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# news release

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Date MARCH 22, 1983

For release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

30/83

## CANADA SIGNS COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON THE TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PERSONS

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Bob Kaplan, Solicitor General of Canada, announced today that Canada has signed a Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons under the aegis of the Council of Europe. This Convention, when it comes into force, will enable Canadians serving long-term prison sentences in Europe to apply for repatriation to Canada to serve the balance of their sentences in Canadian penitentiaries.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General will be responsible for the implementation of arrangements under this Convention.

This Convention is the fourth international agreement concluded by Canada on this subject. Similar agreements are in force with the United States of America (1978), Mexico (1979), and Peru (1980). To date 93 Canadians have been transferred to Canada under these agreements. Agreements have been signed but not yet ratified with Bolivia, France, and Thailand. It is the first multilateral convention Canada has signed under the aegis of the Council of Europe.

Under the Convention, Canadians imprisoned in European countries parties to this Convention who so desire may apply to serve the balance of their sentences in Canada. The transfer of sentenced persons would take place only after all the rights of appeal had been exhausted in the sentencing country. No transfer would be initiated without the consent of the individuals

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