

U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines

E-mail Newsletter

March 1, 2001

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- 1. Call President Bush and contact your member of Congress in honor of Ban Landmines Week March 5-11**

March 5-11 is Ban Landmines Week in honor the U.S. and International Campaigns to Ban Landmines' events in Washington, D.C. Call the White House at 202-456-1111 and make your views known to President George W. Bush that you think he should send the Mine Ban Treaty to the Senate for ratification within his first year in office.

Also, 250 U.S. activists will be meeting with more than 300 Members of Congress next week to urge them to support legislation that will be introduced in both the House (by Representatives Evans, McGovern, and Quinn) and the Senate (Senator Leahy) next week that will bring the U.S. closer to joining the Mine Ban Treaty. Please write to your own Senators and Representative and state something similar to the following:

Dear Senator or U.S. Representative _____

Members of the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines (USCBL) from almost every state are meeting with Members of Congress March 8 and 9 to urge support for legislation being introduced that, if passed, will bring the U.S. closer to compliance with the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. I hope that you will be meeting with USCBL members from our state and that you will support this legislation.

Landmines continue to maim and kill upwards of 26,000 people per year, putting both civilians and our own soldiers at risk. One hundred thirty nine countries have joined this life-saving treaty, and 111 have ratified it. Please help the United States join the majority of the world in banning this indiscriminate weapon for good.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

2. First Official Letter to President Bush from the USCBL

March 1, 2001

George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

There are upwards of 26,000 people, mostly civilians in developing nations, who are maimed or killed by landmines each year. Tens of millions of mines are buried in over 80 countries, with over 200 million antipersonnel mines stockpiled worldwide.

Given the mass human suffering they inflict, we believe antipersonnel landmines are outdated, indiscriminate weapons that have no place in modern-day warfare. We strongly urge you to ban the use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of antipersonnel landmines, and to offer international relief to landmine-wounded populations.

From March 5-11, 2001, the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines—a coalition of 500 religious, children's, human rights, humanitarian, medical, and veterans organizations—will host the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Ban Landmines for its General Meeting in Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams has declared this week "Ban Landmines Week." More than 175 campaign leaders from 90 countries will join over 250 U.S. campaigners in a series of meetings, press events, and Congressional visits to help convince the U.S. Government and its citizens to ban landmines. Hundreds of thousands of students and adults have signed a petition urging you to ban landmines. We respectfully request a meeting with your representative to receive these petitions and begin a fresh dialogue on the landmine issue.

Landmines not only wound civilians, they put American soldiers and peacekeepers at great risk. Landmines were responsible for one third of the U.S. casualties in both the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars. In an overwhelming majority of these cases, the landmines that maimed or killed U.S. soldiers were made or laid by the United States.

In light of your announced plans to conduct a thorough review of what weapons the US military will need to fight the wars of the future, we are hopeful that your

military advisers will see that landmines are no longer necessary. We believe the humanitarian disaster of landmines will persuade your military advisers of the need to ban this weapon.

The United States has committed over \$100 million per year to global mine clearance efforts, and we urge you to continue U.S. support of these vital efforts. We also hope you will increase U.S. resources dedicated to helping landmine victims receive the medical care, rehabilitation, and the social and economic support they need to rebuild their lives.

However, demining and victim assistance are not enough if new mines continue to be placed in the ground. 139 nations have joined the Mine Ban Treaty, and 110 have ratified it, including all but one of U.S. NATO allies.

March 1, 2001, marks the second anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty becoming international law. Its growing international acceptance and implementation have made a tremendous impact worldwide. We urge you to send the Treaty to the U.S. Senate for ratification during your first year in office.

Your leadership to help coordinate global efforts to eradicate this man-made epidemic could potentially save millions of lives and limbs in the coming decades.

We have enclosed a suggested series of steps, a wish list, which we feel could bring the United States on board the treaty quickly. It is our utmost wish that you will embrace these steps as a path toward a mine-free future.

On behalf of the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines, we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerry White
Co-Chair of the USCBL, landmine survivor, and Executive Director of the Landmine Survivors Network

Mark Brown,
Co-Chair of the USCBL and Assistant Director of the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Encl. Steps Toward Mine Ban Treaty Compliance
List of USCBL member organizations

Steps Toward Mine Ban Treaty Compliance

- Set a date certain for the U.S. to join the ban treaty--a date closer than 2006;
- Set a date certain for the Pentagon to obtain suitable alternatives, which include technologies, tactics, and operational concepts to achieve comparable military objectives, to antipersonnel mines, and accelerate Pentagon efforts to obtain treaty-compliant alternatives;
- Commit the United States immediately to a policy of no use of antipersonnel mines except in Korea;
- Commit the United States immediately to a policy of no use or transfer of antipersonnel mines in joint operations (NATO and otherwise) with nations that are a party to the Mine Ban Treaty;
- Announce a permanent ban on production of antipersonnel landmines and their components;
- Make a decision not to produce the RADAM mixed mine system, which is not compliant with the ban treaty;
- Halt the exploration of procurement of an alternative system to non-self-destructing AP mines that will not be compliant with the ban treaty (due to the battlefield override system);
- Establish plan, procedures, and timetables for destruction of all antipersonnel mines, and begin placement in inactive status of ADAM and other mines immediately, with intent to destroy as soon as possible;
- Withdraw and destroy all antipersonnel mines stockpiled in countries that are party to the ban treaty; do not insist on transit rights through such countries;
- Ensure that revisions are well underway with respect to changes in war plans, doctrine, training, and manuals necessary for future combat without antipersonnel mines.

3. Media Advisory for Ban Landmines Week in Washington, D.C. Get your own local media coverage!

Below is a media advisory that the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines is currently sending out to media outlets throughout the country. Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams has declared March 5-11, 2001 "Ban Landmines Week" in honor of the 2001 General Meeting of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Legislative Action Conference of the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines (see www.banminesusa.org for more information).

The "satellite coordinates" for the March 8 press conference are available for local television stations to pick up. Please forward the following information to your local t.v. stations along with the media advisory:

Thursday, March 8, 2001
1530 - 1600 EST
Telstar 6, Transponder C21
Downlink Frequency: 4120 MHz(V)
Audio 6.2/6.8

If you have registered to attend the events, send this advisory to your local media outlets, including newspapers, radio, and television, with a cover page indicating that you will be attending. Sometimes "local activist goes to Washington" succeeds in raising the visibility of an issue in local areas.

Media Advisory

**NOBEL LAUREATE MINE BAN CAMPAIGNERS FROM
OVER 45 U.S. STATES AND 90 COUNTRIES TO CALL ON
PRESIDENT BUSH TO JOIN MINE BAN TREATY;
RECEPTION WITH HER MAJESTY QUEEN NOOR**

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines is holding its first meeting in the United States since the historic signing of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. The U.S. has not signed the treaty.

Contacts:
Nathaniel A. Raymond, Tel: 617-695-0041, ext. 220
Email: nraymond@phrusa.org

Barbara Ayotte, Tel. 617 695-0041 ext 210
Cell: 617-549-0152
Email: bayotte@earthlink.net

www.banminesusa.org

Thursday, March 8

PRESS CONFERENCE

10:00- 11:00 a.m.

CAPITOL HILL, EAST LAWN

Speakers: Jerry White, U.S. landmine survivor and Chair, U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines; Reverend Dr. Bob Edgar, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, former six-term Congressman; Representatives James McGovern (D-MA) and Jack Quinn (R-NY); Song Kosal, a 17-year-old Cambodian landmine survivor; Nobel Laureate Jody Williams, Ambassador, International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES: Giant Shoe Pyramid of over 2,000 shoes collected from US citizens and representing the lives and limbs lost to antipersonnel landmines. 10-5 p.m. Capitol, East Lawn

International Demining Demonstration. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m , Capitol, East Lawn.

RECEPTION WITH HER MAJESTY QUEEN NOOR OF JORDAN, PATRON OF LANDMINE SURVIVORS NETWORK, AND JODY WILLIAMS

6:00-8:00 p.m.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Please contact Nathaniel Raymond at (617) 695-0041, ext. 220 if you are interested in attending this event.

Saturday, March 10

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

LAFAYETTE PARK

Youth and international campaigners present over 200,000 petitions urging the U.S. to join the Mine Ban Treaty. Procession to follow. **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE

2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Spiritual leaders officiate an ecumenical service of healing and remembrance for the world's mine victims.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

The Mayor of Washington DC has declared March 6-10, 2001 "Ban Landmines Week"

See following program of City-Wide Exhibits, a Film Screening, a Play, an Amputee Hockey Game, Bus Shelter Advertisements, and D.C. Bars featuring "Ban Landmine" Coaster

Ban Landmines Week, Washington DC
March 6-10, 2001
Events and Exhibits

Contact: Nathaniel Raymond, (617) 695-0041 ext 220

Wednesday, March 7
7-8 p.m.

Kenney Auditorium, Johns Hopkins University SAIS
1740 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

SCREENING OF KOREAN DOCUMENTARY "THE LAND OF IRON"

Subtitled documentary on landmines in Korea, followed by comments from filmmaker Jeonghoon Jang, photographer Siwoo Lee and landmine survivor Jun-jin Ko.

Friday, March 9

8:30 -10:00 p.m.

Gardens Ice House

13800 Old Gunpowder Road

Laurel, MD 20707

301 953-0100

www.thegardensicehouse.com

HOCKEY ON PROSTHETICS DEMONSTRATION

Russian, Canadian and U.S. amputee players face-off in first amputee vs. amputee tournament

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Saturday, March 10

7:45-8:45 am

MIXED TEAM AMPUTEE HOCKEY GAME

U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD

8-9 p.m.

Market 5 Gallery, 7th and North Caroline Avenue SE

"WATCH YOUR STEP," A ONE-ACT PLAY

Written and performed by students from Sarah Lawrence College
An awareness-raising play about landmines.

Landmine awareness exhibits will be displayed at the
following locations during the week of March 5th:

The Chevy Chase Pavilion
5335 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

The Marvin Center at The George Washington University
800 21st Street

The Tryst
2459 18th Street, NW

The Holiday Inn on the Hill
415 New Jersey Avenue, NW

On ICBL letterhead
For immediate release - Thursday, 1 March 2001

4. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines honors the March 1 Anniversary of the Treaty's Entry into Force.

TWO YEARS ON, LANDMINES CAMPAIGN MARKS BAN
TREATY ANNIVERSARY BY URGING ADHERENCE BY ALL

The Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Ban
Landmines is today marking the two-year anniversary of the global
ban on antipersonnel mines with events around the world urging the
fifty-four remaining hold-out countries to join and comply with the
ban.

"While we still find instances of use of antipersonnel mines, the
Mine Ban Treaty is having a significant impact on alleviating the
global mine problem," said ICBL Ambassador Jody Williams, co-
recipient of the 1997 Peace Prize with the ICBL. "The past two
years have seen many countries take great steps to comply with
the total ban including destruction of millions of stockpiled mines.
To ensure that the world moves rapidly to embrace this new
standard of behavior against this weapon of terror, we urge the
states that have not yet signed to join the treaty now," said Ms.
Williams.

Among those governments apparently actively laying antipersonnel

mines on the treaty's anniversary are Russia, Burma, Sri Lanka, and Angola. It is also likely that rebel groups are using the weapon in about a dozen conflicts. The ICBL condemns any use of antipersonnel mines by all parties.

To date, 139 countries have joined the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, of which 110 have ratified. On 1 March 1999, the treaty, which bans the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of antipersonnel mines, entered into force more quickly than any other major treaty in history. The ICBL's global monitoring project, Landmine Monitor, reports that over the past two years, virtually all trends are positive, notably decreased use, fewer new mine victims, and more land being cleared of mines.

Among the countries that have not yet joined the treaty are China, Russia, the United States, Cuba, India, Pakistan, North Korea, South Korea, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Nigeria, Finland, Turkey, and Yugoslavia.

The ICBL has identified the United States as a special target country, and nearly 200 campaigners from 90 countries will be descending on Washington, D.C. next week for the ICBL's first ever global meeting in the U.S. The Bush Administration has not yet made any policy statement on the banning of antipersonnel mines; current policy calls for the U.S. to join in 2006 if alternatives have been found.

The anniversary is being celebrated with activities around the world in dozens of countries including Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, France, Germany, Mauritius, New Zealand, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the UK and the USA. In addition, youth in over 40 countries have collected hundreds of thousands of signatures to be delivered to the US government next week.

For further information visit www.icbl.org write media@icbl.org or contact:

Liz Bernstein, ICBL +1 202 547 2667
Mary Wareham, LM +1 202 612 4356

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List of Events Worldwide for the Second Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Mine Ban Treaty

Afghanistan: Letters to US officials urging accession. Contact:

afghan@icbl.org

Angola: A commemorative program 20-21 February organized by the "Clube de Jovens", as part of Angolan Action Against Mines, in Lubango, Huila province. The program included meetings with the Governor of Huila province, a debate broadcast on radio about the importance of the treaty and demining, mine awareness and support for mine victims. Contact: Clube de Jovens at email: asd.lubango@snet.co.ao

Australia: Lobbied the US through the US Ambassador to Australia, and with visits to the US consul in each state. Media release. Visits to the Embassies of Vietnam and Myanmar. The Minister for Foreign Affairs will receive 10,000 signatures on petitions advocating for peace and the banning of mines in Sri Lanka. This has been organised through the Sri Lanka communities in Australia and the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, our peak NGO. Contact: ppakpoy@chariot.net.au

Azerbaijan, Chechnya and Georgia: Letters to US, Georgian and Azerbaijan officials by Refugees Against Landmines. Signature campaign among Chechen, Georgian and Azerbaijani youth for Youth Against War. Contact: zarema_im@yahoo.com Azerbaijan CBL will also hold a press-conference and exhibition of ACBL's activities in 1998-2001. Contact: root@ipd.baku.az

Belgium: On 1 March, a delegation from Handicap International (HI) Belgium will visit the US embassy in Brussels. The objectives of the visit are to discuss the position of the new Bush administration concerning antipersonnel mines and to give a shoe with blue laces (symbol of the fight against antipersonnel mines in Belgium) to the US representative in Brussels. HI Belgium programmes in the field worldwide will also send a shoe to George Bush (see France), urging the USA to accede to the Treaty. Mobilization of Belgian Members of Parliament around a new law banning all anti-handling devices. A debate on this issue will take place in the Parliamentary Defense Commission on 6 March. The law will be voted in plenary on 8 March. It would be the first domestic law banning all anti-handling devices. Contact: veronique.royen@handicap.be .

Brazil: Letter to the Foreign Minister urging full implementation of the Treaty and transparency in how the Brazilian government is meeting its obligations, such as enacting national legislation,

initiating stockpile destruction etc. Contact:
banirminas@viavale.com.br

Cambodia: Letters to all ambassadors asking for a response regarding their assistance to victims and mine clearance. An overwhelming number of replies were received thus far. Display at a meeting of 48 governments on conventional weapons and discussion with delegates. Targeting tourists at Angkor Wat with leaflets and approaches by survivors led by ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth. March 1 4 Opening of small school for children of disabled ex-beggars at Banteay Srei. Sending Youth Ambassador Song Kosal and Sok Eng to Canada for their 1 March events and to Washington for Ban Landmines Week, where they will be accompanied by Tun Channareth and Denise Coghlan. Sending landmine survivor Sopheap to the World Court in South Africa to testify about her landmine story for International Womens Day. Contact:
jrscam@forum.org.kh

Canada: Mines Action Canada and the Canadian Red Cross will be hosting an impressive roster of international mine action personalities in 18 cities across Canada to assist in celebrations commemorating of the second anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty entry into force on March 1, 2001. Special guests include young Cambodian landmine survivor Song Kosal, mine clearance experts and ICBL campaigners from several countries. Canadian Landmine Awareness Week (CLAW) is a joint initiative of Mines Action Canada and the Canadian Red Cross and will take place from February 26 until March 4, 2001. This is the second year that Mines Action Canada and the Canadian Red Cross, in conjunction with the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program, have coordinated awareness events and commemorative activities across the country. Mines Action Canada will also be hosting a breakfast meeting with members of Parliament and the Senate to commemorate the anniversary.

France: Re-mobilization of French Members of Parliament MPs during the preparation of the

2002 State budget regarding France's contribution for demining and victim assistance.

Re-launch and publicity for the "Call of Scientists" for a mine-free world. Public event: A shoe for Bush. Asking the 450.000 signatories of the French appeal to ban landmines as well as other personalities and the public to send a shoe to the new US President together with a letter urging the US to join the treaty. The US embassy in Paris will also be informed. Contact: paris@handicap-international.org

Germany: The German campaign will launch the study "Alternative anti-personnel mines - The next generations", a joint report by GIBL and LandmineAction/UK. This report identifies victim-activated weapons, both in existing stockpiles and in development, which may function as anti-personnel mines or have the same impact on civilians and are being retained or developed by armed forces and manufacturers, including those states that have ratified the Ottawa Convention. Contact: info@landmine.de The report is available at <http://www.landmine.de> (see UK below.)

Lebanon: Al-Manar TV will air a program about landmines at 11 am 1 March.

Mauritius: Youth Against War Signature Campaign, signatures which will be remitted to the US President or his representative on 10 March, 2001; Signature Campaign to urge the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius to send the Transparency Report of Mauritius under Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty, long overdue, as soon as possible. - Signatures to be remitted on 1 March, 2001; Letters to President Bush, Vice-President Cheney, Secretary Powell and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, to urge them to send the Mine Ban Treaty to the Senate for the US to become a party. Media release. Contact: sheila.k@intnet.mu

New Zealand: The Campaign Against Landmines has

written to the US Ambassador urging that the USA accede to the Treaty urgently. Contact: neilman@clear.net.nz

Switzerland: Week of events for public awareness-raising. The slogan is "Lutte contre les mines: mars et ça repart", a well-known slogan in Switzerland about chocolate. The principal objective of this action is to continue raising awareness of the public about the horrors of landmines, particularly the children, and to demonstrate to the young people the importance and power of civil society. An exhibit and mine-clearance demonstration, as well as conferences, a question and answer evening, a musical evening and a play "The Bomb Disposal Expert" will be held at the University of Geneva throughout the week. At the end of the week the program will conclude with an evening at a famous club 'l'Undertown'. Contact: ereusse@worldcom.ch

Thailand: Letters sent to Indonesia and Brunei urging ratification, and to the USA urging accession. Contact: thailand@icbl.org

Turkey: Press conference in Istanbul organized by Campaign for a Turkey Without Mines, with participation of a mine survivor. Contact: mbalci@mayinsizbirturkiye.org

UK: Landmine Action/UK launch the study "Alternative anti-personnel mines - The next generations", a joint report by LandmineAction/UK and the German Initiative to Ban Landmines. This report identifies victim-activated weapons, both in existing stockpiles and in development, which may function as anti-personnel mines or have the same impact on civilians. Contact: www.landmineaction.org (see Germany above.)

USA: Campaign letter to President Bush. Ban Landmines Week preparation and publicity. Contact: banmines@phrusa.org

International and virtual: Letters and postcards

to President Bush and other officials urging the US to join the treaty today. Contact:
<http://www.icbl.org/action/president2001.php3>

Youth: Over 190,000 signatures have been collected in over 40 countries for the Youth Against War Treaty. Song Kosal, students and international campaigners will hand signatures over to the US government in a ceremony being held on 10 March in Washington, DC. Mines Action Canada and the Canadian Red Cross are hosting the Canadian Mine Awareness Week, with youth awareness events being held throughout Canada from 26 February- 4 March. Contact: macinfo@web.ca or www.icbl.org/youth

5. Military Opinion Editorial

Published Sunday, February 25, 2001
The Washington Times

Landmine Mind Set

Lt. General James Hollingsworth, retired
Lt. General Hollingsworth (USA) is a former commander of I-Corps (ROK-USA) Group.

Lt. General Henry E. Emerson
Lt. General Emerson (USA) is a former commander of the U.S. XVIII Airborne Corps.

The United States Army does not require anti-personnel (AP) landmines to protect its men and women in uniform or to increase its combat-effectiveness when waging war. Former President Bill Clinton claimed in 1997 that a U.S. signature on the Mine Ban Treaty would rob us of a weapon key to our forces' security. This assertion was, at that time, and still is, untrue.

Ironically, AP landmines have consistently demonstrated that they are, at best, minimal in their military utility, and at worse, deadly to the very troops that deploy them. U.S. combat strategy is based on an aggressive and highly mobile counter-attack when engaged by hostile forces. This response plan almost always makes AP mines a liability to our dismounted infantry. AP mines, in Operation Desert Storm especially, have shown that they slow our units and impede their ability to conduct fast-moving combat operations.

Mines, either permanent or self-detonating, are blind -and time and time again they have proven to be as adept at maiming and killing our own troops as much as those of an opposing force. While serving several tours in Korea and Vietnam as combat arms commanders in some of those conflicts' fiercest fighting, we saw firsthand the carnage our own mines inflicted on U.S. combatants and Korean and Vietnamese civilians. According to U.S. Army documents, a full third of U.S. casualties in Vietnam were caused by AP mines, and over ninety percent of those weapons responsible were made by the United States. In that conflict, the only advantage AP mines gave was to the North Vietnamese, who often recycled our weapons against us in their own mines and booby traps.

The strategic failures of AP mines are only compounded by the human tragedy they cause for both civilians and our own soldiers. The International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that every twenty-two minutes someone, most often a civilian, is maimed or killed by an AP mine. Like civilian landmine survivors, U.S. soldiers that survive injury by AP mines have often been abandoned by their spouses, been unable to find gainful employment, and in some cases, have fallen into addiction or committed suicide. No treaty can bring back the lives and limbs sacrificed to this indiscriminate and counter-productive weapon, but U.S. participation in the Mine Ban Treaty can help ensure that American troops will, at the very least, not fall to our own mines while fighting tomorrow's wars.

No matter what minimal military utility, if any, AP mines may display, the cost they exact on armies and civilians is too great to continue reserving the right to deploy them. Unlike poison gas and chemical weapons, technologies banned because of the indiscriminate and horrific nature of the casualties they cause, AP landmines remain long after gas and chemicals have dispersed. The Mine Ban Treaty has demonstrated that preventing further mine use, not simply removing those mines already laid, is the only vaccine to this disease.

Some congressional leaders maintain that the U.S. should continue on course with Clinton's plan to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty in 2006, a date dependent on a successful search for "suitable" alternatives to AP mines. Development of "suitable" alternatives to AP mines is a ludicrous course of action when one considers that the U.S. Army already has tactics and technology that serve the same purpose of AP mines, blocking the movement of infantry units.

If U.S. policy makers continue to believe in the general utility of AP mines, the best interests of the American soldier will never be fully served. As retired Lieutenant Generals with considerable combat

command experience, we urge President Bush to instruct the Pentagon to develop operational doctrine that does not include the use of non-command detonated AP landmines or anti-handling devices. By sending the Mine Ban Treaty to the Senate for ratification, President Bush will demonstrate that he has the vision and political courage to forward a militarily sound solution to this crippling humanitarian problem. The world's civilians as much as America's soldiers do not deserve to be tragically disfigured, horribly maimed, or blown apart by a weapon emplaced in yesterday's battlefields where children now play. President Bush should ban this weapon.