

## CANADIAN TREATY PRACTICE

The Treaty Section, in the Economic Law and Treaty Division of the External Affairs Department's Bureau of Legal Affairs, provides legal advice to Departments of the Canadian Government on Canadian treaty practice and procedure, on the drafting of treaties (also called agreements, conventions and protocols), and on their interpretation with respect to the rights and obligations which they create for Canada as instruments legally binding in international law. The Section advises on Canadian requirements and international practice relating to treaties. The Section prepares all formal instruments (ratification, accession, acceptance or approval) relating to treaties to which Canada wishes to subscribe, and assembles them for tabling in Parliament by the SSEA.

Treaty Section also advises all Departments of Government on legally non-binding instruments such as memoranda of understanding or arrangements. Such arrangements or understandings are employed to cover cooperative programmes or informal engagements in a wide variety of fields and their form may be government-to-government, department-to-department or agency-to-agency.

### Treaty Registry

Treaty Section maintains a detailed register of all treaties to which Canada is a signatory or party. Records are kept of the date and place of signature of a treaty, the date of tabling in Parliament or approval by Parliament and, as applicable, of ratification or accession by Canada and entry into force; a record is also kept of any Canadian reservations, related agreements on the same subject and notices of termination or withdrawal.

During the twelve-month period from October 1, 1979, to September 30, 1980, Canada signed 34 treaties - 22 bilateral and 12 multilateral. During that period, 16 bilateral treaties came into force and 9 were terminated. Instruments of acceptance were deposited with respect to three multilateral treaties, nine multilaterals entered into force and two were terminated. Of the bilateral treaties signed or ratified there were five double taxation conventions, three reciprocal amateur radio operating agreements, two on air services, two on foreign investment insurance and two on the transfer of prisoners. Other bilaterals included treaties on trade, economic cooperation, extradition, fisheries, navigation and textiles. Multilateral treaties which Canada signed and/or ratified in this period include nine of the Multilateral Trade Negotiation (MTN) Agreements, the United Nations Convention against the Taking