

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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Friday, May 16, 1952.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that on May 15, 1952, the Ambassador of Canada to the United States, Mr. Hume Wrong, and the Secretary of State of the United States, Mr. Dean Acheson, exchanged the instruments of ratification concerning the convention between Canada and the United States, signed at Ottawa on February 8, 1951, on the operation by citizens of either country of certain radio equipment or stations in the other country. By this act the convention was brought into force.

The convention is designed to eliminate certain difficulties which have arisen in recent years because the citizens of each country who operate certain types of radio equipment in that country have been precluded by the laws of the other country from operating similar equipment in the other country.

Three classes of persons will derive direct benefit from the provisions of the convention. Pilots who are qualified as radio operators in one of the countries will be permitted to operate the transmitters installed in civilian aircraft of the other country's registry. Operators of certain mobile radio transmitters installed in vehicles used for public service or for commercial purposes in border areas, and individuals who have radio telephone installations in their cars, will be able to obtain permission to use such equipment while in the territory of the other country. Amateur wireless operators will be permitted, subject to certain conditions, to use their wireless sets while visiting the other country.

Implementing legislation, involving amendments to the Radio Act of 1936, was passed by Parliament May 31, 1951 and regulations to give effect thereto are now being drafted. The Government of Canada ratified the convention May 8, 1952.

The United States Senate gave its advice and consent on April 1, 1952, to the ratification of the convention. The President ratified the convention on April 7, 1952.

It is provided in the convention that it shall remain in force for a period of 5 years from the day of the exchange of instruments of ratification and, subject to the right of either government to give a 6 month written notice of termination, indefinitely after that period.

The convention may be particularly helpful in facilitating cooperation between Canada and the United States in connection with civil defence activities.