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Officials at the Regional Seminar on Stockpile Destruction of Anti-Personnel Mines in the Americas. Left to right: Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer Graham Goodrum, Canada's Ambassador for Mine Action Daniel Livermore, Colonel Hernan Bedon Martinez of Ecuador and International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Mexico representative Claudio Torres Nachon.

stockpiled in former Soviet states. The seminar facilitated discussion of these issues among experts in an international setting, and laid the groundwork for further technical work to be conducted through the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and for consultations among donor countries and implementing agencies.

In collaboration with the Organisation of American States (OAS), Canada and Argentina co-hosted the Regional Seminar on Stockpile Destruction of Anti-Personnel Mines in the Americas, held in Buenos Aires in November 2000. The DFAIT Stockpile Destruction Program provided \$86,000 to support the seminar which brought together states of the Americas to exchange information on stockpile destruction methodologies.

Following the seminar, Canada promoted the Managua Challenge, intended to accelerate destruction of AP mines by states in the Americas. In return for technical and financial assistance, states were asked to complete their stockpile destruction in time for the Third Meeting of the States Parties, held in Managua, Nicaragua in September of 2001.

The DFAIT Stockpile Destruction Program provided \$209,000 in fiscal year

2000 to the OAS for the Managua Challenge Fund, created to assist OAS Member States in acquiring appropriate stockpile destruction technologies and accessing destruction monitoring and verification measures. Stockpile destruction assistance was provided to Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru through the Managua Challenge Fund.

Since the launch of the Managua Challenge, more than 600,000 of the 800,000 AP mines stockpiled by OAS Member States have been destroyed, with Honduras, Peru and Ecuador destroying all of their stockpiles within the time-lines of the Managua Challenge.

In Albania, approximately 1.6 million AP mines are being destroyed through a project funded by the DFAIT Stockpile Destruction Program. The NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) is managing the project on behalf of eight donor countries, through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council Partnership for Peace Trust Fund for Anti-personnel Landmine Stockpile Destruction. Canada is the project's lead state and the initiator of the Trust Fund. A total of \$234,000 was contributed to the project in fiscal year 2000: \$23,000 was contributed to NAMSA for the preparation of a stockpile destruction plan; \$10,000 was provided to Jacques Whitford