

The Department was active in international trade law under discussion in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

Canada supports the development and codification of international law concerning the environment through participation in a wide number of bilateral, regional and global governmental and non-governmental forums. An example of this is the coordination of the UN-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Legal Group, which was given the mandate to develop possible elements for inclusion in a framework convention on climate change.

With continual increase in international criminal activities, countries must improve present areas of cooperation in fighting crime, and in initiating new forms of cooperation. To this end, Canada is negotiating a network of mutual legal assistance treaties with other countries. Such treaties were signed with the Bahamas, France and Mexico.

Extradition treaties were signed with Spain, the Philippines, France, the

Netherlands and Mexico. Others are being updated and some new agreements are being negotiated.

Memoranda of Understanding on combatting drug traffic were signed with Mexico and the U.S.S.R. A customs cooperation treaty was also signed with Mexico.

During the past year, 16 treaty agreements were signed in Moscow; ten were signed with Mexico.

In November 1989, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the UN General Assembly. Canada played an active role in this process and spent time and energy soliciting support from the provinces for Canadian ratification.

In the area of economic law, the Department initiated negotiations to establish a network of bilateral foreign investment protection agreements. Such agreements were signed with the U.S.S.R. and Poland. Successful out-of-court settlement of all claims and litigation against the International Tin Council and its 23 member states was achieved.