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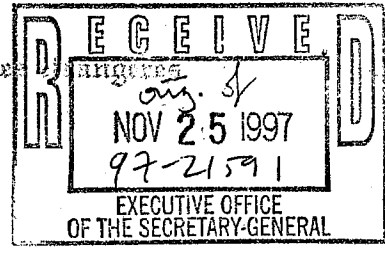
Canada Trip (12/97)
Canada
Disarmament/Gen Central

Minister of Foreign Affairs



Ministre des Affaires

Canada



NOV - 7 1997

His Excellency Kofi A. Annan
Secretary General
United Nations
NEW YORK

Excellency:

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to Ottawa, from December 2 to 4, 1997, when the global community will join in signing the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction", recently concluded at Oslo.

This achievement would not have been possible without your active personal advocacy. In recognition of your role, and the ongoing part you and the United Nations will play in the implementation of the treaty, I hope that you will be able to address the Conference during the opening plenary on December 3.

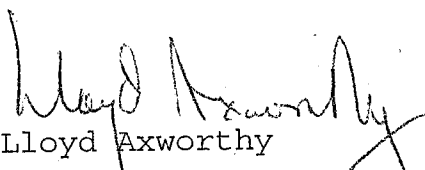
As part of the Ottawa meeting, we will hold a Mine Action Forum, an extensive series of roundtable discussions with representatives from states, NGOs, international and regional institutions, organizations, and experts. The purpose of these sessions will be to map out a practical strategy and action plan for a strengthened and coordinated international effort to ensure the effective implementation of the convention including: early entry into force, universalization, improved demining efforts, and humanitarian assistance for the care and social and economic reintegration of victims.

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To this end, I would also invite you to bring accompanying officials who might be able to make a substantive contribution to the Mine Action Forum. I enclose a draft Conference Agenda.

I hope that you will join me in December to witness the formal opening for signature of this historic legal document and to continue our cooperative efforts on this crucial humanitarian issue.

Sincerely,


Lloyd Axworthy

Enclosure