

million. More recently, the State Department has put the number at 100 million, or one for every 50 people in the world.

What is known is that on average about 300 people are killed or maimed each week—26,000 every year—by land mines. Huge swaths of ground have been rendered uninhabitable by the sowing of mine fields, from Kuwait to Angola. One of every 236 people in Cambodia is an amputee as a result of mine blasts. Around the world, wherever land mines lie in wait for the unsuspecting or careless, prominent among their victims are children.

But there is an effort under way to do something about this madness. A one-year moratorium on the sale, export and transfer of land mines was adopted by the United States in 1992, followed the next year by unanimous Senate passage of a three-year extension. The moratorium effort has since been joined by 25 other countries.

Late next week, the Senate is expected to vote on The 1995 Land Mine Use Moratorium Act, which:

Urges the president to pursue an international agreement for the eventual elimination of anti-personnel land mines.

Imposes a one-year moratorium on U.S. use of land mines, except in certain marked areas along international borders.

Encourages additional countries to join the moratorium.

The legislation is sponsored by Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., with 44 co-sponsors representing both parties. Absent from the sponsors list for this wise legislation, which has the active support of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and more than 200 other human rights organizations are the names of Pennsylvania's senators, Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum.

We urge our two Republican senators to join the effort to end this indiscriminate means of warfare, just as the nations of the world have previously agreed to end the use of biological and chemical weapons. America's leadership and example is no less essential to making this a safer and more peaceful world than it was in winning the Cold War.

[From the Rutland Daily Herald, July 6, 1995]

#### BAN LAND MINES

The world is slowly waking to the indiscriminate carnage that results from the use of a cheap, easily dispersed and deadly weapon—the land mine.

The question is whether the United States will exercise the leadership required to move the international community toward a total ban of a weapon that kills and maims 26,000 people a year.

There are about 100 million land mines already in place on killing fields around the globe. They create terror on the cheap. They cost between \$3 and \$20 to make, and 80 percent of those killed are children. Long after the battlefields are quiet in Cambodia, Angola, Lebanon and Vietnam, the killing goes on.

Land mines are the weapons of cowards. The Soviet Union spread them by the millions in Afghanistan; some were specifically designed to entice children into picking them up. Now Russia is spreading them in Chechnya.

Sen. Patrick Leahy has played a leading role in prodding the Clinton administration and the international community to bring this hideous technology under control. Legislation introduced by Leahy two years ago led to a moratorium by the United States on the manufacture and sale of land mines and prompted 25 other nations to follow suit. Leahy also introduced a resolution before the U.N. General Assembly on behalf of the United States calling for the "eventual elimination" of land mines.

Now the Clinton administration is backtracking.

Leahy has introduced a bill that would prohibit the United States from using land mines, except in certain specifically designated border areas, and to impose sanctions on nations who use them. He hopes the United States will lead by example, as it did on the manufacturing moratorium, so other nations also disavow use of land mines.

The U.S. military, however, is wary of establishing a precedent. Even though land mines are primarily an instrument of terror aimed at innocent civilians, the Army does not like to have its options limited. Certainly, land mines are not the most important weapon in the U.S. arsenal, but the military does not want Congress to get in the habit of indulging its humanitarian impulses by limiting the weapons the Army can use.

Thus, Clinton has found a way to equivocate.

Though the United States introduced the U.N. resolution favoring the elimination of land mines, Clinton now favors the export and use of self-destructing land mines that would detonate by themselves over time.

Here Clinton indulges in fantasy. Does he really believe the dozens of nations with tens of millions of land mines in their possession will decide they would rather buy more expensive self-destructing mines and use them instead? In this way, Clinton undermines the international effort to eliminate the use of this weapon.

Just four years ago there were only two organizations raising the alarm about land mines. One was the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation whose land mine campaign is led by Jody Williams of Brattleboro. She had seen what land mines do in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Now there are 350 organizations in 20 countries pushing to eliminate the use of land mines. Pope John Paul II, former President Jimmy Carter, Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu of South Africa, and U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali all support a ban. And yet Clinton backs away.

Leahy's bill would put the U.S. once again at the vanguard of the effort to eliminate what Leahy has called "weapons of mass destruction in slow motion."

Leahy's bill has 44 co-sponsors, including Sen. James Jeffords, but he has still not been assured the bill will come to a vote. It ought to come to a vote, and despite Clinton's equivocation, Congress ought to send the message that the United States will lead the way in containing the violence war causes among the world's innocent bystanders.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in my ongoing effort to see a worldwide ban on the use of antipersonnel landmines, it is interesting to note that since starting this effort 25 countries have taken at least the initial step by halting all or most of their exports of antipersonnel mines. That was due in large part to the action we took here 2 years ago, by passing my amendment to stop U.S. exports of these weapons. Our action captured the attention of the world, and that is why it is important that we continue to show leadership to bring an end to the landmine scourge.

I remind my colleagues that today in over 60 countries there are 100 million antipersonnel landmines that wait silently to explode. These are 100 million not in warehouses but concealed in the ground. In many countries they are clearing the landmines an arm and a leg and a life at a time.

Today when wars end, soldiers leave and tanks and artillery and guns are withdrawn, in so many countries the killing continues, sometimes for months, sometimes long past when people can remember what caused the fighting in the first place. It continues because of the landmines left behind.

We are about to make a major decision in Bosnia. The distinguished Senator from Kansas and I spent most of an afternoon with the President of the United States, with the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, our Ambassador to the United Nations, and General Shalikhshvili discussing what alternatives are available to us.

It was a very good discussion, I think a very important discussion. I commend the President for having it. I could not help think throughout no matter who is in Bosnia, whether us, for whatever reason, our allies, whether now or when the fighting stops, they are going to find a very, very grim surprise; that is, hundreds of thousands, perhaps over a million landmines that are now in the former Yugoslavia, and they will keep on killing long after this dreadful fighting stops.

#### THE INTERNET

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there has been a lot said about Internet, and about proposals to regulate indecent or obscene content in the Internet. There has been a lot of articles about so-called cyberporn and things of that nature.

I have had some interest in the way the legislation is proceeding. I believe I was probably the first Senator to actively hold town meetings on the Internet. I have it in my own home, as many do now, and use it continuously, when I am here in my office in Washington, in my office in Vermont, in my home in Vermont, and in the residence here.

#### REPORT OF INTERACTIVE WORKING GROUP ON PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT, CHILD PROTECTION AND FREE SPEECH IN INTERACTIVE MEDIA

In light of concerns and legislative proposals to regulate indecent and obscene content on the Internet, I have asked the Attorney General of the United States as well as a coalition of private and public interest groups known as the Interactive Working Group to look at this issue and provide recommendations on addressing the problem of children's access to objectionable online material, but to do so in a constitutional and effective manner.

I have not yet heard back from the Attorney General and look forward to receiving the report of the Department of Justice as promptly as their study can be concluded.

I come to the Senate today to speak about the report from the Interactive Working Group that will be released Monday. This group includes online service providers, content providers,