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CANADA/PERU TRANSFER OF OFFENDERS TREATY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, announced, on return from his special mission to Botswana, that Canada and Peru exchanged on July 23 instruments of ratification in Ottawa on the Treaty on the Transfer of Inmates and Supervision of Persons under Sentence which was signed in Lima on April 22, 1980. The protocol of exchange was signed on behalf of Canada by the Acting Minister, Gilles Lamontagne, Minister of National Defence, and on behalf of Peru by His Excellency Eduardo Valdez, Peruvian Ambassador to Canada. The Treaty comes into force on the date on which instruments of ratification were exchanged.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General, in conjunction with the Department of External Affairs, is responsible for negotiating these treaties with other countries and implementing their provisions in Canada.

The Solicitor General, Bob Kaplan, has expressed his personal gratitude for the contribution made by the Peruvian Government and by Canada's Ambassador in Lima, Jean-Yves Grenon, in bringing the ratification of this treaty to a successful issue.

Under the Treaty, nationals who apply to transfer would serve their sentences in their country of citizenship. No transfer would be initiated without the consent of the individual concerned and without appeal procedures first being completed in the sentencing country.

Canadian and Peruvian officials are cooperating to implement the transfer of offenders as soon as possible. At present there are twenty-seven Canadians detained in Peru, most of whom are awaiting their trials.