

relevant to claims of Canadians against that country.

One individual claim that attracted public interest was that of David McTaggart against the French Government for damages suffered by him during encounters with French naval vessels while his ship, the *Greenpeace III*, was sailing near Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific in 1972 and 1973. Although Mr. McTaggart instituted private litigation in the French courts, the Government of Canada, at his request, formally espoused his claim in 1976 and communicated that espousal to the French Government. The Government of Canada thus raised its representations on behalf of Mr. McTaggart from the level of assisting him through the use of its good offices to the level of an interstate claim.

The Foreign Claims Commission has made further progress in evaluating and making recommendations concerning claims that are already the subject of treaties between Canada and other countries. The commission has completed virtually all the substantive work on the Hungarian and Romanian claims program and expects to complete most of the necessary work on the Czechoslovak and the Polish program within the next year.

Private international law

In the area of private international law, the Bureau of Legal Affairs offers a variety of services intended to facilitate legal proceedings between Canadian and foreign jurisdictions on the basis of conventions or by arranged procedures. Private lawyers in Canada create a large volume of requests for the service of legal documents, such as divorce petitions and writs of summons addressed to persons residing abroad, in cases where civil suits have been started in Canada. Evidence from witnesses abroad has to be obtained either by private arrangements or by rogatory commissions when the co-operation of foreign courts is required. Through Canadian missions abroad, the Bureau assists in the transmission of documents for such purposes. It also assists in serving foreign legal documents and in arranging for rogatory commissions in Canada,

and authenticates signatures on Canadian documents required for use abroad.

With the increase in travel and the greater mobility of individuals, it is inevitable that questions of social security, enforcement of maintenance orders and judgments and other related issues should become subjects for international co-operation. Many of these subjects fall within areas of provincial jurisdiction, and liaison is carried on between the Bureau and provincial attorney-general departments to establish and administer the necessary reciprocal arrangements.

Another area of co-operation between states involves enforcement of criminal law. To facilitate extradition of persons to and from Canada and of fugitive offenders in Commonwealth countries, the Bureau is in contact with police forces at all levels and with provincial and federal departments of government, as well as with Canadian and foreign diplomatic missions. During 1976, negotiations were conducted with Denmark, Finland and France concerning the conclusion of new extradition treaties. During the past year, extradition treaties between Canada and the United States and Canada and Sweden were ratified, and these are now in force.

The Bureau also performs an advisory function in the lawmaking activities of international law organizations such as the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law and the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

The Bureau has become extensively involved in the international aspects of a number of civil-kidnapping or "childnapping" cases involving disputes between the mother and father over custody of a child. The number of cases of this kind has been on the rise. The Bureau attempts to obtain reports on the well-being of the children involved and, if possible, arranges for their return to Canada in those cases where the Canadian courts have already ruled on custody. Because of the acute distress caused by such disputes, there is considerable public interest in the roles of the Federal Government and the Department. The matter was raised at the federal-provincial conference