

Third, we are expanding the Consular Awareness Programme of External Affairs, to make Canadian travellers more aware of the dangers of drug purchase, possession, trafficking, and use abroad. More Canadians are in prison overseas for drug offenses than for any other crime.

Mr. Speaker, a United Nations sponsored International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking will take place in Vienna from June 17th to June 26th. Our delegation to this conference will be led by my colleague the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In order to reflect the truly national approach this Government is taking on the issue of drug abuse, the delegation will include representatives from the provinces and the voluntary sector.

Canada played an important role in the drafting of the 1971 Psychotropic Convention, I am pleased to inform the House that while in Vienna, the Minister of National Health and Welfare will deposit the letters of accession which will bring the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances into effect in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the Government recognizes that while the major efforts against drug abuse and illicit trafficking will be made in Canada, we ignore its international aspects at our peril. The international component of the National Drug Strategy illustrates our intention to work with other countries to lessen the production, traffic and abuse of drugs, both at home and abroad."