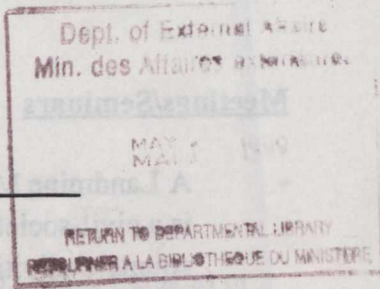


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March 31



**A Global
Ban on
Landmines**

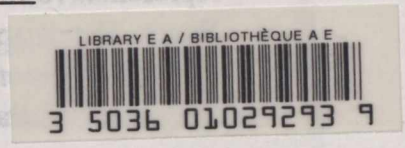
**L'interdiction
complète des
mines terrestres**



**LATEST ISSUE
DERNIER
NUMERO**

**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINE ACTION TEAM (ILX)
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT #10**

March 31, 1999



1. Mine Ban Convention Update

- 135 signatories / accessions
- 71 ratifications
- Since our last update, 4 more countries have ratified the Convention: Costa Rica, Niger, Dominica and Guatemala
- The Convention entered into force on March 1, 1999.

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2. March Highlights

- On March 1st the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction became law for 45 countries amid campaign events worldwide.

In Ottawa, the occasion was celebrated by the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy, in front of representatives of the diplomatic corps and the public. Robin Collins, Co-Chair of Mines Action Canada, Pierre Duplessis, Secretary General of the Canadian Red Cross, Sir Leon Britton, Vice-President of the European Union, and German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, also spoke at the ceremony. The Peace Tower bells joined church bells and other joyful sounds across the nation in celebrating entry-into-force.

- Canada's Youth Mine Action Ambassadors kicked off "Dance Without Fear", a nationwide youth awareness and fundraising event. To date, dances have taken place in Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver. All proceeds from ticket sales go to the Canadian Landmine Action Fund to support demining and victim assistance.

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