

in accordance with international practice and accepted functions of diplomatic and consular posts abroad. The formal announcement of the Desk's inter-provincial operation took place on August 15, 1975 and it is hoped that the international side of the Desk will be in operation by November 1, 1975. It is expected that our member will continue to serve in an advisory capacity to the Desk for the foreseeable future.

In January, 1975, the Section participated in the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law, convoked by the Organization of American States (O.A.S.) at Panama. Because Canada only has Permanent Observer status at the O.A.S., our representative participated in the Conference in that capacity. The contribution of our Observer was a proposal that a federal state clause be included in the six Conventions which were considered at the Conference. Although Conventions approved by the Conference were open for signature by any state, O.A.S. member or not, exclusion of the clause would make it unlikely Canada could ever become a party to them. Further, if exclusion of the clause were accepted as a precedent the result would be to virtually exclude Canada from participating in O.A.S. activities, setting back progress made to date in the development of Canada's relations with Latin-American states and with Inter-American institutions. Fortunately the Canadian proposal was accepted with the result that all six Conventions approved contained an acceptable form of Federal State Clause. These Conventions dealt with (a) Letters Rogatory; (b) Conflict of Laws concerning Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes and Invoices; (c) Legal Regime of Powers of Attorney to be used Abroad; (d) Taking of Evidence Abroad; (e) International Commercial Arbitration; (f) Conflict of Laws concerning Cheques.

At present Canada has extradition treaties with some 41 countries. Most of these treaties predate 1925 and the majority were concluded by Britain on behalf of Canada in the latter part of the 19th century. For some time now consideration has been given to updating these treaties to bring them more into line with current requirements and also to concluding extradition treaties with other countries. In February 1975 meetings were held with the West German authorities and a draft extradition treaty was initialled. It is anticipated that this treaty, as well as one negotiated