



Campaign
UPDATES

TO: US Campaign
FR: Jill Greenberg
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In case any of you did not see this today, the *New York Times* ran a great editorial.

- ◇ what you can do
- ◇ campaigner's responsibilities
- ◇ organizing events
- ◇ members
- ◇ fundraising library



Stop Stalling on Land Mines

This month the Clinton Administration rightly though belatedly decided to join more than 100 other nations working to adopt a draft treaty banning anti-personnel land mines. Regrettably, the Administration still insists on pressing for two Pentagon-sponsored exceptions that are likely not only to delay this Canadian-led initiative but, worse, to undermine the larger goal of drawing holdouts like Russia and China into a worldwide treaty.

Land mines were the leading cause of American military casualties in the Vietnam War. They also kill tens of thousands of civilians every year in places like Cambodia, Angola and Bosnia, and continue to kill and maim for years after the wars they were used in have ended. Simple to design and cheap to produce, they are poor countries' weapon of choice against sophisticated military powers like the United States. Veterans groups, human rights organizations and Vietnam veterans now serving in Congress helped persuade the Administration to join the Canadian effort.

Some important military powers, like Russia and China, are not taking part in these draft treaty negotiations. For most of this year, these and other holdouts have stymied a parallel attempt to negotiate a worldwide ban on land mines through the United Nations. The goal of the Canadian initiative is to create powerful moral pressure on these countries to drop their resistance.

Washington's negotiators are burdened by the Pentagon's insistence on two exceptions that could sabotage efforts to negotiate a worldwide treaty. One would permit continued American use of mines on the Korean peninsula. The other would create a loophole for anti-personnel mines sown in