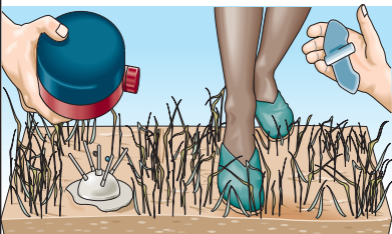


Anti-mines treaty

Representatives of 89 nations have accepted the text of a land mine treaty calling for a total ban on production, export and use of anti-personnel mines. Countries are expected to sign the treaty in Ottawa in December



United States: Refused to sign up after failing to get an exemption allowing it to continue to use the devices on the Korean peninsula for another nine years

China, Russia, India: Among other large military powers that do not intend to sign the treaty

Worldwide problem: An estimated 100 million to 300 million anti-personnel mines are deployed in 60 countries. Land mines kill or maim more than 25,000 people every year