

programs and support existing ones, manage information, promote new techniques and technologies, and play an advocacy role. These new functions are in addition to the demining responsibilities that have traditionally been part of peacekeeping missions.

- ICRC** - Organize regional seminars and national roundtables of military and political leaders on the military utility/humanitarian costs of AP mines (Central/Eastern Europe and Asia).

ENTRY INTO FORCE

Participants in the Ottawa Conference stressed the need for governments to take the necessary national steps to ratify the Convention as soon as possible in order to bring this instrument into force and make effective its provisions. Canada, Ireland and Mauritius presented to the UN Secretary General their instruments of ratification, becoming the first three states to ratify the Convention. Importance was attached to ensuring that states have the technical capacity to comply.

- Austria** - *Ratify in 1998 Initiative*, using bilateral and multilateral contacts to encourage signatories to ratify the Convention in 1998.
- African Topics** - African Topics Magazine will produce a special issue on the Ottawa Conference (March 1998), and a journalists' handbook on the Ottawa Conference, the Convention and ratification process.
- ICBL** - Public campaign *Entry into Force During 1998*. Lobby the UN to proclaim the year 2000 as International Year of the Eradication of Landmines.
- ICRC** - Global promotion and distribution of ratification kits, including a summary of the Convention for parliamentarians and the public and guidelines for state adherence and implementation.
- Publication of a layman's guide to the Ottawa treaty.
- IPU** - Circulation of a survey to member states of the Inter-Parliamentary