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**THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON**

June 26, 1996

PRESIDENTIAL DECISION DIRECTIVE/NSC-48

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS  
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
POLICY  
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR OF THE ARMS CONTROL  
AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Anti-Personnel Landmines (APL)

This Presidential Decision Directive establishes and directs the implementation of U.S. policy on anti-personnel landmines (APL).

Background

This policy was developed in response to the growing threat posed by the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines. Thousands of people each year are maimed or killed by these weapons, most of them civilians. Increasingly, APL pose a threat as well to U.S. military forces and non-military personnel, where they are engaged in peacekeeping operations. The policy has been established pursuant to a Principals' level review, which included a thorough study of U.S. military requirements conducted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with the involvement of the Services and the Combatant Commands. The policy sets forth a concrete path to a global ban on APL, but ensures that as the United States pursues this ban, essential U.S. military requirements and commitments to our allies will be protected.

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Elements

- The United States will aggressively pursue an international agreement to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of antipersonnel landmines (APL) with a view to completing the negotiation as soon as possible. The United States should seek to initiate such negotiations as soon as feasible.
- The United States views the security situation on the Korean Peninsula as a unique case and in the negotiation of this agreement will protect our right to use APL there until alternatives become available or the risk of aggression has been removed.
- Effective immediately, the United States will unilaterally undertake not to use and to place in inactive stockpile status with intent to demilitarize by the end of 1999, all non-self-destructing APL not needed for (a) training personnel engaged in demining and countermining operations, and (b) to defend the United States and its allies from armed aggression across the Korean demilitarized zone.
- Between now and the time an international agreement takes effect, the United States will reserve the option to use self-destructing/self-deactivating APL, subject to the restrictions the United States has accepted in the Convention on Conventional Weapons, in military hostilities to safeguard American lives and hasten the end of fighting.
- The Secretary of Defense is directed to undertake a program of research, procurement and other measures needed to eliminate the requirement for these exceptions and to permit both the United States and its allies to end reliance on APL as soon as possible.
- Beginning in 1999, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will submit an annual report to the Secretary of Defense and the President outlining his assessment of whether there remains a military requirement for the exceptions noted above. In consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will include in his report the status of the search for alternatives to APL, as defined immediately above.
- The Department of Defense will undertake a substantial program to develop improved mine detection and clearing technology and to share this improved technology with the broader

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international community. The Department will consult with other appropriate agencies in order to include those agencies' relevant research activities in developing this program. The Department of Defense will also significantly expand its humanitarian demining program to train and assist other countries in developing effective demining programs.

- The chairmen of the Arms Control Interagency Working Group and the Landmine Control and Demining Interagency Working Group will, by July 19, 1996, prepare an analysis for review by Principals of options for the best venue for conducting negotiations to achieve a world-wide ban on use, stockpiling, production and transfer of antipersonnel landmines, as set forth in this PDD. Once a venue is selected by Principals, the Secretary of State is directed to develop, for interagency review and approval, and then to execute a diplomatic gameplan for gaining international support for conducting negotiations in this venue.

*William S. Clinton*

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