

including acceptance of the *Fifth Protocol to the General Agreement on Trade in Services*, signature of the *Food Aid Convention 1999*, and entry into force of the *Protocol on Rum to the Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement between Canada and Member States of the Caribbean Common Market*.

## 2. BILATERAL TREATIES

Canada and China exchanged instruments of ratification of our *Consular Agreement*, which entered into force on March 11, 1999. The Agreement will be an important tool in the management of our consular programme in China. Instruments of ratification were also exchanged with Brazil bringing into force, on May 16, 1998, our *Transfer of Offenders Agreement* facilitating the return of individuals imprisoned in our respective correctional institutions. A *Treaty on the Transfer of Offenders* with Cuba was signed on January 7, 1999 and entered into force on August 10, 1999. Treaty actions were taken with respect to eight *Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties* to improve international cooperation between officials in criminal matters, including treaties with Jamaica, Norway, Ukraine, Greece, Kenya, Peru and Romania.

A *Joint Canadian-Palestinian Framework for Economic Cooperation and Trade* was signed on February 27, 1999 to facilitate free trade between Canada and the Occupied Territories. An important *Understanding on Mutually Beneficial Cooperation in the Destruction of Antipersonnel Land Mines Stockpiled by the Armed Forces of the Ukraine and Prohibited by the Land Mines Convention* was signed on January 28, 1999, and will lead to concrete measures to destroy 10 million land mines currently on the territory of Ukraine.

Treaty actions with respect to nine air agreements to govern air services were taken with various countries (Hungary, Mexico, Ukraine, Cuba, India) including an Exchange of Notes with Finland to amend our bilateral air services agreement to improve flexibility and take account of alliances between airline companies.

Treaty actions concerning fifteen double taxation agreements were taken with Austria, Bulgaria, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Chile, Denmark, France, Iceland, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Switzerland and Vietnam, which will be important tools for promoting investment abroad. In the same vein, treaty actions were taken with respect to six *Foreign Investment Protection Agreements* (FIPAs), which will improve the position of Canadian investors and their investments abroad. This includes FIPAs with El Salvador, Lebanon, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela. Treaty actions concerning twelve social security agreements were taken which will coordinate and improve the payment of pensions for Canadians and permanent residents internationally, including agreements with Croatia, Grenada, Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Morocco, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovenia, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

There have been a number of advances in treaty relations with the United States. On October 7, 1999, Canadian and U.S. officials exchanged instruments of ratification of the *Protocol Amending the Migratory Birds Convention*, bringing the amendment into force as of that date. This is a landmark development, bringing the Convention into conformity with developments in our constitutional law as it relates to aboriginal rights and in conformity with principles of sustainable development. Another highlight was the Exchange of Notes of June 30, 1999 (in force the same date) constituting an *Agreement relating to the Pacific Salmon*