



news release

Date April 24, 1984.

84/64

For release

CANADA SIGNS CONVENTION WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM TO RECOGNIZE AND ENFORCE RECIPROCAL JUDGMENTS

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Minister of Justice, today announced the signing of a Convention between Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Convention provides for the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters between the signing countries.

The agreement does not substantially alter the present situation that exists between the signatories but rather clarifies and consolidates the existing law and procedures that prevail between Canada and the United Kingdom with regard to the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in civil and commercial matters.

In the absence of this convention, however, once the United Kingdom has acceded to the European Convention of 1968, the United Kingdom courts would be required to recognize all judgments rendered by the courts of other European Community States against Canadian assets located in the United Kingdom. The adoption of the Canada-United Kingdom Convention will prevent the execution of such foreign judgments in circumstances where jurisdiction is exercised on tenuous and undesirable grounds.

Furthermore, Dr. MacGuigan noted that the increase in commercial dealings and litigation involving persons in Canada and the United Kingdom warranted the negotiation of such an agreement.

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