Dushanbe (Tajikistan) - A centre on mine clearing affairs has been set up in Tajikistan in keeping with an agreement signed between the Tajik government and the UNDP to implement the project of "supporting Tajikistan's efforts to resolve mine problems".

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The project will be carried out with financial support from the British government, which has allocated 250,000 dollars for its implementation. The money is planned for 10 months and the financial support may be continued in the future to fully tackle issues relating to mines.

The project will be managed by the chief technical aide from the UN, Peter Aizeks [transliterated], who is in Dushanbe and has begun his duties. The centre is designed to manage issues relating to mines and is responsible for implementing the policy and decisions of the Tajik government commission for implementing international human rights on mine issues, Saidov said.

He said that demining the territory of the country was an important task for the centre which was long overdue. The head of the presidential press centre said that the centre was given a big role in implementing Tajikistan's international obligations arising from the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction [Ottawa Treaty] of 18 September 1997. The convention was ratified by the Assembly of Representatives of the Tajik Supreme Assembly [parliament's lower house] on 30 April 2003.

We remind you that Jonmahmad Rajabov was appointed head of the centre by a government resolution of 2 July 2003. Rajabov earlier worked as a deputy head of a department at the Tajik president's executive administration.

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