

PRESS RELEASE

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CANADA RATIFIES OUTER SPACE TREATY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today that the Canadian Government deposited identical instruments of ratification for the United Nations Treaty on "Principles Governing Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies" with the Governments of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Soviet Union, at ceremonies conducted in London, Washington and Moscow to coincide with 11 am, October 10, 1967, Washington time. The deposit of instruments of ratification by these three Depositary Governments with each other together with the deposit with them of similar instruments by two other governments, such as the Canadian Government, has now brought this important outer space treaty into force.

Canada, as a member of the 28-State United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space played an active role in the negotiations in Geneva and New York which culminated last year in the adoption by the General Assembly of the text of the Treaty. On January 27, 1967, Canada was one of the first of more than eighty countries to sign the Treaty and the early deposit of our instrument of ratification now serves to re-emphasize the importance Canada continues to attach to the Treaty.