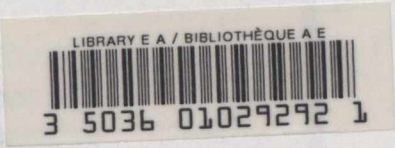


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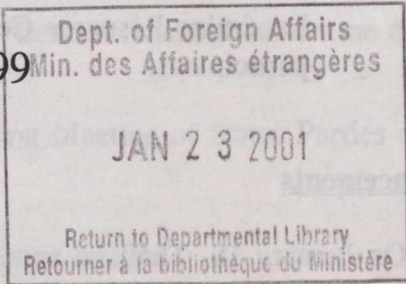
**A Global
Ban on
Landmines**

**L'interdiction
complète des
mines terrestres**



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINE ACTION TEAM (ILX)
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT #9

February 26, 1999



1. Mine Ban Convention Update

- 135 signatories / accessions
- 67 ratifications
- Since our last update, 3 more countries have ratified the Convention: Portugal, the Slovak Republic and Uganda. Ukraine and Lithuania acceded to the convention on February 24 and 26, respectively.
- The Convention will enter into force on March 1, 1999.

2. February Highlights

Meetings/Seminars

- Jody Williams, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize co-laureate and Ambassador for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) visited Tblisi, Georgia on January 18, where she took part in successful meetings with President Kuchma and other senior government officials. Among the issues discussed were the implications of the Ottawa Convention for Georgia.
- Military, government and non-governmental organisations from the Middle East along with international organisations and a few donor countries convened in Beirut, February 11-12, for the "Regional Conference on the Menace of Landmines in the Middle East". The conference was sponsored by Canada to the tune of \$ 25,000. As part of a greater universalization agenda, Canada also sponsored the travel to the region of participant Jody Williams, Ambassador for ICBL. Canada was represented at the conference by Canadian Ambassador to Lebanon, Haig Sarafian, and Mélanie Régimbal of the Mine Action Team of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.