



news release

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CANADA ANNOUNCES PROGRAM OF ACTION ON LAND MINES

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Minister of National Defence David Collenette today outlined a Canadian program of action to address the devastation caused around the world by the indiscriminate use of land mines. Canada will seek to extend existing land mine measures and introduce new controls.

"The indiscriminate use of land mines continues to inflict untold misery throughout much of the developing world. I urge all countries to join in the effort to protect innocent civilians and vital economic and social infrastructures from the scourge of these weapons," said Mr. Ouellet.

"Canada and the Canadian Forces have an outstanding international reputation in working to help countries deal with the devastation caused by land mines," said Mr. Collenette. "The Canadian Forces are currently involved in de-mining operations in Cambodia and the former Yugoslavia, where a Canadian peacekeeper was killed just recently by a land mine."

At the 1993 UN General Assembly, Canada co-sponsored a resolution calling for a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land mines. Canada will now seek an international agreement on the transfer of land mines as a more comprehensive and longer-term measure.

On June 15, Canada ratified the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which deals with land mines. The Convention will be reviewed at an international conference in 1995 at which Canada plans to play a major role.

- 30 -

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