

featuring RealAudio™ coverage of the Conference. *Safe Lane* will allow people from around the world to listen to live Conference proceedings in the six official United Nations languages. I encourage you to join us at [www.mines.gc.ca](http://www.mines.gc.ca).

But the treaty is only the beginning; serious challenges remain. If we are to rid the world of this humanitarian crisis, we must proceed with the same tenacity, commitment and vision that have brought us to this historic point. For 14 months we have been calling upon nations to join us on the Road to Ottawa. Now, we appeal to the global community to look beyond December to the ongoing efforts to eliminate AP mines.

What lies beyond the signature of a ban treaty in Ottawa? Early entry into force and effective implementation will be crucial if people and countries are to become healthy again. During the Conference, the active participation of experts in the Mine Action Roundtables will help to provide us with the direction needed as we grapple with the removal of these weapons. We must focus on the care and rehabilitation of victims and their

communities. With persistence, the road beyond is quite simply the road to recovery from a weapon that has terrorized and held hostage entire nations.

The achievements to date have been accomplished by hard, dedicated work. However, we should expect nothing less in the years following the treaty signing. Our perseverance will work its transformations in the minefields of Angola, Cambodia, Mozambique and Afghanistan, reclaiming productive lands, thereby supporting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people currently at risk. For hundreds of thousands of displaced people, the return home will no longer mean returning to a strange and dangerous place but, rather, a place free of this scourge that kills and maims people every day of every year.

In my lifetime, I may never see the last remaining AP mine pulled from the ground but I can promise you that there will be a generation that will. We are already making progress. On November 3, I was pleased to stand with Prime Minister Chrétien, Canada's Minister of National Defence, Art Eggleton, Nobel Laureate, Jody Williams, and representatives from Mines Action Canada to witness the destruction of the last remaining Canadian stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

Again, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to those who have persevered against all obstacles and walked this road to Ottawa. I welcome you.

Lloyd Axworthy  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada

***If we are to rid the world of this humanitarian crisis we must proceed with the same tenacity, commitment, and vision that have brought us to this historic point.***



Minister Axworthy places symbolic shoe on pile during production of "Journey" ICRC advocacy video.

Photo: Canadian Red Cross

**NEW! [www.mines.gc.ca](http://www.mines.gc.ca)**

## The Ottawa Conference: Broadcast Live over *Safe Lane*

On September 18, 1997, in Oslo, Norway, 89 representatives from around the world concluded negotiations of a legally binding convention banning the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of anti-personnel (AP) mines. As a result of the Oslo negotiations, delegates from approximately 100 countries will be in Ottawa from December 2 to 4 to sign the treaty.

In advance of the December treaty signing, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy, launched a new Web site called *Safe Lane* ([www.mines.gc.ca](http://www.mines.gc.ca)). Taking its name from deminers' vernacular for a safe path, clear of mines, *Safe Lane* continues to reinforce the founding principles of the Ottawa Process, namely, open and accessible information on the global ban on landmines.

The purpose of the *Safe Lane* Web site is to keep Canadians and global audiences informed of the efforts being made by Canada and the international community to address this humanitarian crisis. The site provides information on the scope and severity of the AP mine problem, as well as on the success of the Ottawa Process, a coalition of like-minded governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international institutions. The goal is to encourage site visitors to support a worldwide ban on AP mines.

*Safe Lane* features a RealAudio\* live broadcast, over the Internet, of the December Conference

proceedings. People around the world who have access to the World Wide Web and the proper equipment, are invited to listen *live* to Conference proceedings. Broadcasts of national statements and delegate speeches will be carried in all six official UN languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Mandarin and Arabic.

Conference proceedings will be recorded and accessible on the Web site, as will roundtable discussions, speeches and other information. With the click of a mouse, delegates, media and attending NGOs can gain access to the Conference page for up-to-date conference schedules, conference accreditation forms and other information on the Ottawa Conference Centre, where the signing ceremony will take place on December 3.

Other features of the *Safe Lane* Web site include a virtual photograph gallery, a dedication to Diana, Princess of Wales, background information on the Ottawa Process I & II, and information on mine clearance and victim assistance. *Safe Lane* also provides a directory of links to some of the best related sites on the Web. Visit us at [www.mines.gc.ca](http://www.mines.gc.ca).

\*RealAudio™ software RealPlayer™, a sound card and speakers are needed to listen to the Internet broadcast. This software will be available free of charge from the *Safe Lane* site.

## The War That Never Ends CD-ROM

A new interactive CD tells the story about the war after the peace accords are signed. It is the story of children, women and men held hostage by anti-personnel landmines that prevent them from returning home and getting on with their lives. It is also the story of what Canadians are doing to end that war by supporting local initiatives to remove the mines, assist victims and rebuild communities.

Produced by the Canadian International Development Agency, the CD-ROM will be distributed at the December treaty-signing conference in Ottawa to delegates and media representatives.

Min. des Affaires extérieures  
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