



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am writing to ask your help in raising money for the International Trust for Demining (ITF). As the U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia, I have been fortunate to see many fantastically beautiful places throughout the country. Some of the most extraordinary sights that I have seen have been during my journey along the European Walking Route E6, which crosses all of Slovenia from the Northeast to the Southwest. Beginning in 2005 on the Austrian-Slovenian border (Radlpass) above Radlje ob Dravi, I have now covered three quarters of the trail, seen many wonders, and met Slovenes from every walk of life. You can follow my progress along the E6 trail on our Embassy website at [www.slovenia.usembassy.gov](http://www.slovenia.usembassy.gov).

As I walked, I realized how fortunate Slovenia is to have such unblemished natural beauty. Two years ago I had the opportunity to visit Sarajevo and see some of the demining work going on even within the city's borders. The famous ski slopes from the 1984 Winter Olympics still have not been cleared of all mines, and there are many walking trails in Bosnia that remain unsafe. Throughout the Balkans there are many other unfortunate places where the land has been ravaged by the wars of the 1990's. I therefore decided that I would use my walk across Slovenia as an opportunity to aid others in their efforts to rehabilitate the region from the legacy of landmines. I know of no organization that has done more in this regard than the International Trust Fund for Demining. The ITF is a non-profit Slovenian organization dedicated to the eradication of landmines in South Eastern Europe.

Since its inception in 1998, the International Trust Fund has raised more than \$210 million in donations from various countries, the EU, the UN Development Program and more than 70 private companies. Moreover, under a matching contribution system, the United States of America matches all funds donated to the ITF by other donors and has donated nearly \$100 million of that total. As of October 2006, the fund had cleared nearly 70 million square meters of mines and aided more than 900 mine victims, most of them coming from Bosnia-Herzegovina. With the continuing support of donors, the fund hopes to clear South Eastern Europe of mines by 2010.

My friend Samo Žbogar, Slovenia's Ambassador to the U.S., has taken the lead by raising funds for the ITF this year by running marathons in the U.S. It is my hope that

you will support my trek across Slovenia to raise not only more funds, but also greater awareness for the ITF's important work. I intend to complete the E6 trail by late June. You can make a contribution to the ITF in one of two ways. You can donate directly to the ITF via bank transfer using the following financial information:

International Trust Fund for Demining  
Zabrv 12  
1292 Ig  
Slovenia

Account Number: 02922-0051268569 at Nova Ljubjanska banka  
Tax Number: S143836127  
SWIFT: LJBAS12X  
IBAN: S156029220051268569

For those who prefer to donate by check or online, and especially if you are in the United States, you can direct your donations through the Marshall Legacy Institute, a non-profit international humanitarian organization in the U.S. which assists nations in building mine clearance and landmine awareness programs and which works with the ITF.

You can either go to their homepage at <http://www.marshall-legacy.org>, which will soon have a direct link to my fundraiser, or go directly to an online donations page operated by the Network for Good at

<http://www.guidestar.org/partners/networkforgood/donate.jsp?ein=54-1853093>.

By donating to the Marshall Legacy Institute your donation will be tax deductible.

Whichever way you decide to donate, please designate your donation as a contribution to my fundraiser by either writing "Walk Across Slovenia" on your check or bank transfer or in the "Designation" box on the Marshall Legacy Institute donation page. And one more incentive to contribute: the U.S. Department of State will match each dollar raised through my walk and contribute it to the ITF! So for each dollar or Euro you contribute, the State Department will provide one more. A great deal!

I hope that you will join me in supporting the ITF. Together we can help clear the remaining mines so that people not fear their next step in the beautiful lands of South Eastern Europe.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas B. Robertson  
Ambassador