

TAKE ACTION Against Landmines



The Department of Defense has just recommended to the President that the U.S.

- * abandon all efforts to join the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty by 2006 or ever;
- * abandon all efforts to get rid of "dumb" mines by 2003;
- * eliminate the search for landmines alternatives program;
- * and assert the need for U.S. mine deployment in Korea and elsewhere!

NOW is the time to speak up about Landmines!

President Clinton instructed the U.S. government to move towards 2006 compliance with the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, which bans the use, stockpile, trade, and production of the weapon.

It looks like the Bush Administration is poised to abandon that policy altogether. The formal landmines review now moves to the State Department, headed by Secretary Powell.

Tell him how you feel! More than 140 countries have joined this treaty, which has already made great strides in reducing the global landmine threat.

We need improvement, not backtracking on the landmines issue!

CALL <i>the White House Switchboard at 202-456-1414</i>	EMAIL <i>President George Bush at president@whitehouse.gov</i>	FAX <i>Secretary of State Colin Powell at 202-261-8577</i>
<i>"I am from _____, and I am calling to urge President Bush to support a total ban on antipersonnel landmines to protect U.S. troops and innocent civilians, in Afghanistan and throughout the world."</i>	SAMPLE LETTER: Dear President Bush/Secretary Powell, I am dismayed to hear that the United States may be moving away from its commitment to join the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. Antipersonnel landmines maim and kill upwards of 18,000 people each year, mostly children, farmers, and other innocent civilians. The indiscriminate weapon also renders land useless for cultivation. Most of the world's nations, including almost all of NATO, have joined the Mine Ban Treaty. It is time for the United States to do so as well. In Afghanistan, there are already 8-10 million landmines on the ground. U.S. deployment of mines in that country, an option military leaders say is possible, would only exacerbate the humanitarian crisis and put U.S. ground troops at risk. Please advocate for our country to give up this dishonorable weapon, in Afghanistan and everywhere else.	
For more information, go to www.banminesusa.org	Sincerely, Name, Address	