



Earlier this year, I travelled to South Eastern Europe where I witnessed firsthand the terror caused by anti-personnel mines. In places like Sarajevo, where conflict ceased years ago, civilians are still being victimized by these insidious weapons and those previously injured are adjusting to life as landmine survivors.

In this, the most mine-affected region in Europe, I also saw evidence of the difference that the global community is making in addressing the landmine problem. In Bosnia and Herzegovina alone, over 7.1 million square metres of land were cleared in 2000. Similar progress is being made in almost every other severely mine-affected country in the world.

This progress is testimony to the success of the Ottawa Convention. Through its comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines and its meaningful provisions on cooperation and assistance, the Convention provides the world with a framework for addressing the global landmine problem.

I am proud of the leadership that Canada is providing to help implement this framework for action. The Canadian Landmine Fund supplies important support for this leadership, disbursing approximately \$23 million in fiscal year 2000 to support every facet of mine action in a total of more than 25 countries.

While the progress we have made is impressive, much work remains. I encourage states to reaffirm the commitment they made when they ratified or acceded to the Convention. For its part, Canada will indeed remain active in ensuring the Convention's success. I look forward to continued, vibrant engagement of all states, as well as non-governmental and international organizations, in ensuring that our efforts do not diminish until we reach our common goal of a world free of the terror of anti-personnel mines.

John Manley
Minister of Foreign Affairs



We at the Department of National Defence are conscious that anti-personnel mines continue to kill, maim and threaten the lives of countless innocent people each day. We are also conscious that the terror of landmines prevents individuals from reclaiming their lives – whether by preventing people displaced by war from returning home, or by rendering fields, roads, bridges, and farm land unusable.

The Department of National Defence continues to support the broader Canadian effort to rid the world of landmines and their consequences. Obviously, the work of the Canadian Forces – in clearing landmines and training personnel from other militaries to do the same – provides just one more illustration of how our men and women in uniform promote peace and the well-being of others in far-flung regions of the world.

The Centre for Mine Action Technologies in Suffield, Alberta represents another key part of our work in this area. Over the years, the Centre has established an international reputation for its ability to develop and field successful products. The Centre has also been able to play a leading role in assisting international organizations such as the International Test and Evaluation Program and the Demining Technology Information Forum.

I am very proud of how the Department and the Forces have supported Canada's goals with respect to the Ottawa Convention. Together, they are leading the way on practical measures to deal with the global problem of landmines.

Art Eggleton
Minister of National Defence