's 51 participants, including 28 Thai landmine survivors, cycled 259 kilometres, receiving substantial support from communities along the route and extensive media coverage. The rally was aimed at raising awareness of the impact of landmines in Thailand, garnering support for Thai landmine survivors and urging full compliance with the treaty.

In Fiji, ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth spoke to a meeting of

Parliamentarians of the Pacific Island Nations urging accession and ratification of the treaty among these states.

In Australia, artwork was collected from across the country for the global *USA Ban Landmines Today* call for posters. Australia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer helped select the winning entries.

In July, the US Campaign to Ban Landmines held several successful events in Washington, D.C., including an activist training conference, an inter-faith prayer service with remarks by survivors, a reception in honour of Landmine Survivors Network co-founder Ken Rutherford and lobby days, during which campaigners from across the country met with their congressional representatives. US Campaigners met with 223 members of Congress and their aides while Belgian campaigners handed over 24,913 mine ban postcards to Congressman James McGovern urging President Clinton to join the treaty.

Regional conferences, organized by ICBL members or including ICBL participants, were held in Azerbaijan, Belarus (on stockpile destruction), Egypt, Malaysia, Nigeria and Slovenia. National seminars or workshops were held in several countries including Canada, *continued on page 21*



Australian artwork collected for the *USA Ban Landmines Today* call for posters.



Worldwide action to universalize and implement the Mine Ban Treaty

– continued from page 20

India, Iran, Japan, Nepal and the USA.

Members of the ICBL held a conference *Engaging Non-State Actors in a Landmine Ban in Switzerland*. ICBL also organized a briefing on landmines at the European Parliament Common Foreign Security Policy Contact Group in March. ICBL Ambassador Jody Williams and others followed up with visits to several European Union officials and Members of Parliament in May.

The campaign also continued its commitment to the Convention's intersessional work program

throughout this period. ICBL participation in all the Standing Committee of Experts (SCE) meetings kept the committees focused on action throughout the first year of the program. Before the SCE Meeting on the General Status and Operation of the Convention in May, the ICBL sent a letter to all states parties highlighting issues of concern to the ICBL.

ICBL members also sent letters to government representatives on the occasions of the Organization of American States General Assembly, the Organization of African Unity Summit and the Assembly of African

Francophone Parliamentarians.

The ICBL issued two action alerts, one an open letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin,

expressing our “gravest concern at recent reports that Russia intends to mine its border with Georgia,” and the other a campaign for increased treaty ratification before the Second Meeting of States Parties (SMSP) in September 2000. A large delegation of campaigners, deminers, survivors and Landmine Monitor researchers from around the world will attend the SMSP. In addition to launching *Landmine Monitor Report 2000*, the ICBL will organize exhibitions, briefings, film screenings and other media events. ●



Cyclists mark the first anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty entry-into-force in Thailand.



DFAIT

Song Kosal: The young woman behind the Youth Against War Treaty.

Mines Action Canada (MAC) has joined forces with a young Cambodian landmine survivor to further promote the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.

The pillar of this initiative is the *Youth Against War Treaty* – a simple and clear treaty launched in 1998. It calls for no more war, no more landmines and no more mine victims. Youth who sign the treaty also promise to “work for peace in our world.”

On March 1, 2000, MAC re-launched the *Youth Against War Treaty* with a new focus and purpose. MAC and others in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) will use the treaty to increase public support for the landmine ban in countries which have not yet signed or acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty.

Signatures to the *Youth Against War Treaty*, collected from all corners of the world, will be presented to the next President of the United States on March 1, 2001. Our goal is

Mines Action Canada and Youth Against War

by Carla Potts and Sophie Nichol Sauvé – Mines Action Canada (MAC)

to raise awareness about the insidious nature of landmines, to unite youth from around the world in a common peace-building initiative and to encourage the United States to sign the Mine Ban Treaty.

As the Canadian component of the ICBL, MAC works with its affiliates and networks, other campaigns and ICBL members to promote the *Youth Against War Treaty*. At the Second Meeting of States Parties in Geneva, September 11 to 15, 2000, each national campaign will be given an action kit to promote Youth Against War in its country. The kits will also be made available to interested Canadians. The initiative will be widely promoted via youth and peace organizations, across the United States, Canada and internationally, and through the new youth web site of the ICBL at www.icbl.org/youth

The young woman behind the *Youth Against War Treaty* is an inspirational figure to all of us. When she was only six years old, Song Kosal stepped on a landmine in Cambodia. She lost one leg, but survived. Well before the Mine Ban Treaty opened for signature, Kosal was travelling the world campaigning against the continued use of landmines. She was in Ottawa when the Mine Ban Treaty was signed in 1997 and is currently the Youth Ambassador for the ICBL.

Song Kosal's *Youth Against War Treaty* has already captured the imagination and enthusiasm of

youth around the world. From Brazil to Switzerland, Italy to Cambodia and across Canada, youth are organizing events to raise awareness about the *Youth Against War Treaty* and the devastating legacy left by landmines throughout the world.

MAC is proud to be working with Song Kosal on this initiative. We invite youth from all walks of life to collect signatures to the *Youth Against War Treaty* and to become involved in raising awareness within their own communities.

For more information, please contact Mines Action Canada at macinfo@web.ca or visit the site of the treaty: www.icbl.org/youth ●

Belarus conference breaks new ground

An international workshop on humanitarian demining and stockpile destruction was held in Minsk, Belarus, on March 6 and 7, 2000.

This was the first such occasion for the former Soviet republic to describe its landmine problem to the international community. Belarus is severely affected by mines from the *continued on page 23*

New Landmine Monitor Report to be released September 2000

by Mary Wareham – Human Rights Watch

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines' (ICBL) civil-society based Landmine Monitor will release its second annual report on September 7, 2000 in anticipation of the Second Meeting of States Parties in Geneva later that month.

Landmine Monitor Report 2000, the product of some 115 researchers from 85 countries, features individual updates on ban policy and mine action in every country of the world. Its overview highlights the major achievements and setbacks in ban policy, mine

action and survivor assistance since the publication of *Landmine Monitor Report 1999* in May 1999.

The entry by the ICBL details the actions of the past year in the campaign to urge universalization and implementation of the mine ban treaty. The appendices feature activity reports from some of the major international actors in the movement to eradicate antipersonnel mines, including United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and



key governments such as Canada.

Landmine Monitor Report 2000's Executive Summary will be published in at least seven languages including Arabic, English, French, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Most researchers plan to work with their national campaigns and NGOs to release and distribute their country report research in their own language at the same time as the main report is released. Several regional reports and releases are also planned.

The Landmine Monitor's international network of in-country researchers is unique, as the world's only global civil-society based monitoring regime of a major multilateral treaty.

This year's network of 115 researchers from 85 countries is up from the 80 researchers from 50 countries that prepared the *Landmine Monitor Report 1999*.

For more information, visit www.icbl.org/lm.

To access the Landmine Monitor Database, visit www.lm-online.org

Belarus

– continued from page 22

two World Wars and has inherited millions of stockpiled mines from the Soviet Union.

The Belarus authorities stressed that their country shares all mine-related humanitarian concerns of the international community. It supports the goal of prohibiting the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines, does not produce anti-personnel mines and has extended its moratorium on the export of anti-personnel mines to the end of 2002.

The Belarus authorities appealed to the international community to assist in its demining and stockpile destruction programs. They stressed that the country does not have the financial resources or

the technical capacity to deal with these historical legacies by itself.

Delegates from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Secretariat of the United Nations participated in broad ranging discussions on the Belarus landmine problem.

Most workshop participants endorsed Canada's opinion, presented at the beginning of the session, that the Ottawa Convention provides the best framework to address Belarus' mine situation. Belarus authorities expressed their willingness to become a party to the Ottawa Convention if they receive assistance dealing with their mine problem. ●

CANADIAN LANDMINE FOUNDATION

Clear | Landmines

Your simple click will help
remove landmines for FREE

Fundraising goes on-line with new web site

by Chris Gallagher – Canadian Landmine Foundation

The Canadian Landmine Foundation has launched an Internet-based, mine action fundraising web site at www.clearlandmines.com

Based on the extremely successful www.thehungersite.com, the new site, www.clearlandmines.com raises funds for mine clearance. Site sponsorships are sold to companies and organizations which receive

advertising space on the site and, in return, pay 0.5 cents per visitor per day. Each 0.5 cent donation is estimated to clear 21cm² of mine affected land.

The Foundation is planning a large-scale, grassroots effort to encourage people – including school groups, corporations and home-based Internet users – to visit the web site every day.

Advantages to sponsors of

the new web site include reduced advertising costs and higher response rate than traditional web-based advertisements and recognition in the community as a responsible, humanitarian corporation or organization.

For more information visit www.clearlandmines.com, or call (416) 365-9461 or 1-877-543-6463. ●

New executive director brings 25 years of fundraising experience to Foundation

Canada's private, landmine fundraising foundation has named a new executive director.

In June 2000, the Canadian Landmine Foundation appointed Henry J. Botchford, an individual

with over 25 years of senior executive, fundraising experience in the not-for-profit sector

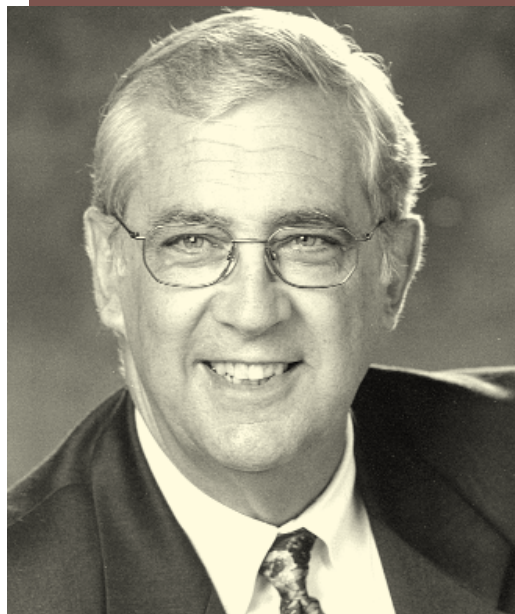
Botchford's extensive experience includes having served as the first Executive Director of the Canadian Special Olympics, President of the Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation, Chief Executive Officer of the George Brown College Foundation and, most recently, President in Canada of MGI Fund Raising Consulting, Inc.

Botchford has also held the position of National Executive Director of the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the

Disabled where he was appointed as the Canadian Secretariat for Rehabilitation International, an international organization representing physically disabled people. It was while working overseas for this assembly that Botchford first became keenly interested in landmine issues.

"The efforts of the Foundation in the first year have established a solid base for sustained action, but we must build on that momentum," says Botchford. "That's why I am pleased with the two new initiatives of the Foundation – Adopt-A-Minefield (Canada)™ and [clearlandmines.com](http://www.clearlandmines.com). These new initiatives are something we can build on." ●

The Canadian Landmine Foundation's new executive director, Henry Botchford.



The Canadian Landmine Foundation has brought the popular Adopt-A-Minefield program to Canada.

Adopt-A-Minefield (Canada)™ seeks sponsors to adopt minefields identified by the United Nations as being in urgent need of clearance. The cost of clearing these areas ranges from thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars depending on the size and complexity of the demining task.



Sponsors may adopt entire minefields or contribute smaller amounts, which are pooled with other contributions. Every dollar donated to the Adopt-A-Minefield (Canada)™ Campaign is forwarded to the United Nations, which coordinates the demining operations.

Adopt-A-Minefield® is a program trademarked by the United Nations Association of the United States. Contributions to

the campaign help clear land in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, and Mozambique.

For more information about Adopt-A-Minefield visit www.canadianlandmine.com or call (416) 365-9461 or 1-877-543-6463. ●

While the field of mine action is relatively new, there is an increasing need to demonstrate that initiatives undertaken are achieving results valued by the mine action community and the Canadian public. In addition, developing a better understanding of efficiency and effectiveness of mine action efforts is crucial in order to propose course corrections and to determine the extent of work which remains.

At the December 1998 Ottawa Mine Action Experts Meeting, a consensus emerged among experts on four principal desired outcomes of the efforts to address the global landmine problem.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ☉ Clearing all high priority land
- ☉ Reducing significantly the number of new mine victims
- ☉ Ensuring that the basic needs of all landmine victims are met
- ☉ Universalizing the ban on anti-personnel mines.

Measuring progress in MINE ACTION

As it has been almost three years since the Ottawa Convention was negotiated, it is natural to ask how well we are doing in achieving our desired outcomes. What is required to answer this question is a set of results measurements – or *performance indicators*.

The Government of Canada is currently undertaking research to develop and refine various indicators of global mine action progress. As part of this effort, experts from Canada and abroad and participants in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Mine Action Research Program, met May 4-5, 2000, to discuss this research project and proposed indicators.

Input from participants of this event is now

being incorporated in research on 37 proposed indicators related to six themes.

RESEARCH THEMES:

- ☉ Improving mine action information and planning
- ☉ Clearing mined land
- ☉ Delivering mine awareness education and reducing casualties
- ☉ Meeting the needs of landmine victims
- ☉ Ending the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines
- ☉ Sustaining mine action efforts.

Watch for the next edition of *SafeLane* for results of this research effort. ●



Carla Potts/YMAAP



Jackie Hansen/YMAAP

Above: One sign at a time: Vancouver anti-landmine activists hang banner for May 2000 regional youth conference.

Left: Ottawa Youth Ambassador Carla Potts does an interview with local radio in Accra, Ghana.

Youth Ambassadors expand landmine outreach across Canada and around the world

By Alison Clement, Program Officer – Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program (YMAAP)

In June 2000, eight Youth Ambassadors successfully completed the second year of Canada's Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program (YMAAP). Since its inception in September 1998, the program has graduated 12 Youth Ambassadors. These dedicated young adults have organized outreach activities in communities across the country, working towards the program's goal "to create sustainable community action within Canada to support the global movement to end the suffering caused by landmines."

During their 10-month internship

at host organizations across the country in 1999-2000, youth ambassadors gave more than 700 presentations to schools and the general public, training a cadre of volunteers who contributed more than 6500 hours to mine action. Their activities were reported in over 250 media clips (TV, radio and print). An estimated 35,000 people were reached directly across Canada through the YMAAP during 1999-2000.

Youth ambassadors also participated in events in the United States, including the Presidential Candidate Forum in Iowa, American Red Cross facilitator training in Seattle, presentations through the American Refugee Committee and Canadian Consulate in Chicago, a School Twinning Project in Rochester, New York and the

United States Campaign to Ban Landmines Conference in Washington.

In April 2000, Ottawa Youth Ambassador Carla Potts travelled to Ghana, West Africa to represent the program at the West African Conference on War Affected Children, the precursor to the War Affected Children Conference to be held in September 2000 in Winnipeg, in which another youth ambassador will participate.

Youth ambassadors travelled to mine-affected Bosnia and Herzegovina in April where they met with officials from the Canadian Embassy, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre, the United Nations High
continued on page 27

Youth Ambassadors

– continued from page 26

Commissioner for Refugees, disability rights workers and NGOs such as the Landmine Survivors Network in Tuzla.

The ambassadors also took part in an International Committee of the Red Cross mine awareness session at an elementary school in Mostar, observed the demining operations of Norwegian Peoples Aid in Sarajevo and were able to study the training of mine detection dogs at the Canadian International Demining Centre's program in Banja Luka.

Throughout the trip, the youth ambassadors were affected by a strong sense of this country trying, in the words of the Canadian Red Cross, to "survive the peace." They were clearly enriched by this experience and, in true YMAAP fashion, were able to translate it to those they spoke to when they returned to Canada – volunteers, students and members of the general public.

Year three: New partnerships, exciting launch

The 2000-01 program welcomes 12 new youth ambassadors and expands our outreach into Saskatchewan, the Maritimes and Southern Ontario.

The Canadian Landmine Foundation and the Canadian International Demining Centre join the Canadian Red Cross, Mines Action Canada, UNICEF Québec and Oxfam Canada in the role of host organizations this year. These agencies will host youth ambassadors and provide supervisory support to them throughout the 11-month program cycle.

This year's program officially began in mid-July with two weeks of independent study, followed by two weeks of intensive training in preparation for the youth ambassadors'



Violaine des Rosiers/YMAAP

Quebec City Youth Ambassador Violaine Des Rosiers with new mine clearance friends in Bosnia.

education and outreach work in their regions. Immediately following their training, teams of youth ambassadors participated in summer exhibitions in Toronto, Ottawa and Quebec City. During the fall, they will travel to a mine-affected country to expand their knowledge of mine action and mine ban advocacy first-hand.

Youth Ambassadors will continue their outreach efforts within local communities, including the promotion of such initiatives as the *Youth Against War Treaty* and the Canadian Landmine Foundation's new www.clearlandmines.com fundraising site. They will also be key organizers of YMAAP events such as Landmine Awareness Week in March and regional youth confer-

ences in May which focus on the landmine issue and youth activism.

The Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program gratefully acknowledges the support of its partners, the Canadian Red Cross, Mines Action Canada and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade without whom this important work would not be possible. Generous funding is also received from the Youth Employment Strategy/Youth International Internship Program and the Canadian Landmine Foundation.

For more information, visit www.dangermines.ca or contact the YMAAP Secretariat at (613) 241-4141 or e-mail: ymaap@sympatico.ca ●

Interactive landmine education hits Canadian summer exhibitions



Young people express their thoughts artistically at the OAS General Assembly landmine exhibit.

First stop: OAS General Assembly

The travelling mined village exhibit made its first appearance at the Showcase of the Americas in Windsor, Ontario, from May 22 to June 12, 2000, attracting scores of local children and youth, as well as government representatives attending the OAS Annual General Assembly in Windsor from June 4 to 6.

The public was invited to view a demonstration of techniques used in humanitarian demining and a nearby children's art pavilion engaged young people in creating artistic expressions of their commitment to a world free from landmines.

According to Quebec City Youth Ambassador Violaine Des Rosiers, the exhibit gave the public an opportunity to learn about mine action in a more interactive way.

"One man who visited the exhibit was from a mine affected country and his wife was a landmine survivor," Des Rosiers recalls. "He was excited to connect with the Canadian mine action community, and his children were learning about how Canada – their new home – is making a difference."

Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister of International Cooperation Maria Minna unveiled a mural depicting mine action in the Americas and helped decorate the mural with handcrafted butterflies children had made to symbolize their hope for an end to the use of landmines. ●

Interactivity, art and true-to-life props helped bring landmine education to summer exhibitions throughout Canada in 2000.

With the hope of engaging more Canadians on an issue that has already received wide-spread public support, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Mines Action Canada and the Canadian Red Cross brought a travelling summer mine action

event to the Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly in Windsor and to major Canadian exhibitions in Toronto, Quebec City, Edmonton and Ottawa.

A key element of the outreach initiative was a simulated mined village exhibit, illustrating scenes from a war-torn community and featuring equipment and activities related to victim assistance, mine awareness and mine clearance.

Canada's Youth Mine Action Ambassadors toured with the exhibit to spread the message that there are many ways for Canadians to support mine action.



Scott Cressman and Kyle Ruttan

Award winning multi-media artists Scott Kressman and Kyle Ruttan with their landmine ban CD-ROM.

We have had countless people encourage us and assist us in whatever way they could. Some notable ones are Rae McGrath of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, who gave us advice when he came to our school to speak on landmines, Rochelle Johnston, of the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program, Sgt. Burkenshaw of the Canadian Reserves and Doug Morrison of the mine detection dog training company, NOTRA Systems. Our teacher, Mr. Arnie Covey, also made it possible for us to do much of our research and work on the CD.

We were amazed by how many people in and out of the landmine community thought our landmines CD would help people. When we began our project we had no idea we would get the type of recognition that we've received from newspapers, television and individuals. We also entered the CD in the Multimedia Mania Contest, sponsored by the International Society for Technology in Education and it received first place in North America.

On the landmines CD you can find information on how and why landmines are used, victims of landmines, affected countries and the landmine ban. These sections include audio clips, 3D animation and a virtual game. All of this combines to create a truly unique multimedia learning experience.

For more information visit www.landmines.cjb.net ●

Waterloo junior high students create award-winning anti-landmine CD-ROM

by Scott Cressman and Kyle Ruttan

It is said that, in the next 22 minutes, a landmine will injure a person somewhere around the world.

It's statistics like this that inspired us to do our project – a landmines CD-ROM. We just finished Grade 8 at Centennial Senior Public School in Waterloo, Ontario. We got started on our project in Grade 7 when we read an article in class about landmines. After learning about the horrible consequences of landmines, we were determined to help people affected by landmines in whatever way we could. We decided to create the CD to educate people around the world and inspire others to join the anti-landmine campaign.

Mine action comes to US campuses

Since 1999, Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Mine Action Team, with the support of the Canadian Consulate General in Boston, has sponsored the activities of Dr. Christopher Kirkey of Bridgewater State College, Massachusetts as a 'Mine Action Scholar-in-Residence'.

In this position, Dr. Kirkey has promoted landmine issues at several academic conferences in the United States and has undertaken a lecture/discussion tour of several US colleges and universities, with the aim of engaging students, faculty, administrators and the general public on a wide range of mine related issues. In the first 14 months of this initiative, Dr. Kirkey presented lectures at 33 post-secondary institutions throughout the American east, southeast and mid-west, and presented papers at four major academic conferences.

Dr. Kirkey's themes for lectures and research activi-

ties include a review of the Ottawa Process, US policy towards the ban on anti-personnel (AP) mines, international humanitarian demining efforts, the role of the United Nations Mine Action Service, needs assessment planning for mine-affected states, current status of AP mine stockpiles and meeting the needs of mine victims. For the fall of 2000, 28 colleges and universities – from the University of Alaska-Anchorage to the University of New Orleans – have expressed interest in hosting an AP mine lecture and discussion forum.

During the 2000-01 academic year, the project will be expanded to include mine action faculty development workshops in Boston, Atlanta, New York and Chicago. These workshops will bring together heads of academic departments and other faculty to facilitate the design and creation of college and university courses that will focus on AP mine issues and the Ottawa Convention. ●



Howard Jue

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan commends California wineries for helping clear vineyards in Croatia.

FROM MINES TO VINES: UN Secretary General lauds private sector support at California reception

Palo Alto, California – United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has praised California wineries and land mine activists for turning minefields into vineyards in Croatia.

At a June 11 reception, supported by Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Secretary-General Annan congratulated Roots of Peace for turning "what used to be a killing field into a fruitful enterprise" through the organization's support for clearance operations in the mine-affected vineyards of Croatia.

"You have helped give back a livelihood to a community that had seen it taken away," the Secretary-General said. "You have turned mines into vines by replacing the seeds of death with the seeds of life. And you have shown the world that even with modest beginnings, a partnership backed by persistence can make a real difference."

The San Francisco Bay Area group, Roots of Peace, demined a 160-acre field in Dragalic, Croatia this spring and replanted it with grapevines. Another 200 acres were scheduled for demining this summer.

Roots of Peace has raised nearly US\$170,000 from California wineries to help clear vineyards in Croatia. Contributions from the US State Department, the US Embassy, Slovenia's International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance and Autodesk, a software company in San Rafael, California, have brought the total to US\$500,000.

Secretary General Annan also spoke eloquently of the need to persuade all governments who have yet to sign and ratify the treaty to do so.

Canada's Consul General in Los Angeles, Kim Campbell joined Annan to address the landmine issue among prominent Silicon Valley business and community leaders. Speaking to an audience of 130 representatives from California's information technology sector, the corporate community and the media, Campbell outlined

Canada's approach to mine action and provided an update on Canadian initiatives to universalize and fully implement the Ottawa Convention

The reception was organized by Roots of Peace which has garnered the support of 12 Napa and Sonoma Valley wineries in a program designed to clear minefields around the world and turn them into vineyards.

The event drew together key US anti-landmine organizations including the Landmine Survivors Network, the United States Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. The US State Department Office of Global Humanitarian Demining was also represented.

Annan thanked the many donors from the private sector who attended and challenged those not yet involved in the campaign to eradicate landmines to open their cheque books and to become active advocates on this issue. Proclamations from the Governor of California and the Mayor of the City of Palo Alto in support of mine action were presented to the Secretary-General. ●

Alberta students visit mine action tech centre

by Nancy Ingram, 1999-2000
Youth Mine Action Ambassador –
Alberta

As part of the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program's outreach in Alberta, 25 Medicine Hat high school science students and their teachers were invited to spend the day at the Canadian Centre for Mine Action Technologies (CCMAT) in Suffield, Alberta.

Crescent Heights High School in Medicine Hat was the first school selected for the

tour. In order to qualify for the field trip, each student had to develop a project proposal on how he or she would incorporate the experience into a learning tool for other students. Projects were varied and dynamic, including multi-media presentations, a documentary of the trip, short plays and science experiments.

The May 9 excursion included presentations from CCMAT staff on the nature of landmines and the difficulties of mine removal. Students also received a tour of the testing grounds and were treated to a simulated mine blast so they could feel the impact of an explosion.

After these activities, students had lunch "soldier-style" in the field with official army-issue box lunches. Lunch was followed by more demonstrations of demining techniques and the different types of demining protective equipment CCMAT was testing. Students were invited to try on the protective equipment so they could experience the difficulties of designing gear that is safe yet user-friendly.

According to Crescent Heights teacher David Gue, "this is a whole new side to science and scientific research for the kids. They have no experience with this and, in most cases, haven't even dreamed that this is part of the business." ●



Mike Bednar/ Medicine Hat News

Medicine Hat student tries on demining gear during class trip to CCMAT.

Edmonton high school fundraises for mine detection dog

by Nancy Ingram – 1999-2000 Youth Mine Action Ambassador – Alberta

Students at Holy Trinity High School in Edmonton have raised more than \$6,000 for the purchase and training of a mine-detection dog.

After a landmine awareness day held at the school in November 1999, students decided to earmark their annual fundraising project to support mine action.

They decided they would try to raise money for the purchase and training of a mine-detection dog, the cost of which ranges from \$5,000-10,000. Students worked tirelessly throughout the year raising funds through loonie drives, special promotion days, as well as canvassing churches and soliciting corporate sponsorship.

On June 20, students presented a cheque for \$6,520 to David Horton, Executive Director of the Canadian International Demining Centre.

The dog, which will be named Trinity after the school, will be purchased in Germany and trained in Bosnia. The school gave Trinity an embossed vest bearing the school's logo. Trinity will go through a six-month training program before it is certified as a mine-detection dog. ●