



1 March 2012

Hon. Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

RE: New Zealand's support for the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty

Dear Minister:

I am writing to follow-up on the letter sent to you by the New Zealand Campaign Against Landmines (CALM) on 13 December 2011 as we have yet to receive a reply.

In that letter we welcomed your assumption of the disarmament and arms control portfolio in your role as New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs and outlined the need for New Zealand to continue its leadership role in ensuring full universalisation and effective implementation of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.

On this occasion of the anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty's entry-into-force—thirteen years ago on 1 March 1999—we are writing to share some suggested actions that New Zealand could take in support of this crucial international treaty, namely:

- Urge the United States to conclude its policy review on banning antipersonnel landmines with a decision to join the Mine Ban Treaty without delay. Now is a crucial time to communicate with the Obama Administration on the importance, desirability, and need for the US to relinquish this weapon.
- Encourage the last remaining Pacific states outside the Mine Ban Treaty of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Tonga to join the ban Treaty as soon as possible. Tonga is believed to be actively considering accession following the 2011 visit by Mine Ban Treaty special envoy Prince Mired of Jordan.
- Dedicate diplomatic resources to the Mine Ban Treaty's leadership by taking on a Standing Committee role. New Zealand was last a co-chair for the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration in 2008.
- Continue to provide cooperation and assistance to ensure that states parties to the Mine Ban Treaty can meet their obligations, especially on mine clearance, and support Pacific Islands Forum efforts to tackle the long-standing threat posed by World War II-era unexploded ordnance.

Finally, we would like to request a meeting with you on Wednesday, 4 April 2012 to discuss these and other measures that New Zealand can take in support of the landmine ban and related disarmament initiatives. April 4th is the International Day for Mine Action and Mine Awareness and the our parent campaign, the International Campaign

to Ban Landmines is undertaking a global action to 'Lend Your Leg' in support of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Wareham', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mary Wareham
New Zealand Campaign to Ban Landmines (CALM)

200 Oriental Parade, Wellington 6011

Tel. (021) 996-905

wareham@hrw.org

CC:

- Hon. David Shearer, Leader of the Opposition
- Sylvie Brigot, Executive Director, International Campaign to Ban Landmines