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SIGNATURE OF THE CANADA-FRANCE TRANSFER
OF INMATES AGREEMENT

The Department of External Affairs and the Ministry of the Solicitor General announced today that the Honourable Jean-Jacques Blais, Solicitor General of Canada, and Mr. Olivier Stirn, Secretary of State to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed an Agreement between Canada and France on the Transfer of Inmates and the Supervision of Persons under Sentence. The Ministry of the Solicitor General will be responsible for the implementation of arrangements under the Agreement. The Agreement will come into force following notification to each other of the completion of the constitutional procedures required. The exchange of notifications bringing the Agreement into force will take place in Paris as soon as possible.

The Agreement is the third international agreement reached by Canada on this subject. (The first one was signed with the United States of America at Washington on March 2, 1977; the second one with Mexico at Ottawa on November 22, 1977). The Agreement exemplifies further co-operation between Canada and France and represents their mutual determination to promote the rehabilitation of offenders by enabling them to serve the remainder of their sentences in the country of which they are nationals.

Under the Agreement, nationals who so desire would serve their sentences in their countries of origin. The transfer of persons under sentence would take place only after all rights of appeal had been exhausted in the sentencing country. No transfer would be initiated without the consent of the individual concerned and would be subject to approval of both countries.

At present there are 13 Canadians in French jails and 10 French persons in Canadian jails.